

# Alice Raymond

## Springfield, IL

- 1865 John Kurkamp is born in Louisville, KY (1898 marriage record).
- 1867 Alice Raymond is born in Springfield, IL (*NY Clipper*, 1892). [This may be one of many errors in the article.]
- 1870 Alice Little is born in Springfield, IL (1898 marriage record). [Her real name was Little; Raymond was a stage name.]
- 1885 Alice performs at Koster & Bials in New York (New York Herald, 1-20); Alice advertises as a cornet virtuoso for first-class concerts with an address at 41 W. 24<sup>th</sup> St in New York (NY Mirror, 2-14).
- 1886 Alice will be at Mannerchor Garden in Philadelphia for the summer season (NY Mirror, 11-21-1885). Alice performs at Hirt's music rooms in Utica, NY (Utica Sunday Tribune, 3-28).
- 1887 Alice is playing at Kernan's Summer Garden (The Washington Critic, 6-25).
- 1888 Alice performs for two weeks at Glendale Park Music Hall and is called, "America's Greatest Lady cornet Player."

November: "The lady cornet soloist, Miss Alice Raymond, enjoys a reputation which may well be envied by soloists of the sterner sex." (*British Bandsman*)

"The great musical attraction in New Orleans is Miss Alice Raymond, the eminent cornetist. [With the memory of all the great cornet solos we have heard,] we can turn with great pleasure to listen to those of the pretty little lady now playing at West End (photo 3), and give her the applause which she honestly earns. Levy himself was delighted with Miss Raymond and complemented her warmly, as do all who hear her. Her tone is silvery, clear and strong, her playing accurate, expressive, sympathetic and her repertoire choice." (*American Musician*)

- 1892 A *New York Clipper* article from September 24<sup>th</sup> has a picture of Alice (photo 1) along with a short biography. They say that she studied in New York, had her first professional appearance at the University Club in NY, played before the President with the US Marine Band, plays at Nantasket Beach, MA in the summers, and was to appear at the Pittsburg Expo.



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It returned from an extensive tour through the North and West.

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Composed of 45 carefully selected Musical Artists from the Cincinnati Exposition, who will commence their regular open air concerts on

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**MISS ALICE RAYMOND,**

Cornet Virtuoso, acknowledged to be the greatest lady cornet player in the world—the only rival of the great Levy—will make her first appearance at the West End, on **SUNDAY, AUG. 13.** 2:30-7:30

1893 Alice is in Conn ads for the Chicago Expo. She performs with the Brooks Band there (St Paul Daily Globe, 3-16). She also performs at Hyde & Beuman's Theater (Brooklyn Daily Eagle, 3-26).

1895 Alice performing in San Francisco in March, Shea's music hall in Buffalo in April and Blake's in Grand Lodge, MI. (news articles)

1898 Alice Little marries John Kurkamp in New York City on February 9 (marriage record). They later play at Keith's Theater with Alice on cornet and John on violin and piano (Cambridge, MA Chronicle).

1899 Alice performing with a Conn wonder cornet (ads) and does recordings with Berliner.

1902 Alice performs at the Grand in Indianapolis and is referred to as a tall, blonde Western girl.

1902 Alice and John are performing at the Cook Opera House in Rochester, NY (Rochester Democrat, 4-20).

1904 John Kurkamp is the musical director for "Mr. Pipp" (The Morning Telegraph, 3-12). [photo at right from article]

1905 Alice has her London debut with John Kurkamp. He is said to have a beautiful tenor voice (NY Clipper, 5-13).

1906 Alice & John are returning from a tour in Australia (NY Clipper, 7-21).

1908 Alice is playing in Brooklyn (ad).

1914 "John Kurkamp, who first came to England from America as a singing conductor, and has been attached to the Martin Harvey touring companies for the past few years, died here last week (Variety, London, 12-9).

"John Kurkamp died after a short illness at age 52. He was living at Bonchurch on the Isle of Wight. He came to England ten years ago with his wife Alice Raymond, who does an instrumental act." (NY Clipper, 12-26)

1919 Alice performs with the Winkler Band in Washington DC (Jacob's Monthly).

1925 Alice returns to live in the US (George Foreman research).

1926 Alice only uses a Conn cornet (Conn ad, photo 2).

Herbert Clarke listed Alice Raymond as one of the greatest cornet virtuosos ever to play.

