

Гинс

December 2012

DMITRIJ GINS
SERVES AS AN
ARMY OFFICER
FOR RUSSIA,
RUMANIA, AND
ROMANIA

*Church at the
Armenian
(Central)
Cemetery in
Chisinau,
Moldova*





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Gins/Guins FamilyHistory

In This Issue

Major Dmitrij Konstantinovich Gins Remains in Chisinau (Kishinev)



Dmitrij K. Gins

Rather than follow his brothers, Georgij and Nikolaj, to Harbin in the wake of the Civil War, Dmitrij chose to remain in Chisinau. He had the distinction of being a military officer for Russia, and then Rumania and Romania.

Gins, Gembitskij, and Gergardt Families Gather for a Celebration



Gins siblings celebrate

A festive family gathering gives new images of Gins relatives to ponder. We identified the majority of the people in this marvelous photo from the collection of our Polish relatives.

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On the cover: Armenian Church, Central Cemetery, Chisinau, Moldova: Ekaterina Gins (nee Lamzaki) worshipped here. COURTESY SUSAN MORRIS.

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Breaking News

We have had the great good fortune this year to have discovered the Gembitskij branch of Gins relatives in Poland, thanks to the unceasing efforts of Eduard Gins in Moscow. And like a present that keeps on giving, the connection with our long-lost Polish cousins has brought new benefits in the form of a letter that was shared with Eduard when he and wife, Lena, visited Poland this year. The correspondence, addressed to Vladimir Gembitskij, the youngest son of Mikhail Gembitskij and wife, Anna (*nee* Gins), came from Olga Vladimirovna Novikova (*nee* Gins) in Moscow, and it contained a wealth of new information. As the daughter of Vladimir Gins and wife, Varvara (*nee* Miroevskaja), Olga kept in contact with her Gembitskij cousins after the Revolution and Civil War that sent other family members fleeing the fighting. Olga's missive, dated 1956, gives details about the lives of two Gins family members, **Evgenija Moritsova-Emilievna Gins** and **Natalija Vladimirovna Gins**, who we had heard little about, before this.

Evgenija was the youngest of the four daughters born to Morits-Emil Gins and wife, Marija Konstantinovna (*nee* Golubeva), b. 1 January 1875 in Tulchyn, Ukraine. The youngest of the eight Gins siblings, Evgenija was married and lived in Moscow for a time, but passed away in Moscow in 1953. Her husband outlived her and was cared for by relatives, according to Olga. And Natalija, oldest of seven children born to Vladimir and Varvara Gins, appears to have remained in Samara where the family moved when Vladimir was transferred to the Samara Post-Telegraph Office from Vilna in 1912.



Dmitrij Gins with son-in-law, Pavel Simu, grandson, Valentin, daughter, Ekaterina, and mother, Ekaterina. COURTESY SERGEI GUINS COLLECTION.

Talija, as sister Olga called her, occasionally visited the Novikov family (Olga, husband, and son Vadim Novikov) in Moscow. Talija, too, was married but her husband had died before 1956. We learn more about these family members and Olga's other surviving sisters, including my grandmother, Vera, who lived in Hollywood, California with their youngest sister, Lidija, as we read the translation of Olga's note in this issue.

Eduard Gins has also brought forth new details about Dmitrij Konstantinovich Gins, oldest son of Konstantin Gins and wife, Ekaterina (*nee* Lamzaki). A military service summary unearthed by Eduard tells us where Dmitrij received his military education -- he graduated in 1906 from the prestigious Konstantinovskij Artillery School in St. Petersburg. We added the information that Eduard found to that provided by Robert Anderson from notes he took while interviewing Seva Guins about the elder Gins family members. And Natalija Simu, wife of "Bill" Nikolaj Simu, grandson of Dmitrij Gins, shared news of Dmitrij's life from the 1930s until World War II, when we had dinner with our gracious Bucharest relatives in 2010. Read on to learn what we unearthed about our elusive Gins relatives!

