

**Title:** Pfister & Vogel Leather Company

**Reference Code:** Mss-1820

**Inclusive Dates:** 1856 – 1965

**Quantity:** 37.1 cu. ft. total

**Location:** WHS, Sh. C067-C077  
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. The records in boxes 31-34 were donated by James Justen, November and December 2020.

**Arrangement:**

Folder Heading	Box #	Folder #
Plant Appraisal of the Pfister & Vogel Leather Co. Island Tannery, Milw., Wisconsin, June 1, 1911.	1	
Elisabeth Falk Trust Ledger, 1940	1	
William D. Vogel Household Ledger, 1944-1951	1	
Guido Vogel Journal, 1898-1913	1	
Fred Vogel, Jr. Journal, 1918-1925	1	

Fred Vogel, Jr. Ledger, 1898-1909	1	
Eagle Tanning Works Minutes, 1905-1907	1	
EN Investment Co. Ledger, 1924-1942	2	
Elisabeth Falk Trust Ledger, 1940-1947	2	
Fred Vogel, Jr. Journal, 1914-1918	2	
Elisabeth Schoellkopf Trial Balance, 1921-1950	2	
EVF Trust U/W LFV Journal, 1950-1957	2	
Fred A. Vogel, Charles P. Vogel, Grace D. Vogel Trustees for William D. Vogel Journal, 1920-1936	2	
Fred A. Vogel, Charles P. Vogel, Grace D. Vogel Trustees for William D. Vogel Ledger, 1922-1936	2	
Elisabeth V. Falk Trust Journal, 1944-1957	2	
Grace D. Vogel Guardian for William D. Vogel Journal, 1916-1924	2	
EN Investment Co. Ledger, 1900-1940	3	
Elmwood Co. of Delaware Journal, 1930	3	
Plant Appraisal of Pfister & Vogel Leather Co., Menomonee Tannery, Book No. 5, November 15, 1917	3	
Plant Appraisal of Pfister & Vogel Leather Co., Menomonee Tannery, Book No. 3, May 10, 1911	3	
Plant Appraisal of Pfister & Vogel Leather Co., Pee-Vee Tannery, Book No. 3, November 15, 1917	3	
Plant Appraisal of Pfister & Vogel Leather Co., Pee-Vee Tannery, Book No. 1, November 15, 1917	3	
Plant Appraisal of Pfister & Vogel Leather Co., Pee-Vee Tannery, Book No. 2, November 15, 1917	3	
Guido Pfister Ledger, 1883-1889	4	
Plant Appraisal of Pfister & Vogel Leather Co., Patent Leather Plant, So. Milw., November 15, 1917	4	
Plant Appraisal of Pfister & Vogel Leather Co., Seaman Buildings, November 15, 1917	4	
Pfister Journal, 1874-1879	4	
Charles Pfister Pay Book, 1872-1890	4	
Elmwood Company of Wisconsin Minute Book, 1924-1928	4	
Charles F. Pfister Journal, 1879-1899	4	
Elmwood Co. of Delaware Ledger, 1921-1926	4	
Elmwood Co. of Delaware Ledger, 1927-1929	4	
Emilie Nunnemacher Account Book, 1906-1909	5	
Directors P.& V. L. Co. Trustees Aid Fund Ledger, 1908-1940	5	
Emilie Nunnemacher Trust Book #865 X, 1938-1947	5	
Emilie Nunnemacher Trust Book #865, 1938-1947	5	
Emilie Nunnemacher Account Book, 1941-1949	5	

