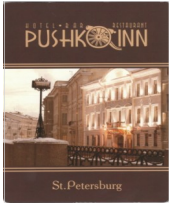




## In This Issue:



### **Photo Album** **Guins Families** **Return to Russia** **and Eastern** **Europe, Part I**

Nineteen Guins relatives from 3 different countries met up in England, Russia, and Romania (in varying combinations of cousins), to see sites, visit family history locations, and learn new details about Guins ancestor activities in Ukraine...

### **Kiev Researcher Finds** **Traces of the Highly Mobile** **Guins Clan, Part I**

Fascinating facts about our highly mobile Guins relatives emerged through the efforts of Kiev researcher Stas Bookalo...

### **Ekaterina Guins Letters Give** **Details of Life in Chisinau** **(Kishinev) Between Wars**

Translations by Natalia Simu

Mother to Dmitriy, George, Nina and Nikolaj, Ekaterina Guins paints a poignant picture as she pens letters to her children, telling of the changes occurring in Chisinau in the 1920s and 1930s...

### **Researchers:**

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*Vicky Mlyniec*

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*Katherine Guins*

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*Juliana Marin*

*Gen Guins*

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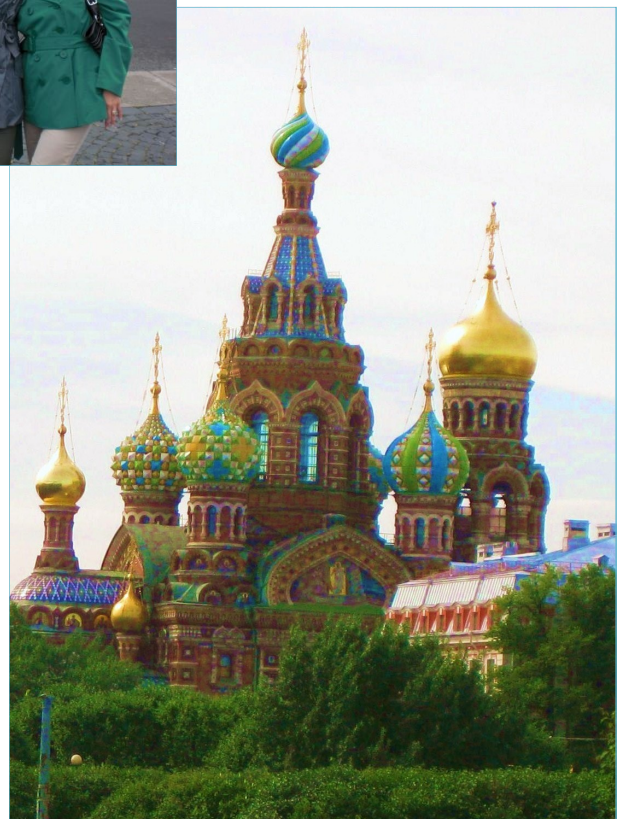
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# Gins Family History Research News

Nearly one-third of all living Guins and related family members made a memorable journey this summer, when 19 relatives (of 42 direct-line Guins relations, and 18 spouses) from 3 different countries traveled throughout Eastern Europe in August. It was an adventure that took 12 months to arrange, and one that created dozens of meaningful moments — such as, taking a canal boat tour and seeing the Anichkov Palace in St. Petersburg where George Constantine Guins worked; walking along the street where George, Emilia, Seva, and Sergei lived on Vasilevsky Island; finding the elegant building where Morits-Emil Guins directed the Kiev Central Telegraph Office operations; photographing houses and apartment complexes in Kiev and Chisinau where Guins relatives lived and died. It was also a journey of personal discovery, of connecting with people from different countries, of understanding more about our family's place in the larger scheme of history. It was the trip of a lifetime...



