

Guins/Gins

Family History

October 2011 Volume 3, Number 8

**Kiev Noble Genealogy Book
and Gins Family Entry**

**Gins Family Signatures:
An Eclectic Collection**

**Battle at Tobolsk:
Nikolaj Gins letter tells of
Cossack Courage
In Last Days of
the Civil War**

**Timeline:
Nikolaj Gins**

Warsaw and Gins History

**Nikolaj Gins,
Staff of Minister of War
General Ivanov-Rinov**

**Russian Folk Tale
Illustrations
by Ivan Bilibin**

*Nikolaj Konstantinovich Gins in
summer uniform with aiguillettes
indicating that he is a graduate of the
General Staff Academy, about 1915*



Kiev Noble Genealogy Book Features Gins Family History

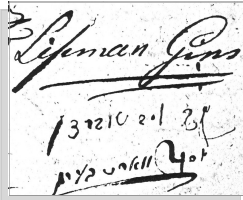
After years of petitioning, the Gins family finally makes it into the nobles history book...

Warsaw and Gins Family History

Generations of Gins were born and raised in this 'phoenix city.' We take a look at which family members was there and when...



Gins Family Signatures: An Eclectic Collection



Correspondence: Battle at Tobolsk

Timeline: Nikolaj Gins

Russian Folk Tale Illustrations

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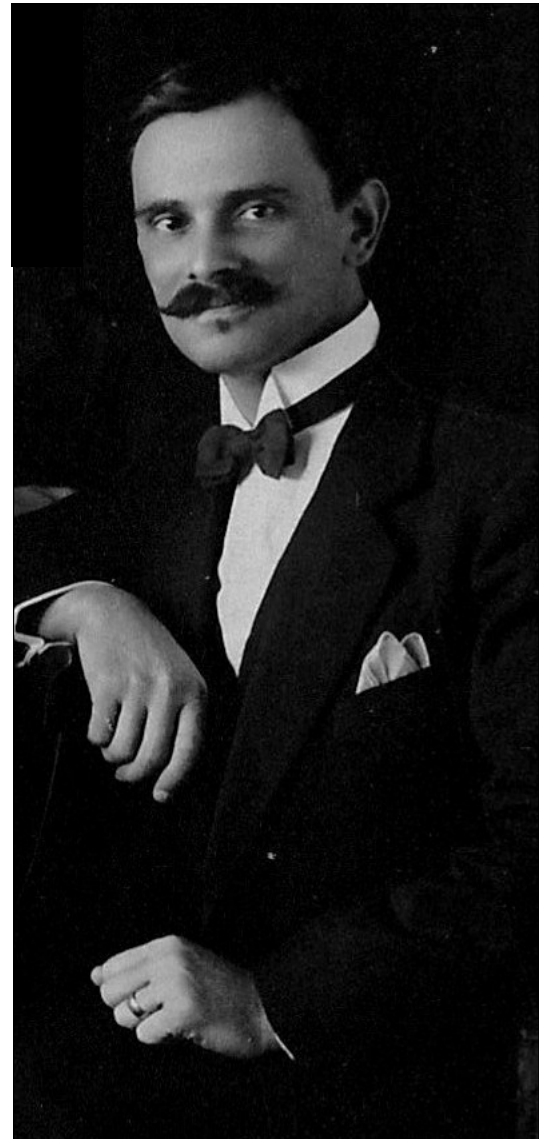
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Guins/Gins Family History

We have been extraordinarily fortunate to have dozens of letters and telegrams (1917 — 1922) by Nikolaj Konstantinovich Gins available and translated into English, nearly in their entirety. These very personal letters to his sweetheart and young wife, Julija, have given us an intimate look at the past in a way that history books cannot. We see through Nikolaj's eyes and by his pen (or pencil) some of the transformative events of the Civil War in Siberia, from the triumphs of the Cossacks as they battle the Bolsheviks near Tobolsk in the fall of 1919 (see the Correspondence page in this issue) to the retreat of the White Army to safer havens of the East. We also witness Nikolaj's transformation from a cavalier young Russian military officer into a caring and concerned husband, one who is appalled at the starvation and suffering that result from mismanagement in the aftermath of the Civil War.

The trials that Nikolaj endures during the Russian Revolution and Civil War are reminiscent of problems encountered by protagonists in folk tales: The youngest of three brothers, Nikolaj is faced with a series of difficult and dangerous tasks. If Nikolaj survives, he will be able to marry his love, Julija Lvovna Prokhnitskaja, and build a life together.



Above: Nikolaj Gins looks extremely handsome in this photo from Harbin, about 1927. COURTESY/VICKY MLYNIEC

On the cover: Nikolaj Gins in summer uniform, wearing a *kittel*, or tunic, with aiguillettes (two braided cords with ornamental tips) indicating that he is a graduate of the General Staff Academy, about 1915. COURTESY/VICKY MLYNIEC

In Nikolaj's case, events take place with a twist: Nikolaj perseveres through war and revolution, and marries Julija in Omsk in 1919. He bravely returns to combat duty in order to rout the Red armies from Siberia, only to be trapped behind enemy lines in Krasnoyarsk, where he lives under an assumed name for two years. He finally succeeds in arranging to rejoin his wife, now living in Harbin, China, in 1922. A daughter is born to the couple in 1923. Nikolaj and Julija Gins' descendants have shared their story in letters with us, and we are very grateful to them.

