Charles H. Van Wie

Albany, New York

1664   Charles's great-grandfather comes to America and settles at Van Wie Point near Albany (photo 1)

1857   Charles H. Van Wie is born on August 6th in Clarksville, NY to Isaac and Mary (Blodgett) Van Wie (news articles combined)

1870   Charles buys his first cornet in New York City, a rotary valve imported cornet made from nickel silver (from 1934 news article below)

1880   Charles Van Wie, tin smith, 22, Burlington Flats, NY (in Otsego Co. west of Albany) (census)

1881   Charles starts as band instructor in Albany (see 1933 article below)

1886   Charles is the teacher of a band that played in Indian Fields, NY (news article)

1888   Charles composes his first piece "Postman's March"

1892   Charles is a postal carrier in Albany (directory)

1894   granted patent #529,762 for bottle design; he is still working as a postal carrier (dir)

1901   Charles H. Van Wie, #75 N. Pearl St., Albany, band and cornet teacher (directory)

1906   Charles retires from the postal service (1939 obituary)

1907   "I sell the best upright pianos in the world for the money. Send for Catalogs, Charles H Van Wie, "Van" Piano Man, #83 Columbia St., Albany" (*Altamont Enterprise*)

1907   "The members of a new cornet band, for the village of Altamont, met last Tuesday. Mr. Charles H. Van Wie, of Albany, a teacher of several years experience, will be the instructor." (*Altamont Enterprise*, Sept 27th)

1910   Charles H. Van Wie, inventor, pianos, wife Bessie b. 1885, dau. Mary b. 1909, home at #73 Eagle St., Albany (census)

1910   Charles plays cornet solo "On Guard" in Delmar

1911   Charles plays a cornet solo at the Delmar Methodist Episcopal Church (news article)

1920   tinsmith for railroad, wife Bessie (census)

1922   Clarksville, NY; "The band occupied their new rooms Saturday evening. We are glad to hear them practice once

more under their leader Charles H. Van Wie of Albany."
(*Altamont Enterprise*, Dec. 15)

1930   inventor, #227 Sheridan St., Albany, widowed

1933   The village of Clarksville celebrates their 100th year;
"…there will be a band concert by the Vanguard Concert
Band of ten numbers, all of them written by Charles H.
Van Wie." He "has been a band organizer and instructor
for 52 years [1881] in the Capital District." (*The News
Herald*, Oct 27)

1934   "Veteran Bandsman to Direct Concert at Park Opening"
He began the Clarksville band in 1884 and taught many
brass players over the years. He formed his first band in
the mid-1880s at his tin smith shop in Burlington Flats,
NY; he composed a piece called "Hail Humane Chief" for
Franklin Roosevelt that was played by the US Marine
Band. (*Altamont Enterprise*, August 3rd)

1937   Charles celebrates his 80th birthday with a band concert in
Clarksville where he "had instrument in one hand and
baton in the other." He started the Altamont band fifty
years ago (1887). (*Altamont Enterprise*, August 13th)

1939   Charles dies in Albany on December 15th; he had retired as
a postal worker in 1906 and "he invented various novelty
modifications of the standard cornet. These were the
"buglet" and another with combination slide and piston
called a "trompet". He still played the silver cornet that he
had for sixty years." (*Altamont Enterprise)*

Cornets have been found marked "Van Wie / Albany" (*Directory
of American Makers & Dealers*, p.456)