

Basic Detail Report



Violin

Date

1773

Primary Maker

John Robinson

Description

The maker of this violin, John Robinson, is not known, but the instrument is in the English style and it could have been made in the UK or in the American Colonies. Repair labels in the interior document its presence in the United States by 1816 in New England. John Robinson has not been traced, as it was a common name in both England and colonial America. Walter or Nathan Berket has also not been definitively traced. There is a Mary Berket (aged between 25 and 44) listed in Salem, Massachusetts in the 1800 census and a Walter Burket (aged over 45) listed at Ferrisburg, Addison County, Maine in the 1820 census. Two Joseph B. Treats, a father and son, were listed in the 1880 census in Boston. The father, born in Connecticut ca. 1821, is listed as a musician, and the son, born ca. 1865 in Massachusetts, was listed as running a music store. Joseph B. Treat is listed in the 1884 Malden and Everett Directory as a musical instrument maker with a shop at 179 Washington, house at 8 James. Joseph B. Treat, Jr. is listed in the same directory as working at a rubber works and living with his father. In 1890 Joseph B. Treat, either the father or son, is listed in the Boston directory as a musical instrument maker at 523 Washington, Bell Rock. In 1892 Joseph B. Treat is listed in the Somerville, Massachusetts directory as a musician at 19 Florence.

(Somerville is where Charles Stromberg moved his business by 1918, making drums.) [See drum NMM 10045. snare drum by J. B. Treat for Thompson and Odell, Boston, 1905. Paper label affixed inside shell, visible through vent hole: THE CELEBRATED / "ARTIST DRUM." / MADE BY / J.B. TREAT., followed by a long advertisement by Thompson and Odell, dated November 1905.] In the 1910 census, a Joseph B. Treat, born ca. 1865, with his father born in Connecticut, is listed in Greenfield, Franklin County, Massachusetts, as a driller in a machine factory. Joseph B. Treat also appears in the Greenfield directory in 1904 as a

machinist living at 7 Conway. In 1908 and 1909 his employer was W. B. Co. and he lived at 98 Wells. In 1909 he is also listed as treasurer of the United Order of the Golden Cross, Deerfield Valley Commandery, No. 871. This is a fraternal benefit society founded in New England in 1876 with a temperance bent. In the 1912 directory he is listed under professional occupation painters and paper hangers, as Wells ext and 1913 at 137 Wells. In 1912 and 1913 he had a student border named Lovell E. Wood. Top: three-piece spruce cut off-the-quarter: fine grain Back: one-piece maple cut off-the-quarter: very narrow curl descending very slightly from treble to bass; patch and worm hole near lower treble corner, under varnish Ribs: maple cut off-the-quarter: very narrow curl, angled to left in lower bouts and upper treble bout; one-piece lower rib Head and neck: maple: very narrow curl; neck re-angled at heel Arching: full and high Purfling: double incised lines Varnish: dark red-brown Fingerboard: ebony; later Nut: ebony; in case Tailpiece: Ebony tailpiece with black-stained dark brown hardwood saddle; in case Tailgut: purple gut; in case Pegs: four rosewood; later Saddle: ebony; narrow; flat upper edge; finished with same varnish as body Endpin: ebony; later F-holes: curved and tapered upper wings; wide stems; small notches Linings: willow linings continue over corner blocks; later Corner blocks: spruce Top block: spruce; nail hole through block into neck heel; possibly later Bottom block: spruce; possibly later

Dimensions

Back length: 355 mm Upper bout width: 163 mm Center bout width: 109 mm Lower bout width: 202 mm Upper rib height: 31-32 mm Center rib height: 31-32 mm Lower rib height: 31-33 mm Total violin length: 588 mm Stop length: 190 mm Vibrating string length: 324 mm Current neck length (bottom of nut to ribs): 131mm Original neck length (bottom of nut to ribs): 128mm