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Spectacular News from St. Petersburg Archives

Documents from the Gins file in the Russian State Historical Archive reveal vital new data about the lives of the Gins family in Poland, Russia and the Ukraine.

Birth Records for Dmitrij, Georgij, Nikolaj and Cousin Mikhail Gins

We now have complete birth records for the sons of Konstantin and Ekaterina Gins.



Gins Relatives Regroup

Brazilian transplants make their way to the Bay Area, but not without tragedy...

Pavel Tkachev

Correspondence: Nikolaj Gins

A Special Thanks to The Family

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Gins Family History Research News

Christmas very definitely came early last year, with receipt of document files from our researcher in Kiev. Stas Bookalo made the trek to the St. Petersburg archives to copy pages from a file that concerned the application to have the sons and grandsons of Morits-Emil Ludvigov Gins formally 'attached' to the nobility. This file contains documents accumulated up until October 26, 1896 and it was reviewed by the Department of Heraldry of the Governing Senate from January 9, 1897 through May 26, 1899.

It was very fortunate that we were able to collect generous contributions from the family in the month of December, because I was then able to pay Stas for most of the document copies, using some funds to cover translation fees. Boris Dralyuk kindly took up the translation task during his winter break, and gave us stunning new information that includes Morits-Emil's entire 35 year work history and civil service career, the birth dates of all of his children, Konstantin's military service record, and much more. Our combined efforts have already made this a very happy new year!

Konstantin Moritsovich-Emilievich Gins is Eldest

The detailed new documents that have come into our possession have given us birth dates and locations for all the Gins males born to Morits-Emil and Marija Gins. We now know that Konstantin was the first of eight children born to Morits-Emil and Marija. He was born on 15 December 1857 in St. Petersburg, Russia. Konstantin was the only child born to the couple in Russia; all the others were born in the Ukraine, then part of the Russian Empire.

The formal photograph, right, is of the young married couple, Konstantin and Ekaterina Gins, from Kiev. The time period is likely to be the early to mid-1880s, since there are no children present (their first child, Dmitrij, was born in 1885).

Konstantin wears a sword, but carries a book—evoking the image of a warrior and a scholar.



Konstantin Moritsovich-Emilievich Gins and young wife, Ekaterina Dmitrievna (nee Lamzaki). Photo: Marin archives.



5 of 8 Gins siblings, left to right: Konstantin, Ludmila, Anna, Vladimir, Aleksandr. Missing: Marija, Modest, Evgenija. Photos: Morris archives.

Russian Archive Records Reveal Gins Sibling Birth Order

Translations by Boris Dralyuk, C.Phil.

Numerous documents within the collection copied by Stas Bookalo from the Russian State Historical Archive in St. Petersburg have provided key information on the family of Morits-Emil and Marija Gins. Some of the most impressive new data involves the birth dates and birth places of the 8 Gins siblings. Complete birth records were included for all 4 males, with location of the baptism and names of the witnesses present. But from Morits-Emil's detailed work history—spanning a career of 35 years—we were able to deduce likely locations of the births of the 4 daughters, as well:

Konstantin—born 15 December 1857, St. Petersburg, Russia

Ludmila—born 6 September 1859, likely Zhitomir, Ukraine

Anna—born 24 December 1861, likely Odessa, Ukraine

Vladimir—born 29 February 1864, Tulchyn, Ukraine

Marija—born 1 May 1868, likely Tulchyn, Ukraine

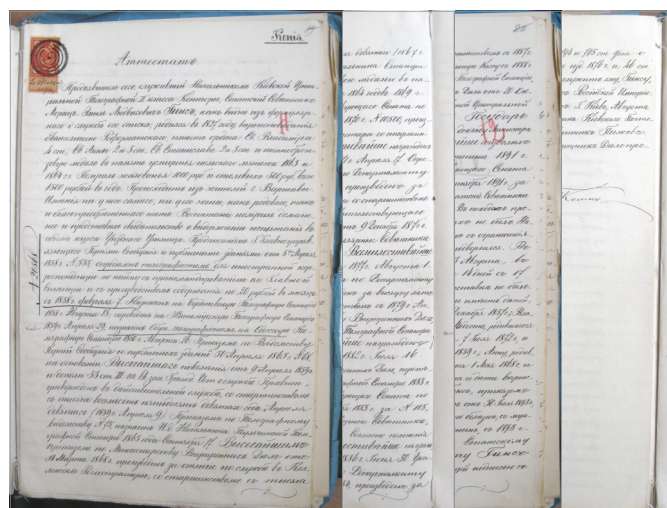
Modest—born 1 April 1870, Tulchyn, Ukraine

