



G. H. SCHOELLKOPF & FAMILY

Gottlieb Heinrich/Henry Schoellkopf, patriarch of The Schoellkopf Company was born in Germany on September 23, 1849. He came to the United States when he was a youth of 14. Not long after the Civil War, G. H. Schoellkopf had come to Texas in the late 1860s, looking to acquire bison hides for a company of tanners and robe makers (possibly run by an uncle or some other relative) out of New York. He set up his first location at a former trading post in Indianola on the Gulf Coast. From there he began to travel around the state and into Mexico looking for hides. Schoellkopf was impressed by the potential of the area and felt like there was an opportunity for him to operate his own business. He was motivated to stay in Texas after a storm hit the area and the waters, either a tidal wave or storm surge, destroyed his business. It would only be a few years later when the first of two monster storms would essentially wipe out Indianola, but this storm was damaging enough. Schoellkopf took the opportunity to relocate to Dallas, then a small trading village, in 1869.

Once in Dallas, he set up a harness and saddlery shop in a small frame home in 1869. The business soon outgrew this shop and was moved to a two story brick building. It was not long before that location was also too small. Schoellkopf built a new three story home of brick and native stone. All of these locations were in the downtown area which was rapidly developing. The company first dealt in leather goods. It rapidly became known for its saddle, tack, scabbards, gun leather and other products. For a while, it was the only saddlery business in Texas, though other companies sprang up and began to produce leather products as well. G. H. had married the former Hedwig "Hattie" Boll in 1878. Hattie had been born in Switzerland and was the daughter of Jacob and Henrietta Humbel Boll. Professor Boll, as he was called, became a well known naturalist and entomologist. Jacob Boll was credited for having discovered thirty-two species of Permian vertebrates. Professor Boll died at the age of 56 in Wilbarger County while on one of his research trips.

Over the next years, seven children were born to Hattie and G. H. Schoellkopf: Jacob Fred, Hugo William, Frieda, Elsa Caroline, Emma, Vallerie and George Henry. Several of the children became active in the business. Hattie was quite involved in the community and in her church, St. Paul's German Evangelical Church. The name of the congregation has since changed, but it still is active and meets near White Rock Lake. Hattie died in 1901 of cancer at her home, likely then located at 118 Greenwood Street. The city numbering system has since changed and now the address would be roughly 3100. The family home is no longer there, but the street is about two city blocks block long and is located south of the intersection of Live Oak and Washington. Hattie was 46 years old when she passed.

The leather business eventually grew into a wholesale business called The Schoellkopf Company. It was in operation for several decades. Its headquarters were in the downtown building shown in the advertisement.

Hattie Boll Schoellkopf passed away in 1901. G. H. Schoellkopf died in 1926. Both are buried in Greenwood Cemetery near downtown.

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