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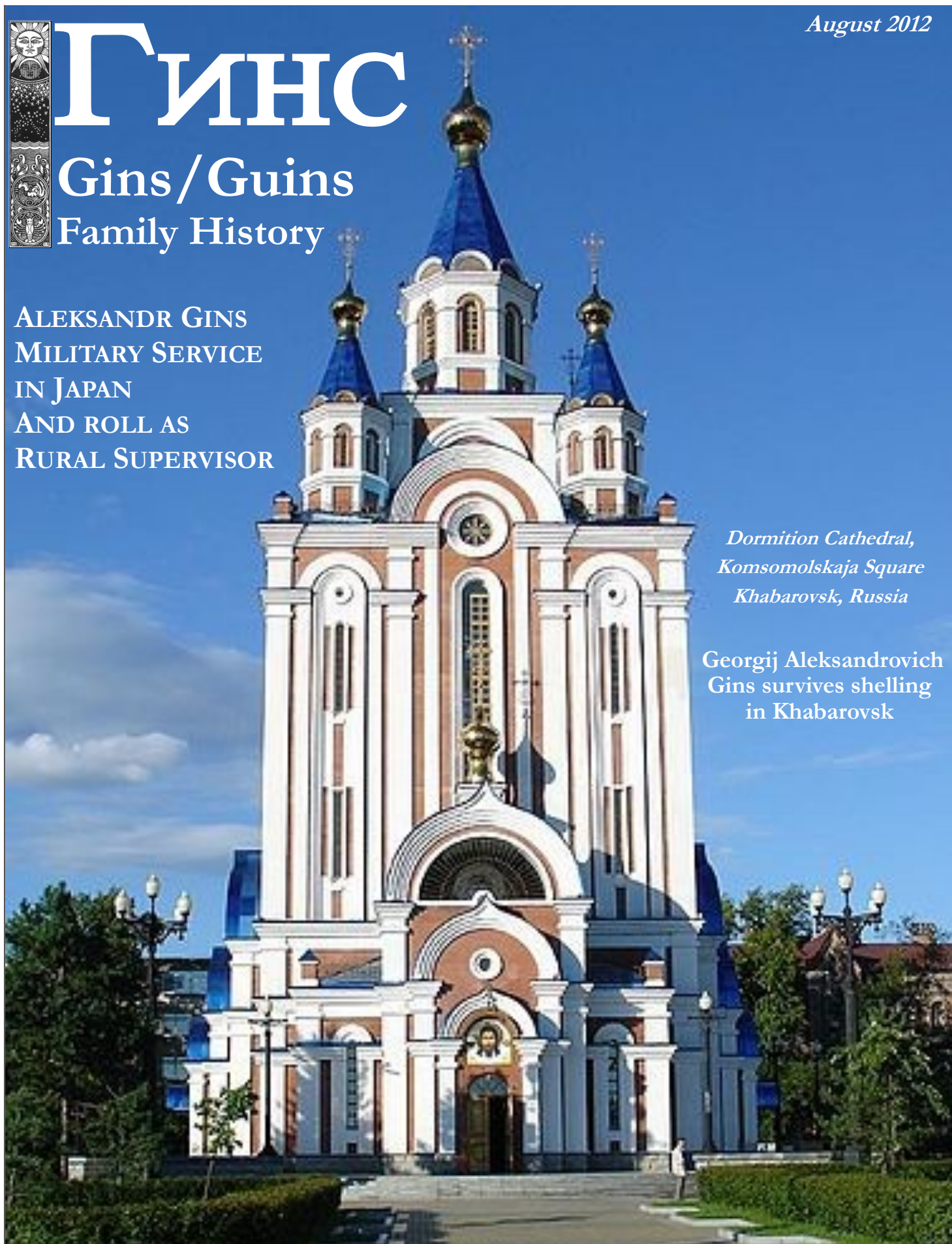
Gins/Guins Family History

ALEKSANDR GINS
MILITARY SERVICE
IN JAPAN
AND ROLL AS
RURAL SUPERVISOR

August 2012

*Dormition Cathedral,
Komsomolskaja Square
Khabarovsk, Russia*

Georgij Aleksandrovich
Gins survives shelling
in Khabarovsk





ГИНС

Gins/Guins FamilyHistory

In This Issue



Aleksandr Gins

Aleksandr Gins Military Career Takes Him to Japan and the Russian Far East

The youngest son of Morits-Emil and Marija Gins makes his mark in the Russian military as a Staff Captain and Rural Superintendent in Nikolaevsk-on-the-Amur, according to documents discovered by Eduard Gins.