Aleksandr—born 7 July 1872, Tulchyn, Ukraine

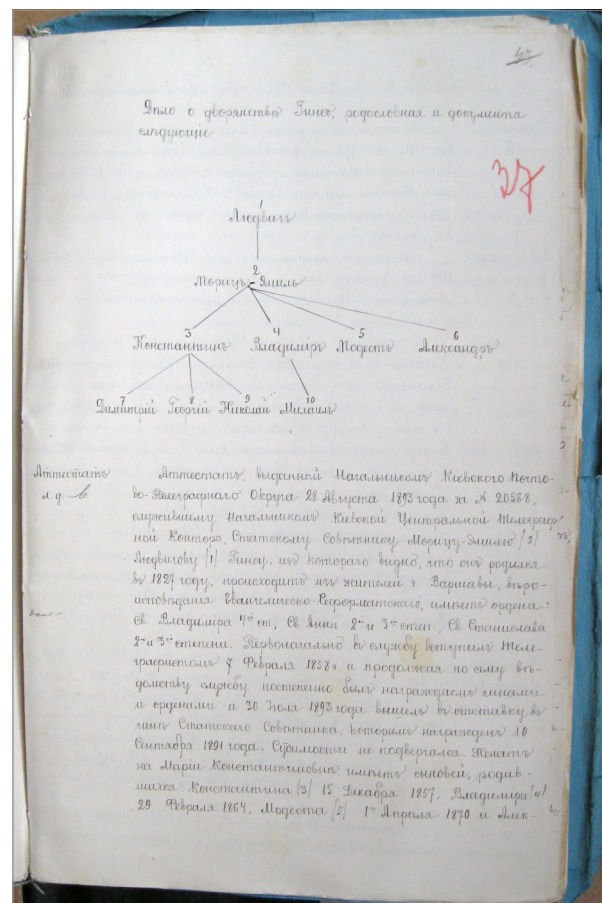
Evgenija—born 1 January 1875, likely Tulchyn, Ukraine

From this information, we can see that mother Marija Konstantinovna Gins began having children at age 19 (she was born in 1838—from her age at death on the grave marker). Marija gave birth to her last, and eighth child, Evgenija, when she was 37.

And this list of Gins children also confirms the existence of daughter, Marija, born in 1868. Stas mentioned her name to us last summer in Kiev, but we had no previous knowledge of her existence.



Documents that detail Morits-Emil Gins' work history, civil service career, orders awarded, and the births of his children.



Document highlights the Gins male descendants, starting with Ludvig, father of Morits-Emil. Photos: Stas Bookalo.

Birth Records for Dmitrij, Georgij, Nikolaj and Cousin Mikhail Gins

Translations by Boris Dralyuk, C.Phil.

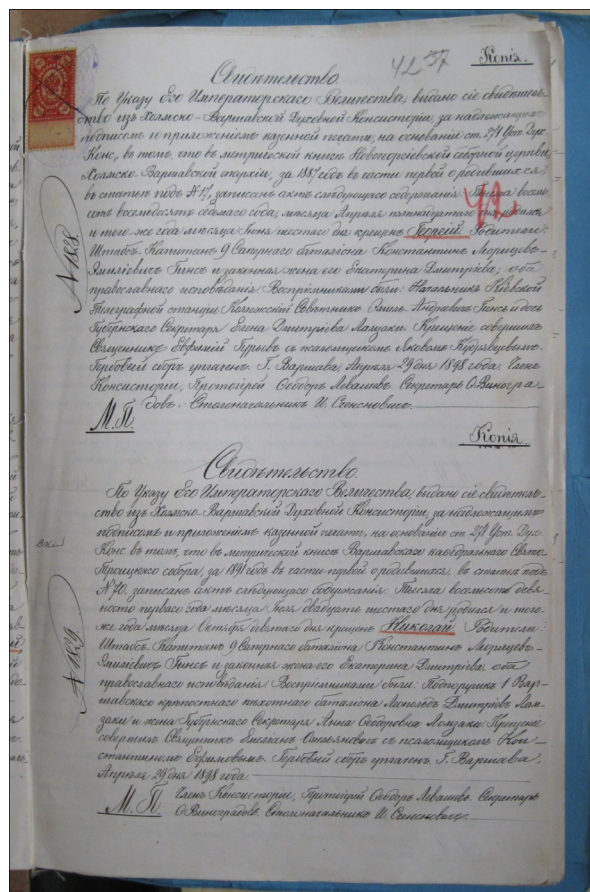
Following are translations of the birth records for the sons of Konstantin and Ekaterina Gins:

