

Bryant – Newell – Millard-Thomas

Grand Rapids & Detroit

- 1893 Willard Bryant opens music store, #36 Gratiot Ave, Detroit (bottom photo c.1900)
- 1880 Newell L. Thomas is a musician in Grand Rapids (census)
- 1890s Frank Millard (1860-c1940) working for J.W. York in Grand Rapids (*NLI*)
- 1901 Millard founds Newell, Millard, & Thomas with George Newell (1865-1933) and Newell L. Thomas (1853-1930) in Grand Rapids to make band insts; #29 Canal St (*MTR*)
- 1903 George Newell moves instrument factory to Detroit and forms the Bryant-Newell Co. with Willard Bryant at #218 Woodward Ave., using “Rex” brand name (photos 2 & 6); “a new factory for the manufacture of musical instruments will shortly be built in Detroit.” Bryant had purchased a half interest (*Detroit Tribune*, Feb)
- 1904 Bryant is doing well with the band inst business (*MTR*)
- 1906 Willard Bryant Music House, #218 Woodward, manufacturer of Rex band instruments; Bryant & Newell Thomas receive patent #839,547 for a piston valve spring
- 1910 Frank Millard and son Frederick (1887-1955) are listed in Detroit as brass band instrument manufacturers (dir)
- 1914 Frank & Frederick Millard form the F. Millard Co. in Detroit, MI making band instruments (dir)
- 1914 Bryant may have sold the Rex brand to Gretsch at this time
- 1917 Fred Millard is president of F. Millard Co., Plymouth, MI
- 1920 F. Millard Co. in Plymouth, Frank Sr., proprietor; Fred Millard, president (dir) (photos 3 & 4)
- 1920 Bryant address at #218 Woodward becomes #1420; his partnership with Newell may have ended at this time (photo 5 is cornet marked “Willard Bryant”)
- 1924 Willard Bryant Music House moves to #1425 Broadway, 2nd Floor; E. E. Herrick manager; manuf., dealer, & imp.
- 1927 Frank Holton & Co. opened a retail store at #1425 Broadway, Detroit, in conjunction with the Willard Bryant Music House; Homer Spicer is manager (*MTR*)
- 1930 Frank Millard now a music teacher in Detroit and Fred is a foundry engineer in Livonia, MI; brass making ended (census) [photos from Horn-u-copia.net]