DNA Analysis Confirms Eastern European Ancestry

We take a look at Susan Morris' genetic heritage of the past several thousand years to see what DNA testing reveals about her percentage of Eastern European ancestry.

Correspondence:

Julija Gins receives a fascinating letter from her sister-in-law, Nina Konstantinovna Gins.

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On the cover: Dormition Cathedral, Khabarovsk, Russia. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.

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Breaking News

When we have a family story, no matter how much of a stretch it may seem, it pays to follow through and see if in fact the rumor, or at least some essential part of it, may be true. This was the case with research into the career path of Aleksandr Moritsovich-Emilievich Gins, youngest son of Morits-Emil and Marija Gins. And as we will see in this issue, what sounded like an exaggerated job description, was completely understandable given new facts that have come to light.

Born in 1872 in Tulchyn, Ukraine, then part of the Russian Empire, Aleksandr was said to have been the governor of the province of Semipalatinsk, Russia, according to his son, Georgij, who immigrated to the U.S. in 1923. This information came to us from a newspaper article that appeared in a 1938 issue of the *Oregon News-Telegram*, which featured Georgij's unusual path to American citizenship (see October 2009 *Gins* newsletter for details). In addition, my grandmother, Vera Vladimirovna Gins, told me when I interviewed her in 1977 that one of her uncles was the governor of Nikolaevsk.

Both of these statements set me searching a few years ago for records or references to Aleksandr Gins as a governor in Russia before the Revolution and Civil War -- but nothing turned up. And his elegant photographic portrait taken in St. Petersburg, shown on page 2, makes Aleksandr appear to be a Civil Servant of some standing -- with decorations on his collar and a shiny badge of office worn proudly on the front of his coat. But elegant appearance aside, the handsome image of Aleksandr was just that -- a very smart looking man who posed for a photograph in 1911, by the date on the back of the photo card.



Aleksandr Moritsovich-Emilievich Gins, with son Georgij, and wife, Sophia Aleksandrovna (nee Kulchina), at Nikolaevsk on the Amur River, 1914. COURTESY SERGEI GUINS COLLECTION.

However, thanks to research conducted by Eduard Gins, we've discovered some truth to the family legend. Aleksandr Gins' military service record shows that he was in a position of civil authority in 1912 as a rural Superintendent. Here is what Boris Dralyuk gleaned from Aleksandr's military record:

"The information in section 9 does indeed reveal that he was a Peasants' Superintendent (krest'ianskii nachal'nik) for the UdsK (now Nikolaevsk) uезд of the Primor'e oblast'. The same post was called Zemstvo Superintendent (zemskii nachal'nik) in European Russia; Peasants' Superintendent was used in Asian Russia. Aleksandr's duties would have included overseeing peasant activity, settling land disputes, etc. Here's how a note to one of Lenin's compositions puts it:

Rural superintendent (Zemsky Nachalnik) -- an administrative post instituted by the tsarist government in 1889 to strengthen the authority of the landlords over the peasants. The rural superintendents were appointed from among the local landed nobility and were granted extensive powers, not merely administrative but also judicial."

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1902/agrarian/viii.htm>

STAFF CAPTAIN ALEKSANDR GINS SERVES THE EMPIRE IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

Much new information about family members who served their country in the armed forces can be gleaned from perusing their Russian military service records. Our review of the documents about Aleksandr Moritsovich-Emilievich Gins, collected by Eduard Gins, show how Aleksandr progressed from student trainee to Staff Captain, from single nobleman to married man with a young family, and finally, from army officer to rural administrator in the heart of the Russian Far East.

Aleksandr was brought up in Kiev, attended Real School (secondary school), and completed a course in Sciences at Chuguevsk Infantry Cadet school. After graduation he was made an ensign and reassigned from the 11th Infantry Regiment to the 7th Infantry Regiment. He soon became a second lieutenant and was transferred to serve in the 132nd Infantry Regiment in Bendery, in what was then Bessarabia. From there he traveled to the Kiev Fortress to work as a commandant's aide, and when he returned he was made a lieutenant as of 19 May 1901. Following this, Aleksandr was sent to join the Imperial Russian army in Manchuria, where he was appointed chief of the 'disposal of military communications' of the 1st Army.