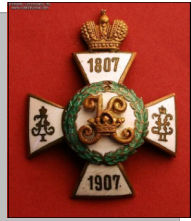


MAJOR DMITRIJ KONSTANTINOVICH GINS REMAINS IN CHISINAU (KISHINEV)

While we know a great deal about some of our relatives, there are others who are definitely more of a mystery. Dmitrij Konstantinovich Gins has been one whose early life history was difficult to determine because we did not have the primary source documentation that we did for his siblings Georgij, Nina, and Nikolaj. But with the help of Gins relatives and researchers Eduard Gins, Juliana Marin, Natalia Simu, Vsevolod Gins, Robert Anderson, and Vicky Mlyniec, we've begun to parse Dmitrij Gins past. *Continued on the next page...*



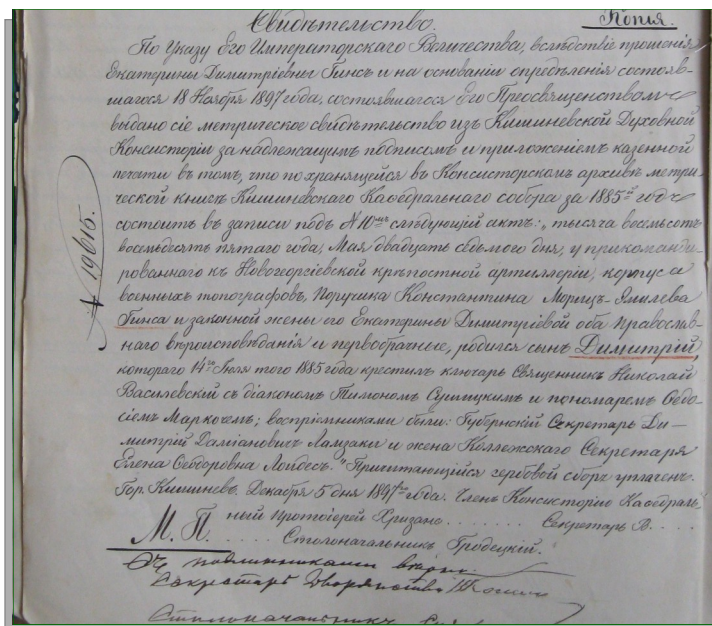
Above left: Dmitrij Gins in Chisinau, 1909, as a lieutenant of an artillery unit; above right: Konstantin and Ekaterina Gins with Dmitrij, and toddler, Georgij; bottom right: Ekaterina Gins in Chisinau as a widow with Georgij, Dmitrij, Nikolaj (seated) and Nina. COURTESY SERGEI GUINS COLLECTION.



Konstantinovskij Military School graduation badge commemorating 100th anniversary, similar to one worn by Dmitrij Gins.

Major Dmitrij Gins Remains in Chisnau *(continued)*

Many Gins family members were scattered throughout the Empire and beyond its borders following the Revolution, but Dmitrij Gins was one of two children of Konstantin and Ekaterina who managed to remain in Chisnau during and after the civil unrest, and began a family whose descendants are with us today. *Continued...*



Top left: Zinaida Gergardt with cousin, Dmitrij Gins; bottom left: baptismal record, b. 27 May 1885 in Kishinev, Bessarabia, Russia; above right: Dmitrij with wife, Evgenija Nebelschi; lower right: Ekaterina Gins with children Nina, Georgij, Nikolaj, and Dmitrij. COUSINS PHOTO COURTESY SANDRA GLAZUNOV; DOCUMENT COPY BY STAS BOOKALO; DMITRIJ AND EVGENIJA PHOTO COURTESY JULIANA MARIN; GINS FAMILY PHOTO COURTESY SERGEI GUINS COLLECTION.

DMITRIJ KONSTANTINOVICH GINS: TIMELINE OF LIFE EVENTS



17 May 1885 (or 30 May in the Julian, or modern, calendar) - born in Chisinau to Lieutenant Konstantin Moritsov-Emiliev Gins, attached to the Military Topographic Corps of the Novogeorgievsk Fortress Artillery, and Ekaterina Dmitrievna Gins (*nee* Lamzaki), both of the Orthodox faith and married for the first time. Dmitrij's birth certificate was issued by the Chisinau Cathedral as No. 10 in 1885, and stated that he was christened on 14 July of that year. One of the witnesses was Governate Secretary Dmitrij Damianovich Lamzaki (young Dmitrij's maternal grandfather).¹



