

HILBUS CHAPTER

THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Where the Tracker Action Is!

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It's time to pay your yearly dues!

Please send your dues of \$10.00 to Barb Birckner, 6606 Farmer Dr., Ft. Washington, MD 20744. Make checks payable to "OHS-Hilbus Chapter".

September 25, 2004 Crawl Baltimore, Maryland

10:00 AM - 11:00 Old Otterbein UMC 1895 Niemann
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Walk 2 blocks to get lunch at Inner Harbor
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Martini Lutheran 1880's Roosevelt
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM St. Stephen and James Lutheran 1904 Maryland Church Organ Co.

South Baltimore Organ Tour. These are all old trackers. Otterbein has been restored. The other two have not.

Thanks to David Storey and Michael Britt for arranging this crawl.

Driving Directions

From I-95 take I-395 N into Downtown. Stay to the left and follow it to Conway Street. Turn right onto Conway and Otterbein is one block ahead on the left at Conway and Sharp St. If you continue to the next light at Charles Street and turn left into Charles Street, go past the hotel on your left to the alley behind the hotel and come up the alley. You will be in the parking lot behind Otterbein where you can park. **Be sure to ask in the church for a parking pass.**

From the BW Pkwy: Follow BWP north into Baltimore past the football stadium. Stay straight on Russell St. Pass the Baseball stadium to Pratt Street. Go Right on Pratt

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about 2 traffic lights to Sharp street, turn right and drive through the convention center. Otterbein is ahead on the left at Sharp and Conway. You can park in the lot behind the church, but *we will need to get you a parking pass at the church. Be sure to ask for one.*

From Otterbein, if you are up to walking a few blocks, you can walk to St. Martini, about 5 blocks south of Otterbein. (Walk or Drive) Continue down Sharp Street past the Federal Reserve Bank. This eventually curves sharply to the left and becomes Henrietta. St. Martini is straight ahead on the left at Henrietta and Hanover Streets. Martini is a modern building.

From St. Martini Lutheran, continue south on Hanover about two blocks to St. Stephen and James Lutheran. It has two very tall towers. The entrance is on the Hamburg St. side of the building.

When leaving St. Stephen and James you can continue out Hamburg Street and then turn left on Russell St. to get to BW Pkwy south and 95 south. Turn Right at Russell Street to go to 95 North.

AUGUST 28 CRAWL: WOODSBORO & TANEYTOWN, MD

A review by Peter Crisafulli

The Hilbus Chapter's August 28 crawl brought a sizeable group of organ enthusiasts to Woodsboro and Taneytown to visit three organs. This outing was planned to coincide with Taneytown's 250th anniversary celebration which featured two recitals on historic organs.

We began the day at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Woodsboro. Upon entering this church, it was obvious that this is a place deeply respected and cared for by its parishioners. Everything was in immaculate condition, and the decorative arts, as well as the organ, were well worth the visit.

The organ was built in 1913 by Carl Barckhoff of Basic (Waynesboro), VA, and was installed in the church in 1914. Originally, it was hand-pumped until an electric blower was installed in 1921. The organ was restored in 1991 by R. J. Brunner & Co. of Silver Spring, PA at which time a trumpet stop was added. Following are details of the instrument:

Great

8' Open Diapason (basses in facade)
8' Viola di Gamba (basses in facade)
8' Melodia
8' Dulciana
4' Principal
8' Trumpet
Tremolo

Swell

8' Violin Diapason (1-12 stopped bass)
8' Salicional (1-12 full-length string basses on offset tubular-pneumatic chest outside swell box)
8' Stopped Diapason
4' Flute (1-24 stopped, open from middle c)

Pedal

16' Sub-Bass

Couplers (operated by thumb pistons located under respective manuals): SG, GP, SP.

Manuals 61 notes, pedals 30 notes.

2 combination pedals: Great Forte & Piano.

Balanced Swell pedal.

Mechanical key & stop action to manuals; tubular-pneumatic action to pedals and offset manual basses.

Tonally, this is a no-nonsense straight-forward instrument that accomplishes its churchly functions efficiently. The Great is based on a basic 8 and 4 foot chorus: the Open Diapason is king of this organ, easily filling the room with a clear and noble tone; the 4' Principal smaller and brighter, adding tonal sunlight to the unison. Secondary Great stops include the Viola di Gamba—a stop to be reckoned with. Unlike earlier examples of American strings of delicate nature, this stop is bold and jazzy, outstanding as a solo voice and capable of adding bright intensity to the ensemble. Melodia and Dulciana contrast with their lovely gentler sonorities.

