

DAVID DUTTON – 1838

A description compiled by National Music Museum Conservator, John Koster,
a keyboard and organ specialist.

(Amended Nov. 7, 2020 by Organ Builder and Organ Historian James R. Stettner, Organ Editor for the Organ Historical Society Database)

Maker: David Dutton

Date: circa 1850

Type of Instrument: pipe organ.

Compass: GGG (GGG-sharp key, dummy) to a3 (63 notes; 5+ octaves)

Disposition (names in italics as on the six stop knobs):

MANUAL (Expressive)

[8'] <i>Open Diapason</i>	39 pipes	g to a3
[8'] <i>Dulciana</i>	39 pipes	g to a3
[8'] <i>Stopped Diapason</i>	11 pipes	GGG to F-sharp, on permanently
[8'] <i>Stop Diapason</i>	12 pipes	G to f-sharp, open from c to f-sharp
[4'] <i>Principal treble</i>	39 pipes	g to a3
[4'] <i>Principal bass</i>	12 pipes	G to f-sharp
[4'] <i>Stopped Flute</i>	39 pipes	g to a3

The stop knobs push in to turn the stops on.

PEDAL MOVEMENTS

Expression (left)
Foot Pump (right)

Wind System: Wind is supplied by a cuneiform feeder bellows under a large cuneiform reservoir.

Wind Chest: Slider

Playing Action: Mechanical key and stop action. The distal portions of the **key levers**, which are balanced just behind the playing surfaces, push up on backfalls, the distal ends of which push down on pins to push down the pallets. The backfalls are fanned outwards, so the chest divisions in the bass and tenor are wider than those of the keyboard.

Pipework: The **pipes**, all of wood, are generally traditional in construction and very conservative in their voicing on low wind pressure, with no nicking of the windway. However, the maker applied the invention described in U.S. Patent no. 5,520, issued to David Boardman of Mount (*sic!*) Vernon, N.H., on April 18, 1848 (reproduced below) of “placing a partition of coarse cotton cloth” in the foot of each pipe. “By means of the partition of cloth the air is divided into a great number of small streams before it rushes out of the education passage By such division or by some other cause not known the tone of the pipe is very highly improved.” This can be seen in a photo of a Dulciana pipe with the cap temporarily removed.

Case: in the form of an Empire-style cabinet; veneered in mahogany; keywell veneered in rosewood.

Dimensions:

Height: 2135 mm (7 feet) Width: 1565 mm (maximum at cornice) Depth: 710 mm (maximum)

Previous Ownership and Use: Relocated through the Organ Clearing House from the R. Sumner Rand residence in Amesbury, Massachusetts to the Steven Long residence in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Restored by Jeremy Adams in 1989. Then to the Long residence in Seattle, Washington. After Steven Long's passing, the organ was moved to the National Music Museum in Vermillion, South Dakota.

Acquisition History: Gift of W. Thomas Edwards in memory of Stephen E. Long, Seattle, Washington, 2004. Accession number 1800.

Notes:

- See article by John Koster, "Historical Organs in the Museum Context," *The Tracker*, vol. 50, nos. 3 & 4 (Summer/Fall 2006), pp. 30-35, specifically 31 and 35.
- The Historical Society of Mont Vernon, NH, has some Dutton clocks in its holdings.
- Dutton is listed in the 1850 census as an organ builder.
- According to organ historian, Barbara Owen, *The Organ in New England* (Raleigh, NC: The Sunbury Press, 199), pp. 101-102 and Appendix A, there were 8 other chamber-organ builders working in Mont Vernon in the 1830s and '40s whose activities were 'partly or wholly avocational in nature.' They were: Samuel O. Forest (or LaForest), Ephraim Stetson, Addison G. Bragg, Samuel and William Crowell, a man named Kittridge, and the brothers John D. and Benjamin Nutter. The most successful was John D. Nutter, who went on to other towns and eventually became a banker.
- In an email from Barbara Owen to NMM Conservator, John Koster, cc to Margaret Banks (3/26/2019), Owen notes: "Not too much more is known about those Mont Vernon organ builders (although they'd make a good research project for someone even now). However, there are a few recent newspaper finds that could add a bit about what little we know about Dutton:
- "Church & Parlour Organs at Auction" noting that David Dutton had "closed his business of Organ Building." (Farmer's Cabinet, 4/19/1833, p. 4), and cites two church and two parlor organs being offered.
- However, he must have gone back into business (or was working for one of the other chaps), for 15 years later we find: "Improvement in Organ Pipes" (Farmer's Cabinet, 6/10/1848, p. 1) mentions, rather vaguely, some new method of wood pipe construction by Boardman & Dutton of Mont Vernon, producing a "mellow, rich, powerful and harmonious tone."