



Digging up the
Past at
Emil Hoefler's



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Compiled in 2017 by Judy Scholin, as a local history project in cooperation with

Pine City Area History Association

Discovering History through Privy Digging



**ANNA SCHOLIN
INSPECTING FINDS**

**BRIAN MANN RESTING
WHILE MARK
YOUNGBLOOD DIGS.**

Mark Youngblood and Brian Mann have an unusual hobby, they are privy diggers. For the uninitiated a privy is another term for an outhouse. In the days of outhouses, there were no garbage trucks to haul trash away. If you had something to get rid of you threw it down the hole in the outhouse. Bottles, cans, broken dishes and toys, if it didn't burn, down the hole it went.



BRIAN MANN WITH A FIND.

A hundred years later the organic waste has composted itself and the outhouse hole is a treasure trove of remnants of life long ago.

A surprising amount of history can be discovered through their finds. This book highlights a dig in the fall of 2016 at 840 8th Street SW. This dig was particularly interesting because we know something about the family that was living at this address in the early 1900s.

Meet the Emil Hoefler Family



**Emil Hoefler Family
about 1906**

Taken in about 1906 this photograph shows Margaret, Emil's wife Louise Engler, Emma, Emil holding baby Murriel and Raymond. The youngest child, Royal didn't appear until 1909.

Emil began his working career as a butcher, first working for his uncle Johan George Kick and later on his own. His occupation is listed as butcher on the 1900 census and it appears the family may have been living in what had been his uncle's house next to the meat market. By 1910 Emil had changed jobs. He was now listed as a bartender and the family had changed houses. They were located on 8th street a few houses south of the Methodist church.

EMIL HOEFLER HOUSE - 540 8TH STREET SW



Household Items

Chamber Pot

Here's an item the whole family may have used. One of the downsides of an outhouse is nobody wants to make the trip during the night, especially in the winter.

Chamber pots were the answer. You used them during the night and in the morning someone had to take them out to the outhouse to empty them.



Ink Bottles



The Hoeflers must have done a lot of writing. We found at least 5 ink bottles. Most are Sanford brand.

Sanford is a company that is still around today. When the demand for ink disappeared after the invention of ball point pens, Sanford came up with the Sharpie permanent marker, a product market that is still growing.

The Hoefler ink bottle collection included all the most common ink bottle shapes; cone, barrel & square.

Shoe Polish

This bottle contained shoe polish. We were lucky that the cork was still in the bottle when we found it, because it kept the little dauber in the bottle, which helped with determining the type of bottle.





❧ G. W. Cole 3-In-One-Oil ❧

This is a bottle for a product that you can still buy today. 3-in-One-Oil was invented by George W. Cole in 1894 in Asbury Park, New Jersey. It was originally invented for use on bicycles and was advertised as being able to “clean, lubricate and protect.”

Cole incorporated his company in 1899. In 1905 the company changed its name to 3-In-One-Oil Company and in 1910 metal screw tops were added to the bottle.

Since our bottle is labeled G W Cole Co it appears it was made before 1905.

❧ Poison Bottle ❧

This little bottle is less than 3 inches tall but comes with a big warning. In the mid 1800s, poisonous substances became more readily available as cleaning compounds, or to control insects, plants and vermin. Glass bottles were inexpensive and perfect for transporting their contents. There was just one problem: accidental deaths began to pile up. Government regulations were enacted, but what really made a difference was when the poison manufacturers took action to protect their customers. Poison bottles were designed with distinctive features like unique textures, raised ridges, dots, diamonds, ribbing and words of warning. Colors like cobalt blue, brown and dark green helped poison bottles stand out from regular medicine bottles. And it worked. Not only did it save people's lives, but it



created a group of highly collectible bottles.



Towle Syrup



The Towle Syrup Co was founded by a Forest Lake, Minnesota, grocer named Patrick J. Towle. In 1887, Mr. Towle introduced his first product, a maple flavored syrup named in honor of his childhood hero, Abraham Lincoln. Towle Log Cabin Syrup was a success, and by 1905, Towle's firm was the largest manufacturer of maple syrup in the United States. Towle had another maple flavored syrup called Towle's Circus Brand Table Syrup. It is unclear which product was packaged in our jar, but it seems likely to have been the Circus Brand Syrup. Tin cans shaped like a log cabin seem to have been the early containers for Log Cabin Syrup.



