

Achatious Harry Knoll

Erie, PA

1855 Achatious H. Knoll is born on February 8 in Erie, PA to Anton & Elizabeth Knoll, immigrants from Bavaria (census & passport application).

1870s Knoll plays with the Knoll Family Band (Trescott).

1880 Knoll leaves the family band and becomes the cornet soloist for the Boston Cadet Band; succeeding Walter Emerson (Trescott).

1883 Knoll wins a national cornet contest on June 3rd in Detroit winning \$200 in gold and leading all others by 67 points with a score of 387 of 400 (US School of Music, 1922).

1885 Knoll is soloist with Cappa's Band at Brighton Beach with Walter Rogers (Trescott).

“The great rival cornetists Professor Knoll (photo 1) and Miss Eva Hewitt have kissed and made up and now peace reigns in Warsaw. Eva only claiming title as the champion female cornetist of the world. The statement has mollified the professor, who appears to be well satisfied with carrying the honor in the male department. They had played a duet “Sweet Violets”. Eva will make her farewell appearance at West End this evening. From there she goes to the Lone Star State to brave the fury of the wily cow-boys.” (Alexandria, LA *Democrat*, August, 1885)

1886 Knoll competes with Jules Levy at the Subtropical Expo Building in Jacksonville, FL (Trescott).

1889 Knoll partners with cornetist Marie McNeil (1867-?) (photo 2) from Meadville, PA. He possessed a high register and excelled at trills and stunts and in their shows would both play two cornets at one time, making a quartet. Their partnership lasted twenty years (Trescott). They were to perform in Boston the week of August 17 (*NY Amusement Gazette*).

1892 Knoll's home at #1717 Peach St, Erie, PA. He is 5' 5-1/2" tall and has black hair and a dimpled chin (passport).

1896 Knoll & McNeil are playing in Los Angeles.

1897 Knoll & McNeil gave a concert at Pleasure Beach, Bridgeport, CT.

1890s Knoll & McNeil do recordings with Emile Berliner.



- 1910 Knoll, musician in Concert Co., single, #314 W. 10th St, Erie (census).
- 1920 A. Hadsie Knoll, musician & teacher, #354 W. 23rd St, Erie (census).
- 1922 Knoll is a professor with the US School of Music, #225 5th Ave, New York City. They advertise for “Music Lessons in Your Own Home” and mention that he was a soloist with the Gartland 10th Regiment Band in Albany, NY then later in life partnered with Marie McNeil; playing in the US and Europe. They were recognized as unequalled by the press and public.
- 1925 Knoll’s last public performance was at Coronado Beach on August 11 (Trescott).
- 1926 Achatious H. Knoll, 1132 8th St, San Diego, CA (directory).
- 1927 Knoll runs for the common council but only got 319 votes.
A. H. Knoll, musician, #1132 8th St (directory).
- 1928 A. H. & Albert H. Knoll, musicians, both at #1132 8th (dir).
- 1929 A. H. Knoll, #715 Broadway, San Diego (dir).
- 1930 Brother Martin Knoll (b.1847) has joined him (dir).
- 1932 Same listing as 1930. Achatious dies on April 12th in San Diego (death cert.).