

PAPER TRAIL

a feature showcasing the contributions
of "Bottles and Extras" readers

Edited by Steve Ketcham



August Flower and German Syrup

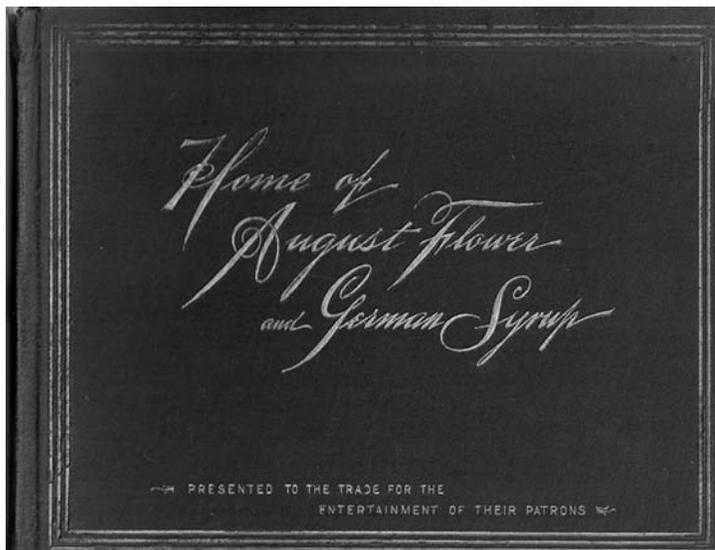
Back in 1889, Dr. G. G. Green, purveyor of the patent medicines Green's August Flower and Boschee's German Syrup, produced what can only be called a "brag book." The book not only touts the virtues of his medicines but also the opulence of his wealthy lifestyle.

The book was distributed to druggists, and the cover of the cloth-bound volume states that it was "Presented to the trade for the entertainment of their patrons." Inside are found 32 photos, one per page, each depicting some part of Dr. Green's residence, the surrounding grounds, the company laboratory and the company glass house. There is even a photo of Dr. Green's private railroad car, built by the Pullman Company. Reproduced here are several images from the book.

The glass house photos are weak, and the book admits that

for some reason, "The Photographic views of these works are shown here very poorly." The book goes on to explain that the glass works "occupy eleven acres with their buildings, and are said to be one of the finest plants in this country. Slate roofs and securely built, kept well-painted, the grounds clean and orderly. These works were built to secure first-class bottles for August Flower and German Syrup at Woodbury, New Jersey."

The pages opposite each photo are printed with the usual pumped-up prose promoting the great value of Dr. Green's two patent medicines. We are told that 2 million sample bottles of Boschee's German Syrup were given away by druggists in 1870 and 1871, and that "One bottle will cure." The reader is further instructed that German Syrup is "based on the prescription of a famous old German physician and professor – Dr. Boschee." We also learn of the medicine: "It is more recommended and prescribed by druggists and doctors than



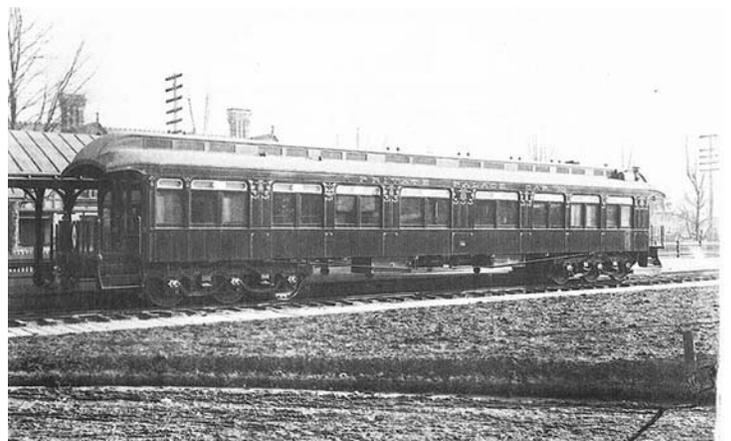
Cover of green's "brag book"



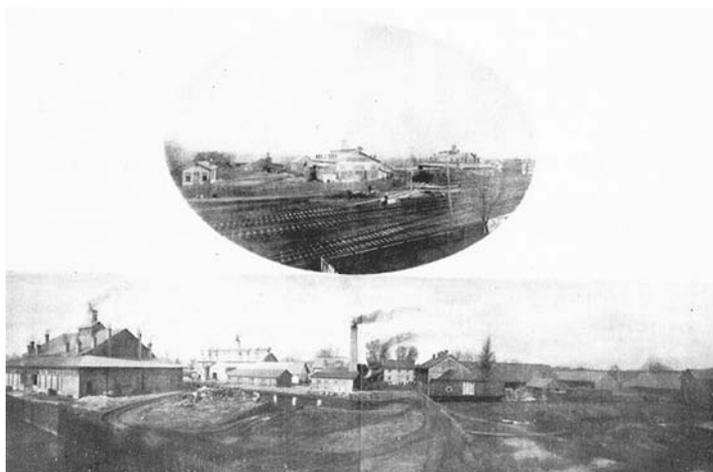
Cabinet mantel in residence (note the august flower advertising poster at upper left)



Front entrance to green's residence



Dr. Green's private railroad car, built by the pullman company



The glass works owned by dr. Green for the production of august flower and german syrup bottles any other medicine.”

The pages dedicated to August Flower are no less modest. For example, “Dizziness and Headache, Numbness, Nervousness, Palpitation, Costiveness, or Diarrhea, Sick Headache, Dyspeptic Symptoms, Acid Fluids and food coming up especially at night, are cured at once. One dose, 2 to 4 teaspoonfuls of August Flower.”

Given the grandeur of Dr. Green’s estate, it is no wonder that poet Oliver Wendell Holmes dubbed the many patent medicine proprietors like Dr. Green “The Toadstool Millionaires.”

Submitted by Steve Ketcham



A view of the green mansion from green avenue

“Paper Trail” is a regular feature which showcases the wide world of bottle-related ephemera, from trade cards and post cards to letterheads and blotters. Readers are encouraged to submit items for publication. Simply scan or photograph your item (JPG please), add a short paragraph or two about the item, and include a photo of the bottle to which it relates.

E-mail your contribution to: Steve Ketcham
s.ketcham@unique-software.com

or mail it to: Steve Ketcham, PO Box 24114, Edina, MN 55424
Ph: (952) 920-4205



!!Wanted!!

Bitters, Beers, Whiskies, Sodas, Patent Medicines, and all manner of early bottle-related advertising from

Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Dakotas -
especially pre-Prohibition brewery advertising trays, signs, etched glasses and whiskey shot glasses.

Always seeking Red Wing Stoneware advertising jugs along with bitters, flasks, and other quality bottles from across America also.

Visit us on e-Bay at ketchthepast.

E-mail: s.ketcham@unique-software.com.

Watch for our new website - www.antiquebottledepot.com (coming soon)
steve@antiquebottledepot.com.

Steve Ketcham

PO Box 24114

Edina, MN 55424

Ph: 952-920-4205 or 952-221-0915

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