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Morits-Emil Gins' 35-Year Telecommunications Career

Archive records give us a fascinating account of our determined ancestor's work in the communications field, spanning 2 countries...



Konstantin Gins.
COURTESY/GUINS.

Konstantin Gins Exemplary Military Service Record

Konstantin's records reveal a talented man who specialized in topography, and was one of the first to survey the Bessarabia region of the Russian Empire...

Photography

The Empire That Was Russia

Extraordinary color photographs of the ethnic diversity in the pre-World War I Russian Empire, from photographer Sergei Mikhailovich Prokudin-Gorskii...

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Nikolaj Gins to Leave Krasnoyarsk

Nikolaj is finally able to begin his journey to rejoin his family in Harbin...

Charting the Past

Family tree charts show the very large families of Ludvig and Fryderyka Gins, and son, Aleksander, and his wife.

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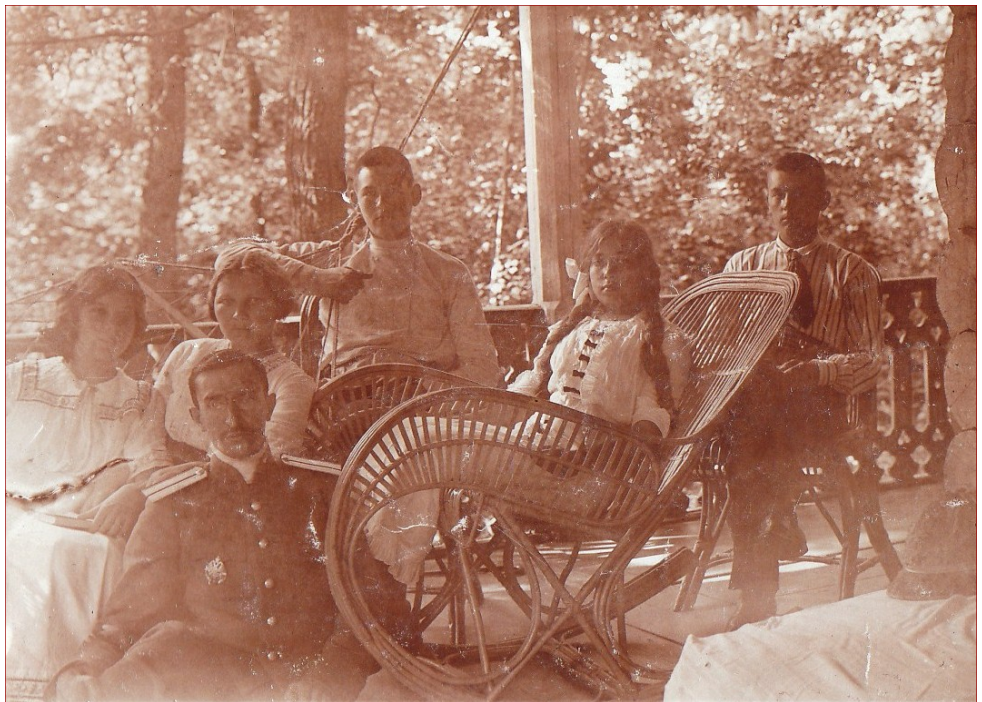
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Gins Family History Research News

With the new Gins family records we received from the Russian State Historical Archives in St. Petersburg, we are able to see in great detail the lengths to which our relatives went to pursue their chosen careers, and to enhance the social standing of the entire extended family. Morits-Emil Gins' own work history, as described in the document on page 2, indicates that he had clear objectives in mind. His drive and diligence enabled him to work his way up, beginning in 1858, from Typographer to Telegraphist in St. Petersburg, Russia, to Ober-Telegraphist in Odessa and Tulchyn, and finally to become Chief of Telegraph Station in Tulchyn, Roven'ky, and in thriving, ancient Kiev.

Morits-Emil's career path was one that obviously covered a lot of ground, with the family moving from St. Petersburg, where Konstantin was born in 1857, to 6 different locations in the Ukraine. They must have kept their suitcases close at hand...