Dmitrij Konstantinovich Gins

Dmitrij Gins' birth certificate was issued by the Kishinev Cathedral as No. 10 in 1885. It states that Dmitrij Gins was born on May 27, 1885, and was christened on July 14 of the same year. He was born to Lieutenant [Poruchik] Konstantin Morits-Emiliev Gins, attached to the Military Topography Corps [Korpus Voennykh Topografov] of the Novogeorgievsk Fortress Artillery [Novogeorgievskaja Krepostnaja Artillerija], and to his lawful wife Ekaterina Dmitrievna, both of whom were of the Orthodox faith and married for the first time. The witnesses were the Governorate Secretary [Gubernskij Sekretar'] Dimitrii [sic] Damianovich Lamzaki and the wife of a Collegiate Secretary [Kollezhskij Sekretar'], Elena Feodorovna Loides.

Georgij Konstantinovich Gins

A birth certificate for Georgij Konstantinovich Gins, issued in the first part of 1877 under No. 17 by the Novogeorgievsk Congregational Church [Novogeorgievskaja Sobornaja Tserkov'] of the Kholmek-Warsaw Eparchy. Georgij was born on April 15, 1887 and christened on June 6 of the same year. He was born to Konstantin Moritsev-Emilievich Gins, a Staff-Captain [Shtabs-Kapitan] of the 9th [Engineer-] Sapper Battalion [9 Sapernyi] Batalion/Batal'on], and his lawful wife, Ekaterina Dmitrievna, both of the Orthodox faith. The witnesses were Collegiate Secretary Emil' Andreevich Gins, Chief of the Kiev Telegraph Station, and the daughter of a Governorate Secretary [Gubernskij Sekretar'], Elena Dmitrievna Lamzaki.



Birth record of Georgij and Nikolaj Gins

From these two birth records, we have two new people to add to the family of Ekaterina Dmitrievna Gins (*nee* Lamzaki): Damian Lamzaki, her grandfather, since his name was indicated as her father's patronymic on son Dmitrij's birth record, where her father was a witness (Dimitrii Damianovich Lamzaki). And a sister, Elena Dmitrievna Lamzaki, who was witness to Georgij's baptism.



Left to right: Dmitrij, Georgij, and Nikolaj, sons of Konstantin and Ekaterina Gins; Mikhail, son of Vladimir and Varvara Gins. Photos: Morris archives

Birth Records for Dmitrij, Georgij, Nikolaj and Cousin Mikhail Gins (continued)

Translations by Boris Dralyuk, C.Phil.

Nikolaj Konstatinovich Gins

A birth certificate for Nikolaj Konstantinovich Gins, issued in the first part of 1891 under No. 70 by Warsaw's St. Trinity Cathedral [Svjato-Troitskii Sobor]. Nikolaj was born on July 26, 1891 and christened on October 9 of the same year. He was born to Konstantin Moritsev-Emilievich Gins, a Staff Captain [Shtabs-Kapitan] of the 9th [Engineer-] Sapper Battalion [9 Sapernyi Batalion/Batal'on], and his lawful wife, Ekaterina Dmitrievna, both of the Orthodox faith. The witnesses were Leopold Dmitriev Lamzaki, a Sub-Lieutenant [Podporuchik] of the 1st Warsaw Fortress Infantry Battalion [1 Varshavskij Krepostnoj Batal'on], and the wife of a Governorate Secretary [Gubernskij Sekretar'], Anna Feodorovna Lamzaki.

