

Smith & Blake

Boston, Massachusetts

I came across this trumpet mouthpiece marked “Walter M Smith Model, Smith & Blake, Boston Mass” so here is what I was able to find out about it.

Walter Milton Smith: (1890-1937) Walter was a great cornet and trumpet soloist who also was a conductor of many bands and a teacher in Boston until his early death from cancer. (photo 2) He had early musical training from his Scottish father John.

- 1890 Walter is born Dec 16 in Easthampton, MA (census)
- 1900 living at #788 Broadway, Chelsea, MA (census)
- 1910 living at #22 Abbott Place, Brockton, MA and working as a musician in a theater with brother Archie (census)
- 1912 marries Adah and plays for the Boston Festival Orchestra
- 1913 playing for the Boston Opera Co. and son Walter Jr is born; home now at #383 Geneva Ave, Boston
- 1919 starts with the Colonial Theatre Orchestra, #100 Boylston St., Boston and runs a teaching studio
- 1920 #8 Elm Ave, Quincy, MA, music teacher (census)
- 1925 cornet teacher, #209 Massachusetts Ave, room 42, Boston, home Wollaston (city directory)
- 1930 #15 Virginia Rd, Quincy, MA, musician (census)
- 1932 writes “Three Kings” for trumpet trio
- 1935 authors “Lip Flexibility on the Trumpet”
- 1936 authors “Top Tones for the Trumpeter”
- 1937 dies on May 7 from cancer

He used King Silver Tone instruments for both cornet (photo 3) & trumpet.

It was said by his son Walter Jr that the mouthpieces were made by his brother Archibald who worked for the Vega Company making mouthpieces and playing the trombone.

Archie F. Smith: (1889-?)

- 1920 #25 Merrymount Ave, Quincy, MA, musician (census)
- 1930 #19 Virginia Rd (just a few doors from his brother), Quincy, MA, musician (census)



1940 #14 Virginia Rd, Quincy, factory school musician & private teacher (census)

Finding Mr. Blake was a little harder but it turns out he was a fellow musician who worked in the same building as Walter in 1925. #209 Mass. Ave was the State Theatre Co.

Kenneth Mark Blake: (1878-?)

1878 born in South Barton, VT (draft)

1898 married Anna in Lawrence, MA, #550 Haverhill, musician

1899 #84 Margin St, Lawrence, musician (birth record)

1910 #17 Kendrick St, Lawrence, theatre musician (census)

1916 #218 Tremont St, Boston, musician, home Chelsea (dir)

1918 #179 Washington Ave, Chelsea, MA, musician at Tremont Theatre in Boston; his family is in Lawrence (draft)

1920 #39 Cambridge St, musician at repair shop

1925 musical instruments, #209 Mass. Ave, room 40, Boston; home #694 Tremont (dir)

1930 #693 Tremont, Boston, theatre musician (census)

1940 Springfield Rd, Palmer, MA, no occupation (census)

Somehow Smith and Blake decided to make their own mouthpiece, perhaps to promote to Smith's students. These probably date to the late 1920s and early 1930s.