Left: Illustration for *The Volga*. COURTESY/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

GINS FAMILY IN KIEV NOBLE GENEALOGY BOOK

The entries on this and the following page represent the culmination of Morits-Emil's efforts to have his family (in this case, as was the tradition, his sons and grandsons) formally attached to the nobility. Morits-Emil himself had been elevated, after 35 years in the Russian Civil Service, to the rank of hereditary noble, following receipt of the Order of St. Vladimir of the 4th degree, granted to him in 1891.

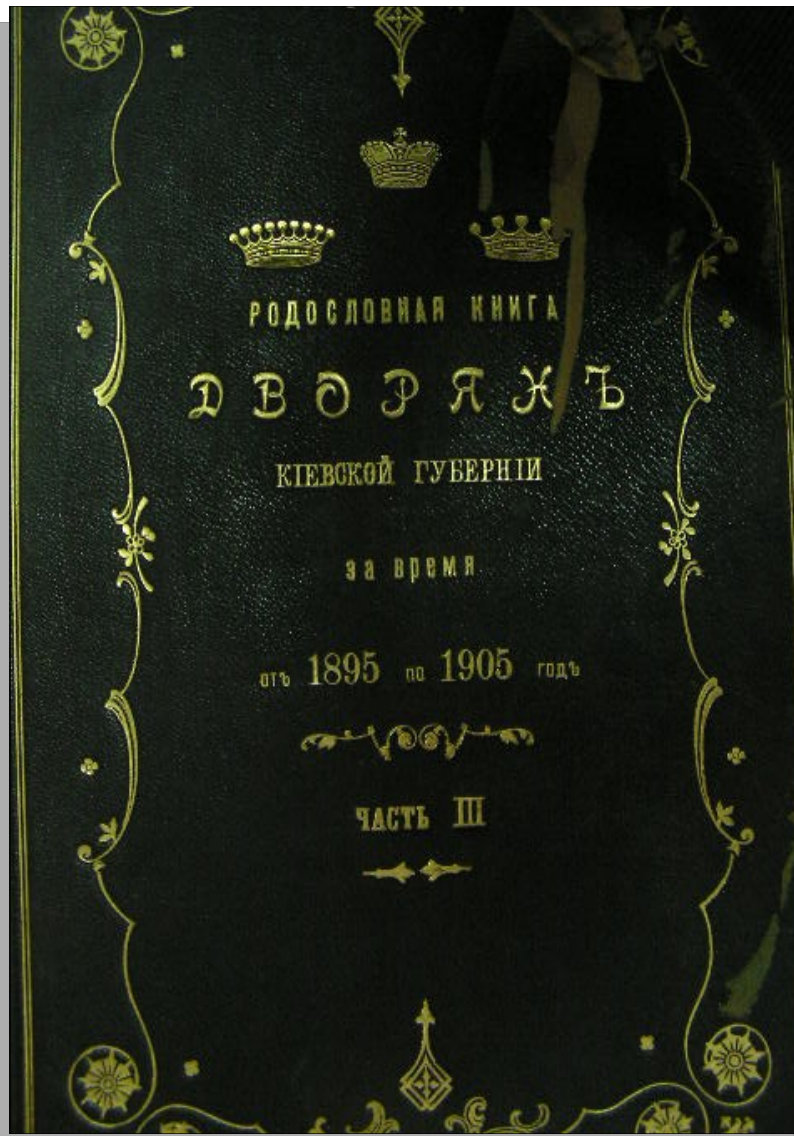
That honor was not necessarily passed on to his descendants until he applied to have them formally attached to the nobility. He did this by supplying the required documents to both the Kiev nobility establishment and the Department of Heraldry of the Ruling Senate in St. Petersburg. Luckily this task came when Morits-Emil finally had time on his hands. He retired from his post as Head of the Kiev Central Telegraph Station in 1893, for reasons of health. His wife, Marija, passed away in 1894.

So, Morits-Emil set about the process of collecting, organizing and submitting the proper papers for his family's appeal to be officially admitted to the nobility, with his customary zeal. There were about 50 documents submitted to the Department of Heraldry in St. Petersburg, including birth and baptismal records for all his male children, a detailed work history for every male old enough to have a record, a military service record for his son, Konstantin, death certifi-

cates and discharge orders, retirement pension dispensation records, and testimony from the Kiev nobility marshal that no one in the Gins family has been in trouble with the law.

The whole process of accumulating the requisite documents took about three years from the time Morits-Emil retired. He submitted the package to the Department of Heraldry and it was recorded on October 26, 1896. The Gins case itself was reviewed over the course of two years, from January 9, 1897 to May 26, 1899. But unfortunately for us, the decision of the Department of Heraldry of the Ruling Senate was not entered in to the Gins case file that our researcher, Stas Bookalo, copied from the Russian State Historical Archives last year.

That is where this new set of documents comes in: they represent the decision of the Kiev Marshal of the Nobility to accept the Gins family as one of their own. The glorious black leather cover on this page contains the index entry, below, and several pages about the Gins genealogy. This was what Morits-Emil was waiting for and had worked for all his life: to see that he and his descendants were accepted into the nobility and would thereafter receive the privileges accorded to that status. Chief among those privileges was the right to have their children, male and female, educated at prestigious institutions, thereby granting them a truly valuable benefit.