This birth certificate tell us that the 3 sons born to Konstantin and Ekaterina Gins were all born in different locations: Kishinev, Bessarabia (now Chisinau, Moldova); Novogeorgievsk and Warsaw, both in Poland, then part of the Russian Empire. And with Nikolaj's birth record we can add, from the witness list, a brother for Ekaterina: Leopold Dmitriev Lamzaki. The female witness, Anna Feodorovna Lamzaki would have obviously been related, but we don't know if she was a cousin or aunt or some other relation.

Mikhail Vladimirovich Gins

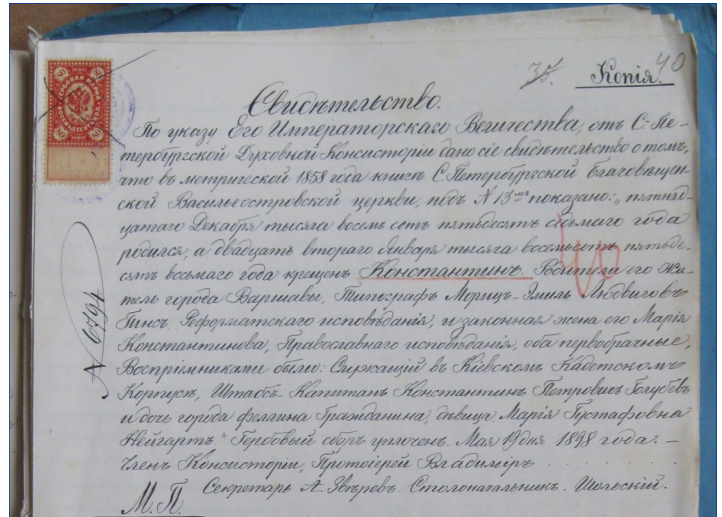
Mikhail Vladimirovich Gins was born September 5, 1893 in Kishinev, and was christened on October 3 of the same year at the Kishinev Archangel Michael Church [Arkhangelo-Mikhailovskaja Tserkov']. He was born to Vladimir Morits-Emiliev Gins, a Mechanic at the Kishinev Post-Telegraph Office, and his lawful wife, Varvara Vasilievna, both of the Orthodox faith.

Mikhail was the first of two sons born to Vladimir and Varvara Gins, but because his younger brother, Leonid, had not been born by 1896 when the documents were assembled and sent to St. Petersburg, Leonid's name and birth record was not available.

And finally, we do have Konstantin's birth record:

Konstantin Moritsovich-Emilievich Gins

It appears that Konstantin was born in St. Petersburg on December 15, 1857, and christened at St. Petersburg's Vasileostovskaja Church on January 22, 1858. Morits-Emil is described as a Typographer, an inhabitant of Warsaw, and a member of the Reformed faith. His lawful first wife is Marija Konstantinovna.



Konstantin Moritsovich-Emilievich Gins birth certificate.

The male witness is a Staff-Captain of the Kiev Cadet Corps by the name of Konstantin Petrovich Golubev. The female witness is Marija Gustafovna Nejgart.

The real breakthrough here, as Boris pointed out, is that the male witness, Konstantin Petrovich Golubev, would likely be Marija's father — since her patronymic is Konstantinovna. It would make sense for her father to be present at the baptism of his namesake grandson, Kontantin Gins.

So, unless we find evidence to the contrary, we are considering Morits-Emil's wife's surname to be Golubev, making her Marija Konstantinovna Golubeva. And another implication here is that we also know her grandfather's name: Petr (from Konstantin Petrovich Golubev).

A word about dates....

All the dates we have listed here are in the old Julian calendar system in use in Russia until the early 20th century. The difference between these 19th century dates and our current Gregorian calendar system is 12 days. When the Russians changed their calendar system to match that used in the West in 1918, they added 13 days to the date. But a century earlier, the difference was only 12 days, and so on (11 days difference in the 18th century. Sound confusing? It is, but at least we don't have to take into account different time zones with these date changes. For the present, I think it's best to leave the dates as they were written in the documents, to avoid any conflict.

In the next issue, we will take a close look at Morits-Emil's extensive work history, which tells us a great deal about his career changes and his travels with the growing family.

