

Henry Distin
1441 South 9th Street,
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My Old Friend

Enderby Jackson

No doubt you will think that I have neglected answering your post cards and letter purposely but it is not so, the real fact is that I have not been at all well this weather has been so changeable that I have had what is called the gripe and influenza since the beginning of this year. I am glad to say that I am now a good deal better at present and hope that I shall get all right this summer.

No doubt you have read of the terrible wind storms we have had and more fully to let you see, I have sent you two papers.

I have received all the slips you sent me and it is very interesting to read but I can't think how you got all the information about my father and the keyed bugle. There is some facts about the first keyed bugle that was introduced into St. Petersburg (Russia) and is as follows at the time of the Allied Armys went to Paris after the Battle of Waterloo. The band of the Granadiers were ordered to Paris, my father was at the time the Great Keyed Bugle Player and when the the grand reviews took place in Paris there was the Grand Duke Constantine among all the ~~Commanders~~ ^{Commanders} of the various armies reviewing the Regiments that were marching past with their bands at the head of their Regiments, and when the Grenadier Guards were marching past the order was given for the band to stop playing and then my father (John Distin) was ordered to go to the Grand Duke Constantine with his bugle - and as my father could not speak French and the Duke spoke the French language and very little English, he was at a loss to know what to do then my father was aware that one of the black men that used to be at the head of the band/^{one used to beat the} cymbals and the other beat the triangle. They were dressed up in the oriental fashion with large turbans on and they made a great show at the head of the band. They were both Frenchmen and were born in the South of France and were both good scholars. Then my father got the bandmaster to tell one of the black men to go and interpret for my father. The Duke asked the black man what was the name of the instrument and he told him it was called the KENT BUGLE. The Duke said he would like to have one made to sent to Russia and after the marching past was over the black men with my father went to a band instrument maker by the name of ~~HARRIS~~ ^{HALLARY} and in two weeks the bugle was finished and my father went with the black man to interpret the particulars to the Duke and gave the bill of the cost which was 500 Francs

in English money £20. The Duke then told his attendant to pay the amount and ordered the attendant to give 1,000 francs to my father (£40). My father divided the money with the black men. The Grand Duke held out his hand, shook hands with my father and said good bye I go Russia and he turned to the black men and said good bye. The attendant who was some nobleman said to the Grand Duke "what would you shake hands with a black man"? The Grand Duke turned round and in a very scoulding way said "who made him black?" and again shook hands with the black man.



Geo. F. Distin. Henry Distin. John Distin. Theo. Distin. William Distin.

THE CELEBRATED DISTIN SAX-HORN QUINTETTE.