

# Grinnell Brothers

## Detroit

- 1873 Clayton A. Grinnell (1859-1927) joins brothers Ira L. (1848-1921) and Herbert J. (1854-1932) in Ann Arbor, MI to start the Grinnell Sewing Machine Co. (obit.)
- 1881 Grinnell Bros. starts their music store in a one story frame building in Detroit at #219 Woodward Ave. (*MTR*, 1908) (photo 1)
- 1884 move to #228 Woodward Ave (directory)
- 1896 move to #219-223 Woodward Ave (dir)
- 1908 move to new store at #243-247 Woodward Ave (photo 2)
- 1922 introduce new line of band instruments under the “Wolverine” & “Goldenrod” (bottom center trumpet) names to be made for them in Elkhart (*MTR*)
- 1925 Wolverine cornet has serial #P42607 so made by Pan American (Conn) c.1925 (photo 5)
- 1936 now 20 stores in Michigan (*MTR*)
- 1955 Grinnell is sold to WKC, Inc. (Detroit History)
- 1966 Grinnell goes public as American Music Stores Inc.
- 1968 AMS declares bankruptcy (DH)
- 1976 AMS sold to David Rose (DH)
- 1981 Grinnell stores are closed (DH)

Early cornets found are marked “Henri Lefevre / Grinnell Bros / Detroit USA / Sole US Agent” (photo 3) and “Manufactured For / Grinnell Bros / Detroit Mich” (photo 4, a B&F model 12 import from Austria, Horn-u-copia.net)

Tuba below marked “New American Model” (Horn-u-copia.net)