Cover of the Genealogy Book of the Nobility of Kiev Province, from 1895—1905, Part III. COURTESY/KIEV HISTORIC ARCHIVES

46.	Герасименко.	1902	46.
47.	Геращенко.	1899	47.
48.	Гонч.-Герасименко.	1901	48.
49.	Гонч.-Герасименко.	1902	49.
50.	Гонч.-Герасименко.	1901	50.
51.	Гонч.-Герасименко.	1896	51.
52.	<u>Гинсовъ</u>	1899	52.
53.	Гизаринко.	1901	53.
54.	Головченко.	1897	54.
55.	Горюховко.	1901	55.
56.	Городицкий.	1903	56.

Index showing Gins family listed for the year 1899. COURTESY/KIEV HISTORIC ARCHIVES

GINS FAMILY IN KIEV NOBLE GENEALOGY BOOK

The following pages come from this record in the Kiev historical archives:

DAKO. F. 782. Op. 2. Spr. 443. Ark. 103, 104

Translation by Yuliya Lazar (Kiev):

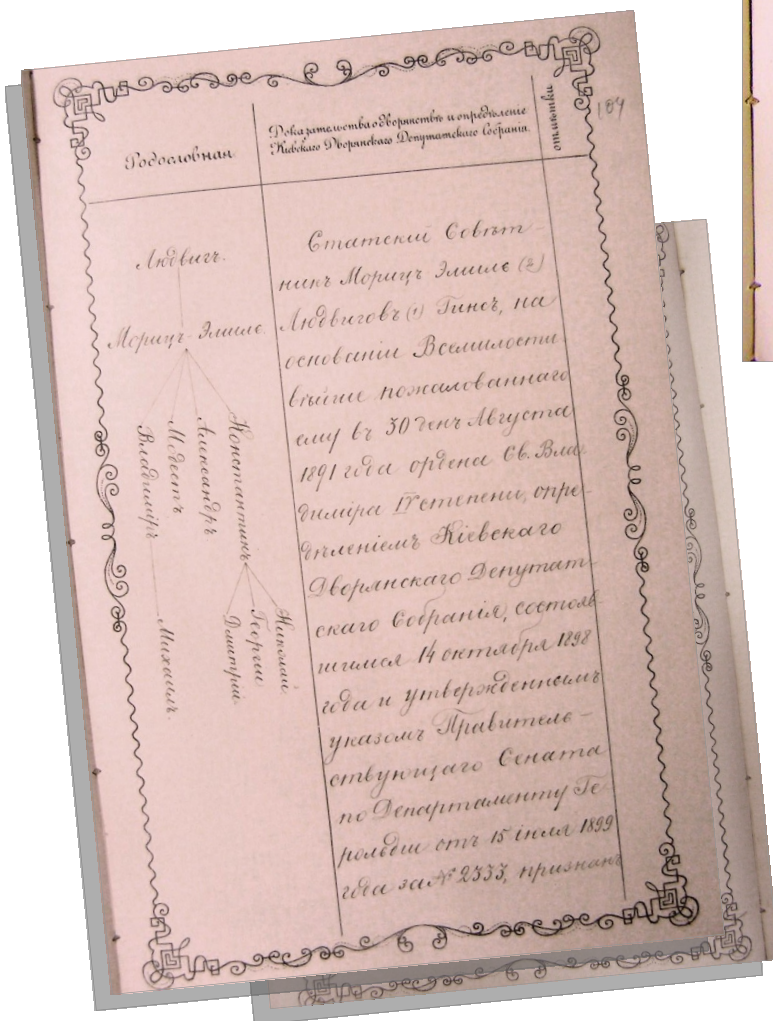
Genealogical book of Kiev province's nobility for the period from 1895 - 1905

Gins' pedigree

Ludvig Gins — Morits Emil — Konstantin — Nikolaj-Georgij-Dmitrij — Aleksandr — Modest — Vladimir — Mikhail

Evidence of Gins' nobility

State Counselor Morits Emil (2) Ludvig (1) Gins, on the basis of the most graciously given to him on 30th day in August 1891 the Order of St. Vladimir of the IV degree, the definition of Kiev's Nobility. Deputy Meeting held October 14, 1898, #2333, was organized with sons Vladimir (3), Modest (4), and Aleksandr (5), and grandchildren, Dmitrij (8), Georgij (9) and Nikolaj (10) Konstantin (6) and Mikhail (7) Vladimir (3) in the hereditary nobility



with the introduction of the third book of the genealogy of nobles of Kiev province.

Guernsky Marshal of the Nobility (signature)

Gentry County Deputy Chigiris County (signed) A. Kretovich?

Secretary of the Gentry (signature)

With the signing of this document and the entry of the Gins family into the Noble Genealogy Book of Kiev province, Morits-Emil completed his life's work. He had succeeded in achieving what most people would have thought was impossible — moving up from modest circumstances in western Poland, working through 10 civil service ranks, receiving multiple awards, lobbying for recognition, and finally, seeing tangible proof that his family and descendants were entered into Part 3 of the provincial records, showing that he had achieved hereditary nobility for his family according to the ranks of civil service.



