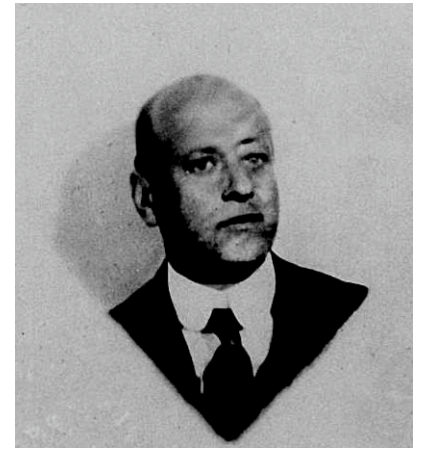


Fred Gretsch Manufacturing Co.

New York City

- 1873 Friedrich W. Gretsch (1856-1895) emigrates from Manheim, Germany to New York, merchant (immigration)
- 1880 Frederick Gretsch, music store bookkeeper, #200 S. 5th St., Brooklyn (census)
- 1883 Fredrick establishes music business in Brooklyn (Gretsch)
- 1884 Frederick is naturalized; shop at #379 Broadway (dir)
- 1885 drum maker, #132 1st St. (dir)
- 1886 moves to #134 1st St. (dir)
- 1889 now at #130-132 Middleton St. (dir)
- 1893 moves to #104-108 S. 4th St., drums, 15 workers (dir. & NY Factory Report)
- 1895 Fredrick dies on a trip to Germany on April 30th, leaving son Fred (1880-after 1948, photo 1) in charge at 15 (Gretsch); factory now has 26 workers (NY Report)
- 1898 Factory now down to 16 workers (NY Report)
- c.1905 incorporates as Fred Gretsch Manuf. Co. (before 1906)
- 1914 a new seven story concrete warehouse to be built at Berry & South 5th St. (*Brooklyn Eagle*)
- 1915 move to new building at #60 Broadway (Gretsch Building #4); Fred is president & GM; brother Walter (1882-1940) is sec & treas; selling 20th Century model percussion, Rex model stringed instruments, and Gretsch Made cornets, trombones, altos, basses & other brass (*Music Trade Rev.*)
- 1921 #52-80 Broadway (dir); Fred opens offices in Paris (#39 Rue Greneata) & Markneukirchen and makes visits to France, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, Great Britian & Belgium to buy supplies (*Music Trade Rev.*)
- 1922 they add the Couturier line of band instruments
- 1920s & 1930s trumpets are made by Couesnon (Fred W. Gretsch)
- 1924 Gretsch receives a shipment of "20th Century" Sousaphones manufactured for them (*MTR*); opens new showrooms in NYC (#126 W. 34th) & Chicago (#209 S. State St.) by October (*MTR*)
- 1926 Fred Jr. finishes college and starts learning the business



- 1927 ad for “Gretsch American” band instruments
- 1930 open large branch in Chicago, #226 S. Wabash with William Gretsch (*MTR*)
- 1933 ad for New Yorker model trumpets & cornets
- 1942 Fred Sr. retires (Gretsch)
- 1948 William Walter Gretsch (1906-1948) dies leaving brother Fred Jr. (1905-1980, photo 2 from passport) in charge
- 1967 Fred Jr. retires and sells the company to Baldwin Music
- 1968 still at #60 Broadway; distributor for Couesnon brass (ad)
- 1985 Fred W. Gretsch buys the company back and starts drum production in Ridgeland, SC (Gretsch)
- 2005 Gretsch celebrates 125 years in business

Page 1 cornets: Commander (possible Pedler), Pathfinder, Pan American stencil (#P13517 = 1920), President (Pedler Art model) & American (Czech. Made)

Page 2 brass: 1933 New Yorker cornet, 1933 New Yorker Trumpet, American Crusader, Gretsch American, Artist model cornet (probably Pedler Art model), baritone, & Gretsch Imperial trumpet (Blessing Super Artist)

Gretsch brass come from a variety of sources in the US and Europe. The style, serial numbers and other markings would need to be used to identify the sources.

Photos from Horn-u-copia.net except first two this page from 1933 catalog.