Mikhail Gins and sister, Evgenija, at the Gins home in Samara, Russia

This idyllic gathering appears like a scene from Chekov's *The Cherry Orchard*, with young people enjoying a pleasant afternoon on a porch in a woodland setting. The photograph comes from the collection of Vera Bekkar (*nee* Gins), and is likely to be the home of Vladimir Gins and family when they lived in Samara in 1913. Vera's oldest brother, Mikhail, in his cadet uniform, is seated at the feet of one of his younger sisters, Evgenija, who is in the wicker chair. The girls in the hammock, and the boys, seated, may be classmates, neighbors, friends or relatives. Do they look familiar?

Morits-Emil Ludvigov Gins' 35-Year Telecommunications Career

Translation by Boris Dralyuk, C.Phil.

Morits-Emil's service record states that he was born in 1827 [no month or date given], and was of the Evangelical Reformed faith. He had been awarded the following orders: St Vladimir, 4th degree; St. Anna, 2nd and 3rd degrees; St. Stanislaw, 2nd and 3rd degree; and the Dark Bronze medal for suppressing the Polish mutiny of the years 1863 and 1864. He had received a salary of 1,000 rubles and 500 rubles for expenses -- altogether 1,500 rubles a year. His parents were residents of Warsaw. Neither he nor his wife had any hereditary land. He was home-schooled, and presented proof of having passed the District School's [Rus. "Uezdnoe Uchilishche"] course exam. On April 5, 1858, he was named a telegraphist for foreign correspondence for hire, and was appointed to the Main Station in St. Petersburg with a salary of 20 rubles per month starting on February 7, 1858. Following is his work history:

1858, August 13: Berdychyev Telegraph Station (Telegraphist).

1859, April 29: Zhitomir Telegraph Station (Telegraphist).

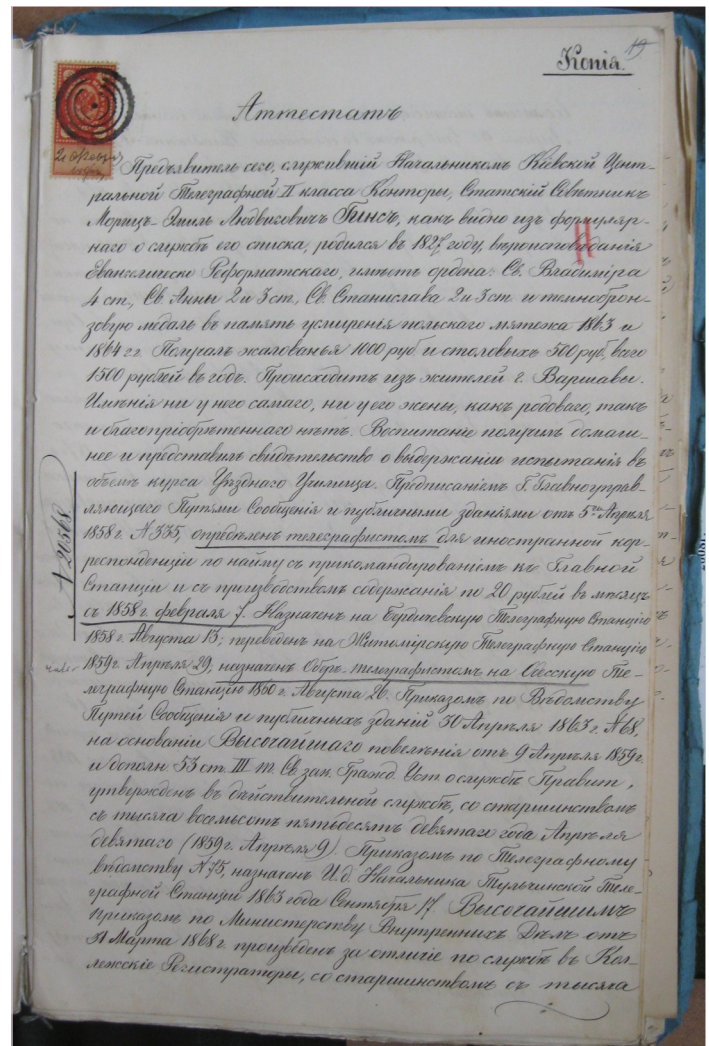
1860, August 26: Odessa Telegraph Station (Ober-Telegraphist).

1863, September 17: Tulchyn Telegraph Station (Chief of Station).

1868, November 9: officially confirmed Chief of [Tulchyn] Station.