Emilie Nunnemacher Account Book, 1945-1949	5	
William D. Vogel Account Book, 1938-1940	5	
Household Account Book William D. Vogel and Virginia Booth Vogel, 1944-1947	5	
William D. Vogel Account Book, 1955-1963	5	
Journal for Atwell Farms, 1940-1952	5	
Atwell Farms Ledger, 1940-1952	5	
Atwell Farms Cash Book, 1942-1952	5	
LFV Journal, 1891-1899	5	
LFV Ledger, 1892-1899	5	
Elisabeth Schoellkopf Ledger, 1921-1945	5	
Fred Vogel, Jr. Ledger, 1910-1919	6	
EN Investment Co. Journal, 1919-1938	6	
Fred Vogel, Jr. Journal, 1909-1914	6	
Estate of Fred Vogel, Jr. Ledger, 1936-1937	6	
Estate of Fred Vogel, Jr. Journal, 1936-1937	6	
EN Investment Co. Ledger, 1924-1945	6	
Elisabeth A. Vogel Journal, 1898-1924	7	
Elizabeth V. Falk Journal, 1932-1938	7	
Mrs. Elizabeth V. Falk Journal, 1925-1932	7	
Mrs. Elizabeth V. Falk Ledger, 1931-1941	7	
Charles P. Vogel, Agent for Elizabeth V. Falk Journal, 1944-1957	7	
Charles P. Vogel, Agent for Elizabeth V. Falk Ledger, 1944-1957	7	
Guido Pfister Journal, 1886-1889	7	
Fred Vogel, Jr. Journal, 1897-1903	8	
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Guido C. Vogel Ledger, 1899-1934	8	
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EVF Trust U/W LFV Ledger, 1950-1957	8	
Fred A. Vogel Journal, 1914-1920	9	
Fred A. Vogel Ledger, 1926-1929	9	
Guido C. Vogel Journal, 1913-1934	9	
EN Investment Co. Journal, 1898-1919	9	
Elizabeth A. Vogel Ledger, 1898-1930	9	
Fred A. Vogel Ledger, 1898-1925	9	
Mrs. E. V. Falk Ledger, 1942-1956	9	
Fred Vogel, Jr. Journal, 1903-1909	10	
Estate of Charles F. Pfister Ledger, 1929-1944	10	
Elisabeth V. Falk 1944 Trust Ledger, 1944-1956	10	

William D. Vogel Journal, 1907-1940	10	
Unidentified Records Book, 1897-1899	10	
Unidentified Index, n.d.	10	
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	
Elisabeth V. Falk 1944 Trust Trial Balance, 1944-1955	11	
Falk et al Trial Balance, 1950-1956	11	
Elisabeth V. Falk 1940 Trust Trial Balance, 1940-1947	11	
Mrs. Elisabeth V. Falk Trial Balance, 1929-1940	11	
Mrs. Elisabeth V. Falk Trial Balance, 1941-1955	11	
Charles P. Vogel, Agent for Elisabeth V. Falk Trial Balance, 1944-1956	11	
Plant Appraisal of Pfister & Vogel Leather Co., Pee-Vee Tannery, Book No. 1, April 23, 1908	11	
Unidentified Journal/Records Book, 1881-1897	11	
Emilie Nunnemacher Trial Balance, 1923-1949	11	
P. & V. Leather Co. General Ledger Index, n.d.	11	
Grace D. Vogel, Guardian for William D. Vogel Ledger, 1916-1924	11	
Pfister & Vogel Ledger, 1942-1952	11	
Plant Account Book, Pee-Vee Tannery, Nov. 1917-Dec. 1921	12	
Menomonee Tannery Inventory Book No. 3, Nov. 1901-Oct. 1908	12	
Unidentified Account Book, 1856-1863	12	
Price of Hides Book, 1894-1914	12	
G. Pfister Ledger, Leather Business, 1858-1865	12	
Elisabeth Falk Journal No. 4	12	
Pfister & Vogel Inventory, 1919 (Photocopies).	12	
Soil Report for Pfister & Vogel Leather Co., Michigan Lands	12	
G. Pfister journal, 1879-1881	12	
Pfister & Vogel Leather Co. Stock Ledger, 1918-1941	13	
Record of Pfister & Vogel Stockholders, 1910-1921	13	
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Guido Pfister Estate Trial Balance, 1895-1908	14	
Pfister & Vogel Tannery Journal, 1912-1928	14	
Unidentified Ledger, 1874-1879	14	
Unidentified Ledger, 1919-1921	14	
Elmwood Co. of Delaware Trial Balance, 1920-1930	15	
Elmwood Co. Trial Balance No. 2, 1933-1944	15	
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Elmwood Co. of Delaware Trial Balance No. 1, 1920-1930	15	
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Menomonee Tannery & Pleasant St. Tannery Journal, 1930-1934	15	
Charles F. Pfister Balances, 1899-1905	15	
Grace D. Vogel & William D. Vogel Special Agreement Trial Balance, 1945-1953	15	
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Elmwood Co. Trial Balance No. 4, 1954-1956	16	
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Elmwood Co. Trial Balance No. 1, 1914-1932	16	
Estate of Guido C. Vogel & Three Trustees for William D. Vogel Trial Balance, 1932-1935	16	
Guido Pfister Estate Balances, 1889-1893	16	
Fred Vogel, Jr. Trial Balance, 1894-1909	16	
Charles F. Pfister Trial Balance No. 3, 1918-1927	16	
G. Pfister Ledger, 1861-1864	17	
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Elmwood Co. Cash Book, 1927-1956	17	
Guido Pfister Estate Ledger, 1893-1899	18	
Guido Pfister Estate Cash Book, 1895-1899	18	
Charles F. Pfister Cash Book, 1917-1922	18	
Charles F. Pfister Cash Book, 1911-1917	19	
Guido Pfister Estate Cash Book, 1899-1903	19	
Pfister & Vogel Leather Co. Private Ledger, 1909-1960	19	
Guido Pfister Estate Ledger, 1899-1905	20	
Milwaukee Hotel Co. Journal, 1892-1928	20	
G. Pfister & Co. Ledger, 1857-1860	20	
Unidentified Ledger, 1899-1893	20	
Charles F. Pfister Cash Book, 1927	21	
Louise F. Vogel Cash Book, 1922-1941	21	
Unidentified Ledger, 1889-1927	21	
Charles F. Pfister Cash Book, 1922-1927	22	
Elmwood Co. Cash Book, 1914-1927	22	
Louise F. Vogel Cash Book, 1913-1922	22	
Charles F. Pfister Cash Book, 1899-1911	23	
Guido Pfister Estate Cash Book, 1891-1895	23	

