

Hohulin Fence Company

Est. 1897

Jacob Schneider invented a wire weaving machine in Switzerland. When Schneider emigrated to America, he brought the machine with him. In 1888, Gottlieb Hohulin purchased his first chain link fence from Jacob Schneider, the inventor of the machine.

Years later, Hohulin's sons wanted more of the fencing, but were unable to make the purchase. At this time, the Hohulin brothers ran a blacksmith shop, hardware store, and an implement dealer. They traced Schneider's machine to the Martin Brothers farm in Roanoke, Illinois. The Martins were too busy with their farming to make fencing, so they agreed to sell the machine for fifty dollars.

In 1897, the Hohulin Brothers sold their first fence order to Mr. Jacob Zehr who bought 396 feet of 4 foot fence and 1 gate for \$26.90. This first fence was produced by turning the blade in the arbor by hand. Soon after, they purchased a one cylinder gas engine to power the machine.

The brothers, being gifted with mechanical minds and venturesome spirits, sold the blacksmith shop and hardware store in the early 1900's and concentrated exclusively on the chain link fence business. This move made their name well known throughout the industry.

Today, Hohulin Fence no longer weaves chain link fence, but the company continues to furnish and install quality fencing throughout Central Illinois, as they have for over 114 years.

An interesting highlight in the company's history, and most likely a little know fact, is that Gottlieb Hohulin was also a fine weaver of jacquard bedspreads.