### **St. Petersburg,** **Russia 2010 trip** **highlights:**

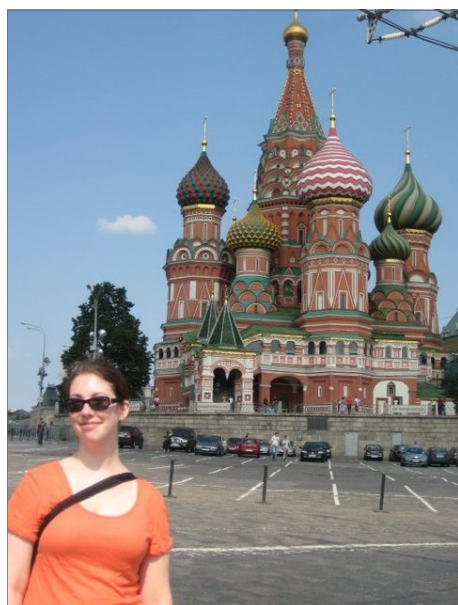
- Above - The Hermitage Museum, Palace Square entrance, with Guins cousins from left: Stella Rinaldi, Nicky Guins, Gen Guins, and Emily Cooper
- Top right - Peter & Paul Fortress ticket
- Lower right - Church on the Spilt Blood, seen from the Mikhailovsky Garden

Guins cousins photo courtesy Nicky Guins; Church, by Susan Morris

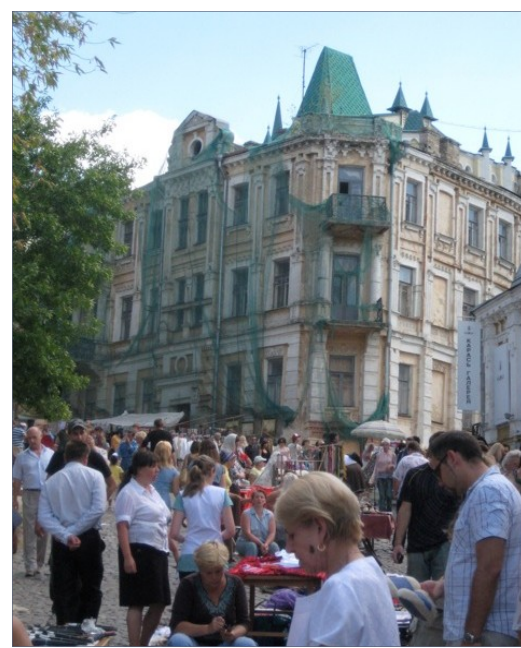
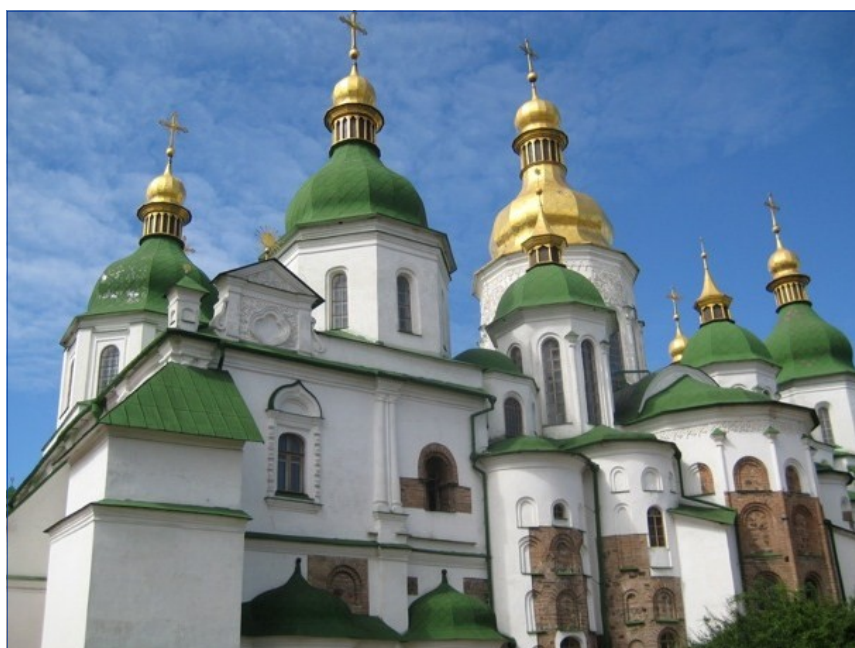
Photo Album**Gins Families Return to Russia and Eastern Europe, Part I**

The following images capture some of the people we met and the places we visited during our trip to Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, and Romania. One issue's worth of photographs can't possibly tell the whole story, so we will continue with a photography section in the October newsletter, featuring the remarkable work of our 'trip photographer,' Mark Anderson (who is still traveling on the Continent, but should return home to England soon).

