

HILBUS CHAPTER

THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

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Saturday, February 25th Crawl to Shepherdstown, West Virginia and Boonsboro, Maryland

10:00 AM St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 112 North King St., Shepherdstown, W. V. 25443 Phone: 304-876-6771. 1930? Moller with additions. Recent work by Rick Morrison.

11:00 AM Trinity Episcopal Church. Corner of West German St. and North Church St., Shepherdstown, W.V. 25443 Phone: 304-876-6990. George Stevens, 1869, 13 ranks.

Lunch-noon, on your own. Restaurants located up and down the main street (German St.). There is a tea room across from the Episcopal Church, and other restaurants nearby. Bavarian Inn nearby.

1:45 PM Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ, 33 Potomac St., Boonsboro, Md. 21713. Phone: 301-423-2247. Organ by Moller(1905). Approximately 8 ranks.

Driving Directions

To St. Peter's Lutheran:

From DC area (270 north) and Baltimore area take I-70 west to US 340 west via exit 52 towards Charlestown/Leesburg (21 mi.) to- right onto WV 230 / Frontage Rd (8.7 mi.) to - right onto WV 230 / Princess St. (0.1 mi.) to - left onto WV 230 / East German St to right onto North King St./CR 480. End at 112 North King St.

To Trinity Episcopal Church:

Travel southwest on North King St. to a right onto WV 230/East German St. End at North Church St. and West German St.

Or: Trinity is walking distance from St. Peters. As parking is congested in the area, walking is recommended, if possible.

To Trinity UCC in Boonsboro from German St., Shepherdstown
Head northwest on WV 230/ East German St. to a right onto WV 480/ Duke St. WV 480 becomes MD 34. End at 33 Potomac St., Boonsboro (about 10 miles)

January Crawl Review by Carl Schwartz

Spring-like temperatures greeted those who attended the January Crawl in Baltimore. First of all we want to thank Michael Britt who set up the itinerary for the as well as out hosts at other venues: Steven Bartley, John Marks, Dan Fortune, and David Storey. Our first stop was Grace and St. Peter's Episcopal Church. This is a center of Anglo-Catholic worship and ritual in an ornate Gothic Revival church. The parish has a choir school and excellent Men and Boys Choir directed by John Marks.

The organ began life as E. and G. G. Hook Opus 206. This was a 40 register, 3 manual and pedal organ dating from 1856. It replaced an older Erben organ at that time. The original specification is not unlike the surviving Hook located in North Easton, Massachusetts and dating from the same period. This organ was originally placed in a balcony at the rear of the church, now removed. In the 1870's it was moved to the area of the present Lady Chapel to the right of the chancel.

In 1886 the Hook was replaced by Frank Roosevelt with that firm's Opus 377 having 41 speaking stops, tracker-pneumatic key action and tubular pedal and stop actions. The bellows were operated by a water motor. It was likely built in the Baltimore factory of the Roosevelt company. Many of the Hook stops were reused in this instrument and the specification is typical of that builder's organs featuring such signature stops as the Great Doppel Flöte, Choir Quintadena and Pedal Trombone. The Choir, which was unenclosed in the Hook specification was enclosed along with part of the Great in the customary Roosevelt fashion.

In 1922 the Austin Organ Company built a new organ, recycling pipes from the earlier organs and moved the location of the instrument to the left of the chancel. Austin kept the well developed chorus structure of the previous organ and added stops typical of Austin organs of the orchestral period: large scale Diapasons, new reeds, pungent strings, a Vox Humana, Chimes and a Flute Celeste. Austin retained the pattern of Choir-Great enclosure and provided a secondary enclosure to the softest stops of the Swell. In 1956 Austin Organs, Inc., successor to the Austin Organ Company revisited the organ and revised it according to the style of the period with new Diapasons and Mixtures, some new chorus Reed and Baroque type flutes. This tonal change was only partly effective and hindered by the deep layout of the chambers. In 1965 Austin altered the console somewhat. In 1975 a IV 32' Grand Cornet was added to the Pedal. In 1985 Crossan-Savage added an Austin built Trumpet en Chamade which is located over the main door of the church.