1908 - 1909 ADS FROM THE PINE COUNTY PIONEER

Towle's Circus Brand had

a big advertising campaign in the local newspaper in 1908 - 1909. Each ad featured an animal and told how to get animal cut-outs for play. In 1909, the company name was changed to Towle Maple Products Co, which would seem to indicate that our bottle was made no later than 1909.



Emil Hoefler

Emil Hoefler was born to Johann & Catharine Hoefler on December 10, 1873. His mother died in 1879. At some point after that, Emil and his two siblings were taken in and raised by the Johann and Anna Kick family.

Emil's first job was as a butcher for the Kick Meat Market.

Emil also had his own meat market for a time.



KICK HOME - ABOVE LEFT
KICK MEAT MARKET - ABOVE RIGHT



EMIL HOEFLER

—Kashik & Hoefler have added a new whistle to their sausage grinding machinery, and by the way it was tooting the middle of the week they must have ground sausage enough to supply the state.

PINE COUNTY
PIONEER
MARCH 1897

Kashik & Hoefler,
DEALERS IN
FRESH AND SALT MEATS.

We keep constantly on hand the
Following Meats:

**Beef, Veal, Pork, Mutton, Poultry,
AND GAME IN SEASON.**

We also make and have on hand all kinds of
sausages.
KASHIK & HOEFLER,
Pine City, Minn.

—We have been informed that George Perkins has gone into partnership with Emil Hoefler in the meat market, and hereafter can be found cutting meat in that establishment.

Hoefler & Perkins,
DEALERS IN
FRESH AND SALT MEATS.

We keep constantly on hand the
Following Meats:

**Beef, Veal, Pork, Mutton, Poultry,
AND GAME IN SEASON.**

We also make and have on hand all kinds of
sausages.
HOEFLER & PERKINS,
Pine City, Minn.

PINE COUNTY
PIONEER
OCTOBER 1897

Next Emil tried his hand at bartending.



County Treasurer Nickerson Pirkin, Clerk of District Court A. W. Gunn, and Emil Hoeller are camping this week at Camp Comfort about 7 miles west of here on Snake river.

**PINE COUNTY
PIONEER
OCTOBER 1909**



EMIL'S SALOON

We also know Emil was a member of the fire department and he liked to hunt and fish.

Emil Hoeller and Ben Hurley have been spending the week at Pokegama lake and the "cut-off" on a hunting and fishing expedition.

**PINE COUNTY PIONEER
SEPTEMBER 1903**



1
9
0
0

The newly formed fire department with the brand new fire engine.

EMIL IS THE SECOND ONE FROM THE LEFT IN THE FRONT ROW.

Emil's Items



EMIL'S MUG

Beer Mug

This was likely Emil's beer mug. It has very few distinguishing marks. It does however share some design elements with the 1890's Schlitz beer mug pictured here, on the right..



SCHLITZ MUG

Emil's mug may have come from Germany.

Snuff Jars



Weyman's Snuff

George Weyman, the inventor of Copenhagen snuff, opened a tobacco shop in Pittsburgh in 1822. In 1870 following George's death, the company became Weyman & Bro. In 1905 the American Tobacco Company acquired Weyman & Bro.

The jar on the left is labeled "Weyman's Snuff". According to antique specialists, Kovels, it probably dates to before 1870. The other jar dates 1870 - 1905.



Clay Pipes

According to Heather Coleman at pipedia.org, clay pipes came back into fashion again in the 19th century. The beginning of the 20th century was still a prosperous period for clay pipes. However, by the 1930s, clay pipes were in low demand once again due to changes in society, competition from the cigarette, and world wars.



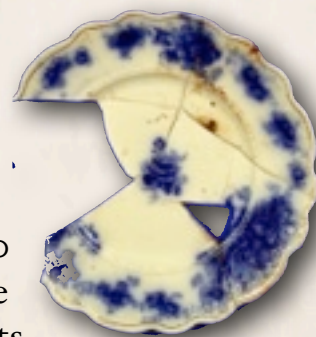
Louise Hoefler



Louise Charlotte Engler married Emil George Hoefler in September 1894. They both attended what was then known as the German Lutheran Church. Today it is Zion Lutheran in Pine City. Louise's family had been living first in Texas and then Dundee, Oregon. It is unclear when the family reestablished itself in Pine City, but we do know that both Louise and her brother William were confirmed in Pine City in 1894, and both were married shortly thereafter.

