

## **BUTTIKOFER, John**

1839	piano mkr	33 Warren
1840	"	36 White
1841	"	228 Church
1842	not listed	
1843	piano mkr	139 Centre
1844	"	32 Canal
1845	"	104 Walker
1846-56	"	102 Elm
1857	pianos	100 Elm
1858	"	58 Walker
1859-63	"	444 Broome
1864	"	62 E. 13th
1865-90+	"	52 E. 13th

A native of Switzerland, Buttikofer had worked for instrument makers Erard and Pape in Paris, as well as other shops in Brussels and London before coming to America in 1839. According to Spillane (1890:198), by 1851 Buttikofer "had built up quite a reputation among musicians in the metropolis . . . and is credited with having made excellent grands as early as 1845, which were the 'talk of the town' . . . Within more recent years he was known as a small manufacturer of very reputable pianos . . . [and] is at present in business in an unpretentious way in this city. "

The *1855 New York Census* reported Buttikofer owned no real capital, but did have \$500 worth of tools and 3,000 feet of wood. He employed 10 men, at wages of \$40 per month, and in 1855 his shop produced \$8,000 worth of pianos.

From: Musical Instrument Makers of New York, A Directory of Eighteenth-and Nineteenth-Century Urban Craftsmen, Annotated Reference Tools in Music No. 4, by Nancy Groce, (Pendragon Press, 1991), p. 25.