The organ remained essentially unchanged from then until 1998 when further work was carried out by the organ's curator Steven Bartley, at that time in the employ of Lewis and Hitchcock. Steve is not only curator of this instrument but a member of the parish and choir. In order bring the sound of the organ forward into the room a Grand Chorus division of eight ranks was added by Lewis and Hitchcock including new and some older pipework from the Austin and other sources. Mr. Bartley has also made a number of other carefully considered changes, moving ranks around, rescaling and regulating ranks in order to make them more effective. The organ still retains its Austin sound, elegant and refined and well suited to the requirements of the Liturgy there. In this setting a degree of distance and mystery to the sound of the organ is an asset. It can play a wide range of literature and has many pleasing musical voices. The organ is maintained by Mr. Bartley who now works for David Storey. Typical for Austins it continues to enjoy a sturdy existence after nearly 85 years on the job.

Great (Man II, enclosed with Choir) 16' Quintatden, 8' Open Diapason, Double Flute, Bourdon, Gamba, Viol Celeste, Dulciana, 4' Octave, Flute Harmonique, 3 1/5' Gross Tierce (ext Choir Tierce), 2 2/3' Octave Quint, 2' Super Octave, 1 3/5' Tierce (Choir) Mixture III-IV, Chimes

Choir (Man I, enclosed) 8' Violin Diapason, Nason Gedeckt, Flauto Dolce, Dolce Celeste, 4' Köppel Flute, 2 2/3' Nasard, 2' Blockflute, 1 3/5' Tierce, 8' Clarinet, Cor Anglais, Harmonic Trumpet (10" wp), Tremolo

Grand Chorus (playable on Great or Choir), 8' Open Diapason, Harmonic Flute, 4' Octave, Mixture IV, 8' Tromba, Zimbelstern

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Dues: Due in October, Send \$10.00 to Secretary-Treasurer. (NOTE: Please make out checks to Hillbus Chapter, OHS)

Mixture III, 16' Contra Fagotto, 8' Trumpet, Trumpet en Chamade, Tremolo, Tremolo* (stops on former second enclosure chest)

Pedal 32' Resultant, 16' Open Diapason, Quintaden GT, Violone, Bourdon, Dolce Bourdon SW, 8' Octave, Bourdon EXT, Cello EXT, 4' Fifteenth EXT, 32' Grand Cornet IV, 16' Trombone, 16' Contra Fagotto SW, 8' Trumpet EXT

Full compliment of inter and intra-manual couplers and accessories. Console is original Austin. The parish also has a Moller three rank Compact organ which was loaned to St. Mary's Catholic Church, Hagerstown by Moller in the 1940's.

Our next stop took us a few blocks away to Old St. Paul's Episcopal Church. This monumental classic revival church houses another much traveled organ. It was demonstrated for us by Dan Fortune, musician at the church. St. Paul's also maintains a chorister program for boys and girls through St. Paul's School (Brooklandville) along with professional men. This large organ began life as a Roosevelt (1859), with some changes by Odell (c. 1890), and was rebuilt by the Skinner Organ Company in 1916. In 1974 Austin provided a new Great chorus and made other changes. The organ was subsequently rebuilt by Möller in 1980 and 1990. The present console dates from the Möller rebuilds and is of the late type. Möller also added an antiphonal organ in an elegant case with Festival Trumpet en Chamade.

The organ has many lovely flutes and soft stops. One especially poignant register is the Great Spitzflöte which began life as a Skinner Erzähler. The organ has a typical 1980's Möller sound and effectively carries out its role in the services at St. Paul's. The Roosevelt case front survives fronting the chancel and in a side chapel which houses the organ. It is partially hidden by exposed pipework. Recent work in the undercroft and resulting infiltration of dust has caused a number of problems with the organ, especially with the Reed stops, as would be expected. This has occurred in spite of every effort to protect the instrument. The specification follows. Extended stops where known are indicated. It is surmised that the Pedal contains the following ranks playing at more than one pitch: Principal, Bourdon, Mixture IV, Posaune. The Antiphonal is based on the Möller Series 80 voices and contains unit stops: Principal, Bourdon, Mixture and Trumpet. It has a full compliment of standard couplers. The organ has a combination action with 256 Memory Levels and Three adjustable Crescendo Pedal settings, separate Nave expression shades and Zimbelstern.

Great (Man II) 16' Spitzflöte EXT, 8' Principal, Holzgedackt, Spitzflöte, 4' Octave, Spitzflöte EXT, 2' Super Octave, Sesquialtera II, Mixture III-IV, 16' Contre Trompette EXT, 8' Trompette, Festival Trumpet CH, Trompette Royale ANT, Chimes (tubular 21 tubes), Tower Bells

Choir (Man I enclosed) 8' Rohrflöte, Erzähler II, 4' Principal, 4' Spillflöte, 2' Octave, 2' