

Upright Pianos

- The piano was popular with the middle class in early 1900s because there was little or no recorded music ... no radio, no tape machines, just a few cylinder records
- Music was performed by ordinary people at home (piano, violin, brass instruments)
- By the end of the 19th century, the piano was a must-have for every household
- In 1890, some 35,000 pianos were sold in the U.S. Twenty years later, in 1910, more than 350,000 pianos were sold
- This was due to the invention of the upright piano. They were affordable and could fit into any home
- You could easily assemble an upright piano with pre-made parts available through mail-order catalogs

Player Pianos

- The first player pianos becoming available around 1900 but they were expensive
- piano roll titles were mostly religious or classical music that appealed to rich buyers ... few ragtime tunes

Phonographs

- the home phonograph was introduced in the early 1900s ... that included both phonograph cylinders and disc recordings
- it wasn't until the 1920s that machines to play them on were affordable and widely available
- It was sheet music that brought ragtime into American homes



George Botsford (1874-1949)

- ❖ born in Dakota Territory, grew up in Iowa
- ❖ toured as a "Theatrical Pianist" i.e. variety shows
- ❖ New York City in 1902 and worked as an arranger and composer with a Tin Pan Alley publisher
- ❖ producing several piano rolls and recording one of the first piano rags for the cylinder phonograph
- ❖ the title, *Black and White Rag* (1908), refers to the keys on a piano
- ❖ also wrote *Grizzly Bear Rag* and *Hyacinth Rag*