1892 - Following the death of Konstantin Gins in July 1892, Ekaterina and the four children, including eldest son, Dmitrij, moved from Poland to her father's home in Chisinau.⁷

Abt. 1901 - 1906 - Dmitrij was trained at the **Yaroslavl Military School** and completed courses through the 3rd class. Upon graduation he began training in the **Konstantinovskij Artillery School**, and completed training in the I category on 30 August 1904. He was made a corporal on 2 June 1905 and a sword belt-cadet on 2 May 1906, as a lieutenant with a seniority. The Konstantinovskij Artillery School was located in St. Petersburg, Russia, at 17 Moscovskij Prospekt.²



From about 1912 - Dmitrij married Evgenija Nebelschi, who was born in Bessarabia in 1892. They had a child, Ekaterina Dmitrievna Gins, born on 28 May 1913. Dmitrij and Evgeniaj divorced around 1920.³ Dmitrij and daughter, Ekaterina, live with his mother, Ekaterina, and her two sisters in Chisinau from the time that Ekaterina was 6 years old.^{3, 4}

World War I - Dmitrij fought as a captain of the 14th Artillery Brigade stationed in Chisinau until the Revolution, and was wounded.⁵

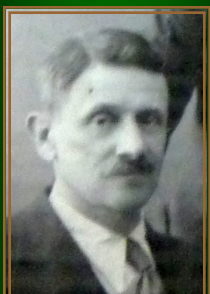
1917 - When the Revolution started, Dmitrij returned to Chisinau, which had become part of Rumania. Dmitrij became a Rumanian citizen and was given the rank of major in the Reserve Corps of the Rumanian Army.⁵



Between 1917 and 1931 - Natalija Simu's grandfather opened a restaurant in Chisinau and Dmitrij worked as a bookkeeper for the restaurant.⁶ Also during this period, Dmitrij worked as a storekeeper for a railroad company.⁵

1931 - Dmitrij moved to Bucharest, Romania, in August for reasons connected with his employment.⁴

World War II - Dmitrij was an officer in the Romanian Army (major) and fought for the Germans against the Russians.⁶ He was a commandant of a railway station.⁵



1968 - He died while on a trip to Odessa, Ukraine.³

1 Russian State Historical Archives, St. Petersburg, case for the Department of Heraldry of the Ruling Senate: Morits-Emil Ludvigovich Gins, No. 1333, 1759, 5692, dated 1897 - 1899

2 Information provided by documents obtained by Eduard Gins in Moscow.

3 Information provided by Juliana Marin, 2nd great-granddaughter of Dmitrij Gins, 2009.

4 Correspondence dated 16 December 1925, 14 September and 11 October 1931 to Julija and Nikolaj Gins from Ekaterina Gins regarding her son, Dmitrij.

5 Notes compiled by Robert Anderson from interviews with Vsevolod Guins.

6 Notes from discussion with Natalija Simu, wife of Dmitrij's grandson, Nikolaj (Bill), 2010.

7 George C. Guins oral history, *Professor and Government Official: Russia, China and California*.



Gins-Gergardt-Gembitskij photo, about 1910, from the albums of our Polish cousins: Top row, from left: Marousia Andreevna Gergardt, Ludmila Moritsovna-Emilieva Gergardt (*nee* Gins). Middle row, from left: possibly Modest Modestovich Gins (b. 1896) or Mikhail Vladimirovich Gins (b. 1893), Varvara Vasilevna Gins (*nee* Miroevskaja), Leonid Vladimirovich Gins, Vladimir Moritsovich-Emilievich Gins, and Zinaida Andreevna Gergardt. Bottom row, from left: unidentified gentleman of the post-telegraph service, Anna Moritsovna-Emilieva Gembitskaja (*nee* Gins), Vladimir Mikhailovich Gembitskij, Elena Osvaldovna Gins (*nee* Pikel), and Modest Moritsovich-Emilievich Gins. COURTESY THE NALECZ-SEMBICKI COLLECTION.