Old Town Warsaw, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Courtesy/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Warsaw, Poland and Gins Family History

Warsaw isn't a location that many of us associate with Gins family history. Nevertheless, the current capital and largest city in Poland was the birthplace, home, workplace, and burial ground for many of our Gins family members of the 19th century. This "phoenix city," known for its reconstruction after nearly 80% of the buildings were destroyed during World War II, was home to at least 16 Gins family members during the mid to late 1800s, when it was part of the Russian Empire:

This past year we learned from the Gins family case file in the Russian State Historical Archives Department of Heraldry, that the parents of Morits-Emil and siblings, Ludvig and Fryderika Gins, were residents of the 'town' of Warsaw. We also found out from that same set of documents that Nikolaj Konstantinovich Gins was born in Warsaw on July 26, 1891 (Julian calendar date), and baptized there in October in the St. Trinity Cathedral.

And thanks to an earlier examination of Polish records, Boris Dralyuk made this incredible discovery about one of Morits-Emil's older brothers who converted to Christianity and moved to Warsaw from Kalisz, Poland, where all 8 children, including Morits-Emil, were born:

"I've found some information on Aleksander Ryszard Gins, brother of Maurycy Emil and Bernard Wladyslaw. Several sources list his year of death as 1908, with the following site (a compendium of Warsaw obituaries) specifying the date as September 29, 1908:

http://www.nekrologi-baza.pl/nazw/str_g5.html

And the following resource -- a large file listing all Polish authors who died before 1938, and whose works have therefore lapsed into the Public Domain -- lists Aleksander's years as ca. 1819 through 1908:

http://koed.org.pl/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/autorzy_do_1938.doc

Gins Aleksander Ryszard	29.09.1908
Gins Henryk Adolf	13.07.1921
Gins Ludwika (Fröhlich)	30.04.1916
Gins Maria (Oppenheim)	10.04.1922

Aleksandr's year of birth, then, is between 1819 and 1821. I derive the later date from Teodor Jeske-Choiński's (1854-1920) Neofici polscy, which states that Aleksander was 18 at the time of his conversion in 1839.

The following source tells us that Aleksander is buried in Warsaw's Evangelical-Reformed (Protestant) Cemetery:

<http://sowa.website.pl/cmentarium/Cmentarze/spisKalw.html>

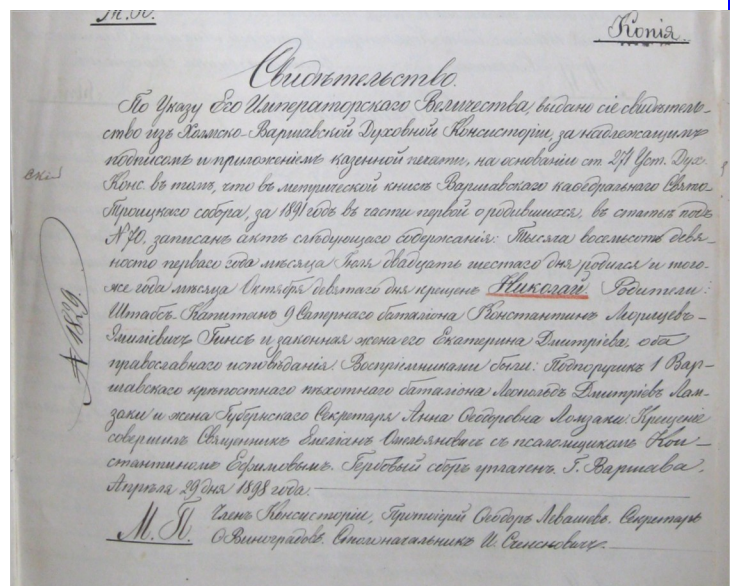
Now, according to Jeske-Choiński's Neofici polscy, both Aleksander and his son Henryk Adolf were book-printers in Warsaw; I used that lead to track down some of the volumes issued by the family's concern. It seems that despite their conversion, the Gins family continued to involve themselves, and to cater to the educated Jewish community -- publishing books in Hebrew, Polish, and Esperanto (!) by such leading lights of the Hebrew Renaissance as Isaac Baer Levinsohn (1788-1860) and Izaak Cylkow (1841-1908)."

It follows that since Aleksandr Ryszard Gins made his living working as a book printer in Warsaw, all the children of Aleksandr and his wife, Fryderyka Augusta Lichtenstadt, would likely have been born in that city:

Anna Helena Gins, b. 1845
Henryk Adolph Gins, b. 1846
Amalia Gins, b. 1849
Marwa Gins, b. 1851
Adela Gins, b. 1851
Aleksandra Paulina Gins, b. 1854
Aurelia Gins, b. 1857

And the next generation of Gins family members, Stefan Adolf Gins, b. 1875 to Henryk Adolf Gins and wife, Ludwika Fröhlich, could also have been born in Warsaw and lived there for some time.

With all these Gins family members being born and living out their lives in Warsaw, there could be a fair number of records there for us to recover. Anyone up for a trip to Poland, sometime in the next few years?



Nikolaj Gins birth and baptismal record. COURTESY/RUSSIAN STATE HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

GINs FAMILY SIGNATURES: AN ECLECTIC COLLECTION

Lipman Gins
13210 201 31
1921 401

*Начальник Центральной
Станции Гинс*



*Статский Советник
Владимир Гинс*



Митя!
Минского
3. Сундур
Ян. 21
Кашнев
Телефон № 229
Негативы Сохраняются.



