

**Roanoke Public Libraries  
Virginia Room  
Lorenzen Family Collection**

**Collection Description:**

**Repository:** Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

**Title:** Lorenzen Family Collection

**Physical Characteristics:** 1 document storage case

**Donated by:** Helen Lorenzen Mark

**Arrangement:** Chronologically by date of creation, with individual photographs at the end

**Creator:** Frederick J. Lorenzen, Helen Lorenzen Mark, Hazel Lorenzen Davies

**Reproduction Restrictions:** No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

**Processor:** Angela Stiefbold, June 2025

**Biographical Note:**

Born in Denmark, Frederick J. “Fred” Lorenzen (1878-1943) was brought to the United States by his parents, Petrina Simonsen and Theodore Lorenzen, in about 1882. They traveled to America with her sister’s family (Marie Simonsen and Otto Karl Janssen). The Lorenzen family settled in Roanoke, Virginia, and included three additional children: Theodore Lorenzen Jr., Grada Lorenzen, and Joseph Aloysius Lorenzen (Ollie).

While Fred’s occupation was shoemaker, he was also a musician, playing flute, piccolo, and saxophone with numerous local bands and orchestras, and according to his daughters, he fully embraced the hobbies of photography and cabinet making. He married Margaret Ellen Heazel (1882-1952) in 1906. They had two daughters, Helen Marie Lorenzen (1906-2004), who married Marcel Armand Mark, and Hazel Catherine Lorenzen (1912-2006), who married James Jenkyn Davies.

**Scope and Content:**

The collection includes two scrapbooks containing photographs, three mounted photographs, and a history of the Lorenzen family, consisting of genealogical information and photographs.

The scrapbooks appear to have been compiled by Fred and consist of photographs of places and people from 1898-1910; some, but not most, of the people and places are identified. The individual photographs are: Blackburn’s String Band, which includes Fred; Fred and two other saxophone players; and Fred holding a Saxophone.

The family history, “Chronicles of an Immigrant Family: The Lorensens” includes information about Frederick J. Lorenzen’s ancestors, as well as his siblings and their children. It contains photographs of family members (including Ollie Lorenzen with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sec. Co. C. 300<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion in 1919), as well as local places, including: the

family's parlor; the first block of Campbell Ave. SW, Roanoke (1917); a house on Fourth Ave. NE Roanoke; and 1317 Clark Ave. SW, Roanoke.

### **Container List:**

#### Box 1 of 1

- Folder 1: Scrapbook 1—Includes photographs of family members, friends, groups of musicians. Of note are a photo of the Roanoke Fire Department horse's-drawn equipment; photos of the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis including two of steamboats; and the Wytheville, Virginia Fair 1905
- Folder 2: Scrapbook 2—Includes photographs of family members, friends, groups of musicians. Of note are a photo of Natural Bridge; the gate to Luna Park at Coney Island; New York Harbor; Statue of Liberty; Governor's Island (ca. 1906)
- Folder 3: "Chronicles of an Immigrant Family: The Lorenzens," Originals — Compiled sometime after 1959, includes information about Frederick J. Lorenzen's ancestors, as well as his siblings and their children, and photographs of family members. Pages removed from plastic sleeves; loose photographs placed in archival sleeves.
- Photos include the following individuals: Capt. Hans P. Simonsen; Capt. Hans P. Simonsen, his wife and daughters; Theodore Lorenzen Sr.; Petrina Simonsen Lorenzen; Grada Lorenzen; Mayo Janssen; Joseph Aloysius "Ollie" Lorenzen; Fred Lorenzen; Margaret Ellen Heazel Lorenzen; Freddy Ferris; Helen Lorenzen; Carolyn Ferris; Florence Pruner Lorenzen; Theodore Lorenzen III; George Fred Lorenzen; Peggy Ann Lorenzen; Peter Andrew Janssen; Millicent Monroe Janssen; and Hazel Catherine Lorenzen. Additional photographs document: Ollie Lorenzen with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sec. Co. C. 300<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion in 1919; the Theodore Lorenzo Sr. family home's parlor; the first block of Campbell Ave. SW, Roanoke (1917); a house on Fourth Ave. NE Roanoke; and 1317 Clark Ave. SW, Roanoke
- Folder 4: "Chronicles of an Immigrant Family: The Lorenzens," Copies — Photocopies of the pages as originally arranged in plastic sleeves in a binder.
- Folder 5: Blackburn's String Band—Mounted photograph of Blackburn's String Band, (Landes, photographer), "February 22, 1901" is written on the back, with a copy of a 1964 newspaper article about the band also attached to the back
- Folder 6: Frederick John Lorenzen—Mounted photograph of Frederick John Lorenzen in his uniform for the Roanoke Band and holding a saxophone, "August 9, 1902" is written on the back
- Folder 7: Saxophone Players—Mounted photograph of three saxophone players, center musician appears to be Fred Lorenzen (Landes, photographer), no date