Path of Morits-Emil Ludvigov Gins: 1—Kalisz, Poland (birth in 1827); 2—Warsaw, Poland; 3—St. Petersburg, Russia; 4—Berdychiv, Ukraine; 5—Zhitomir, Ukraine; 6—Odessa, Ukraine; 7—Tulchyn, Ukraine; 8—Roven'ky, Ukraine; and 9—Kiev, Ukraine (from 1883–1901, when he died). THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.



Document detailing Morits-Emil's career history. RUSSIAN STATE HISTORICAL ARCHIVES.

1880, September 17: Roven'ky Telegraph Station (Chief of Station)

1883, August 5: Kiev Telegraph Station (Chief of Station).

1889, October 20: due to a reorganization of the Kiev Telegraph Station, named the Chief of the Kiev Central Telegraph Office, starting September 1, 1889.

1893, July 30: Morits-Emil Ludvigov Gins retired.

He never took part in campaigns against or battles with [the nation's] enemies. He was never reprimanded or punished.

He took leaves from service in 1870 (28 days, starting August 13), 1892 (8 days, starting February 6), and 1893 (14 days, starting February 17), always returning by the declared date.

In the next issue of the Gins newsletter, we will look at Morits-Emil's rise through the Russian Civil Service ranks and the awards he earned, and how his ranks and awards helped him to achieve his lifelong goal — hereditary nobility for himself and his family.



The "White Church" of Bila Tserkva, Ukraine. WIKIPEDIA.

The First-Rate Military Service Record of Konstantin Moritsovich-Emilievich Gins

Translation by Boris Dralyuk, C.Phil.

Boris Dralyuk translated several documents from the Russian State Historical Archives to give us this summary of Konstantin Gins military service career:

Most of Konstantin's work was in the lines of topography and engineering, and he appears to have been one of the first Russian military surveyors and topographers of Bessarabia. The record confirms that he was born in St. Petersburg, and that he received his education at the Belaja Tserkov [Ukr. "Bila Tserkva"; Eng. "White Church"] Real and Topographic Institute:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bila_Tserkva

He entered the service as a Junker in the Military Topographic Institute on September 23, 1877, became a Non-Commissioned Officer [Rus. "unter-ofitser"] on November 5, 1878, and a Second Lieutenant [Rus. "Podporuchik"] of the Military Topography Corps on September 18, 1881 -- attaining seniority on August 8, 1881. On October 4, 1881, he was attached to the Military Topographical Department of the General Staff [Rus. "Glavnyj Shtab"] for drafting and statistical Work.

Skipping the detailed record of his service, which appears to have been stellar, here are a few details concerning his family -- most of which we know. His wife was Ekaterina Dmitrievna Lamzaki, the daughter of a Governorate General [Rus. "Gubernskij Sekretar'"]. His sons were: Dmitrij, born May 27, 1885; Georgij, born April 15, 1887; and Nikolaj, born July 26, 1891. His daughter Nina was born on August 23, 1889. Both he and his wife were of the Orthodox faith.

A second document contains his discharge papers, which took effect on April 20, 1892. Staff-Captain [Shtabs-Kapitan] Konstantin Gins was relieved from duty, acquiring the rank of Captain [Kapitan], with full-dress uniform and a pension. It states he is to receive a pension from the governmental Treasury [Kaznachejstvo] at two-thirds of his full salary, 210 rubles a year, and a life-long pension from the Emeritura [a kind of social security/payroll tax pension for people in the services] as a First-Rank, First-Class servant at 177 rubles a year. It also states that the pension is to be withdrawn if Konstantin is able to return to service.

The third document is a copy of Konstantin Gins' burial record, issued by the St. Pokrovskij Church of the Kiev Military Hospital [Svjato-Pokrovskaja Tserkov' Kievskogo Voennogo Gospitalja] as No. 82 in the third part of the record book of perished males for 1892. Konstantin Moritsev-Emiliev Gins, a Staff-Captain [Shtabs-Kapitan] of the 9th [Engineer-]Sapper Battalion [9 Sapernyj Batalion/Batal'on], died on July 30, 1892, at the age of 34. He was buried on August 1, 1892, in Kiev's Baikov Cemetery.