The Swell Violin Diapason is an incredibly effective stop under expression. Everyone should have one! It is both broad and stringy. The Salicional is a smaller version of the Great string. A pair of cheerful flutes rounds out the Swell foundations, and Ray Brunner's fine Trumpet addition effectively tops off full-organ as well as providing a distinctive and effective solo stop under expression. An ample Pedal Sub-Bass provides profundity.

From Woodsboro, Taneytown is but a short drive up highway 194, and we arrived at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church to hear Carolyn Booth play the first of two organ concerts scheduled in conjunction with the Taneytown celebration.

The organ in St. Joseph's was originally built by G. P. England of London (England) in 1804, rebuilt in 1876 by Henry Niemann of Baltimore, and restored by Columbia Organ Works of Columbia, PA from 1998-2001. It is a one-manual and pedal instrument with the following stops:

<u>Manual</u> (58 notes, enclosed)	<u>Pedal</u> (27 notes)
8' Open Diapason	
4' Flauto Traverso	16' Bourdon
8' Stopped Diapason	Man. to Ped. Coupler
2-2/3' Octave Quint	
8' Dolce	
2' Super Octave	
4' Octave	
Tremolo	

Located in a small loft at the back of the nave, this organ boasts a handsome case. Case, facade, principal chorus and Stopped Diapason remain from the 1804 organ. Other material is by Niemann except for the Flauto Traverso, a 1966 replacement of Niemann's Salicional.

Carolyn Booth played an amazingly diverse program which effectively showed just how much this lovely small instrument can do. She began with charming "miniatures" by Haydn, Oliver Shaw, and Anonymous (Washington's March — yes, he evidently did spend the night in Taneytown, and a plaque marks the spot)—which highlighted individual stops and small combinations. Henry Dunham's sweet, slightly nostalgic "Meditation" brought out a luscious, romantic side of this instrument's personality. Movements from Boellmann's "Suite Gothique" and Mendelssohn's Sonata in F minor showed off the satisfying plenum and impressive Pedal Bourdon. It is gratifying to note that the church was full, even crowded, and the response to Carolyn's program was genuinely enthusiastic. Bravo, Carolyn!

Our final visit was to nearby Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church for the second of the two recitals on Taneytown's historic organs, this one performed by Peter Crisafulli, the author of this review. I'll do my best to remain objective about the recital, but I have to say that I fell in love with the beautiful organ at this church as I got to know the instrument during my practice sessions, and I had a blast playing the concert! I began the program with my own variations on "Ein feste Burg", then Mendelssohn's Sonata 2, followed by Rulon Christianson's Prelude on "Simple Gifts," and finally the Concert Variations on the "Star Spangled Banner" by Dudley Buck. It turns out that Frances Scott Key is a favorite son of Taneytown having been born and raised there, and it was a place he returned to often throughout his life. Knowing this little tidbit, the Buck variations seemed just the thing with which to end.

The organ was built by A. B. Felgemaker of Erie, PA in 1897 as their opus 647, and in 1990 it was rebuilt by Columbia Organ Works to the following specifications:

Great (61 notes)

8' Open Diapason (basses in facade)
 8' Gross Flute (stopped, a large Gedeckt)
 4' Octave
 4' Flute d'amour
 2' Super Octave (new 1990)
 III Mixture (new 1990)

Swell (61 notes, enclosed)

8' Violin Diapason (1-12 st'd bass)
 8' Gamba (1-12 common w/Vn.Diap'n)
 8' Stopped Diapason
 4' Flute
 2' Piccolo
 8' Trumpet (new 1990)

Tremolo

Pedal

(27 notes) 16' Bourdon

Couplers (above Swell manual): SG, GP, SP.

3 combination pedals: Great Forte (all Great stops), Great Piano (Gross Flute only), Great to Pedal reversible.

In its current tonal configuration, this instrument is a good study in "multum in parvo" design. With a mere 13 stops, it is, in a word, versatile. Columbia did a good job integrating the new stops with the old. The Swell 8-4-2 makes an impressive foil to the Great chorus. The Swell box is very effective and, like Woodsboro, contains one of those ever-so-useful Violin Diapasons which goes from a *MP* to a *MF* dynamic range. One of my favorite effects was coupling full Swell (with Trumpet) with the box closed to

the unenclosed Great foundations and then gradually opening the box at appropriate points, especially in the Buck. It was an impressive sound for such a seemingly modest instrument.

If there is a common thread between these three instruments (and there are probably many), for me it would be the lesson that small to modest sized unpretentious but honest pipe organs well-built can be beautiful and versatile, and that they can faithfully serve their houses of worship for generations.