Louise's Items

Blue and white flow ware china was very popular around 1900 and Louise and her neighbors must have been fond of it. We found many pieces of blue and white china in the Hoefler pits and in those on the neighboring lot.



A BONE DISH, USED TO HOLD DISCARDED FISH BONES.



A TEA CUP



China

This plate, featuring a 12 point buck, was produced by Zeh, Scherzer & Co., a Bavarian company. It was part of their Empire line.



This plate probably said, "Give us this day our daily bread".

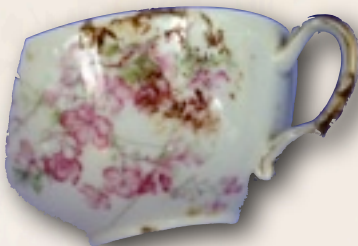
It was another Bavarian made piece of china.



Panama Canal Plate

Teddy Roosevelt was president from 1901 to 1909. He oversaw the start of building the Panama Canal. In 1906 a commemorative plate was issued. The Emil Hoefler family were the owners of one of the plates.

We only located one piece but it was enough to identify the plate and locate a picture of the whole image.



MISCELLANEOUS FRENCH MADE CHINA



~ Gillett Extract ~

E. W. Gillett & Co.'s flavoring extracts were first produced in Chicago and later Toronto.



SALT SHAKER

~ Crocks ~

Stoneware crocks were the Tupperware of victorian times. Crocks were used to hold butter, salted meats and pickled vegetables.



and

There are no makers marks on either of these crocks so we don't know where they were made.



With the Hoefler's German heritage, perhaps one of these crocks held sauerkraut.

~ Mason Jar ~



Mason jars are named for John Landis Mason who first invented and patented the jar in 1858. It is a molded glass jar used in home canning to preserve food. Mason jars are also called Ball jars, in reference to the Ball Corporation, an early and prolific manufacturer of glass canning jars.

The distinctive loop at the end of Ball, referred to as a triple l, tells us the jar here was manufactured 1900 - 1910.



CANNING JAR LID

Graniteware Kettle



Judging by all the blue and white china pieces we found, I think it is safe to surmise that Louise was fond of that color combination. Therefore, I suspect that this blue and white swirl graniteware kettle was a source of pleasure and pride. It must have been spectacular when it was new.

Somebody was probably in trouble when it was left on the stove too long and was ruined.

Green Bowl

If this green bowl could talk it might have a very interesting story to tell.

This bowl was broken in two. The curious thing is one half was found on the Hoefler's property and the other half in the neighbor's privy.



Buttons

Coffee Cup



Over the years, Louise must have sewed many of these bone and shell buttons onto clothing.





California Fig Syrup

Louise or her daughters were the likely users of this California Fig Syrup bottle. Fig Syrup acted as a mild laxative, but made many other promises. The comely women in the ads that appeared in the local paper suggest that women were likely the targeted audience, although the fine print states it is good for men and children as well. The American Medical board disagreed.



Parisan Sage Hair Tonic

This is another item that was likely used by Louise and her daughters: Parisan Sage hair tonic. The ad from 1907 explains how it kills the germ that causes dandruff.

KILL THE GERMS

That's the Only Way to Cure Dandruff—and Parisan Sage is the Only Killer.

"Parisan Sage," said a New York barber "will kill the destructive and persistent germs of dandruff and abolish the disease. There may be other remedies that will do the same, but I never heard of one."

And just read what one of the foremost barbers of Springfield, Mass., says of Parisan Sage.

"Dear Sirs: I used your Parisan Sage and found it better than any other. It is the best Hair Restorer I ever used, and I have used them all. I find it a great Dandruff remover also. You should get it into all the barber shops and get the barbers to use it as it is great. I remain, Yours truly, Geo. A. Stutz, 73 1-2 Main street, Springfield, Mass."

Parisan Sage soaks into the scalp and when it reaches the roots of the hair it not only kills every dandruff germ, but it supplies the hair with just the right kind of nourishment to put vigor and strength into it and make it grow.

Parisan Sage is the most delightful hair dressing in the world; use it one week and you will never give it up.

Parisan Sage is guaranteed by Phillips & Co. to stop falling hair, to cure dandruff, to darken gray and faded hair; to cure itching of the scalp or money back. Price 50 cents a bottle at Phillips & Co., or by mail, charges prepaid from Giroux Mfg. Co., Buffalo, N. Y.



1907 AD

Murriel & Royal Hoefler



Murriel Hoefler, born December 11, 1904, and Royal, born October 20, 1909, were likely the consumers of the infant related items that were unearthed.