The second part of the second document is a correction issued by the Commander of the Battalion, elicited by a petition by Morits-Emil' on behalf of Kontantin after his death, asking that his son's discharge papers be corrected. The Ober-Officer of the 9 [Engineer-]Sapper Battalion [9 Sapernyj Batalion/Batal'on] had incorrectly recorded Konstantin's patronymic as Emilievich. The Commander of the Battalion formally corrects Kontantin's name to read Konstantin Moritsevich-Emilievich.



Card with a map of Bessarabia, from 1856, showing the city of Kishinev (now Chisinau, Moldova) in the center. Konstantin was one of the first military surveyors and topographers of Bessarabia. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.

Photography

Library of Congress Exhibit: The Empire That Was Russia The Prokudin-Gorskii Photographic Record Recreated

An exquisite collection of color photographs by renown Russian photographer Sergei Mikhailovich Prokudin-Gorskii has been on display since last year through a Library of Congress exhibit site, at www.loc.gov/exhibits/empire/gorskii.html. And this is just a brief example of his work. We will be featuring his photography in our newsletters throughout the year. Following is a description of the photographer from the exhibit website:

"The photographs of Sergei Mikhailovich Prokudin-Gorskii (1863-1944) offer a vivid portrait of a lost world--the Russian Empire on the eve of World War I and the coming revolution. His subjects ranged from the medieval churches and monasteries of old Russia, to the railroads and factories of an emerging industrial power, to the daily life and work of Russia's diverse population.

In the early 1900s Prokudin-Gorskii formulated an ambitious plan for a photographic survey of the Russian Empire that won the support of Tsar Nicholas II. Between 1909-1912, and again in 1915, he completed surveys of eleven regions, traveling in a specially equipped railroad car provided by the Ministry of Transportation."



Young peasant women outside an izba, or traditional wooden house, 1909.



The Emir of Bukhara, Alim Khan, poses for his portrait in 1911.



A group of Jewish boys in Samarkand studying with their teacher, 1911.



Profile of an Uzbek woman in tradition dress, circa 1907-1915.

*Correspondence***Nikolaj Gins Gains Permission to Leave Krasnoyarsk and Rejoin Loved Ones**

Translation by Irina Vladi L. Wender

At long last, we have a translation of the final letter that Nikolaj penned (that we are aware of, and have in our possession) announcing to his family in Harbin the great news about his transfer from Krasnoyarsk. This brings to a close his exile — with Nikolaj living under an assumed name and identity in Krasnoyarsk, while wife, Julija, along with brother, George, and family set up residence in Harbin. Once Nikolaj is in Chita and supposedly working for the Far East Soviet (per his transfer papers), he knows he will be able to escape across the more porous border to travel to Harbin to rejoin his family.

*Harbin
Pravlenskaya 5
Ludmile Emil'evne Gerhardt
For Jil'tsa*

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18/6/22

My darling ardently loved one!

On Friday, the 16th, at 1 o'clock in the morning, a medico-nutritious train arrived.

In the company of my colleagues I met the train on time and received that parcel from N, which you wrote me about.

As soon as I received the parcel, I happily went home in order to rest after an almost sleepless night, since I spent the whole night with my acquaintances—starting at 3 o'clock in the morning.

Just imagine my surprise, when the very next day (yesterday) I came home around one at night,

To find a note on my desk, an invitation to be at the attached address at 12 o'clock at night to see someone by the name of Semyonov, in order to retrieve a parcel.

Naturally, I went right way and found that he received 16 parcels which were not being delivered to the addresses. Among the parcels, one was mine but without documents. As a Secretary of District commission, he gave them out according to expenses for delivery.

I paid one "million", as we say here in the local jargon, grabbed the parcel and ran as fast as possible home in order to open it.

My dove, you and your closest are spoiling me, I can't find words to express my feelings, which overwhelm me!...Only privately, when, God willing, I will be with you, I will try to prove how much I value your attentions and worries...There is no one closer and more loved than mine Julechka, and I pray that fate allows me the chance to reunite with her sooner. This is the only thing that gives sense of my life.



Nikolaj Konstantinovich Gins as he appeared in 1922. COURTESY/VICKY MLYNIEC.

So, finally I received the long awaited transfer to Far East Soviet in Chita, and, after selling my little belongings, and with your blessings, on Tuesday, the 20th I will take the long journey in order to reunite with you, my darling!

When I just think about the possibility of our meeting, my little one, who I haven't seen in so long – I can't breathe and my heart beats so fast that it seems like it will not endure all these joyous emotions.

