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

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OVERVIEW

Donor: Roxanne (Sayler) Henke

Accession Date: 13 Oct 2010 & 11 Apr 2011

Collection Number: 039

Quantity: 2 folders & an 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 \(DSpace\)](#)
- [Spirit of Wishek: Golden Jubilee, 1898-1948](#) [F644.W57 W58]
- [Wishek Diamond Jubilee, 1898-1973](#) [F644.W57 W57]
- [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

Edward Ensslen was born in Alt Posttal, Bessarabia. Edward's parents, Jacob and Katherine (Gackle) Ensslen, both died in Friedensfeld, Bessarabia. Edward Ensslen was married to Lydia

Schaffer. 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.

Lillian Ensslen was the daughter of Edward and Lydia (Schaeffer/Schaffer) Ensslen/Ensslin. Lillian grew up in the Wishek, North Dakota area. Lillian Ensslen married Edward Saylor, son of Fred and Christina (Link) Saylor. Edward and Lillian (Ensslen) Saylor had no children.

Fred Saylor was born on December 31, 1886, in Odessa, Russia, to Jacob and Christina Saylor. Fred Saylor immigrated to the United States in 1899. He settled around Wishek, North Dakota in 1905. On September 6, 1908, at Zeeland, ND, Fred Saylor married Christina Link, daughter of Gottlieb and Phillipina Link. They had seven children: Edwin, Elmer, Walter, Arthur, Roy, Erna, and a baby girl who died in infancy.

Roxanne (Saylor) Henke was born to Walter and Jean (Jensen) Saylor.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Roxanne (Saylor) Henke Collection** consists of five photographs of the Ensslen family members in America, one photograph of the Jacob & Katherine (Gackle) Ensslen family in Russia, and a metal samovar made in the Batashev Factory in Tula, Russia. The collection dates from the late 1890s to about 1910. The collection originally belonged to Lillian (Ensslen) Saylor who gifted it to her niece, Roxanne (Saylor) Henke. The collection has been organized into two series: Photograph and Artifact.

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

The **Artifact Series** is comprised of 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 Saylor) Ensslen. The samovar was handed down as a gift from Lillian to her niece, Roxanne Saylor 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 two folders within the 2010 Small Collections Box. The sixth photograph (2010.28.06), due to its 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

2010 Small Collections Box

Collection/Folder	Contents
2010.28/1	Finding aid, detailed inventory & note about the samovar.

PHOTOGRAPH SERIES

Oversize	Photograph 1
	2010.28.01 Jacob and Katherine (Gackle) Ensslen family, circa 1900-1905
2010.28/2	Photographs 2-6
	2010.28.02 Studio portrait of an unidentified family, circa 1900. Three men, four women all older or middle aged. Oldest woman wears a cap
	2010.28.03 Studio portrait of an unidentified couple, circa 1900. Seated man has a droopy eye.
	2010.28.04 Studio portrait of an unidentified elderly couple, circa late 1890s
	2010.28.05 Wedding portrait of an unidentified couple, circa 1900. Woman has bouquet with five, small hanging decorations
	2010.28.06 Outdoor portrait of the Jacob and Katherine (Gackle) Ensslen family, circa 1900-1905

ARTIFACT SERIES

Shelf	Samovar (2011.11)
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Samovar (2011.11)