

# George Kinsley – band leader and composer, of Brockton, Massachusetts

Gavin Holman, 11 September 2025

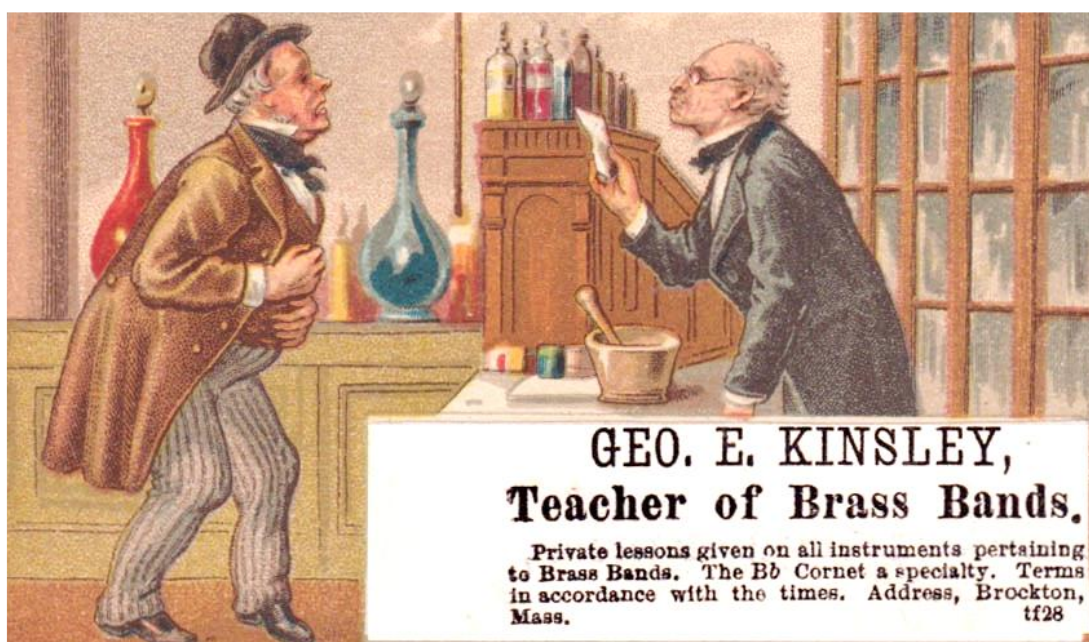
George Edwin Kinsley was born on 14 April 1831 in Brockton, Massachusetts. He showed musical talent from an early age, and he became a professional musician in bands from his early 20s. His occupation in 1860 was reported as “musician”.

He became the Conductor of the Boston Metropolitan Band in 1870, and remained its leader certainly into the late 1870s.

The Boston Metropolitan Brass Band was founded in the 1850s, originally as Flagg’s Band. In January 1858 the Band elected B.F. Richardson as Leader, W. Vanstane as Director, and T. Davis as Clerk and Treasurer. It became a major musical force in the city over the ensuing years, giving concerts, leading parades, and accompanying steamer excursions. It appeared in a new uniform in May 1868. Henry Johnston was the Leader/Conductor in August 1868 to September 1869. The Band’s office during this time was at 103 Court Street, Boston. The band remained active through to the early 1900s.

A concert, on Friday 5 August 1870, at the Boston North Square, consisted of the “*Grand Introductory March*” (Heinicke), fantasia from “*Patanella*” (Balfe), “*Bruder Lustig Galop*” (Budik), selections from “*La Dame Blanche*” (Boilden), “*Pretty Bird Waltzes*” (Riviere), “*Tansendschon Polka*” (C. Faust), selections from “*Les Huguenots*” (Meyerbeer), “*Spring Song Waltzes*” (Gungl), “*Prima Donna Quadrilles*” (Coote), “*Remembrances of Erin*” (Godfrey), and “*Wild Haste Galop*” (Faust).

Kinsley taught music for brass instrumentalists, with cornets (his own instrument) a speciality.



After his time with the Metropolitan Band, Kinsley became involved with his local band in Brockton – “Martland’s Brockton Brass Band” – which was originally founded in 1843 and re-organised in 1885. George Kinsley was joint leader of this band with William J. Martland. Its Musical Director was William F. Burrell, and Warren S. Gurney was the band’s Clerk and Treasurer.

In addition to Kinsley’s band leadership, he also composed various pieces of music. During his time with the Brockton Brass Band, Kinsley composed the “*Brockton Fire Department March*” which was published for brass band and also with a piano transcription.



He also composed the “*Local Taxation March*” which he dedicated to Senator James Bucklin, of Grand Junction, Colorado. He was an admirer of the Senator and sent him the score, who then passed it to his home band whose leader, George F. Alexander arranged it for performance in Denver, Colorado.

Kinsley died on 18 November 1918, at home in Brockton.