Elmwood Co. of Delaware Cash Book, 1920-1930	23	
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Pfister & Vogel Leather Co. Preferred Stock Certificates No. 501 thru 1000	WHS, C076	
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Federal return 1097 - dividend paid, 1923	26	3
Wisconsin income tax papers, 1939-42	26	4
Re-proposed mortgage issue – 1930	26	5
Federal returns - subsidiaries, 1929-32	26	6
Excise tax returns, 1913-1930	26	7
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Program for 60th anniversary of Pfister - Vogel given by board of directors at Pfister Hotel, 1908	26	LOOSE IN BOX
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Process book #1, 1935	27	
Process book #2, 1935	27	
Buffing Room index, 1935	27	
Process book, 1927 (German text)	27	
Manual for the fur trade	27	
Manual for the leather trade	27	
60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary program made out of leather, 1908	27	
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-Aulson Leather Gauge info		
-Photos of the Turner Tanning Machine, 1958		
-Woburn Leather Gauge info		
<b>Ledgers</b>		
Cash Blotter, 1872-1883	27A	LOOSE
Loan Register, Elmwood Co. of Delaware, 1915-1923	27A	LOOSE
Merchants Investment Co., Memorandum Book, 1907-1932	27A	LOOSE
Fred Vogel, Jr., Ledger, ca. 1877-1898	27A	LOOSE
Chas. F. Pfister Estate, Journal, 1929-1944	27A	LOOSE
Chas. F. Pfister, Balances Ledger, 1890-1897	27A	LOOSE
Chas. F. Pfister, Interest Account Ledger, 1899-1918	27A	LOOSE
Mrs. Emilie Nunnemacher, Trial Balance, 1916-1931	27A	LOOSE
Mrs. Emilie Nunnemacher, Trial Balance, 1932-1942	27A	LOOSE

Pfister & Vogel Leather Co. General Ledger, 1883-1890	27A	LOOSE
Elizabeth Pfister, Ledger, 1893-1897	28	LOOSE
Mrs. Emilie Nunnemacher, Ledger, 1895-1902	28	LOOSE
Mrs. Emilie Nunnemacher, Ledger, 1902-1906	28	LOOSE
Mrs. Emilie Nunnemacher, Special Trust Fund, 1900-1912	28	LOOSE
Fred Vogel, Jr., Ledger, 1891-1897	28	LOOSE
Fred Vogel, Jr., Estate, Account of Assets, 1936-1942	28	LOOSE
Grace D. Vogel Estate, Ledger, 1953-ca. 1960	28	LOOSE
Grace D. Vogel Estate, Ledger – Special, 1953-ca. 1960	28	LOOSE
Grace D. Vogel Estate, Journal, 1953-1960	28	LOOSE
Grace D. Vogel Estate, Journal – Special, 1953-1960	28	LOOSE
Virginia Booth Vogel, Cash Book, 1941-1947	28	LOOSE
Virginia Booth Vogel, General Expense Ledger, 1936-1941	28	LOOSE
Virginia Booth Vogel, Ledger, 1936-ca. 1952	28	LOOSE
Virginia Booth Vogel, Receipts/Payments Ledger, 1948-1956	28	LOOSE
William D. Vogel, Cash Book, 1946-1954	28	LOOSE
William D. Vogel, Ledger, 1941-1946	28	LOOSE
William D. Vogel, Journal #2, 1941-1968	28	LOOSE
William D. and Virginia Booth Vogel, Cash Book, 1940-1944	28	LOOSE
William D. and Virginia Booth Vogel, Household Account, 1948-1956	28	LOOSE
William D. and Virginia Booth Vogel, Household Account, 1952-1959	28	LOOSE
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Chas. F. Pfister, Ledger, 1883-1899	29	LOOSE
Guido Pfister, Ledger, 1881-1885	29	LOOSE
Guido Pfister, Private Ledger, 1874-1883	29	LOOSE
G. Pfister & Co., Ledger, 1851-1857	29	LOOSE
G. Pfister & Co., Ledger 1857-1863	29	LOOSE
Vogel Real Estate Co., Record, 1900-1956	29	LOOSE
Ephraim Mariner (?), Reports of Examination of Sections of Land, ca. 1882	29	LOOSE
Oconomowoc Realty Co., Ledger #1, ca. 1914-1925	30	LOOSE
Elmwood Company of Wisconsin, Minute Book, 1929-1931	30	LOOSE
P & V Land Co., Ledger, 1908-ca 1937	30	LOOSE
Fred Vogel, Journal, 1921-1929	30	LOOSE
Elmwood Company of Delaware, Ledger – Credits/Debits, 1927-1929	30	LOOSE
Elmwood Company of Delaware, Journal – Credits/Debits, 1920-1926	30	LOOSE
Grace D. Vogel, Ledger, 1913-1924	30	LOOSE
Fred Vogel, Jr., Journal, 1876-1891	30	LOOSE
Pfister & Vogel Leather Co., Records of Stockholders & Directors Meetings, 1872-1902	30	LOOSE
Employees – Pensions, Labor Issues, etc.	31	1
Financial Statements, 1931-1932	31	2

