

# Charles (Karl) Missenharter

## New York City

1829 Karl Moritz Missenharter (photo 1) born in Ulm, Germany.

1856-61 Working at father's brass inst. factory in Ulm (*NLI*).

1861-69 Working in Stuttgart (*NLI*). Pocket cornet (photo 2, Missenharter.com) is from this factory.

1869 Chas. Missenharter, mus inst, #186 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, NYC (directory). Early cornet (photo 3, Robb Stewart) was made in NY from German parts.

1870 Missenharter is now at #88 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, NYC (directory). The first serial numbers probably start at 5000.

1871-76 Now at #108 E. Houston St, NYC (dir).

1876 Award from Philadelphia expo given in Dec (*NY Times*). #5420 is highest found without this award listed.

1877-80 Now at #327 Bowery, NYC (dir).

1877 Baritone #5500 is lowest found with Phila. Award added to the bell and is dated to December.

1877 "American Institute" award added to the bell. #5564 is earliest found with this (photo 4, Missenharter.com).

1878 November ad below shows him at #327 Bowery selling the celebrated Excelsior band instruments. The San Francisco award is added (photo 5, Missenharter.com). #5643 is the lowest found with this award & not found on #5618.



1880 They move to #204-208 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> St by July (ad in *NY Clipper*). By now they also list an award from New England States, which is never added to the bell.

1881 Frank Osbon is Missenharter agent in Greenfield, Mass.



Cornet #5851, photos 1 & 2, c.1879

Ballad horn #5594, below, c.1877 (auction sale)



1881-92 Now at #204-208 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> St (dir).

1881 Frank Osbon is Missenharther Agent in Greenfield, Mass.

Cornet #7102, below, c.1882 (auction sale)



1883 Now at serial #7657.

1891 The business is sold to Harry Coleman (photo 4) of Philadelphia in August. Charles is to stay on for now to supervise production in NY (*Music Trade Review*). #8504 is last serial number found without Coleman listed. NY factory inspection reports show 2 workers for 1891-93 for Missenharther.

1892 Coleman moves the factory to Phila. on October 21<sup>st</sup> (*Music Trade Review*). Serial #8652 still has NY location. Lowest Philadelphia serial number is 8789 on a tuba.

1893 Serial number starts around 9000 for early 1893. Cornet #9034 below (author's photos) is an early example from Philadelphia and shows a new design not found on NY horns; the "telescope" valve port design.

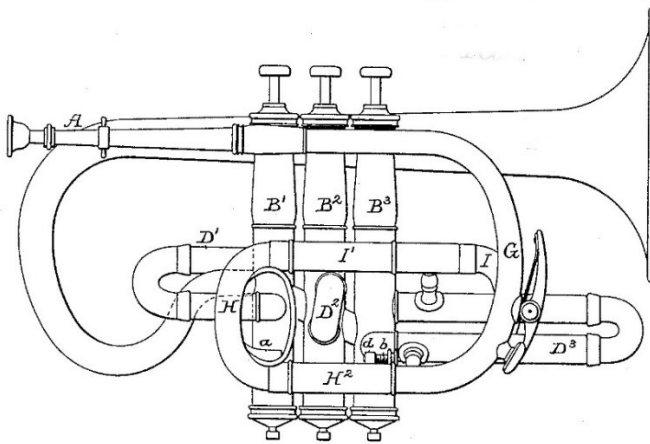




Cornet #9034 c.1893, below & 1-2 at right



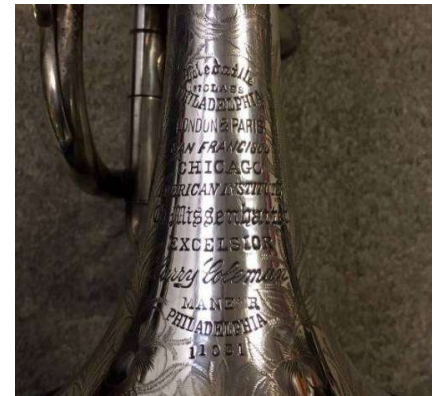
Compare this to a patent drawing by Jean Vivien from 1892.



1893 It is stated at the Horn-u-copia website that Vivien's business was bought by Harry Coleman, who hired him to supervise valve making at the Missenharter factory using the Telescope valve design. This fits with the design change. Vivien was a former worker for JW Pepper along with Ferdinand Coeuille, another worker who went independent and used the "telescope" design. Below is a Coeuille cornet from the same period (author's photos).