Continued on page 3



Aleksandr Gins in St. Petersburg, 1911. COURTESY SANDRA GLAZUNOV COLLECTION.



Map, left: Khabarovsk Krai showing the location of Harbin, Khabarovsk, and Nikolaevsk-on-Amur, where Aleksandr Gins worked as Rural Superintendent.. Khabarovsk is where son, Georgij Aleksandrovich Gins, enrolled in a Russian military academy. The academy was attacked by the Bolsheviks during the Civil War, but Georgij escaped.



Father Aleksandr Gins with sons, Vladimir (on the left), and Georgij (right). I mistakenly misidentified the sons in an earlier issue of the Gins newsletter, and now believe this to be correct. (based on Zina Glazunov's caption for this photo). COURTESY SANDRA GLAZUNOV COLLECTION.

By this time Aleksandr had married a young woman by the name of Sophia Aleksandrovna Kulchina, the daughter of a doctor. Their first son, Aleksandr, was born 16 December 1901. According to second son, Georgij, from a 1938 interview for an Oregon newspaper, the couple had four boys: Aleksandr, Georgij, and two younger brothers. Georgij, was born 8 April 1907 in Vladivostok, Russia. And we believe that one of the younger sons was Vladimir Aleksandrovich Gins, who may have been born in 1913 (but more on him on the next page). We do not yet know the age or identify of the youngest son.

When Aleksandr, the father, completed his four-month sick leave, presumably in 1906, he was transferred to the 9th Siberian Rifle Regiment. He appears to have traveled with a group of men from Zhimerynka, now in the Ukraine, to Nikolsk-Ussuri in the Far East, near to Nikolaevsk-on-the-Amur.

We do not have a detailed record of what transpired in the years between 1906 and 1912, but by June 1912, Aleksandr submitted a



Military order of St. Anne, 3rd class.

request to the Vladivostok Military Governor to transfer from the infantry and to the militia in the Maritime Region, Uda District.. Aleksandr also adds that as of May 1912, he was ordered by the Governor-General of the Primor'e to become the Rural Superintendent in Nikolaevsk. The request for an assignment with the militia was approved. From this point, 1912, Aleksandr's military service record from this particular archive ends. We do have additional information from son Georgij, on the

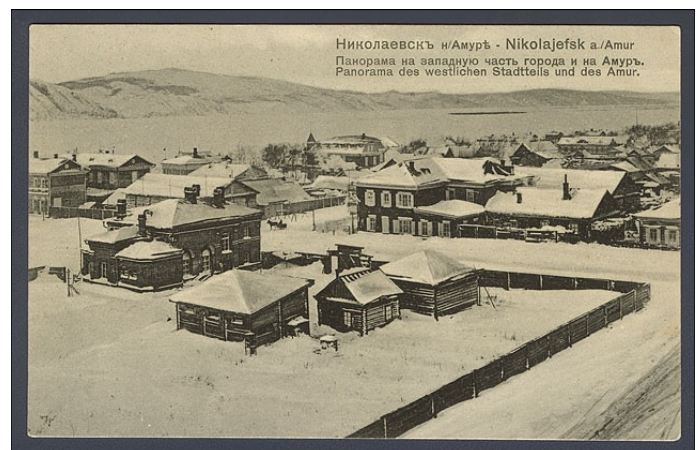
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Continued on page 3

Aleksandr Gins Serves in the Far East *(continued)*

Once in Russian-occupied Manchuria, Aleksandr became the assistant commandant of a village, and served in the Office of the General in Chief. He was once again promoted, this time to his final rank of Staff Captain.

The Russo-Japanese war of 1904-1905, fought over Manchuria and Korea, gave Aleksandr the opportunity to earn two medals for his participation in 'campaigns against the enemy' from August 30, 1904 to December 2, 1905: the Order of St. Stanislaus, 3rd class, and the Order of St. Anne, 3rd class. Subsequent to the war with the Japanese, which ended with Russia's resounding defeat, Aleksandr took a four-month leave of absence with pay, and was able to travel to cities throughout the Empire.



View of Nikolaevsk-on-Amur from the west end of town, about 1900. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.

