## **Gardell Howard Simons**

## Allegan, Michigan

- 1878 Gardel Simons is born on August 16<sup>th</sup> in Allegan, MI to Howard and Mary (birth certificate).
- 1880 In Allegan father Howard is a farmer (census).
- 1894 Simons plays trombone with the Si Perkins Company when they make a stop in Allegan (Henry Woebler).
- 1898 Simons joins the Wallace Bros. Circus band, directed by C. Z. Bronson (Trescott).
- 1900 Simons takes lessons from Alfred F. Weldon in Chicago (Trescott).
- 1901 Simons is soloist with the Duss Band of New York (Trescott).
- 1902 Simons spends eight years in Chicago playing with various bands (Trescott).
- 1910 Simons joins the Sousa Band as trombone soloist (Trescott).
- 1911 Simons joins Conway's Band and continues with them until about 1918 (Trescott).
- 1918 Simons joins the Philadelphia Orchestra and continues with them until 1933 (Trescott). He is living in New York City at 677 West 204<sup>th</sup> St (draft).
- 1920 Simons works with Conn to develop the model 62H trombone with two detachable bell flairs of 6.5" and 8" to allow for both orchestra and band work. These are made until 1925 (Conn loyalist website & Robb Stewart-photo 3).
  - Simons and wife Isabelle are boarding at 4108 Walnut St, Philadelphia (census).
- 1926 Simons starts working with Brua Keefer to make the Simons model trombone with fixed bell & mouthpieces. These are a close copy of the Conns (photo 4 & 1929 ad).
- 1934 Simons plays with the Cincinnati & Cleveland orchestras (Trescott). At this time, he switches to the H. N. White company who make the "Cello-Tone" trombone until about 1941 (White) (photos 1&2, page 2).
- 1938 Simons moves to New York to play with Toscanini's NBC Symphony (Trescott).
- 1940 Simons is living at 162 West 56<sup>th</sup> St, New York (immigration).









Brua C. Keefer Mfg. Co.
Williamsport, Pa.
Manufacturers of the Famous
KEEFER-WILLIAMS TRUMPETS
AND
KEEFER-SIMONS TROMBONES

## 1945 Gardell Simons dies on March 22<sup>nd</sup> in Glendale, CA (CA death index).









1920s Keefer-Simons mouthpiece