1893 Award given at Chicago expo ending in October. This shows up on bells around #10000 (#11031 below & photo 1, auction sale).



1895 Harry Coleman dies at age 52 from a heart attack. 10,000 people line the streets for the procession (news article). Walter Lewis becomes the factory foreman (Lewis, 1917).

1899 Charles Missenharter dies (obit).

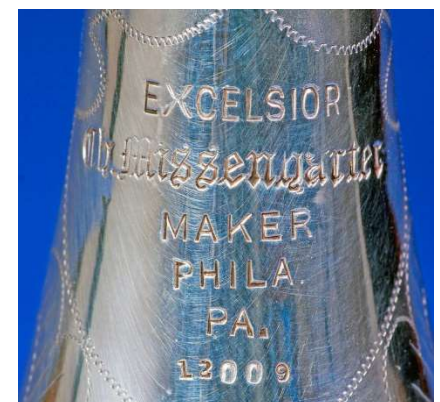
1909 Last ad found for Coleman store at #228 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St. 1907 ad is looking for experienced brass worker.

1912 Carl Fischer ad shows his location at #228 N. 9<sup>th</sup> so he must have bought Coleman out by then.

1917 Walter Lewis is the factory foreman (*Musical Messenger*, 1917).

1918 Fischer ad still shows him at #228 N. 9<sup>th</sup>. Cornet #12009 is marked Philadelphia and may be from this era (photos 2&3, auction sale).

Trumpet #12228 is the highest number found with PA location (author's photo below); c.1918.



1919 Fischer is now gone from Philadelphia.

1920 Carl Fischer in NY selling Missenharter Excelsior line of band instruments (ad).



1925 Carl Fischer in NY selling Besson & Missenharter cornets.

Trumpet #12295 c.1918 is lowest NY number found (auction photo below & photo 1 at right). This horn has "Pat July 1910" and "12362" on the valves which would indicate that at least the valves were made by Blessing in 1918.

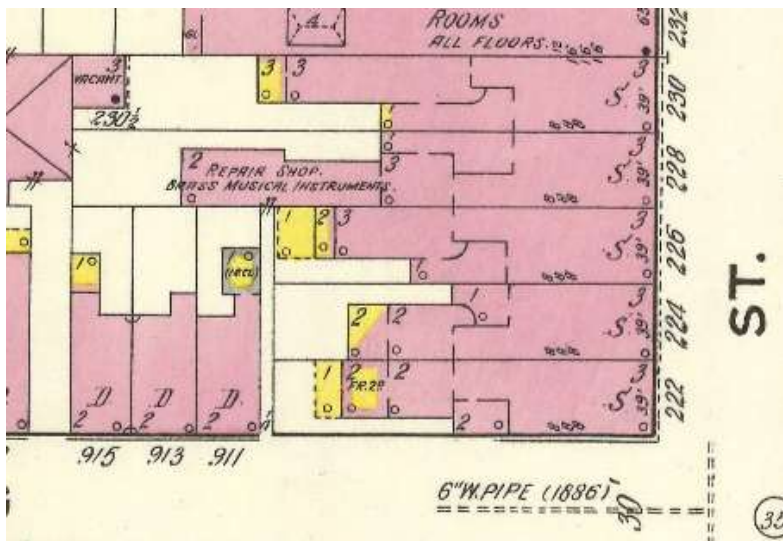


Photo 2 (Horn-u-copia.net) is Blessing trumpet #15170 with a similar design.

Photo 3 (Horn-u-copia.net) is just marked "Excelsior" and may have been a later offering by Fischer imported from B&F.

### Philadelphia Store:

Coleman's store in Philadelphia was located at #228 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street, just north of Spring Street. In this 1916 map below, they still have a repair shop in the rear.



Bottom two photos at right show the building in 2017, which is currently May's Cosmetic Skin Care Center.



New York Locations:

#186 First Ave: 1869; possible building at right in 2023 on left

#88 Third Ave: 1870; now a modern building

#108 E. Houston St: 1871-76; now a modern building

#327 Bowery: 1877-80; photo 2 at right in 2023

#204-208 East 23<sup>rd</sup> St: 1880-1892; now a modern building

