GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
GRHC
HERITAGE COLLECTION
NDSU LIBRARIES

Finding Aid to the Hulda Ensslen Collection
2012.08

OVERVIEW

Donor: Frances Janke

Accession Date: 23 April 2012

Collection Number: 108

Quantity: 2 linear feet

Summary: Correspondence relating to Hulda and Samuel Ensslen, dating from 1935 to 1964; eight photographic images; financial records of Samuel Ensslen and the Fredonia Cooperative Mercantile Co. from 1929 to 1930 and 1937 to 1940; and two newspapers, dating from 1934-1936.

Languages: English & German

Links:
- Hulda Ensslen Photograph Collection on the NDSU Institutional Repository (DSpace)
- *Fredonia golden jubilee, 1904-1954*
- Fredonia Centennial Book Committee. *Fredonia will shine once more in 2004.* Bismarck, ND: Richtman's Printing, 2003.
- Ralph & Loretta (Jonas) Schultz Collection

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: Hulda Ensslen Collection, 108, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND.

BIOGRAPHY

Hulda Ensslen was born on May 26, 1908 to parents Joseph and Barbara (Kalmbach) Ensslen. She was a resident of Fredonia, North Dakota. She died on April 3, 1973 at the age of sixty-four.

Samuel Ensslen was born December 16, 1888 in Alt-Postal, Bessarabia. He was the son of Joseph and Barbara (Kalmbach) Ensslen. Samuel immigrated to the United States in 1910, settling in Gackle, North Dakota. He later married Bertha Flaig, daughter of Joseph and Marie Flaig. The couple moved to Montana for a few years before returning to North Dakota, settling in Fredonia. Samuel was the general manager of the Fredonia Mercantile Co. from 1940 until 1947 when the store was destroyed by a fire. Samuel Ensslen died on November 5, 1955 at the age of sixty-six. Bertha (Flaig) Ensslen died on February 16, 1974 at the age of seventy-nine.

Frances Janke was born on June 9, 1921 in Ashton, Idaho. She was born to parents George and Lela (Waugh) Nedrow. On June 26, 1939, Frances married Carl Jonas, the son of Henry and Minnie (Miller) Jonas. The couple had three children: Sharon, Loretta, and Henry. Carl and Frances resided in Fredonia, North Dakota together until Carl passed away on December 11, 1973. On December 31, 1974, Frances married Roland Janke. Roland passed away on September 12, 1991. Frances Janke lived in the home that was once owned by Samuel Ensslen.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Hulda Ensslen Collection** consists of correspondence relating to Hulda and Samuel Ensslen, dating from 1935 to 1964; eight photographic images; financial records of Samuel Ensslen from 1929 to 1930 and 1937 to 1940; and two newspapers, dating from 1934-1936. All of the materials in the collection were found by the donor in the attic of the home that once was owned by Samuel Ensslen. The collection has been organized into five series: Correspondence, Image, Financial, Subject, and Newspaper.

The **Correspondence Series** contains many letters to and from Samuel and Hulda Ensslen. Most of the correspondence is in the German language but a few are in English. The majority of the correspondence is to Hulda Ensslen, which has been organized into the country of origin, dating from 1955 to 1964. The correspondence to Samuel Ensslen dates from 1935 to 1938. There is also a letter to E. Ensslen from the General Conference of the German Evangelical Congregational Churches of America, dating from 1938.

The **Image Series** has eight images. They have been organized by format. The photographic postcards are black and white and are all from Germany. Two of them have writing on the back. The postcard is a Happy Birthday card that has not been used. The prayer card is a litho print with No. 47 printed on the front. It has an image of Jesus with Thomas. On the back of the prayer card is the bible verse John Ch. 20, V. 24-29 in German. The two photographic prints were found in one of the envelopes with the correspondence. The photographs are two small prints of a house. They both contain German writing on the back.

The **Financial Series** is comprised of financial records belonging to Samuel Ensslen. The records include bank statements, checkbooks, invoices, bills, receipts, and tax information. The series also contains some records that relate to the Fredonia Cooperative Mercantile Co. of Fredonia, North Dakota, which Samuel Ensslen was the general manager of from 1940 until 1947. The series dates from 1929 to 1930 and 1937 to 1940.

The **Subject Series** consists of a booklet and a notebook. The booklet is titled "Germany: North-west Germany, the Hanseatic cities, and the North Sea Bathing Resorts." Inscribed in the booklet is "Anna Ennslen." The notebook is entirely in German. It contains names and dates. It is possibly connect to Hulda Ensslen's newspaper work.

The **Newspaper Series** contains two newspapers. The first is *Der Kirchenbote* from Yankton, South Dakota. The edition is 28 June 1934, No. 26, and it is in the German language. The second newspaper is *National Farmer; Haus und Bauerfreund* from Winona, Minnesota. The edition is 4 June 1936, No. 10. The newspaper is mostly in German but also contains some English.

SEPARATION RECORD

Also donated with the collection was a 1930s white georgette dress [2012.08.09]. The dress is housed at the Emily. P. Reynolds Historic Costume Collection on the NDSU campus. Advance notice is requested for the viewing of this item.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
1/1	Finding aid, detailed inventory, and initial inventory
	CORRESPONDENCE SERIES
1/2	Correspondence – Kulm State Bank
1/3	Correspondence – from Hulda Ensslen, 1958
1/4	Correspondence – to E. Ensslen, 1938
1/5	Correspondence – to Hulda Ensslen – Canada, 1957
1/6	Correspondence – to Hulda Ensslen – Germany, 1961-1964
1/7	Correspondence – to Hulda Ensslen – USA, 1955-1963
1/8	Correspondence – to Samuel Ensslen, 1935-1938

IMAGE SERIES

1/9	Photographic Postcards [2012.08.01-04]
1/10	Postcard – Happy Birthday [2012.08.05]
1/11	Prayer Card – litho print 47 – "Jesus erschein dem Thomas" [2012.08.06]
1/12	Photographs [2012.08.07-08]

FINANCIAL SERIES

1/13	Bank Statements – First State Bank, 1937-1938
1/14	Bank Statements – First State Bank, 1938
1/15	Bank Statements – German State Bank, 1929
1/16	Bank Statements – German State Bank, 1930
1/17	Checkbooks, 1937-1938
1/18	Invoices – Fredonia Mercantile Co., 1940
1/19	Northern Power and Light Co. – bills, 1938
1/20	Personal Property Tax Return, 1938
1/21	Receipts – Evangelical Mutual Insurance Company, 1938
1/22	Statement of Condition – Fredonia Cooperative Mercantile Co., 1938
1/23	Tax Receipts, 1937-1938

SUBJECT SERIES

1/24	Booklet – "Germany: North-west Germany, the Hanseatic cities, and the North Sea Bathing Resorts"
1/25	Notebook

NEWSPAPER SERIES

2/1	*Der Kirchenbote* – Yankton, SD – 28 June 1934, No. 26
2	*National Farmer; Haus und Bauerfreund* – Winona, MN – 4 June 1936, No. 10