Infant Items

Baby Nurser

This glass infant nursing bottle was produced by well known St. Paul, Minnesota wholesale druggists, Noyes Brothers & Cutler. Many companies produced bottles of a similar design, called a "turtle bottle" because of its shape. These bottles were produced from the mid-1860s to the early 1900s. A long tube connected the bottle to a rubber nipple. The whole device was difficult to clean and was a breeding ground for bacteria. As a result they often did a baby more harm than good.





Mellin's Food

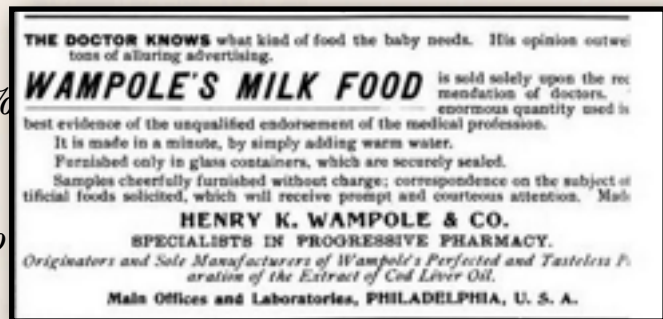
Mellin's Infant Food was invented by English food chemist Gustav Mellin in 1866. It was a milk modifier used as a substitute for breastfeeding. The formula was made from dried malt and mixed with milk and water.



Wampole's Milk Food

Wampole's Milk Food was another infant formula. It was developed in Philadelphia around 1900. It claimed the following composition:

- Fresh cow's milk 50%,
- Special malted barley 20%
- Whole wheat flour 19%,
- Inner cortical portion of the whole wheat grain 5%
- Prime lean beef 5%
- Common salt 1/2 %
- Lime 1/2%.



1910 AD

Dr. Drake's Croup Remedy

We found two different bottles of Dr. Drake's Croup Remedy. Perhaps the first bottle was bought when the older children were young and a new bottle was needed by the time Royal came along.

Leonard Glessner started the Glessner Medicine Co. with a recipe for what he sold as Dr. Drake's German Croup Remedy as our older bottle is labeled. In 1912, the word German was removed from the title, so we know our newer bottle dates from after 1912.



GERMAN CROUP AD



Dr. Drake's German Croup Remedy was included on a 1909 list put out by the American Medical Association titled "Habit Forming Nostrums" because it contained opium.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup is a patent medicine developed by baby nurse, Mrs. Charlotte Winslow. It was first marketed in 1849 by druggists Jeremiah Curtis and Benjamin Perkins of Maine. The formula contained both morphine and alcohol, so it no doubt was effective in its claim to "*sooth any human or animal.*"

Ingredients were not required to be listed until the Pure Food and Drug Act was introduced in 1906. However, products containing narcotics were required to pay a special tax on each bottle. A tax stamp was used to seal unopened bottles to show that the tax had been paid. There is something ironic about a child on a narcotic tax stamp.



TAX STAMP



APPROXIMATELY 1900 AD

In 1911, the American Medical Association issued a publication titled "Nostrums and Quackery". They addressed Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup in the section titled "Baby Killers." In spite of the dangers, it seems Murriel and Royal Hoefler survived Mrs. Winslow's syrup and perhaps the Hoefler household was calmer for it.



Margaret Hoefler



Margaret Hoefler
age 9

China Doll Head

This little china doll head dating from about 1905 was found in one of the Emil Hoefler pits. The doll head is about 2 inches tall and would have been attached to a cloth body. One of her little painted china legs was also found. She was a popular type of doll known as a Pet Name china head doll. The dolls were marked with their name printed in gold on their front. There were about 12 name choices. This one was named Dorothy.



**DOLL'S LEG WITH
PAINTED BOOT.**

This doll likely belonged to Margaret, pictured here in 1906.



Frozen Charlotte Doll

This sort of creepy doll was likely German made and was known as a Frozen Charlotte. Frozen Charlotte dolls get their name from a poem by Seba Smith. The poem tells the story of a young girl named Charlotte who refused to wrap up warmly to go on a sleigh ride, because she did not want to cover up her pretty dress. The result was she froze to death on the ride. These dolls were very popular from about 1850 to 1920. This one stands two and a half inches tall and had articulated arms. There is a mark stamped in her back. Margaret was very likely the owner of this doll.

