

Joseph Lathrop Allen

Sturbridge, Boston, Norwich & NYC

- 1815 Allen born on September 24th in Holland, MA (birth cert)
- 1838-41 Allen in Sturbridge, MA making keyed bugles (*NLI*); marriage certificate of 1839 confirms Sturbridge location
- 1842 Allen listed as musical instrument maker in Boston directory, home opposite #2 Bay St; he is said to have made his first Vienna valve inst. here (*NLI*)
- 1843 Allen at #16 Court Sq. in Boston, home #64 Eliot; a Vienna valve trumpet is marked with this address (directory)
- 1845 daughter Eliza is born in MA, January 19th (death cert)
- 1845-51 Allen working in Norwich, CT; develops his trademark valve with string linkage (*NLI*); 1845 builds five valve cornet for Harvey Dodworth; joined by maker Louis F. Hartmann; shop at #2 Chapman's Block in Franklin Sq
- 1847 Allen mortgages his tools for \$150 to George Reed of Boston probably due to financial problems
- 1848 daughter Mary is born in CT (census)
- 1850 instrument maker in Norwich, son Ezra is born; Lewis Hartman, 23, German, is living with them (census)
- 1852 Allen & Richardson, #19 Harvard Place, Boston (dir)
- 1853-56 Allen now alone at #17 Harvard Place (dir)
- 1857 Allen moves to #18 Harvard Place, the former location for Graves & Co. (dir)
- 1858 now listed as Allen Manufacturing Co* which includes Allen, L.F. Hartman, Henry Esbach, Erhart Huttel, Anton Huttel, F. Huttel, August Doelling & Joseph Koestler (dir)
- 1861 Allen moves to #334 Washington St. and starts Allen & Hall with David Hall (dir)
- 1861 Allen moves to New York City, #224 Broome St. (dir)
- 1863 now at #250 Canal St. (dir)
- 1864 now at #62 Centre St. (dir)
- 1865-68 J. L. Allen, mus inst, #211 Grand St. (dir)
- 1868 Dodworth, Allen & Fischer, mus inst, #6 Astor (Dodworth's store), with Harvey B. Dodworth and William Fischer (dir)
- 1869-70 Allen alone, no occupation given, h.#511 3rd (dir)



186? Makes solid silver E flat cornet at #111 E. 18th St.
 1871 Allen, alarms, #204 E. 29th, h.#511 3rd (dir)
 1872-79 not listed in NYC directories
 1875 in Boston directory at #157 Devonshire St. this year only
 [Top & bottom photos page 1 by Robb Stewart]

1880 Superintendent at 114 E. 14th St. (dir); home at 3rd Ave, Agricultural implements (census)

1881 Allen, weigher, #204 E. 29th (dir); "To let – part of shop, lathe, benches & power. 114 E. 14th St, 3rd floor" (*NY Herald*, 1-16)

1882 Allen, weigher, #211 E. 22nd (dir)

1883 J. Lathrop Allen, grain, #63 Prince (dir)

1884 no occupation given (dir)

1885-86 listed as a machinist, #114 E. 14th St. (dir)

1887-92 inspector, #25 Ann, h.58 3rd (dir)

1893 not listed (dir)

1894-99 Allen is making stereopticons, #217 Centre St.; an article about him in 1896 says that he had been in Boston 20 years ago (1876) but moved to NY looking for better weather, the portrait on the right is from this article

1900 not listed after this (dir)

1906 Allen is still living in NYC and is said to have been the first US maker of band inst. (*The Republican Press*, Jan. 17)

1906 Allen dies on his birthday, September 24th, at age 91 (*NY Press*, Sept. 26)

Two cornets and bell logo at right are from the New York era and are said to be made in part by Isaac Fiske. 1865 cornet photos from internet auction; bottom cornet from National Music Museum.

Author's photo below – collection of Steve Ward



***Allen Manufacturing Co.**

The founders of Allen Manufacturing Co. in 1858 are:

1. J. Lathrop Allen; left by 1861 to form Allen & Hall
2. Louis F. Hartman; born in March, 1827 in Germany; emigrated to the US in 1838; living & working with Allen as instrument maker by 1850 in New London, CT; remained at #18 Harvard in 1861 when Allen left and Wright started; gone by 1862 then returned as independent maker in 1863; back working with Wright in 1864 then stays with him to become a founder of the Boston Musical Instrument Manufactory; dies in 1903.
3. Henry Esbach; born in 1826 or 1827 in Germany; emigrated to NY on 9-4-1850 & listed as instrument maker heading for Boston; first listed as make in Boston in 1856; helped found Allen Mfg in 1858; stays with Wright in 1861 then later founds the Boston Musical Inst. Mfy.; dies in 1902.
4. Anton (b.1825), Erhart (b.1829) & Ferdinand (b.1830) Hüttl; three brothers born in Austria; first appear in the Boston directory in 1858 with Allen; they stay at #18 Harvard with Wright in 1861 then all three gone by 1863; very little trace of them after this except Anton listed as instrument maker in Roxbury in the 1865 census.
5. August Doelling; born in 1832 in Saxony; emigrates to NY in 1854 & listed as instrument maker; first appears in directory with Allen in 1858; gone by 1861.
6. Joseph Koestler; first appears in the directory with Allen in 1858; stays with Wright for one year in 1861 then listed as "boarding"; in 1867 listed as Loeffler & Koestler, modelers and designers at #13 Hawkins with instrument maker Adolph Huttel.