And for those who were unable to join us, a trip participant list: Jeff Anderson, Jenny Anderson, Mark Anderson, Philip Anderson, Gen Guins, Kathy Guins, Nicky Guins, Sara Guins and George Tittensor, Vicky Mlyniec, Susan Morris, and Stella Rinaldi. We met up with our Romanian cousins in Bucharest: Juliana Marin, Monica Marin, Florica Simu, Natalia Simu, Nikolaj Simu, and Valentin Simu.



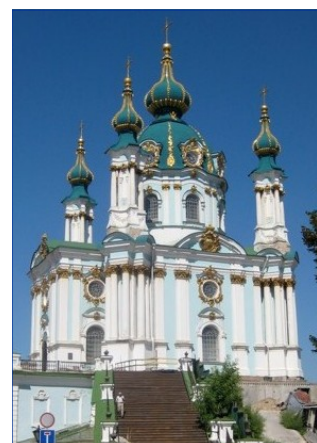
Top left— Cousins dining out in Moscow: (l) Stella, Philip, Nicky, and Mark; top right—interior of the Church on the Spilt Blood; lower left—Gen Guins near St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow; lower right—the street view from the apartment complex where George, Emilia, Seva, Sergei, Julia and Nina Gins lived on Vasilievsky Ostrov (Island), St. Petersburg (10-11 Linea, No. 10). Photo credits: the cousins group in Moscow courtesy of Nicky Guins; Church on the Spilt Blood by Susan Morris; St. Basil's Cathedral courtesy of Gen Guins; Vasilievsky Ostrov neighborhood by Susan Morris.



## Elegant and Energetic: Kiev, Ukraine

The group pared down from 13 in St. Petersburg (having spent nearly a week together), to 6 in Kiev: Gen Guins, Kathy Guins, Sara Guins and George Tittensor, Vicky Mlyniec and Susan Morris. Vicky and I had just a day and a half of touring the city, so we made the most of it by visiting St. Sophia's Cathedral Complex, strolling down Andreevsky Street and buying crafts at a street market, meeting with our local researcher to hear the results of his work, searching through Baikove Cemetery for the elusive Gins grave marker, and locating several buildings associated with Gins family history.

Photos: Top left—the Bell Tower, St. Sophia's Cathedral; lower left—St. Sophia's Cathedral Complex; top right—Vladimirskaya Street, No. 27, where Morits-Emil Gins worked as Director for the Kiev Central Telegraph Office in 1890; middle right—street market scene along Andreevsky Street; St. Andrew's Cathedral, lower right. Photo credits: all photos by Vicky Mlyniec.





Photos: Top left—the entrance to the church at the Central (Armenian) Cemetery; middle left—Vicky near a house on Eminescu at Bernardazzi; lower left, far—storefront on Vasile Alecsandri; and lower left, near—a house on Bernardazzi; top right—view of the Central (Armenian) Cemetery. Photos by Susan Morris

### Following Family Footsteps: Chisinau, Moldova

Vicky and I struck out on our own to scour Chisinau for Gins family history sites, before rejoining the remaining Gins cousins and our Romanian relatives in Bucharest.

We prepared for this leg of the trip by examining envelopes in Vicky's collection that either came from, or were sent to, Gins and Prokhnitskij addresses in Chisinau in the early 20th century. Boris Dralyuk assisted us by translating those addresses from Russian into English. Once we had those listed, along with the dates of correspondence, then we needed to find the modern street names, since many of the streets in Chisinau had been rebuilt and renamed after the bombing in World War II.