Гинс
Варшавский
Рашнев
Харьковская ул.
Негативъ
сохраняется
11 Января 1901
1901

Дорогой Марусь
От Владимира
10/17
Гинс
Л. Гинс

PHOTOGRAPHIE
PARISIENNE
Leon & Co
Леонъ и Ко
Невский 63
домъ Тульского
Банка
На память
о Нине
1907

Gins signatures, from the top: Lipman (Ludvig) Gins, from 1815 birth record; Morits-Emil Gins as Head of the Kiev Central Telegraph Station State Counselor Gins, 1886; State Counselor Vladimir Gins, 1816; below from left (underlined in blue) — Dmitrij Gins 1909 signature as ‘Mitja;’ Georgij Gins 1901 signature as ‘Zheorgij;’ Nikolaj Gins 1917 signature as Gins; and bottom — Nina Gins 1907 signature.

DOCUMENTS: LIPMAN GINS COURTESY/LDS ARCHIVES; MORITS-EMIL GINS COURTESY/MARIJA GINS CASE FILE; VLADIMIR GINS COURTESY/FORMULARY WORK HISTORY; POSTCARDS COURTESY/SERGEI GUINS COLLECTION

Correspondence

Nikolaj Gins Tells of Battle with Bolsheviks

Translation by Vasilij Sharikov-Bass and Irina Bass

Commentary by Vicky Mlyniec

We're finalizing work on the Nikolaj letters and I thought I'd share one that really resonated with me. It is a powerful example of rich historical detail, the bond between my devoted grandparents, and the range of Nikolai's personality. In this letter, as in so many others, he shows himself to be sensitive, loyal, passionate and witty. He also writes beautifully, as you will see in his battleground description. In many letters he quotes poems, plays and novels with ease and accuracy. And he can ride a horse!

To set this letter in context, Nikolaj, who fought in World War I against the Germans, is now engaged in fighting the Bolsheviks in the Russian Civil War as a staff captain in the White Russian Army. As the Bolsheviks take over more and more of Russia, the White Russian government, at this time headed by Admiral Kolchak, keeps moving eastward to territory not yet held by the Communists. At this time the government is still in Omsk (having moved from Petersburg) and this is where George Guins, Emily, and little Seva and Sergei are, as well as Julia (and, by the way, Susan's grandmother Vera). Later Uncle George will move with the government further east in Siberia to Irkutsk. Aunt Emily, the boys and Julia are settled in Chita, which is deemed safer.

Correspondence and detective work show that Nikolaj returned to Omsk briefly in the summer of 1919 where he and Julia married on August 8th, which was also Nikolaj's birthday. I remember Mom saying that he had to leave for "the front" just three weeks later and that he wrote to Julia in pencil while he was traveling on horseback. And indeed it was so. The first letter we have after their marriage is dated August 31st. He writes to her again on September 2nd, and the attached letter, dated September 13th, comes next, and much has happened in the meantime.

September 13, 1919
Far-Eastern Republic

My dear, precious little wife,

Can you imagine the situation of someone who desperately wants to write a letter to his beloved but cannot because he must spend nearly all his time on horseback! I have covered perhaps more than 200 versts thus far and am still going forward. During one of the breaks we took in a village, three automobiles passed us, one of which had the Chief riding in it.

On September 8th we had our first battle with the Bolsheviks. They say that the admiral himself² was observing the fight at one of the batteries and was very pleased with the outcome. Of course, if such luck continues to accompany us, then, without a doubt, we will have to rework the phrase the Bolsheviks wrote on the wall in the house where we stayed: "The Whites can't catch the Reds – Comrades, go to your beds."³

We are still fighting the battle we began yesterday, but the Bolsheviks got themselves well entrenched, set up their machine guns and are fighting back with fervor. Captives have said that two of their divisions wanted to surrender but the machine gunners opened fire on them and forced them to come along.

From the Bolsheviks' orders that we have captured, it is apparent that they are determined to firmly defend themselves and not give up for anything. The Reds have the same army organization as we do, except for one difference -- they have Commissars in addition to the "comrades in charge". The

latter include former officers, forcibly mobilized and working under the supervision of the former. Their propaganda is well set up; there is a library for the division where soldiers stuff themselves with Bolshevik literature.

And we must do them justice, they are able to instill their ideas in the Red Army soldiers to the extent that almost every captured letter exhibits the unaltered thoughts of Bolshevik propaganda. In their newspapers they select materials so as to prove that we deceive the people and lead them to their demise; that we stand for the resurrection of the old regime and other nonsense. They misinterpret the facts in their favor; in one word, I am convinced that the struggle with them will be arduous and prolonged.

Imagine – our airplane drops leaflets and pamphlets on them, and, what do you think? They tear them up without reading them! Of course, it's possible that it's the Communists who do this; that not all Red Army soldiers are so inclined; that the mobilized masses want to go home and not to war; but, still, this is very indicative of the Reds.

After the battle of 8-9th September, we captured the Commissar's wife and a librarian. The latter was dressed in men's clothing, and along with the duties of a librarian, she served as a nurse. Our divisional doctor talked to her for quite some time and found that she is an avid Bolshevik and will never join our side.

I will try to describe for you the sight of the battle which was, indeed, very good. We were able to surround the Bolsheviks from every side and, obviously, they had only one option – to fight their way to the West to meet their allies. And right at the moment when they began moving with their carts in battle order along the highway, our division launched at them, like lava, from beyond the capes where it was hiding. With their swords out, screaming and whooping, the first wave of Cossacks launched across the steppe, where everything is visible as if it's on your palm, then the second wave and the third, and the last. The entire battlefield is flooded with sunlight, is strewn with horsemen for 2-3 versts,⁴ waves of people dashing at full gallop at the enemy with banners and signs, all made a grandiose painting of the revenge of the Cossacks. Under the guidance of their leaders, after a break of many years, they fought once again like in the good old times. This battle inspired everyone and added faith in the nearness of success.