Gins, Gembitskij, and Gergardt Families Gather for a Festive Celebration

The photograph above, shared by Eduard Gins from the collection of our Polish cousins, Marek Nalecz-Gembicki and his sister, Elzbieta Gozdziwinska, has given us something we have never seen before -- a family gathering of Gins siblings! There was no caption or notes accompanying this image, so we have done the best we could to figure out who is who, and when the photo was taken. Our best guesses are listed in the caption above and they are based on other photos of the individuals, along with birth year information.

This may have been a festive holiday or birthday/name day celebration, since several of the women are wearing flowers (Anna Gembitskaja) or holding floral bouquets (Elena Gins and Zina Gergardt). But whatever the event that brought them together, we now have evidence that four of the eight children born to Morits-Emil

and Marija Gins -- Anna Gembitskaja, Ludmila Gergardt, Vladimir Gins, and Modest Gins -- were able to gather before the Revolution and enjoy each other's company. Missing Gins siblings are Konstantin, who died in 1892, Marija, Aleksandr, and Evgenija.



Leonid V. Gins

And we believe we have our first glimpse of Modest's wife, Elena Osvaldovna, who was mother to their three sons: Modest, Leonid, and Vitaly. In fact, those sons are close in age to the sons of Vladimir and Varvara Gins: Mikhail and Leonid. So close, that the two young men in the middle row could be either Mikhail Vladimirovich or Modest Modestovich Gins, and the youngster nearly hidden could be either Leonid Vladimirovich or Vitaly Modestovich Gins. Both sets of parents are present. But the

inset photo of Leonid Vladimirovich as an older student shows a hairline that is remarkably similar to the one on the youngest boy in the group photo above, and is our best guess at his identity. Whatever the occasion, we are delighted to see so many happy Gins relatives and their family members in one place!

Elena Osvaldovna Pikel Marries Modest Moritsovich-Emilievich Gins

By Eduard Evgenivich Gins

Elena Pikel was born in St. Petersburg Parish, according to the register of the St. Petersburg Theological Consistory Church in Mikhailovsky Castle in 1877. In Part 1. About Births, Record No. 11 May: born April 30, baptized May 29 Elena. Parents: Assistant Cashier of the State Bank Kazimierz Oswald Franzevich Pikel and his legitimate wife, Alexandra Nikitin*. The father was Roman Catholic and the mother was of the Orthodox faith, and it was the first marriage for both. The witnesses: An employee in the General Staff, Collegiate Adviser Michael Johns Falkowski, and the wife of a caretaker at a military hospital, Semenovski, State Councilor Nikolai Fyodorov Meshchersky, Elizaveta Nikitina Meschen-skaja. The sacrament of baptism was performed by Priest Alexander Sokolovsky, who was most likely a family priest who baptized the children of Elena and Modest Gins in the same church. Brothers and sister of Elena Osvaldovna Pikel: Victor, who was born on December 5 1873, Appolinariya, born 10 July 1879, and Valerian, who was born on July 9 1882.

Most likely, the first education Elena Osvaldovna Pikel received was at home, and as to the opportunity to study in high school with a musical instructor, there is yet no data. Since September 1889, Elena was a student at the St. Petersburg Conservatory, and when she was 12 years old. from 1889 to 1893 she was in a special class with teacher Demyansk Vladimir - piano class. Elena Pikel studied four years, graduated in the class at age 16. And from 1893 to May 6, 1894, she studied harmony in the second group with Professor Sacchetti until she was 17 years old. In 1895, we see the entry in the register of St. Petersburg Theological Consistory Church at Mikhailovsky Castle in 1895 Record No. 4 for the month of July.



Elena and Modest Gins. COURTESY OF NALCZ-GEMBICKI COLLECTION.