Now, I can't sit still and I can't wait to leave. But the trains, as if in spite, come only 3 times per week: on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

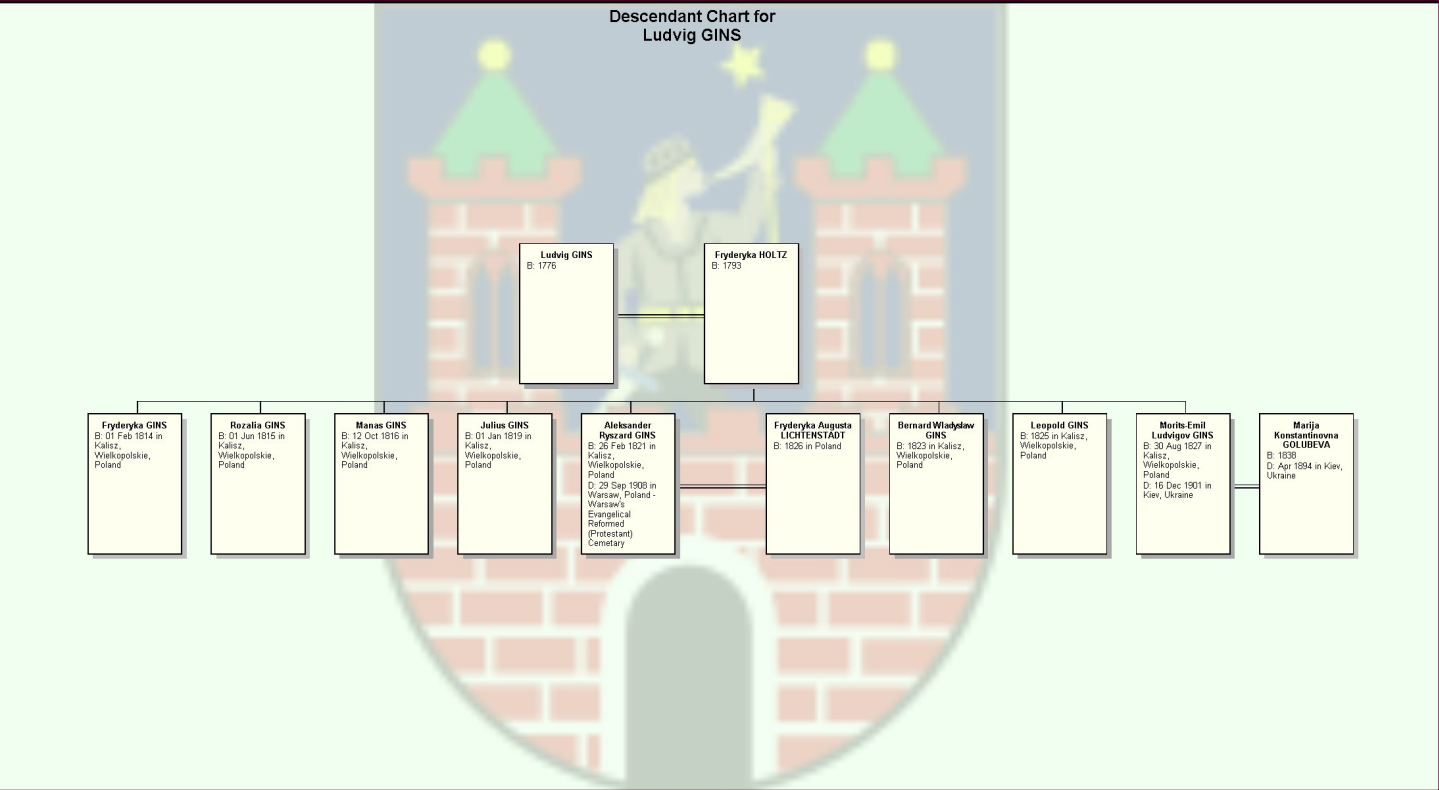
I ardently kiss my dove, hug you tenderly and whisper into your ear "Love Forever".

Your little husband.