Gins Relatives Regroup in the Bay Area Male Family Members Meet with Misfortune

In the November/December 2010 newsletter, we learned of the delayed travel plans and a detour -- from Asia to Brazil -- of 6 Gins related family members (some of the descendants of Ludmila/Emilija Gergardt (*nee* Gins). Their determination to enter the United States was tested as they faced restrictive U.S. immigration quotas for those coming from China, forcing them to alter plans and enter the country through an alternate route. The goal of emigrating to the U.S. was realized by most, but not all, of those who landed in the southern hemisphere. Nadia Tkacheva (*nee* Gergardt), Zina Glazunova (*nee* Gergardt), Nina Arsenieva (*nee* Tkacheva), Vera Mordovskaja (*nee* Tkacheva), and daughter Margarita Mordovskaja managed to arrange the transfer from Brazil to California and the Bay Area by the mid-1960s. They were reunited with Lucy Kravetsky (*nee* Tkacheva) and her husband, Valodia, who made their move to California in 1936.

The one who did travel to Brazil from China, but who was unable to move to the U.S., was the handsome young man, Pavel Tkachev. Pavel was Boris' son, and he lived with his grandmother, Nadia, in China after his father was taken by the Soviets. When Pavel moved to Brazil, he lived with Nadia, Vera and Margarita for a few years. He decided to travel and stayed in Peru for a short time, before moving to Sao Paulo, south of Rio. Sadly, when Pavel was around 27 or 28 years old, he died in a car crash just a few weeks after his grandmother left for the U.S.

Pavel's father, Boris, also met with misfortune: Boris was taken from China by the Soviets as a traitor, as was Nina's first husband, Nikolaj Arseniev, and was forced to work in Russian labor camps. Boris' Aunt Marousia, who lived in Russia at the time, found out where Boris was, and sent letters about him to Vera through friends in the U.S. Boris is believed to have died sometime in 1956.

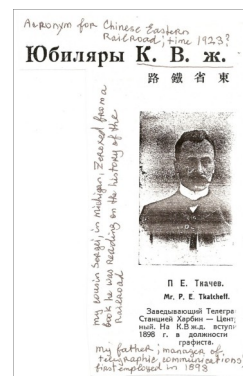
Boris' father, Pavel E. Tkachev, Chief of the Harbin Central Telegraph Station, was another who was unable to go to the U.S.. He died in Harbin, possibly of a heart attack, according to Margarita Glazunov.



Above: Tkachev siblings, Harbin, circa 1916, 1 to r— Boris, Vera, Ludmila (Lucy), Nina. Right: Pavel (son of Boris) and Nina in Brazil. Photo above: Guins collection.



Photo: Glazunov archive; Article: Warden archive.



Tkachev family, Harbin, circa 1914: 1 to r—Nadia, Nina, Pavel, Boris. The newspaper article is from a Jubilee celebration of Chinese Eastern Railway workers. The caption about Pavel E. Tkachev states that he began work in 1898 and became Chief of the Harbin Central Telegraph Station.



Photo courtesy Margarita Glazunov.

Photo Album St. Petersburg: Glimpses of Riches from the Hermitage - Photos by Mark Anderson



Jenny and Jeff Anderson in front of the Hermitage entrance on Palace Square.



Ancient crown from The Gold Room



Throne, 1797, in The Large Throne Room (St. George Hall).



The War Gallery of 1812 with portraits of generals.





Nikolaj Konstantinovich Gins, circa 1922. Photo: Mlyniec collection.

Correspondence: Nikolaj Gins Looks Forward to His Long Anticipated Release from Krasnoyarsk

Translated by Irina Bass and Vasilij Sharikov-Bass

At long last, it looks like Nikolaj is about to conclude arrangements that will allow him to leave Krasnoyarsk and reunite with his wife, Julija, and dear family in Harbin. And even though money for the train trip is a bit problematic, Nikolaj helps someone else who was robbed on the road.

June 11th 1922

My darling, dearest girl!

Yesterday I have arrived from N-nik where I went on a business trip as well as to find out about the transfer. Upon my arrival, I was greatly frustrated by the fact that my documents with the permission were sent to the local political department without notifying me, thanks to which my trip was futile and I ended up wasting around 30 million rubles which would be so useful to me for the upcoming journey.

Tomorrow I will go to receive my documents and will write you about all my preparations.