On the day after the battle I was brought a letter from you. This was the best reward for me for all the hardship I have to go through here. I was eternally happy to receive a photograph with the letter as well. I like it and carry it with me all the time, and in the sad minutes of longing for you I delight in looking at it.

Continues on page 7



White propaganda poster "for united Russia". COURTESY/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Correspondence continued

Listen, my darling, as much as I would like for you to be with me, still I must dissuade you from coming to the front. I judge by myself – I am unaccustomed to camp life and it is difficult for me. What, then, will happen to you? Especially now that the rains have begun to fall, and everything becomes muddy and wet and the sight all around is dreadful. I must confess that I strive to come to you to Omsk at least for a little while, to be there if only for a few days. When Bogdanov arrives, I will talk to him, but still, my darling, I do not advise you to go to the front. Besides, we still would not be able to be together for a long time: we are all moving ahead and rest very little, which leaves no time to see each other or to converse. It's dark everywhere, there are very few huts around and we can't expect even a room. You must agree that such a situation is dreadful.

Pray, my darling, for us to see each other sooner.
I kiss you many, many times.

Your Kolya.

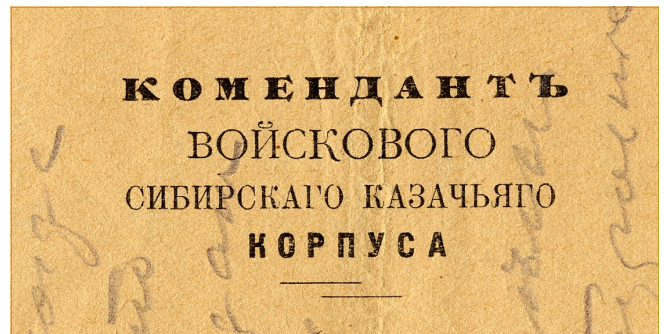
PS Say hello to [unintelligible]. Kiss George.

¹ 133 miles

² Probably Admiral Kolchak, who was the head of the White Russian government for parts of eastern Russia not in possession of the Bolsheviks. George Guins was his chief of ministries.

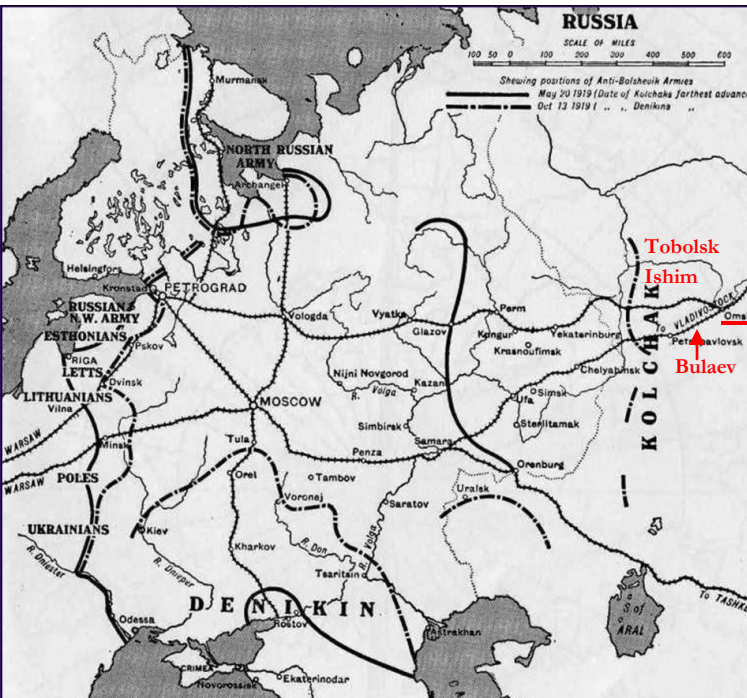
³ In Russian, this rhymes, too: Krasnykh belym ne dognat'. Tovarishchi lozhites' spat'.

⁴ 1.5 miles



Top: Envelope addressed to Julia Prokhitskaja in Omsk, stamped 4-11-19 (1919), from Staff Captain Nikolaj Gins of the 13th Expeditionary on the Staff of the General Ivanov-Rinov

Bottom: Paper used by Nikolaj Gins to write to Julia and George on Oct. 31, 1919: Commander of the Military Siberian Cossack Corp. COURTESY/ VICKY MLYNIEC



Map showing the lines established and held (for a time) by the White Army forces in 1919; the line above Kolchak's name on the right shows where Nikolaj Gins and Cossack horsemen headed from Omsk for their final battles with the Bolshevik troops in 1919. By the end of October 1919, the Third Red Army had taken control of **Tobolsk**, **Ishim**, and **Petropavlovsk**. Nikolaj was in **Bulaev** when he wrote to Julia and Georgij on Oct. 31. Omsk fell two weeks later in November to the Fifth Red Army and from that time on, the White Army was in full retreat.

COURTESY/UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

N.G.O. Pereira, White Siberia, The Politics of Civil War. McGill-Queens University Press, 1998.