❧ New Life Pills ❧

Dr. King's New Life Pills were introduced in 1880 as a cure for stomach ailments. They were a fraud.



❧ Tonic Vermifuge ❧



DR. DAVID JAYNE

David Jayne studied medicine and began to practice as a doctor. He first started to introduce his own medicines around 1830. Dr. Jayne's business grew rapidly. By the late 1840s, he had eight medicines on the market.

In 1855, Dr Jayne's business became Dr. Jayne & son. Dr. Jayne used an annual medical almanac to market his products.



1896 MEDICAL ALMANAC

Tonic Vermifuge promised to cure colds and worms, among other things.



❧ F. A. Richter ❧

F. A. Richter

This bottle contained a pain reliever produced by F.A. Richter of New York. .



~ T.A. Slocum ~



When researching the T.A. Slocum Co., purveyors of “Psychine” and “Ozomulsion”, it quickly becomes clear that an understanding of the word nostrum is necessary. The dictionary defines nostrum as a medicine, especially one that is not considered effective and prepared by an unqualified person. Indeed the most informative article on the Slocum System was in a report issued by the American Medical Association. The report was titled “Nostrums and Quackery”.



PSYCHINE



FOR CONSUMPTION AND LUNG TROUBLES
 While Ozomulsion didn't contain active poisons like many patent medicines, it did make promises it couldn't keep, such as that it would cure consumption. For \$5, Dr. Slocum had a special offer that promised to cure whatever you were suffering from.



If you purchased these Remedies in bottles of 50 cents or more with unopened corks - Dr. Slocum.

Breckenridge Pharmacy



There are very few bottles that are stamped or embossed with Pine City. That makes these Breckenridge Pharmacy bottles special, which is appropriate because Breckenridge Pharmacy was kind of special.

Breckenridge's Pharmacy was started by a woman, Elizabeth "Lizzy" Breckenridge, one of the very first female pharmacists in Minnesota. Born in 1859, the daughter of Emily J. McKusick and John F. Stone, she became a teacher in Maine, where she grew up. She came to Pine City in 1879, where her parents opened the Pioneer House. In



LIZZY BRECKENRIDGE

1880, Lizzy and her aunt Alice McKusick opened a drugstore, which was later known as Breckenridge Pharmacy. In 1886 Lizzy was married to John Breckenridge. After John died in 1917, Lizzie sold the



BRECKENRIDGE PHARMACY ABOUT 1910

drugstore to W. G. Hohn in 1922. The Breckenridge Pharmacy name continued in use until the mid 1920s.

Our bottles could have contained this advertised cough syrup.

1908 AD FROM THE
PINE COUNTY PIONEER

Buy a Bottle of
BRECKENRIDGE'S
Cough Syrup
and stop that
COUGH!
25c and 50c.

YOU KNOW THE PLACE,
BRECKENRIDGE'S PHARMACY
MAIN STREET, PINE CITY, MINN.

❧ Miscellaneous Bottles ❧



No information known.



H.K. Mulford Company

This bottle contained a product produced by the H.K. Mulford Company of Pennsylvania.



No information known.



Roger's Dry Citrate Magnesia

is imprinted on the bottle, but we have been unable to find more information.

JSP

JSP is embossed on the front of this bottle. It very likely contained a malt extract.





The items featured in this book are just a fraction of the items that were found in this dig. As items are uncovered, they are evaluated and many of the broken bits are returned to the hole before the dirt is replaced. The items deemed worth saving are sorted and the cleaning process begins.

Items that have identifying features are further sorted and more closely cleaned and examined. Research is begun. Often the research hits a dead end. Paper labels rarely survive, so bottles with embossing stand a much better chance of identification. Other bottles are just sorted into categories: wine, liquor, medicinal, food, etc.

A true bottle collector will also be able to sort the bottles by age. Handmade bottles have features that distinguish them from machine made. The coloring of a bottle gives clues to its age.

Sorting through the garbage of the past can be fascinating!



CLEANED, SORTED & IDENTIFIED



A local history project by:
Pine City Area History Association

Preserve & Share Pine City Area History

The Pine City Area History Association is grateful to Harold Kick and Mark Luebker for sharing photos and memorabilia of the Emil Hoefler family. It is opportunities like this that make it possible for us to achieve our mission of preserving and sharing Pine City area history.

To learn more about the Pine City Area History Association, visit us on Facebook at: [facebook.com/PineCityHistory](https://www.facebook.com/PineCityHistory)

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