

Unknown bandsmen (2)

Gavin Holman, 24 January 2021

I recently posted these images on the [History of Brass Bands Facebook Group](#) site. As with the previous set, they are anonymous (with a couple of exceptions), but nonetheless still very interesting examples of the costume and instruments of the past.

What is the story behind this first photograph? I suspect we will never know. It is anonymous, with no indication to location other than somewhere in Britain. The young cornet player's uniform has no clues, and the girl could be his sister or girlfriend? Is he on his way to play with his band, or just posing for the photo in his finery? The second photo is also of an unknown player, this time not in uniform – but we do know this was taken by a photographer in Dewsbury, in his studio. Both are undated, but will be early 1900's.



Another couple of anonymous cornetist photographs, both from the UK, but location unknown. The first has a collar badge with CA (or AC) on it. The second, older one (probably c.1870/80) has the name Harry Loadly (or Loady, Coudy, Coady....) – I can't make out what it actually is. A search for a similar name has not resulted in anything, yet!



A couple more anonymous photos. Two lady cornetist from c. 1920. Sadly a rescan of the photo at a higher resolution failed to bring out the writing on the displayed book. A horn player, c. 1910



Two more of my unknown photographs to ponder over. The first is a conductor/leader judging by his instrument and baton held proudly – probably military judging from his cap and shoulder badges (anyone recognise them?). Why is he sitting in a wood? The second is a father and son? members of the Salvation Army. The lad is probably a member of the local Young People’s (YP) Band.



This photographic pair are tuba players, both c.1890. The second one is wearing his carrying strap and his bass has the lyre attached, so it was probably taken after/before a marching engagement.



Two cornet players, who are clearly in the same band and were photographed in the same studio, probably at the same session – father and son perhaps? Very elaborate braid on the jacket and a military-style cap badge.



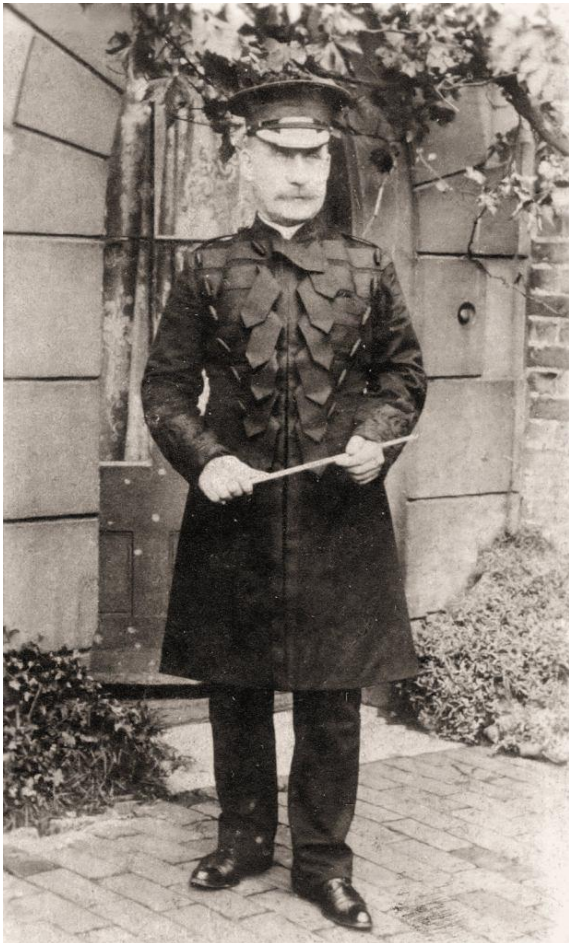
Conductors and bandmasters of the 1910's and 1920's seemed to favour these designs of uniform coats, known as Guards Frock Coats. The first photo is of Henry Gallon Amers (1875-1944) who directed the Eastbourne Military Band for a while. He was more famous as the leader of the Eastbourne Municipal Orchestra from the early 1920's to 1935, and had previously conducted the Band of the Northumberland Hussars for about 15 years prior to WW1. The second picture is Edmund Maney, conductor of the Royal Meister Orchestra in 1904 (later to become Margate Municipal Orchestra).



MR. H. G. AMERS



Mr. Edmund Maney.





Some couples and groups. The first is a group from Holmfirth, the second is a trio of bandsmen, c. 1920, in a cellar? The third is a group of five Salvation Army bandsmen, each from different bands, and finally two men in a back garden somewhere.



Lastly, in this set of pictures, an unknown member of the band of the 2nd Oxfordshire Rifle Volunteers. This photograph was definitely taken after 1878, but will probably not be later than 1885. This band was originally the Oxford City Corps Band, active from 1875 through to 1880. After the reorganisation of the volunteer corps in 1880, a successor band was formed in May 1882, with conductor Sergeant Gaitley. George Gaitley was born in Athlone, Westmeath, Ireland, around 1840. He served as a sergeant in a fusiliers regiment at Gosport, later joining the volunteers as a bandmaster, moving to Oxford around 1875, where he remained with his family until 1886 when he moved to Brighton.