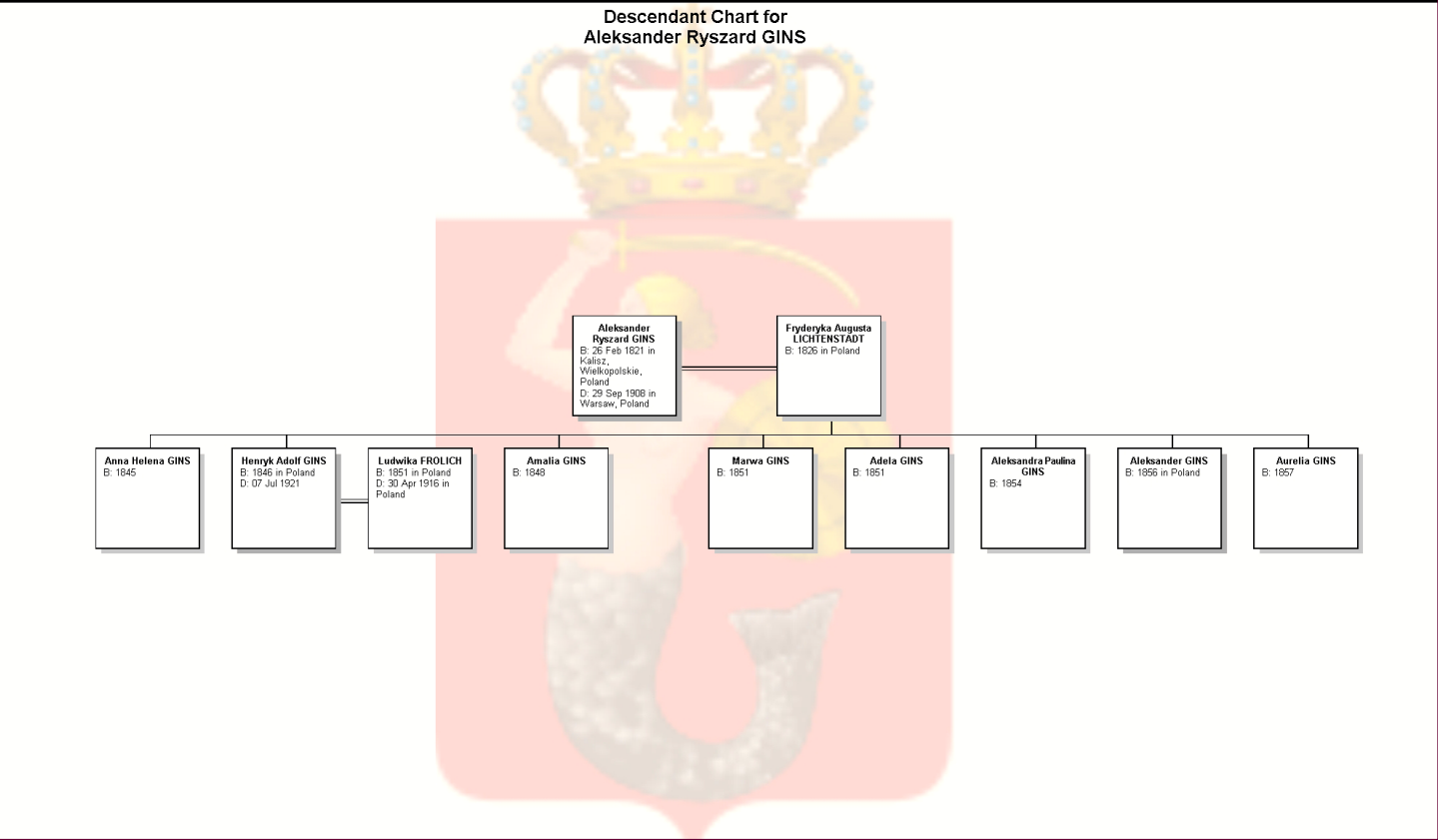
P.S. My dearest, kiss your sister for me, her husband and the children. Thank them for their attentions and their constant support.

Say "Hello" to everybody !

Charting the Past Gins Families with 8 Children Were Common in the 1800s



Above, Morits-Emil was the youngest of **8 children** born to Ludvig and Fryderyka Gins. The coat of arms is from Kalisz, Poland, where all the children were born.



Above, chart showing **8 children** born to Morits-Emil's brother, Aleksander and wife, Fryderyka. The coat of arms is from Warsaw, Poland. Aleksander and son, Henryk, were book printers in Warsaw, and Aleksander died there in 1908 and is buried in the Warsaw Evangelical Reformed [Protestant] Cemetery.