Upon arriving from the business trip, which I had to pay for myself, I got very happy about the letters that were waiting for me! Two of them were from you (dated 10th and 15th of May)

and one from my aunt. I was eternally happy reading them and dreaming of the future when finally, after a long time of suffering I will have an opportunity to reunite with my beloved, squeeze tightly to my heart and never separate again!

If only you knew what I have went through and am going through in this separation that is so extensive, so eternally long! At times, I have no strength to suffer through this loneliness amongst the people foreign to me, with their highly limited needs and interests. I have written already in the previous letters that I am visiting two or three places where my soul rests from everyday tribulations of life, and this goes on from month to month. During this eternally long time I have changed, lost my looks the most desperate way and I'm afraid that upon seeing me you will be scared and will deny me. And this may, indeed, be possible – what do you think, my dove?

Aunt asks a photograph of me for the cousins, but even if I had one, I would still not send it to her since I think that it's much better to appear before you in all my true 'glory'.

I am now concerned with the liquidation of my office affairs concerning the transfer with finding the means to the trip which requires 50 million rubles. At any rate, I expect to obtain this sum by selling my warm clothes like the coat, valenki, some warm underwear and 9 arshins of textiles that I have sewn nothing from since I have got a shirt from you. In short, I think I can handle the money and I'll be able to settle and this will not cause any problems. I only hope that there will not be any troubles on the trip, like there was with a nurse named Cogan, who was robbed on the road and lost the money, her documents and a pass to Vladivostok where she was going to visit her relatives. I took part in the fate of this person during my business trip and helped her get a duplicate of her documents, and, besides that, lent her some money that she promised to return by sending them to aunt's address.

If you will see this person, then she will tell of all the horrors of starvation in Odessa, where she was starving, occasionally, as well. As a result of all these horrors, this girl is almost grey.

So, my dove, farewell! I hug you tightly and kiss and I aspire to see my dove so that my soul could live well. Your husband.

Kiss everyone, and I will thank Pavel Lukyanovich personally if that be God's will. Once again I kiss you and send my best wishes. Kiss your mother.

¹ We were not sure what this was. Original: Н-Ник-ка

² 1 arshin is 2 and 1/3 feet. Most likely, he means 9 square arshins which will yield 49 sq ft.



Top row, left to right: Katherine Guins, Curt Anderson, Alexandra Morris, Serge Gregory Glazunov, Ann Guins, Nikolaj "Bill" Simu, Lola Rinaldi, Philip Anderson
 2nd row, left to right: George Titensor, Cristina Simu, Mark Anderson, Alexandra Glazunov, Jeff Anderson, Juliana Marin, George Guins, Nicole Guins
 3rd row, left to right: Stella Rinaldi, Serge Glazunov, Julie Dunger, Mike Rinaldi, Natalia Simu, Gage Rinaldi, Emily Cooper, Bruce Bekkar
 4th row, left to right: Sam Mlyniec, Sara Chandler, Irinia Marin, Gen Guins, Valentin Simu, Jenny Anderson, Richard Guins, Florica Simu
 Bottom row, left to right: Vicky Mlyniec, Don Morris, Margarita Glazunov, Paul Mlyniec, Kathy Guins, Nick Guins, Monica Marin, Susan Morris

A Special Thank You for Your Support

Dear Family,

I deeply appreciate all that you have done to support the ongoing research into our family history. You have donated an astounding array of beautiful and valuable items of significance to all of us who enjoy learning about our heritage: oral histories, articles, letters, documents, telegrams, business cards, artifacts and photographs. Eighteen of you ventured forth on our first Gins family history trip to Eastern Europe last summer. And twelve of you have graciously given generously to the research and translation funds.

These financial contributions have allowed us to translate the

incredibly rich text that brings our family stories to life — from the struggles for day-to-day survival that Nikolaj Gins experienced in Siberia, to the births, marriages and passings of loved ones, and the years that it took for our common ancestor, Morits-Emil Ludvigov Gins, to achieve the rank of Actual State Counselor and earn the privileges of hereditary nobility for his descendants.

We are all in this together, like the patchwork of photographs, above. As we continue to share our lives and investigate our family history, we will further strengthen our connections to one another.

Thank you for joining me on this fascinating journey of discovery!

With love, Susan