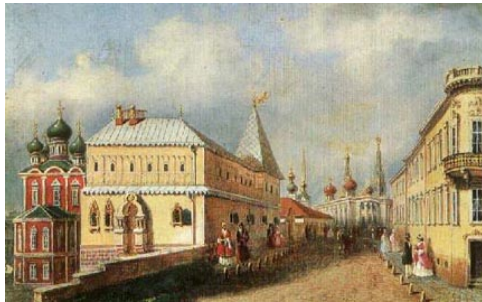


## **Baron and Baroness Gindlin - A Mink Hat Factory** by Howard Katchen



View of Varvarka St., the main street in  
Zaryadye, Moscow 19th c.

My great grandparents on my mother's side, Louis and Rachel Gindlin, lived in Moscow before emigrating to the U.S. in 1892. I believe Rachel was originally from Kiev. I was told they were well to do in Moscow and owned a factory that manufactured mink hats. I don't know when, but the Czar gave them the honorary titles of Baron and Baroness.

When the Jews were expelled from Moscow in 1891, they were allowed to stay until they sold their business and household possessions. When they left Moscow, I was told my great grandmother sewed diamonds and gems into her clothing. Nobody in the family knows what happened to the stones nor did anyone in the family ever see them. They settled in Chicago, where I think Louis died about 1903. Rachel was left to raise seven children. The family name as it appears in census records in Chicago was Gindlin and is now Gindling.

I've tried to find their boat records on Ellis Island website and to date have been unsuccessful. I don't know too much more but would be happy to receive any suggestions on how to find more information about them.