Nikolaj Gins was associated with a noteworthy (and, according to some sources, notorious) general who played a major part in the anti-communist military community in Siberia during the Civil War. As of March 1919, we learn from an envelope addressed to Julia (above) that Staff Captain Nikolaj Gins was a member of the 13th Expeditionary on the staff of General Pavel Pavlovich Ivanov-Rinov. Also known as the Organization of the Thirteen in Omsk, General Ivanov-Rinov's force had about 3,000 men. Ivanov-Rinov, a powerful ataman of the Siberian Cossacks, and his forces, along with a number of smaller groups, represented a serious threat to the Red Army at that time.

General Ivanov-Rinov had been appointed Minister of War and head of the Siberian Army by the newly formed Provisional All-Russian Government during the Ufa conference in September 1918, and he was the commander-in-chief of the entire Siberian Front. But by December 1918, after the coup d'état that placed Admiral Kolchak in the position of Supreme Ruler, the Siberian Army was reorganized. The Siberian Front became the 2nd Steppe Siberian Corps under a new commander, General Brzhezovsky.

It appears that Nikolaj stayed with Ivanov-Rinov and the Cossacks, as can be seen in the letter translated in this issue. Two more letter translations, one to Julia and one to Georgij, dated Oct. 31, 1919, will be included in the next edition of the Guins/Gins magazine.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siberian_Army
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Civil_War

The following timeline is derived from a variety of sources: some are primary source documents, such as the letters and captions in the Russian military photo album written by Nikolaj, while others are secondary sources, such as Robert Anderson's notes from discussions with Seva Guins about Nikolaj.

Nikolaj Konstantinovich Gins: Timeline of Life Events



July 26 (Julian calendar system in use at the time), **1891** — Born in Warsaw, Poland (part of the Russian Empire) to parents Konstantin Moritsovich-Emilievich Gins and Ekaterina Dmitrievna Gins (*nee* Lamzaki); and christened at St. Trinity Cathedral [Svjato-Troitskii Sobor] on October 9¹



About 1892 — Mother Ekaterina and children (Dmitrij, Georgij, Nina, and Nikolaj) leave Russian Poland to return to her parents' home in Chisinau (now in Moldova), following Konstantin's death⁵ in Kiev on July 30, of that year¹

About 1909 — Nikolaj completes gymnasium in Chisinau and begins attending the university in Odessa, majoring in mathematics⁴

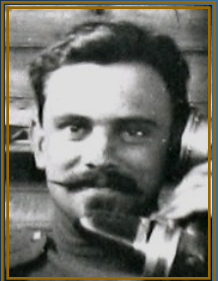


About 1914 — He withdraws from the university at the beginning of World War I, and volunteers for service in the Russian army; he is assigned to the 54th Infantry Regiment, usually stationed in Chisinau; leaves for the Austrian front as part of the Russian 8th Army; this Division defeats the Austrian troops and occupies Galician province; in 1915 the Germans bring reinforcements and drive the Russians out; the 54th Regiment retreats to Russia⁴

1915 — Nikolaj enters officer training school and at graduation is assigned to the 31st Siberian (Artillery³) Regiment, which fights German troops in what is now Belarus; he is awarded the cross of St. Vladimir for bravery⁴

October 1915 — A German plane is shot down by 31st Siberian Regiment snipers near Popin, Vilnius Province, Russia³

November 1915 — Nikolaj is second in command of half of the 31st Siberian Artillery Regiment; the Regiment moves to the small town of Tsytsyn by the end of the year³

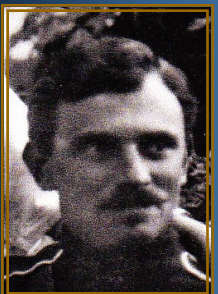


March 1916 — Battle at Lake Naroch, near the town of Moros'ki in Vilensk province; Germans are captured; in April the Regiment is at the village of Budki³

October 1916 — the Regiment has moved to the town of Turets in Minsk province; Nikolaj is a Lieutenant³

December 1916 — Nikolaj's regiment is in the town of Nerashev in Minsk province³

January 1917 — As part of a Communications Team (spies in white) on skis, Nikolaj is near the River Neman; as of January 1, Nikolaj is a Staff Captain³



February 1917 — **Revolution in Russia**; Nikolaj writes to Julija, who is now in Omsk, from Vladivostok, where he is stationed with his Army unit²

December 1917 — In connection with the post-**October 1917 Revolution** changes in Russia, and following the armistice between the Russian Bolsheviks and Germany, the 31st Siberian Regiment was sent to Krasnoyarsk and demobilized⁴

Photos this page, top to bottom: (1) abt. 1893—age 2, (2) abt. 1895—age 4, (3) abt. 1905—age 14, (4) 1916—age 25, (5) 1919—age 28. COURTESY/VICKY MLYNYEC & SERGEI GUINS COLLECTION

Photos on the following page, top to bottom: (1) 1916—age 25, (2) abt. 1922—age 31, (3) 1922—age 31, (4) abt. 1923—age 32, (5) abt. 1927 — age 36. PHOTO 3 COURTESY/VICKY MLYNYEC & SERGEI GUINS COLLECTION

Nikolaj Konstantinovich Gins: Timeline of Life Events (continued)



1918 — Nikolaj trains with an Anti-Communist Officers Organization; he joins the White Army in Siberia and becomes chief of staff of the 3rd Division⁴, commanded by General Pavel Pavlovich Ivanov-Rinov²