On July 16th, Groom: Telegraph Tech 2 Modest Emelyanov Gins, of the Orthodox faith, on his the first marriage at age 25 years. Bride: Employee in the State Bank and a collegiate assessor's daughter, Elena Osvaldovna Pikel, of the Orthodox faith, on her first marriage at 18 years of age. Who performed the sacrament: Archpriest Feodor Bystrov (home of the family confessor) with Deacon Basil Razumovsky. Who were the witnesses: According to the groom - the students of St. Petersburg Imperial University, Physics and Mathematics department, Nikolai Pavlovich (most likely brother to Fedor Bystrov) and the History and Philology student, Nikolai Karlovich Erdelyi. According to the bride - Collegiate Adviser Vladislav Lukiyanovich Potkevich and a student of the Forest Institute of Victoria Osvaldovich Pikel (brother of Elena Osvaldovna Pikel). Definition of the St. Petersburg diocesan leadership from November 27 - December 9, 1903 held recorded as № 4 groom named incorrectly shown with the middle name "Yemelianovich" instead of "Moritz Emilievich". Mark by decree of the Consistory of December 23, 1903, № 21995

In 1896, Elena Osvaldovna Gins (Pikel) and husband Modest had a son who was named Modest. Excerpt: The Evidence: by decree of His Imperial Majesty, given evidence of the St. Petersburg Theological

Consistory, that after considering parish registers of the Church of the St. Petersburg Engineering Castle for 1896 revealed - "Eighteen hundred ninety-six, was born on April eleventh, and in May the twenty-first Modest baptized. His parents: Corporal 3rd company of volunteers Alexander - Nevsky Reserve Infantry Battalion of Telegraph Engineers of the 1st category, Modest Moritz - Emilievich Gins and the wife of his Elena Osvaldovna, both Orthodox religion Counselor Oswald Franzevich Pikel and widow of titular counselor Anna Toporov. A member of the Consistory Archpriest Vladimir Gugina as we have seen before. All of these ceremonies took place in the church of Mikhailovsky Castle, but spiritual advisor of the Pikels - Priest Bystrov, was probably no longer alive, and the new archpriest Gugina took his place. *Continues on p. 8.*

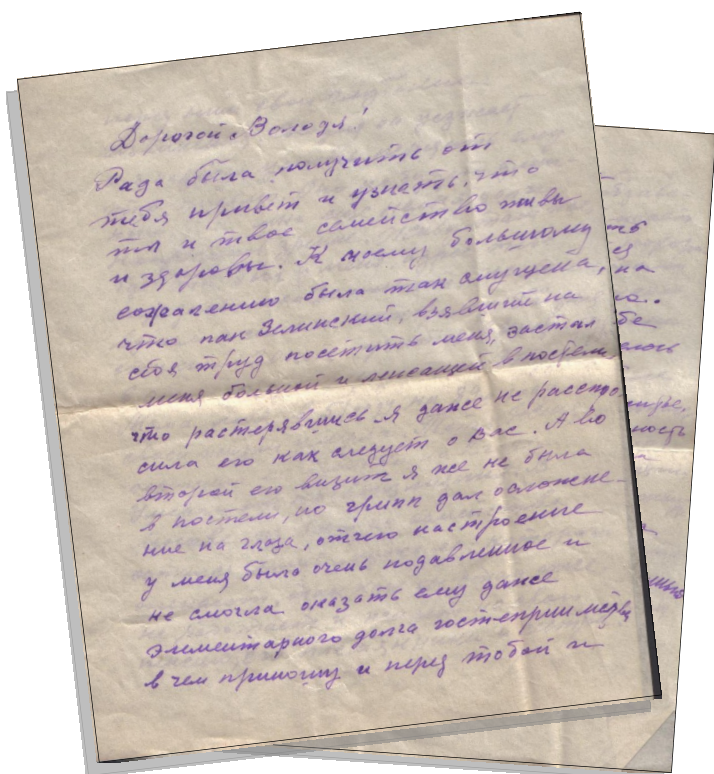
Olga Novikova (nee Gins) Shares Family News with Relative Vladimir Gembitskij

With translation by Eduard Gins and Irina Bass

This 1956 letter from Olga Novikova to Vladimir Gembitskij (discussed in **Breaking News**) also contained references to my father, not by name, but as the engineer son of Olga's sister, Vera. And Olga noted my birth as Vera's granddaughter (b. 1954). Olga closes her note by referring to herself as Vladimir's sister, and in the Russian kinship system relatives of the same generation are considered 'sisters and brothers.' - S. Morris.