Once again, Hilbus Chapter provided the means for a most enjoyable day for organ lovers. By the way, all three instruments visited on this crawl can be heard on the OHS 4 CD set "Historic Organs of Baltimore," and a fine color photograph of the England case graces the front of the boxed set.

With regrets we report the death of long-term member of the Hilbus Chapter Pat Heflin August, 2004.

We welcome the new POI Scholarship Members

Michael Arrington
Lilian Moring
Janet S. Yieh

Kevin Biggins
Diana Saum
Amy Zimmerman

Upcoming Events

Dedication of new organ at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

Dedicatory Recital by *Ken Cowan*
8:00 PM, Friday, October 1, 2004
Our Lady of Mercy RC in Potomac, Maryland

Our president, Carolyn Booth, is the the Principal Organist and Associate Minster of Music at Our Lady of Mercy.

The new organ at Our Lady of Mercy was the last major instrument designed by Guy Therien of the Canadian firm of Guilbault-Therien. It is an instrument of the French Romantic style. Unfortunately, only a few months after work began on the organ, Guy was diagnosed with cancer and passed away in May, 2001. Work continued at a much slower pace as the company reorganized. In October, 2003, Wilhelm Inc. stepped in to complete the instrument. They arrived at our Lady of Mercy on February 11, 2004 and physically installed the organ. The voicing and tonal finishing was completed by Christophe Linde and Dick Hedgebeth. The organ incorporates pipes from the Moller, installed in the church in 1982, which were re-voiced for this new instrument. The new sanctuary is twice as large as the old one. Many new ranks were added so that the organ now contains over 3400 pipes.

Directions to Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

From the west take I-70 East to I-270 south. From the north, take I-270 south. When the split in I-270 is indicated, stay to the right for "Northern Virginia". Take Exit 1 marked "Democracy Blvd, exit only". Stay to the right to head west. You will see Montgomery Mall, now called Westfield Shoppingtown, on your right. After yielding to oncoming traffic, slowly work your way over to the far left lane. At the third traffic light which is Seven Locks Road turn left and go 7/10 mile to the first traffic light, which is Bradley Blvd. turn right and go 8/10 mile to the first traffic light, which is Kentsdale on the right [it's another name if you turn left!]. Turn Right on Kentsdale and take the SECOND driveway on your left which takes you to the church.

If you are coming from VA, take the Beltway across the American Legion bridge. Take the River Road exit and stay left for the exit marked "Potomac". Turn left onto River Road—you will be heading north. You can clock your mileage starting at the blinking overhead light at the fire station, which will be on your right. Go about 1 mile. At the second traffic light, which is Bradley Blvd. turn right [be careful, there is what appears to be a RH turn lane on River Road for Bradley Blvd. It isn't!!! Drive just past that and turn right]. Go about 7/10 of a mile to the traffic light, which is Kentsdale Drive. Turn left, and take the second driveway on your left into the church's parking lot.

If you are coming from DC, go up River Road—you can access it from Wisconsin Avenue, or even better from Massachusetts Avenue. When Mass. Ave. ends at Goldsboro, turn right, and then turn left at the light onto River Road. After crossing over the Beltway, follow the directions above which begins at 'at the fire station...'.
Welcome to the new site

From the East, head west on the Beltway to the exit (exit 35) for I-270. Stay in the RH lane. Take the first exit 1A, Old Georgetown Road (Rt 187). At the traffic light, turn left onto Old Georgetown road. At the third traffic light turn right onto Democracy Blvd. Travel for about 2 miles to the traffic light at Seven Locks Road. Turn left on Seven Locks Road. Then follow the direction above (from the directions from the west).

BIG BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The George Pike England Organ, 1804, will be celebrating its 100 years at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Taneytown MD on Sunday, October 10th at 4 p.m. Directions were in the August issue. Carolyn Booth played a recital on this organ as part of the August Crawl. Three of our members, including Michael Britt and Wayne Selleck will be performing. Let's have a wonderful turnout for this wonderful instrument.

- Todd Wilson will be playing a concert November 14 on the Letourneau Organ at Ascension & St. Agnes Church, 1217 Massachusetts Ave., NW.
- ◆ The next crawl will be a celebration of the Founders of the Hilbus Chapter. Plans are to have the crawl in Northern Virginia on October 23.
- Current plans are for the November crawl to be held Saturday, November 20, the third Saturday of the month.
- Gillian Weir will be playing a concert Wednesday, October 6th at 7:30 p.m. on the new Dobson Organ at St. Pauls, Rock Creek, in Washington, D.C. Attendance is limited to 200 tickets. Reservations have to be made in advance. Call Mauricio Franco at 202-726-2080, Ext. 15; or Dr. Elliott at 202-726-2080 [office] or cell 240-938-1634.