Juliana, our capable cousin in Bucharest, conferred with her family (after I sent her the addresses) and replied with a map and the street name conversions.

And unexpectedly, we were also helped by our young Chisinau taxi driver, who became intrigued by our quest as he drove us around town, and he even entered buildings to ask if Vicky and I could look inside.

While we did locate the residences of Ekaterina Gins in 1920 on Vasile Alecsandri and in 1936 at the corner of Bernardazzi and Eminescu, and on Pirogova (the Prokhnitskij family), we did not have any luck finding family grave markers in the Central (Armenian) Cemetery.

Administrators at the cemetery searched for records of Ekaterina Gins' internment, but were unable to find anything. We spent over an hour combing through the lush grounds, looking for Gins, Lamzaki, Prokhnitskij or Miroevskij markers, without success. We then left to get ready for our flight to Bucharest.





### Warmest of Welcomes: Bucharest, Romania

The Gins cousins who stayed in Kiev and Chisinau re-grouped in Bucharest, Romania, minus George, who had to return to California. The remaining cousins were greeted warmly by their Romanian relations (Florica, Juliana, Monica, Natalia, Nikolaj and Valentin) and were treated to a day of site seeing: the Parliament Building, the Patriarchal Cathedral complex, and the Village Museum. Following the tour, the group visited Valentin and Florica's, pored over photo albums, and then made their way to the home of the Marin's and Simu's (Natalia and Nikolaj) for a magnificent feast. Sara, Kathy and Gen stayed with the Romanian relatives for several days afterwards and traveled to see Sinaia and Castle Peles.



Photos: Top left—Romanian Patriarchal Cathedral complex; lower left, Valentin & Nikolaj Simu by Valentin's Renault; top right—group in front of Parliament building: (l) Natalia, Kathy, Gen, Juliana, Vicky, Monica, Valentin, Sara; middle—Vicky at the Village Museum; middle right—Gen & kitten; lower right—group at Valentin & Florica's: (l) Vicky, Susan, Natalia, Florica, Sara, Gen, Kathy, Juliana. Photos by Susan Morris; seated group photo courtesy Juliana Marin.



## Kievan Researcher Finds Traces of the Highly Mobile Gins Clan, Part I

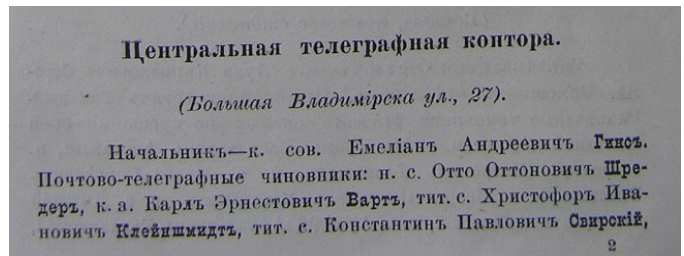
Local Kievan researcher, Stas Bookalo, met with 6 Gins cousins who had gathered at the Oselya Hotel on the afternoon of August 22nd. He outlined the results of three weeks of work, and his comments (in Ukrainian) were translated by Oksana, one of the hotel's proprietors. Oksana also gave the group Google Translator versions of the research document crafted by Stas. The Google documents contained some useful information, but for only about 65% of the text (the rest was unintelligible...). Boris Dralyuk stepped in briefly to help out -- translating some of the key points.

Here is a summary of what Stas has learned, to date:

- 1) Morits-Emil Gins was the Director of the Kiev Central Telegraph Office, first noted in 1890 Kiev documents.
- 2) Morits-Emil's office was at Vladimirskaya Street, 27, right around the corner from the St. Sophia's Cathedral Complex.
- 3) His son, Konstantin Gins, was described in an 1890 Kievan Memorandum Book as attached to the Kiev Vladimir Corps as Staff-Captain of the 9th Field Engineer (or Sapper) Battalion.

