

Whitmore & Mansfield

Boston, Massachusetts

- 1865 O. A. Whitmore is partner in Whitmore, Thompson & Co. under equescriculum.
- 1868 Listing for Whitmore & Co., hippocornique (he was involved in the circus and minstrel shows at this time).
- 1871 Whitmore is a musician at #103 Court St (dir).
- 1872 Eben Mansfield is a banjo maker at #103 Court St (dir).
- 1874 Whitmore moves to #126 Tremont St (dir).
- 1875 Whitmore moves to #282 Washington St (dir).
- 1876 Boston listing says he is selling banjos and drums.
- 1879 Whitmore moves to #178 Washington St (dir).
- 1879 Ad for “cornets of my own manufacture developed after two years of experiments after models of Besson and Courtois and made to special order for me in Paris.”
- 1880 Whitmore & Boris is listed under musical instrument dealers & makers. Peter J. Boris was an importer (dir).
- 1880 Whitmore and Mansfield share patent #229,622 for a music stand.
- 1881-82 Whitmore is a clarinet player for the Boston Symphony Orchestra.
- 1882-84 Ads appear for O.A. Whitmore’s music store at #178 Washington St; manufacturer, dealer, & importer.
- 1883 Whitmore is on a list of fretted instrument makers.
- 1883 Peter Boris is now listed separately and Whitmore & Mansfield appears for the first time; #178 Washington.
- 1884 Whitmore & Mansfield, musical inst.; #178 Washington.
- 1885 Both Whitmore and Mansfield are gone from the Boston Directory. Eben Mansfield is now in the Malden City Directory as a piano maker on Salem St.

Top & 2nd Photo: Eb cornet, W&M, c.1883-84 (author)

Ad: 1882-84

3rd Photo: Bb Courtois model cornet, Whitmore, c.1879

4th Photo: Bb cornet, W&M, c.1883-84 (auction sale)

All instruments found so far match in design, so probably all by the same French maker.



Maker Biographies:

Osceola A. Whitmore:

1838: born on September 2nd, Reading, Vermont
1862: married Nellie Paige (Ellen) in Reading
c. 1868: moved to Malden, Massachusetts
1880: census listing as musical instruments
1900: census listing as musician; #1014 Salem St., Malden
1910: census listing as orchestra musician, #1014 Salem St.
1918: died on November 18th due to prostate cancer and chronic Nephritis (lung immune disorder); buried at Forest Dale cemetery in Malden

From a "History of Reading": For the last 25 years Whitmore was connected at different times with all the leading theaters in Boston as a solo clarinetist. He was a member of the Boston Symphony for seven years [one year according to their list].

He was a famous clarinetist, capable of making clarinets, and played in bands of Sousa, Baldwin, and Gilmore. He also was 27 years the director of the summer orchestra at the Fabyan House in the White Mountains.

Eben B. Mansfield:

1851: born on February 11th in Maine
1880: living with father Norris and sister Delia in Malden, MA; listed as musical instrument maker, not married
1883-4: partnership with Whitmore
1885: listed as a piano maker, Salem St., Malden
1900: now living with just his sister in Malden, single
1908: died on October 21st due to suicide by gunshot to the head; occupation is manufacturer

#178 Washington St: Store from 1879-1884. 1895 map below.