Aleksandr Gins Serves in the Far East *(continued)*

We have discussed the 1938 Oregon newspaper article about the harrowing journey of Georgij Aleksandrovich Gins (son of Aleksandr and Sophia), who left Vladivostok during the Russian Civil War when he was just sixteen and arrived in the U.S., by way of the Philippines in 1923, in a previous 2009 *Gins* family newsletter. But what was left out of our review of that article was the happy news about Georgij's parents, who he was separated from when he attended the Russian military academy in Khabarovsk, and the school was shelled by the revolutionists.

During the Civil War in 1923, while Georgij was in the academy, he said that, "My folks were in a white army stronghold in the Mongolian desert then -- my father had been governor of the province of Semipalatinsk -- and when I could not reach them, I joined the white army in Vladivostok."

"Now that I am a citizen," Georgij told the newspaper reporter in 1938, "I shall try to bring my parents here for a visit. Their lives were apared, I learned, and they are still in Russia with my two younger brothers. I have an older brother in Shanghai."

Sadly, it appears that fate was not so kind to one of Georgij's younger brothers, Vladimir. From records unearthed by Eduard Gins, we have learned that a Vladimir A. Gins, born 1913, was with a Red Army mortar unit and was listed among the missing junior officers and soldiers of the 1106th Infantry Regiment during the August 4 - August 28, 1942 battle with the Germans. Vladimir Gins address is recorded as Alma-Ata, Lesnaya, d. 108, and his next of kin was an aunt, Anna Pavlovna Tokmacheva, also at the same address. The burial place for soldiers lost during these battles is the forest zone in Kamenskaya region, Zubtsov area.

We do not have absolute confirmation that this Vladimir Gins was the son of Aleksandr and Sophia Gins, and brother to Georgij, but

the photograph of the father and two sons that we have from the collection of Sandra Glazunov, through her mother-in-law, Zina Glazunova, did have a caption of "Vladimir Aleksandrovich" on the back of the image. And Vladimir's last address in Alma-Ata (now called Almaty, in Kazakhstan), is near to Semipalatinsk (now known as Semey, in Kazakhstan), where Georgij indicated that he father held an administrative post. Both cities are now near the north-

eastern border of Kazakhstan and Siberia. And we may yet be able to confirm our hypothesis that Vladimir is our Gins relative -- since Eduard has been in contact with someone online who is a cousin of the aunt who lived with Vladimir in Alma Ata in 1942. Maybe it will turn out that we have Gins relatives who are living in Kazakhstan, particularly if the fourth Gins brother managed to survive the Revolution, Civil War, and World War II. If our Gembitskij relatives could survive and thrive in Poland during this period, then why not a Gins man?

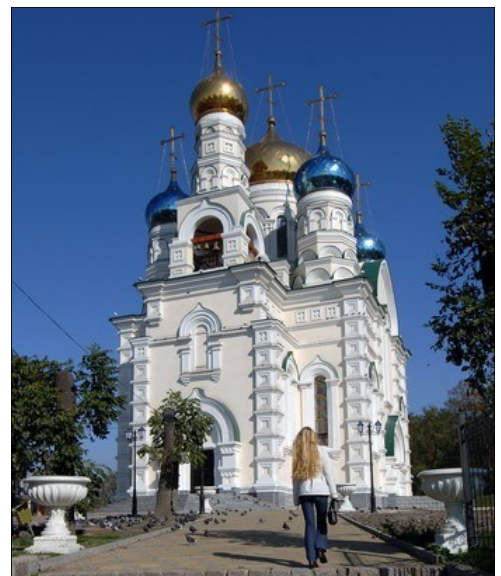
RGVIA, f. 409, op. 2, d. 12, k. 048

TSAMO, f. 1645, op. 2, d. 12, k. 3211

Oregon News Telegram. "Mr. and Mrs. George Guins: Wife Learns All About Husband in Newspaper." 1938.