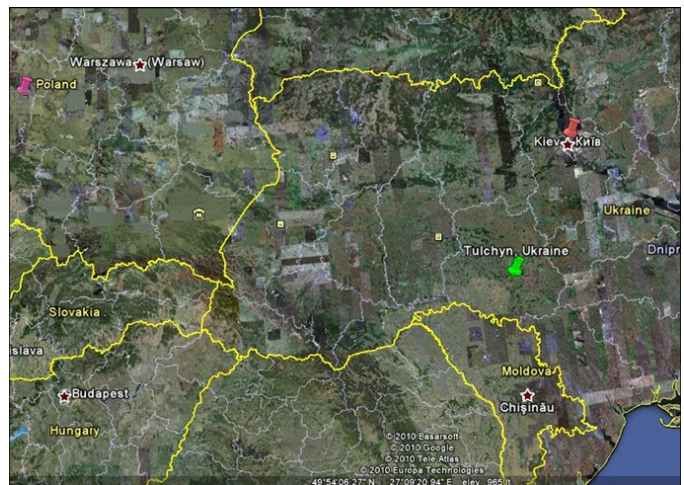


1890 Kievan record book lists Emilian Andreevich Gins, below, as the Director of the Kiev Central Telegraph Office. The director's office was located at Vladimirskaya Street, 27, just around the corner from St. Sophia's Cathedral complex, with the Bell Tower in view from the front entrance. Document copies courtesy Stas Bookalo.



Above left, and lower left: Kiev newspaper "Kievlianin" from Dec. 17, 1901, carries an obituary at the top of the front page marking the passing of State Counselor Emil Andreevich Gins on Dec. 16. The article indicates that the body will be laid to rest in Baikove Cemetery at noon on Dec. 18. The address of the deceased is listed as Svyatoslav'ska Street, No. 7 (now Chapaiev Street). Document copies courtesy Stas Bookalo.

- 4) Another Morits-Emil son, Aleksandr, was listed as a lieutenant with the 132nd Bendery Infantry Regiment, named after the Moldovan city of Bender. Aleksandr was assigned to the Regiment's 33 Infantry Division, 42nd Corps.
- 5) Aleksandr lived at least 5 addresses in Kiev between 1900 and 1904. One of those, at Malo-Vladimirs'ka, 38, was a Kievan barracks.



Google map view showing the relative positions of Kiev (red pin) and Tulchyn (green pin), Ukraine - cities where Morits-Emil Gins and family lived in the later half of the 19th century and the early years of the 20th century. Compare these locations to Kalisz, Poland (dark pink pin, upper left, west of Warsaw), where Morits-Emil was born.



Left: photo of the building on Chapaiev Street where Aleksandr Gins, son of Morits-Emil, lived in 1902 in No. 8. Above: photo of the building across the street where Morits-Emil lived in No. 7 in 1901. Street was previously called Svyatoslavs'ka. Photos by Stas Bookalo.

## Kievan Researcher Finds Traces of the Highly Mobile Gins Clan, Part I (cont.)

Additional research results:

- 6) Morits-Emil Gins lived at Svyatoslavs'ka Street (now Chapaiev Street), No. 7, when he passed away.
- 7) Morits-Emil's son Modest was born in Tulchyn on 1 Apr 1870, and baptized on 21 June 1870. At that time, Morits-Emil was Director of the Tulchyn Telegraph Station.
- 8) Aleksandr was born in Tulchyn on 7 July 1872, and baptized on 29 July 1872.
- 9) Stas believes that Morits-Emil moved to Kiev in 1885, and was likely the first Director of the Kiev Central Telegraph Office when it opened in that year. Stas has also conjectured that Morits-Emil retired from the post in 1892.
- 10) Marija Konstantinovna Gins, Morits-Emil's wife, was of the Russian Orthodox faith, as noted on her sons' baptismal records. Morits-Emil may have changed his church affiliation from Evangelist to Lutheran.
- 11) Morits-Emil and Maria Gins had a daughter, Mary, who could turn out to be the missing daughter named Eugenia. She was born in 1868.
- 12) Mary was home schooled, was a telephone operator, and married a gentleman by the surname of Trifonovoyi.