Dear Volodya

Nice to hear from you and see that you and your family are safe and sound. To my great regret I was so embarrassed that the man, Zelinski, who took the trouble to visit me, found me as a patient lying in bed, that



I was taken aback and did not even ask him properly about you. And during his second visit I was not in bed, but had flu complications of the eyes, causing my mood to be very depressed and could not show him even a basic duty of hospitality and I bring to you and to him our deepest apologies. Today he is leaving and I hope to have time to give him this letter. It will not be long, because I still cannot strain my eyes for a long time. I live in the same place where you were with me, the address you give the man Zelinsky. We live together with our son, who on April 3rd will be 20 years old - he studies at the Institute, and this year starts the 3rd year.



Olga Vladimirovna Novikova (b. 1897) with Ksenija (Trifonova?) in Kiev; young officer Vladimir Mikhailovich Gembitskij (b. 1891). PHOTO OF OLGA AND KSENIJA COURTESY VERA BEKKAR, PHOTO OF VLADIMIR GEMBITSKIJ COURTESY OF NALECZ-GEMBITCKI COLLECTION.

My mother died in 51 in her 89th year of life. Aunt Evgenija survived it for only for 2 years. She died of hemorrhage. In Moscow, only her husband was left - as he is old already, and does not work and lives on his pension, his nephew and sister watch over him.

The rest are dispersed, grandchildren become adults, have families. Tal lives in Kuibyshev (Samara). She also buried her husband eight years ago. Every summer, we come to visit. With the rest of the sisters occasionally receive letters. Vera became a grandmother - her son married and had a daughter. He himself was an engineer, working in the field of radio-location. Vera invited sister Lida to live with her. They are living together, and Evgenija was an artist, and is about to open an exhibition of her paintings. Now enthusiastically working intensively. I have 13 years working in the same place. I am happy with my work and I hope that I will have enough health and strength until my son is able (and he will be studying for 3 1/2 years) to work for both of us. True, he learns well and it gives him the right to grants, but that is not enough. Well, that's all I can tell you so far. I'd love to get from you a few lines about your life and times. If you find an opportunity to donate to me a few minutes of your precious time and write about yourself, I'll be very grateful. I kiss you hard and I send all of our warm greetings.

Your sister Olga.

5.IV.56g.

Elena Pikel Marries Modest Gins *continued from p. 6*

During this period Modest Emilievich (Moritsovich) Gins was Corporal of the battalion of volunteers who was permitted to live in their homes, have a family, which he did, and his wife is likely at this time to have lived with her parents in the family home of the Pikel. By order of the City Telegraph in St. Petersburg on January 11, 1897, № 14, and the permission of the General Directorate of Posts and Telegraphs, of December 20, 1896, Modest Emilievich (Moritsevich) Gins enlisted for service in the department of Posts and Telegraphs, St. Petersburg. Based on the above registration we can assumed that as a volunteer, he served one year.

As we know from the memoirs of the family - Modest Modestovich Gins played a musical instrument. It is most likely that he inherited musical skills from his mother, Elena Osvaldovna. It is also likely that he, too, like Elena when she was 12 years old, was trained in a special class at St. Petersburg Conservatory. But there is a question as to which classes he enrolled, whether in piano or accordion. We have heard that he was playing the piano and so probably this training took place in parallel with studies at the School of Commerce SN Tutorsky. There Modest studied until November 1914 at the age of 18. He studied the full course of seven years at the Commercial College SA Kholmogorova in St. Petrograd until April 21, 1917. And at the age of 21, Modest had learned a lot! He received a certificate for the No. 370/157, in May 1917 and he applied for admission to the Economics faculty of the Petrograd Polytechnic Institute, where he was accepted by the Economic Department as of 5 September 1917. Modest was assigned to draft offices in St. Petersburg, but received a deferment from the army in connection with training.

WINTER PHOTOS OF MODEST GINS DESCENDANTS



Leonid Gins, grandson of Modest Modestovich Gins, with daughter Katija (Ekaterina) in Vorkuta, Russia.



Katija shares her cheerful, colorful artwork.



Nadija (Nadezda) Gins, wife of Leonid, with daughter Katija in Vorkuta. Left: Lena (center) and Eduard Gins (right) in Moscow. PHOTOS COURTESY EDUARD GINS.