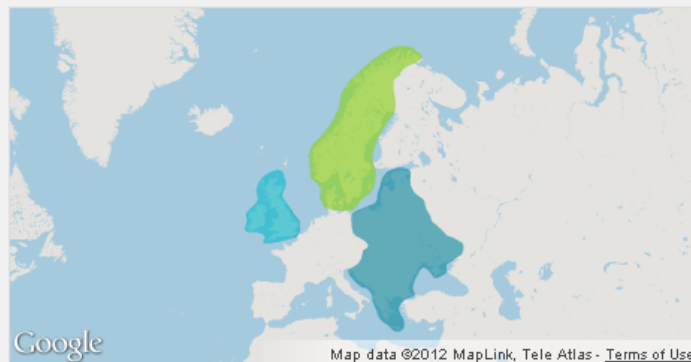
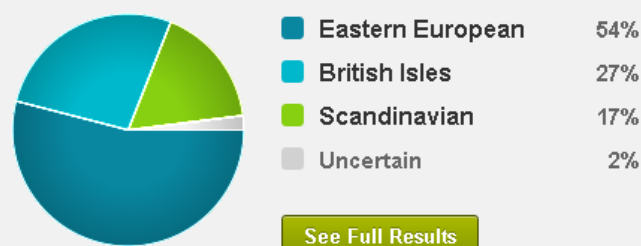
American troops in Vladivostok parading before the building occupied by the staff of the Czechoslovaks. Japanese marines are standing to attention as they march by. Siberia, August 1918. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.



Church of Our Lady's Protection, Vladivostok, 2008. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.

AncestryDNA Results

Your genetic ethnicity reveals where your ancestors lived hundreds—perhaps even thousands—of years ago.



Ancestry.Com DNA Analysis Reveals Susan Morris' Genetic Ethnicity

Always looking for new ways to expand the search and explore my family background, I decided in June to take a new DNA test offered by Ancestry.com to see what their geneticists would find in terms of my genetic ethnicity. I was intrigued by the prospect of taking this test, since it explored the entire genome (autosomal DNA), not just the mtDNA, or maternal mitochondrial DNA, that I had examined in the past through National Geographic's Genographic project. The claim of this new Ancestry.com DNA test was that it would analyze 700,000 locations on the entire genome -- all 23 pairs of chromosomes -- and would compare my results with those with a database of people from around the world. The test was simple (saliva sample), relatively inexpensive (a one-day job working at a polling place in June covered the cost), and the results came in after a month.

The analysis I received had elements that were anticipated and surprising. The largest percentage of my genetic heritage came as Eastern European (from my father, Harry Bekkar, son of Vera Vladimirovna Gins), while my mother's contribution showed up in ancestry from the British Isles, at 27%, and also from Scandinavia, at 17%! This was completely unexpected, since my mother's family background is primarily British, Welsh, Irish, and French (that I am aware of, to date). However, as I began to read the explanation of the Scandinavian ethnicity, I realized that the Vikings could easily have contributed their genes in many places where my ancestors lived: Russia, England, and France.

An additional feature of this test and personal DNA web page is a display of other Ancestry.com members who are likely to be relatives (usually 4th - 6th cousins) because of commonalities in genetic makeup. I am going to contact some of these folks to see where we might be connected, back several generations or more. And I will certainly let all of you know if I find additional long-lost Gins cousins through this genetic-cousins search technique!

The following are descriptions from the Ancestry.com DNA site about the genetic ethnic groups that many of us likely share:

About Eastern European Ethnicity

MODERN DAY LOCATION

Poland, Greece, Macedonia, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Belarus, Moldova, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Belarus, Kosovo.

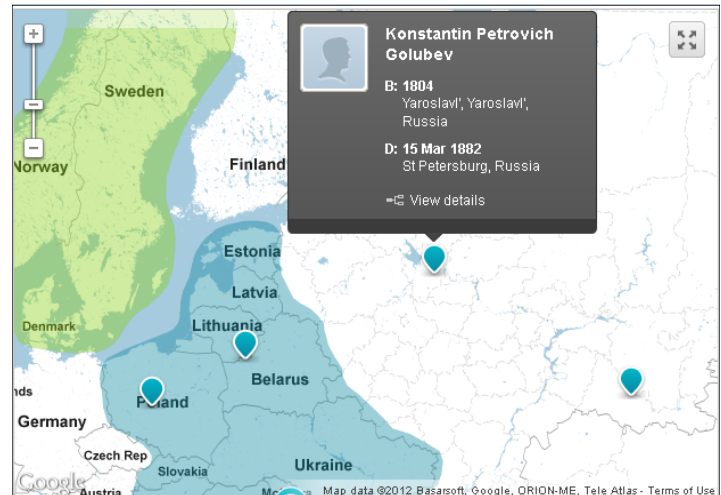
ABOUT YOUR REGION

Your ethnic profile points to Eastern Europe, which is a region stretching from the Baltic Sea in the north to the Mediterranean in the south. It consists primarily of former "Eastern Bloc" nations that were either aligned with or occupied by the Soviet Union during the Cold War. The Baltic states—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—as well as Belarus and Ukraine were annexed directly into the USSR. While Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria were satellite states as members of the Warsaw Pact. Also part of the region are the nations of the former Yugoslavia—Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, and Macedonia. Albania and Greece sit at the southern end of the region, bordering the Mediterranean.