- 13) Mary left a personal file in the Vinnytsia archives that contains 132 documents, letters, and even papers signed by Morits-Emil Gins. The file is likely to contain information from 1886-1911 on the other Gins children, including birthdates and schools attended.
- 14) Morits-Emil Gins requested, and obtained, a Church edict that allowed him to use his actual patronymic, Ludvikovich, instead of the church-approved, Andreevich. Official documents reflected the change.

More research results to come in the October issue...



Former Kiev barracks where Aleksandr Gins, a lieutenant in the 132nd Bendery Infantry Regiment, lived in 1901. The street was Malo-Volodymyrs'ka, now called Honchara. Photo by Stas Bookalo.

## Ekaterina Gins Letters Give Details of Life in Chisinau (Kishinev) Between Wars

Translation by Natalia Simu

This heart-felt letter was penned by Ekaterina Gins, Konstatin's widow, who had also lost her daughter. She now endures the separation from her three sons, who are living in Harbin and Bucharest. She is writing to her youngest son, Nikolaj, about his oldest brother, Dmitrij, who has had to move from Chisinau, where he lived with her, to Bucharest because of work. Dmitrij and his wife, Eugenia, divorced, and daughter Ekaterina (Katya) had been raised with her grandmother's supervision in Chisinau.

We are very grateful to have this letter and a number of others by Ekaterina translated by our very talented relative and family historian, Natalia Simu, from Bucharest, Romania. Natalia is a former translator for the Romanian army (Russian and Romanian) who also speaks very good English!

Chisinau, 14 September 1931

*Today, my dear Colea (Nikolaj), I took Mitea (Dimitry) to the railway, who came at us for 3 days to take his precious things. I don't like it at all to round up the things for leaving. My soul is empty and I am flooded by a big sadness. It is like a holiday to talk with you. I want to know how the treatment against the tropical coldness (dengue) works. I have written to Milea how here someone got healed from malaria with bitter almonds. The fried almonds are bitten and they are taken in the morning and in the evening and the second day with 20 drops of menthe tincture.*

*You probably found out from George that Mitea (Dimitry) has been sent since 1 August this year to Bucharest and he will go there on the 20th. He got separated from us with a big sadness. It isn't too happy to leave alone in a foreign city. You don't have to whom to cry, the alimentation and the handinesses are totally different to the ones from me. I lost with him, how we call it "the right hand". He never lived like a poor student, even when it was war, he remembers it with pleasure. And in this way I remained with my grand-daughter who finished high-school, but she didn't give her degree. She can't hire herself because of this, so winter will pass, and during spring she will prepare for the exam, but I am not sure if she will obtain a satisfying result.*

*Uncle Leopold is now at us, visiting, and he can't manage with the transport company. In our city is a financial crise. Those who have money to pay, don't pay, banks stopped paying, I didn't receive the pension since 3 months. Lady Shura is getting better little by little and she started to use her hand. When the weather is humid, her bones are painning her and this can't be avoided. They still live in the old house, but they will move in a cheaper house, because it is impossible for them to pay 40.000. I have to help them now. Uncle Osdi and Sasha Cacuilkiv*



Konstantin and Ekaterina Gins, perhaps early 1880s, in Kiev, Ukraine.  
Photo courtesy Juliana Marin.

*have the same difficult situation.*

*Our city is getting much more beautiful with new buildings: "The Palace of Culture". It is being built on Str. Alexandrovskaia corner with Mihailovskaia Street. On a side is the bank's little park and on the other side is the Palace of Culture.*

*I took a photograph of me for my railway book and I will send a photograph to you and another one to Mila. May the grandson and grand-daughter to have at least an idea about their loving grandma. I look pretty well, there is a resemblance to the one I was. What will you do next year after Sereoja will finish high-school?*

*Did you talk about the possibility of crossing the border? Did Seva write to you about the way he is spending his summer? It is a pity because he didn't take advantage on the fruits and vegetables abundance. Soon the grape harvest will be done.*

*Write to me, dear children, don't be selfish with writing letters, life here is soo boring.*

*I kiss you, Julie and Tanya.*

*Be Healthy.*

*Your loving mother and grandmother,  
E. Guins*