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# Finding Aid to the Roxanne (Sayler) Henke Collection
**2010.28 & 2011.11**



## OVERVIEW

**Donor:** Roxanne (Sayler) Henke

**Accession Date:** 13 Oct 2010 & 11 Apr 2011

**Collection Number:** 039

**Quantity:** .25 linear feet +artifact

**Summary:** 5 photographs of the Ensslen family members in America; 1 photograph of the Jacob & Katherine (Gackle) Ensslen family in Russia, and a metal samovar made in the Batashev Factory in Tula, Russia. Dates range from the late 1890s to about 1910.

**Languages:** English & Russian

**Link:**
- Roxanne (Sayler) Henke Photograph Collection on the NDSU Institutional Repository (DSpace)
- Museum and history of samovars

**Access Restrictions:** Open to the public, available upon request. Copyrights to items in this collection remain with original copyright holders or are in the public domain.

**Citation:** Roxanne (Sayler) Henke Collection, 039, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND.

## BIOGRAPHY

Lillian Katherina Ensslen was the daughter of Edward and Lydia (Schaeffer/Schaffer) Ensslen/Ensslin. Lillian grew up in the Wishek, North Dakota area. She married Edward Ensslen who was born in Alt Posttal, Bessarabia, Russia. Edward's parents, Jacob and Katherine Gackle Ensslen, both died in Friedensfeld, Bessarabia.

Lydia's parents, John H. and Katherine Schaffer, were both born in Russia. John was a blacksmith in Ashley, McIntosh County, North Dakota for many years.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Photograph Series** contains one large photograph and five scanned copies of photographs of the Gackle/Ensslen families. One group photograph was taken is Russia with a few individuals identified.

The **Artifact** is a samovar made in Russia in the first decades of the 20th Century and purchased in North Dakota. The samovar was made in the Batashev samovar factory in Tula, which is about 100 miles south of Moscow. Lydia Schaeffer/Schaffer (Mrs. Edward) Ensslen purchased the samovar for her husband as an anniversary gift. Lydia later gave it to their daughter Lillian (Mrs. Edwin Sayler) Ensslen. The samovar was handed down as a gift from Lillian to her niece, Roxanne Sayler Henke, in 1997.

A note found in the samovar adds: "This brass samovar (Russian urn, used for making tea) was originally purchased from a peddler in Wishek in the early 1900s as an anniversary gift. Water was heated in the outer chamber by hot coals that filled the inner chamber. A small teapot, containing very concentrated tea, sat on top. A small amount of tea would be poured into a cup, and then the cup would be filled with hot water."

The samovar is brass over copper, 19 ½" high, and 8" diameter cylinder body with hinged bail handles. A lid covers the coal/charcoal insert/pipe. Stamped on the front in a 7" wide area are multiple "reprinted" medallions indicating appearances at or awards from shows and expositions. The Russian eagle and Czar Nicholas II appear on the center front. [Photograph below.]

## SEPARATION RECORD

The finding aid, inventory, and five photographs are housed in a single folder within a small collections box. The sixth photograph, due to their size, has been placed within the oversized material box. The samovar has also been separated from the rest of the collection.

## BOX AND FOLDER LIST

| Box/Folder | Contents |
|---|---|
| **1/1** | Finding aid, detailed inventory & note about the samovar. |
| | **PHOTOGRAPH SERIES** |
| | 1. Matted photo of the Jacob & Katherine (Gackle) Ensslen family. All very well dressed, taken outdoors. Shows 8 men & 8 women. |

Inscribed: Jacob & Katherine (Gackle) Ensslen, some of their 16 children & some spouses in Kiev or Odessa Russia circa (pre) 1906.
Back row: 2nd left Edward Ensslen (Lillian's father).
First row: 1st left Edward's twin sister Mary.
First row: far right Caroline, oldest of girls (who emigrated to US with Ed in 1906). Also inscribed: 1. Ed, 2. Caroline, 3. Mary.

2. Studio print of unidentified family. Three men, four women all older or middle aged. Oldest woman wears a cap.

3. Studio print of unidentified older couple ca. 1900. Seated man has droopy left eye.

4. Studio print of older couple circa the late 1890s.

5. Copy of matted, studio print, showing wedding photo of couple. Woman has bouquet with five, small hanging decorations.

**OVERSIZED** 6. 11" x 14" photo print of family taken outdoors with a building in far left; small boy standing by four seated women; five men standing behind them. Taken about 1900-1905.

**ARTIFACT**

**SHELF** Samovar (2011.11)