The area is considered by many ethnologists to be the homeland of the Slavic people. Most of the nations in the region speak a Slavic language, which spread north and east into Russia and south toward the Balkans in the 5th and 6th centuries.

Perhaps the most famous resident of the area is Greece. From the ancient Mycenaeans and the Homeric epics of the Trojan War to the famous cities of Athens and Thebes, the fearsome Spartans to Alexander the Great—Greek culture and history laid the foundation for Roman, European, and, ultimately, western culture as a whole.

In the 1400s, the Ottoman Turks conquered the remnants of the Byzantine Empire and throughout the 1500s expanded deep into Eastern Europe, occupying the entire southern region up to Hungary, Romania, and parts of Ukraine. As a result, there are scattered communities of Muslims in the southern countries, although Christianity is prevalent throughout the region.



MIGRATIONS INTO THIS REGION

After the Last Glacial Period 15,000 years ago, populations expanded onto the eastern European plain from the Balkans and Black Sea as ice and tundra retreated. These Eastern Europeans were the first of the Neolithic farming culture that entered the Balkans about 9,000 years ago from the Middle East. In fact, individuals from southeastern Europe have inherited a higher proportion of Middle Eastern ancestry than other European individuals. About 2,000-3,000 years ago, the ancestors of Magyars migrated from the Ural Mountains in Russia toward present-day Hungary. Although they contribute their unique language to the region, their genetic impact may have been small.

MIGRATIONS FROM THIS REGION

About 2,300 years ago, the height of the Eastern European influence may have been the rise of the Greeks and their Hellenistic empire following the death of Alexander the Great. Their empire encompassed Italy, Turkey and even stretched all the way to northern India. Among the southeastern populations, Greeks in particular share elevated ancestry with the Middle East, potentially due to relatively recent migrations.

About Scandinavian Ethnicity

MODERN DAY LOCATION: NORWAY, SWEDEN, DENMARK

ABOUT YOUR REGION

Looks like you may have some Viking blood in you. Your genetic ethnicity ties you to Scandinavia, which includes the modern-day nations of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. While the Vikings were feared by the coastal towns of medieval Europe as seaborne raiders and violent pillagers, they were also well-travelled merchants and ambitious explorers. They raided the Mediterranean coast of Africa, settled areas as far south as the Black Sea, and traded with the Byzantine Empire. And it was a Norse sailor, Leif Ericson, who is credited with being the first European to travel to North America—500 years before Columbus.

And it wasn't just the Vikings who had an irrepressible urge for adventure. In the days of the mighty Roman Empire, the Goths, originally from Sweden, wandered south and settled in what is now eastern Germany. In the year 410, they invaded and sacked Rome, setting the stage for the decline and fall of the Western Roman Empire.

In the more recent past, the Scandinavian nations have embraced a new identity. Considering their neutrality during the World Wars, high quality of life, and relatively egalitarian societies, they are known more for their peaceful ways than their ancient Viking lineage might suggest.

MIGRATIONS INTO THIS REGION

As the glaciers retreated from Northern Europe, roaming groups of hunter-gatherers from Southern Europe followed reindeer herds inland and marine resources along the Scandinavian coast. Neolithic farmers eventually settled the region beginning about 6,000 years ago. However, the tradition of hunting and reindeer-herding remains among the Sami people of northern Scandinavia. The Sami formerly occupied much of northern Scandinavia and Russia, and likely had connections with the Volga-Ural region (where there are other languages similar to Finnish and Sami).

MIGRATIONS FROM THIS REGION

The rise of the Viking culture spread Scandinavian ancestry far throughout Europe. Their earliest coastal voyages took them to Scotland, northeastern England and established the settlement of Dublin, Ireland. As their power continued to grow, the Vikings spread farther afield, down the Volga River in Russia, to the coast of France and Spain. But perhaps their most famous accomplishments were the oceanic voyages across the Atlantic, establishing villages in Iceland and Greenland and exploring the northern coast of Canada. Few, if any of the early Scandinavian settlers, are thought to have survived in the Americas. However, Iceland remains a flourishing post of Scandinavian language and culture.