September 1918 — He accompanies brother Georgij and Petr Vasilievich Vologodskij as a delegate on the mission to unify the White Russian forces in Siberia⁶ (Nikolaj probably meets his brother and Vologodskij in Vladivostok as they travel from Omsk to Chita to Harbin to Vladivostok and back to talk with leaders of various factions)

March 1919 — Nikolaj writes to Julija again from Vladivostok; the heading of the letter indicates that he is Staff Captain of the 13th Expeditionary on the Staff of General Ivanov-Rinov²

July 1919 — He sends a telegram to Julija in Omsk on July 7; Nikolaj and Julija marry on his birthday, July 26²(the old Julian calendar date; in use when Nikolaj was born) which became August 8 in the new Gregorian calendar, adopted by the Russian Bolsheviks as of January 1918

August 1919 — Nikolaj spends just a few short weeks with Julija as a married couple, then he leaves to participate in what is hoped to be a route of the Bolsheviks in Siberia; He sends Julija a telegram on August 7 — the first ever to Julija Gins²

September 1919 — Nikolaj writes to Julija on September 2, on paper from the Division Headquarters of the 3rd Siberian Corps, telling her that he is being sent to the village of Novo-Yavlenniy on the Ishim River; he writes to her again on September 13, with his location as the Far Eastern Republic, and describes the battle with the Bolsheviks on September 8th and 9th²

October 1919 - Nikolaj writes to Julija and Georgij from Bulaevo (now in Kazakstan), on October 31; he asks his brother to send a telegram to Tomsk to see if Nikolaj can get approval to attend an academy (he says that Ivanov-Rinov cannot send telegrams at this time)²

November 1919 — The White Army is defeated by the Bolsheviks in Siberia and the city of Omsk falls into Red hands; the 3rd Siberian Division marches from the Ural Mountains to Krasnoyarsk; there is a local communist uprising in Krasnoyarsk but the officers of the division manage to escape⁴; Nikolaj lives in Krasnoyarsk for about 2 years using an assumed name to avoid capture²

1921 — Nikolaj writes to Julija in Harbin via his aunt, Emilija Gergardt (*nee* Gins) and tells her of his plight, since he is unable to obtain permission to leave Krasnoyarsk; he is employed as a Supplies Department Manager and works for the Department of Labor Protection of Enisej District's All-Russian Professional Union of Soviet Workers²

June 1922 — He lets Julija know by letter dated June 18 that he has received permission to travel outside of Krasnoyarsk and will leave on June 20 to begin his journey to his family in Harbin²; Nikolaj reunites with Julija, Georgij and family, and lives in an apartment owned by his brother⁵

July 1923 — Tatiana Nikolaevna Gins is born in Harbin on July 11 to Nikolaj and Julija; Nikolaj works at a bookstore owned and operated by Siberian book trader V. Possokhin⁵

1931 — Nikolaj dies in Harbin⁶ and is buried there.

¹ Records from Gins case No. 1335/1759, Archives: Department of Heraldry of the Ruling Senate, St. Petersburg, Russia

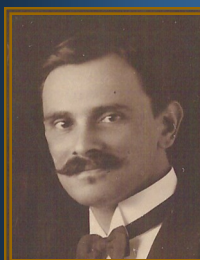
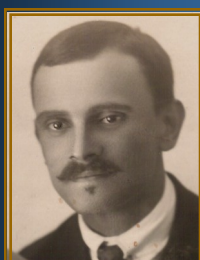
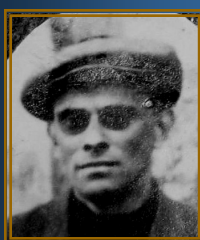
² Nikolaj Gins letters & telegrams, 1917—1922; translations: B. Dralyuk, I. Bass/V. Sharikov-Bass, I. Wender, V. Mlyniec

³ Nikolaj Gins military photo album captions, 1915-1917, by Nikolaj Gins; translations: B. Dralyuk

⁴ Robert Anderson notes from discussions with Seva Guins, n.d.

⁵ George C. Guins interviews with Boris Raymond. *Professor and Government Official: Russia, China and California: oral history transcript and related material, 1966.* Berkeley: University of California Bancroft Library, 1966

⁶ Petr V. Vologodskii diaries, compiled/edited by Semion Lyandres and Dietmar Wulff. *A Chronicle of the Civil War in Siberia and Exile in China.* Stanford: Hoover Institution Press, 2002





Vasilisa leaves Baba Yaga's hut, from *Vasilisa, the Beautiful*, a Russian fairy tale. Illustration by Ivan Bilibin, 1899. COURTESY/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Red horseman, representing the sun, from *Vasilisa, the Beautiful*. Illustration by Ivan Bilibin, 1899. COURTESY/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

In his colorful and clever prose, Nikolaj Gins reminds Julija in his letters of the ways which their troublesome situation is reminiscent of trials in **Russian folk tales**. Those tales are very much a part of our cultural heritage, as are the glorious illustrations that depict them. Here is a sample of some of the finest folk tale artwork by one of Russia's premier graphic artists, Ivan Bilibin (b. 1876 in St. Petersburg, d. 1942 during the Siege of Leningrad). Bilibin studied under famed painter Ilya Repin, and became a superb illustrator and a stage designer for operas and other theatrical productions.



The merchants visit the Tsar Saltan from the poem by Aleksandr Pushkin, *The Tale of the Tsar Saltan*. Illustration by Ivan Bilibin. COURTESY/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS