

Title: Pfister & Vogel Leather Company

Reference Code: Mss-1820

Inclusive Dates: 1856 – 1965

Quantity: 37.1 cu. ft. total

Location: WHS, Sh. C067-C076
LC, Sh. 006 (0.2 cu. ft.)

Abstract: Guido Pfister, Frederick Vogel and J.F. Schoellkopf established the Pfister & Vogel Leather Company in June 1848. Schoellkopf, a cousin of Vogel's and owner of a Buffalo, NY, tannery, provided the finances for the Milwaukee enterprise. The business was so successful that Schoellkopf withdrew from the company in 1857. The initial tanning factory was located in the Menomonee Valley. By the 1880s, Pfister & Vogel was the largest tannery west of the Allegheny Mountains, and by the start of World War I, it was the largest in the world. The company's fortunes – and that of the tanning industry as a whole – declined after the war. It ceased tanning operations in December 1930, but Charles P. Vogel established a successor corporation, the Pfister & Vogel Tanning Co., that same month and began operations at the complex at Water and Pleasant streets in 1931. Military demands for leather during World War II was a boon for the company, but by 1960, the association between the company and Pfister and Vogel family members had come to an end. U.S. Leather acquired the Water Street facility in the 1990s, but losses prompted the plant's closing in February 2000.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of ledgers, journals, financial statements, photos and other ephemera that document the operations of the Pfister & Vogel Company. The bulk of the material concerns the period from 1890 through 1930.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English, German

Notes: Boxes 1 thru 25 are not standard record center boxes. Collection was processed in September, 1993 by Steve Daily. It was added to in Dec. 13, 1995, by Steve Daily.

Arrangement:

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William D. Vogel Journal, 1907-1940	10	

Unidentified Records Book, 1897-1899	10	
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Fred Vogel, Jr. Receivable/Payable Book, 1891-1914	10	
Pfister & Vogel Leather Co. Stock Ledger, 1895-1910	10	
William D. Vogel Ledger, 1907-1941	10	
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Mrs. Emilie Nunnemacher, Trial Balance, 1916-1931	27A	LOOSE
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Elizabeth Pfister, Ledger, 1893-1897	28	LOOSE
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Charles F. Pfister Ledger No. 2, 1899-1913	WHS, C73-C75
Louise F. Vogel Ledger No. 2, 1899-1914	WHS, C73-C75
Charles F. Pfister Ledger No. 4, 1921-1927	WHS, C73-C75
Menomonee closing account ledger Apr. - Nov. 1908	WHS, C067
Island Tannery closing account ledger 1901-1905	WHS, C067
Menomonee closing account ledger 1909-1910	WHS, C067
Cheboygan Tannery account ledger 1919-1922	WHS, C73-C75
P.V. Leather Co. payroll ledger Oct. 1, 1897 - July 22, 1898	WHS, C73-C75
Photos	Location
Pfister and Vogel Leather Company employee photos, 1866	LC, Sh. 006
Pfister and Vogel Leather Company Photos	MV, M136
Cassettes: See Multimedia Collection – Recordings Cassette #154 & #155	