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Hide and Leather Publishing Co., 1928-ca. 1950	31	5
“The Hide and the Mighty” Newsletter, 1979-1999 (not inclusive)	31	6
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Pfister & Vogel Tanning Co.: 4% Subordinated Debenture Issued June 23, 1961	31	12
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Product Sample Books	33	Loose
– Spring/Summer 1984		
– Spring/Summer 1985		
– Spring/Summer 1992		
– Fall/Winter 1992		
– Spring/Summer 1993		
– Fall/Winter 1993		
– Spring/Summer 1994		
– Fall/Winter 1994 (2 copies)		
– 1994 Belt Leathers (2 copies)		
<b>Publications/Reports</b>		
Centennial History (3 copies), 1948	34	Loose
<i>How American Shoes are Made</i> , 1961	34	Loose
Hide and Leather and Shoes, <i>Encyclopedia of the Shoe and Leather Industry</i> , 1941	34	Loose
<i>Year Book of the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists</i> , 1939, 1941 and 1943	34	Loose
<i>Geigy</i> (Handbook re dyeing instructions by J.R. Geigy), 1929	34	Loose
Notebooks re Tanning/Dying Formulas, 1903-1938 (18 total)	34	Loose
<b>Ledgers – Loose on Shelves C073-C075</b>		<b>Location</b>
Elmwood Co. of Delaware Ledger, 1920-1930		WHS, C73-C75



Guido Pfister Estate Cash Book No. 5, 1904-1906	WHS, C73-C75
Louise F. Vogel Cash Book No. 2, 1899-1912	WHS, C73-C75
Pfister & Vogel Leather Co. General Ledger N, 1890-1900	WHS, C73-C75
Pfister & Vogel Leather Co. Ledger, 1879-1887	WHS, C73-C75
G. Pfister & Co. Ledger, 1866-1874 (1874-1878?)	WHS, C73-C75
Pfister & Vogel Leather Co. General Ledger, 1883-1890	WHS, C73-C75
Charles F. Pfister Ledger, 1913-1921	WHS, C73-C75
Elmwood Co. Ledger No. 1, 1914-1931	WHS, C73-C75
Pee-Vee Tannery Ledger, 1919-1929	WHS, C73-C75
Pfister & Vogel Leather Co. General Ledger No. 1, 1901-1911	WHS, C73-C75
Pfister & Vogel Leather Co. General Ledger No. 2, 1911-1918	WHS, C73-C75
Pfister & Vogel Leather Co. General Ledger No. 3, 1918-1927	WHS, C73-C75
Louise F. Vogel Ledger No. 3, 1914-1939	WHS, C73-C75
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
<b>Photos</b>	<b>Location</b>
Pfister and Vogel Leather Company employee photos, 1866	LC, Sh. 006
Pfister and Vogel Leather Company Photos	MV, M-136
<b>Cassettes:</b> See Multimedia Collection – Recordings Cassette #154 & #155	