

August Leister

Boston, Massachusetts

- 1868 August Leister (1854-1896) arrived in New York City in May from Bavaria (Naturalization petition).
- 1869 John (1849-1885) and Louis (?-1876) Leister were musicians in Boston; 10 Avery (city directory).
- 1870 John, musician, 112 Pleasant; Louis & August, musicians, 10 Avery (dir.)

There was a large group of musicians living at the same address in the US Census.

1. Ronio (spelling?) Leister, 33 & wife Rutha, 30, of Bavaria
2. August Leister, 16, Bavaria
3. Peter Scill, 30, Bavaria
4. Peter Worner, 30, Bavaria
5. Fred Getz, 35, Saxony
6. Phillip Howansturn, 32, Saxony
7. William Howansturn, 30, Saxony
8. John Lenz, no occ., 40, Saxony

- 1871 John & August, musicians, 10 Avery. Louis is married to Barbara at 6 Haymarket Pl and a son Louis August Leister was born on 1/9 (directory & birth record).
- 1872 All three brothers were musicians now at 62 Melrose (dir.).
- 1873 All now gone from the Boston directory.
- 1874 Louis, 25 Mechanic St, lager beer. The other two are not listed (dir.).

John Leister, musician, married Theresa Weber (19) on 11/3. His parents were Franz & Elizabeth (marriage record).

- 1875 Louis, 25 Mechanic, lager beer (dir). John, 22 Mechanic, laborer (tax record).
- 1876 August and John, musicians, joined Louis at 25 Mechanic (dir). John's Naturalization record stated that he was born on June 13, 1849, and came to New York in May of 1868. August's Naturalization record stated that he was a mechanic born on May 17, 1854, and came to New York in May of 1868.

The Boston property tax record lists several businesses at 25 Mechanic St: August Leister, instrument maker, Mrs. Leister (Louis's widow Barbara), sundries store, and a blacksmith and upholsterer.

1876 August wrote to a brother in Australia saying, "Dear Brother, you want to know what sort of instruments I am making. We do nothing else here, but brass German silver instruments. Brother John is also working with me, and we are having work all through the year. There are two big shops in the whole of America, and both are in Boston." (from descendent Kerry Wise).

1877 August & John, musicians, 33 Old Heath (directory).

1878 August & John, musicians, 28 Mindoro (directory).

August married Mary A. Roch, 24, on December 26. His parents were Franz & Elizabeth and he was working as a musical instrument maker (marriage record).

1879 August Leister, musical instrument maker, 4 Humboldt Place (dir. and tax record). John is gone.

1880 August, musical instrument maker, 4 Humboldt, born in Bavaria (directory & census).

1881 Same as 1880.

1882 John returned in the directory as a musician at 416 Parker.

1883 Son Arthur Edmond Leister was born to August & Mary.

1885 August, musical inst. maker, 4 Humboldt. John, musician at 12 Greenleaf (directory). John died by food strangulation on July 15 in Worcester (Find-a-grave).

1888 August had moved to Hyde Park Ave opposite Walk Hill (directory). Daughter Irene was born.

1890 August, musical inst maker, 6 Hyde Park Ave (top right photo if same building).

1891-1896 August, musical inst maker, 60 Hyde Park Ave (photo 2 at right). [The house is listed as built in 1920 but it looks older.]

1896 August died on February 5 (death certificate).

1925 Mary Leister was still at 60 Hyde Park at her death in June.