Gembitskij Family Photo Album with Gins Family Members

Translations by Boris Dralyuk, Ph.D.

In our last issue of the Gins magazine we were introduced to our cousins, the Gembitskij's (or Nalecz-Gembicki), in Poland, discovered by our indefatigable family historian, Eduard Gins. And we debuted some of the photos that our Polish relations sent as copies of captioned album pages. Here we have yet another page, this time with Gins family members and captions that confirm they are related to Anna Gembitskaja (nee Gins).

The captions must have been written after Anna's death, because they do not contain the names of her relatives in the photos above. We know that Anna's younger brother, Vladimir, is in the central photo, top row, with his two youngest daughter, Evgenija (left) and Lid'ja (right). The captions for the woman on the left and the woman second from the right

(both in the top row) indicate that she is the sister-in-law (her brother's wife), according to Boris Dralyuk. But these women do not look to me like Varvara Gins, wife of Vladimir (although I have not seen pictures of her as a younger woman). And the other photos on the top row are supposed to be her daughters. The woman in the car with the young boy could be Vera Vladimirovna Gins, and my father, Harry. I do not recognize either of the young women in the white dresses -- although they could be Lid'ja and Evgenija in France during their heyday as dancers.

But what really intrigues me are the photos on the bottom row, with the caption as Anna's nieces. We know, by process of elimination, that they cannot be the children of Konstantin, Modest, or Aleksandr, so they must be children of Ludmila (Emilija), Vladimir, Marija, or Evgenija. My guess is that the girl on the far left is Marija, daughter of Ludmila and Genrikh (Andre) Gergardt. The toddler girl, second from left, and the girl in the photo with the boy are the same child, I believe, and may be Ksenija, daughter of Marija Trifonova (nee Gins), and older brother, Viktor. And I do not have a clue as to who the young girl with the extraordinarily long hair is -- do you?

Correspondence

Nina Konstantinovna Gins Writes of Hardship and Hunger Following the Revolution

Transcription by Irina Bass

This Google Translator version of a letter written by Nina Gins to her sister-in-law, Julija, gives us a glimpse of the very difficult times Nina experienced in the wake of the Revolution. She shares news about family, friends, and her living arrangements, and mourns the loss of her Uncle Volodya (Vladimir Gins, who died in a train wreck outside of Omsk). Nina asks Julija to kiss her cousin, Vera, and Vera's little son, for her (indicating that this letter was written after Vera and son arrived to stay briefly with Georgij Gins and family in Harbin in 1920.



Nina Konstantinovna Gins.
COURTESY SERGEI GINS COLLECTION

19/XI

My dear, again a letter from you, and this time with the news of Kolja, at the same time revived the hope that he is not dead. Since we are looking forward to further information. Milija, my dear, you still have not forgotten me, and pleased with a long letter, so I learned something about all of you, and then Georgij awfully short. On your question I already answered. Summer 1916 I spent at home, and in August, as usual, went to the P-d. You know, I never smiled for a long stay in Kish, and sorry to all that was left on the 9th. It was hard to come, but I managed to get quite comfortable in a Ukrainian train and was driven safely those stocks that were fed during the famine. Life was very hard, but at first I did not feel: received over the summer a lot of money out of high school and bought a case for all sorts of things for the apartment - carpets, flowers - a palm tree and araucaria very large - for residents sink, dishes, tablecloths. In a word started to acquire their own farm. House passed, leaving a dining room and the next, giving dinners two ladies, and drove to the provisions Ohta. Then it became more difficult, life rose in price prohibitive, the content of Masha took away about half of earnings. Boarded at home was impossible, we went for lunch from the companies. dining area, ie Power herring and roach almost without bread. I was swollen with hunger, that is, from the lack of fat, think that after the fish oil, which was considered a delicacy, had to go to the castor oil, which fried everything - I really could not eat, and Maria finished off the bottle. Instead of bread we were given oats, as the horses. The only help was in school lunches, which fed the children a gift for a small fee, and educators. Frosts were terrible, but I have stockpiled firewood in the spring and kept the temperature at 8 degrees., and in high school sitting in fur coats.

