

JACOB HOEHN CONTINUED

by Eric McGuire

It is most gratifying to encounter living descendants of individuals when researching bottles produced by their ancestors. I recall one special occurrence many years ago when I learned the father of my dad's friend had been a glass blower at the Owens Illinois Glass Works in San Francisco. A dinner was arranged with Gus Hansen, the elderly gentleman who once blew bottles by hand. It was with great anticipation that I could actually talk to someone who knew so many secrets that could



Portrait of Jacob Hoehn (1832 - 1890)

unlock the knowledge from the past. When the dinner finally became a reality I wasn't the least bit hungry and couldn't wait to inundate Gus with all sorts of questions. I remained reserved as long as I could and finally broached the subject that completely engrossed me, if for no other reason than I was talking to what seemed like a historical legend. In the end, he really didn't enlighten me that much, other than him recalling that his glass factory finally installed the Owens automatic bottle blowing machine about 1921, which had a devastating impact on the blowers working there. I never really thought of the human consequences that the automatic machinery had on people until then. Later encounters with other descendants of bottle related people weren't quite as overwhelming for me but nevertheless very engrossing. At the least they would often own and share photos of their ancestors which gives a more human element to the material objects we have come to appreciate for historical and aesthetic reasons.

Last October, I was tending to my sales table at the Northwestern Bottle Club show and sale in Santa Rosa, Calif, when an individual introduced himself as Alan Taylor. He said he was looking for an example of a Summit Mineral Water bottle since it was his ancestor, Jacob

An 1860 advertisement for Samuel P. Taylor's Pioneer Paper Mill.

AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY. 207

PIONEER PAPER MILL!

S. P. TAYLOR & CO., ----- PROPRIETORS.

ALL KINDS OF

PAPER

On Hand and Made to Order, Wholesale and Retail.

CASH PAID FOR
WOOLEN AND COTTON RAGS,

Paper,	Copper,	Brass,	Zinc,
Bags,	Lead,	Glass,	Bottles,
Old Iron,	Horns,	Rope,	Hides,
ETC., ETC., ETC.			

DEPOT AND OFFICE,
111 and 113 DAVIS STREET,
BETWEEN SACRAMENTO AND CALIFORNIA,
SAN FRANCISCO.



Catherine Boss (1847 - 1910), wife of Jacob Hoehn.

Hoehn, who produced the product. Even though I didn't have an example to sell him, I told him that I wrote an article on Summit Mineral Water in the October 2009 issue of Bottles & Extras, and I would gladly send him a copy, which I did a few days later. Alan later emailed me with a big "thank you".

Alan also emailed Ferdinand Meyer with additional family information that helped bridge the gap between Jacob Hoehn and himself. Ferdinand forwarded the information to me and found it so interesting that it was deemed worthy of passing along the information to a broader audience. Most interesting to me was the connection to yet another historical figure in the development of California.

Alan's surname - Taylor - was passed down through his great great grandfather Samuel Penfield Taylor. He was a Gold Rush immigrant to California, and in the summer of 1852, he panned out placer gold at Hawkins Bar in Tuolumne County, that made him \$5,692. This was a substantial amount back then and he invested in the lumber business in San Francisco. It served him well but by 1855 Taylor set up shop as the first paper manufacturer in California. This venture was headquartered in San Francisco but the actual Pioneer Paper Mill, as it was

called, was located in Marin County, California, at what is now Samuel P. Taylor State Park.

But back to the story of Summit Mineral Water, Alan sent portraits of Jacob Hoehn, the proprietor of this short-lived Summit Mineral Water bottling operation, along with a portrait of his wife, Catherine Boss Hoehn. Alan is related to Jacob Hoehn via the name list below, in ancestral order.

Jacob Hoehn and Catherine Boss
Emma Hoehn and John Geeslin
Florence Geeslin and George Martin Taylor
George Martin Taylor, Jr. and Martha G. King
Alan Lee Taylor

Alan is a California native but by virtue of meeting and marrying an Iowa girl, he found himself a small town Iowan for a good chunk of his life, where he became a contributing member of the community and owner of the local newspaper. He and his family eventually moved back to California and currently reside in Placer County - not very far from where his GG grandfather tried his luck in the mineral water business. Though not a bottle collector, Alan was finally able to acquire an example of Jacob Hoehn's mineral water bottle.



Alan Taylor, Great Great grandson of Jacob Hoen and now the proud owner of a Summit Mineral Water bottle.