Trams are often stopped walking and I am a co-worker several times went by foot - walk 2 ½ hours each way. Coverage was given through the day and at certain hours, and kerosene also managed to get to work. Sugar replaced with saccharin, but speak ill health. From typhoid fever and died, many Spaniards - M-m Sophia Alex Martynov. - His wife (Gene?) _____. But some of this need is not seen. Once or twice I came to Boris - he manages Const. School, which they turned into a military school. They all have lunch a wonderful, warm, bright, beautiful - but he has made Boris depressing, apparently suffers from the fact that he changed beliefs. In Tver, all was well. About Vasitskih only know that the old lady died. Life is good and Trisvyatskim, Mary Alexander. often came up to me and me to his clicker, Va ____ is a good place. Frequented and Martynov. _____. You have not learned, was a thin tomato slender young man.

He tried to leave, but was convinced that nowhere is better, and leaving children with relatives in the south back to the P-d from his wife. Boldyrev and Mokrshanskie long time in the Crimea. He has lectured in

Sebastopol, is now probably got the service. Since I often met Yanovich - Zina died in childbirth. Tanya and Andrew are, and contain a mother. The mood of their plight, M. Andr. everything was going to Odessa to Natasha and afraid to leave Andrew, who as a former officer was not safe. To return to myself - when I saw that I positively do not have enough to live alone, I had to give up workers, the more that it translates me into the first category with an increased rations. I invited her to live with me and go to work. Paid her \$ 100. for the fact that she cleaned the room, she has received from tenants even 50p, went 14 clean and there received the money and the breakfast and living well. I immediately felt better, it was possible to buy butter, crackers, and not a Durand. It was in the spring. 6th of June, I left the P-yes, but go back to assuming that in the winter. Too sorry had to throw everything at the

mercy of fate. Although Masha and remained there, and promised that for all will follow, as in former years, but it has changed recently, then it could also if needs to shake some bad luck. I know that after my departure she passed and my room, I was told this came after me - so she herself has provided the material and may be it will be all ra_____ save up to our return? - But, it is better to hope for less. When he left, I could not bring anything valuable, and even left their instruments. Before I arrived in Tiraspol quickly and stuck there until October, and neither in Russia nor in Bessarabia travel was impossible. Many had to endure heavy until I missed home. Now I'm at work, have not run for private lessons, and give them at home, busy all day and although I do not miss, but the joy I do not see any. Sadly for us, my mother works at home, ½ years we were without servants, could not be found, (now hired for 150 lei per month :) she cleaned for all, all day was on her feet, fell in 12 hours, got up at 6, lost weight and had aged terribly. MB Now it will be easier. Aunt Vera yearns for independent living, tired to live in that room with the chests, and poor health has become. Aunt Lola continues to spoil us all life. Aunt Alex is still the same, but every day makes a great work, cleans his room, the evening comes to us and four sisters played in 66. Absolutely ruined Aunt Nadija. But Luba thrives in a society of young people, and Yuri sent to study in Grenoble. Uncle Sasha chose the ground. - Eugene married Michael married Talochke Damir, Bob entered the service. Uncle Fedya daughter a little freak. Kitty is married and somewhere in Russia. Tanya serves. I often meet with Olga Shim. - She has an awfully nice boy. Well, think about all wrote. Very sorry for my Uncle Volodya. Kiss me Vera and her little son - how did you obtain it? I had to get closer to you now with the family about which we know only by hearsay.

I am very sorry that I did not have to travel as you, but good for a mom, I'm home. If only life is somehow changed, but this is not possible until you sell the house and divide the inheritance, and without his uncle Leopold they would not dare. Had my mother all the more vigorously you could do, but it afraid of quarrels, and prefers to bear the brunt. Bad to be a good man. In Prohnitchi I am - Sophie Eve. lies for several months, but Maria Petrovna very well done. She wrote to you about your business. I am very pleased that Vsevochka and Sergei receive a good education, and music will they learn? I've been doing a little Romanian language, English as I know little, because recently read a little, I do not have a dictionary here, but the light novels yet understand. Now we have a rainy fall and do not want to go out, and notebooks for school time-consuming.

Write well, my dear. How I'd like to see you all. I kiss you hard, expensive (?), Julija.
Loving you.
Nina.



Nina Konstantinovna Gins, with mother, Ekaterina, and brothers (from left) Georgij, Dmitrij, and Nikolaj; in Kishinev; and in formal portraits from St. Petersburg. COURTESY SERGEI GUINS COLLECTION

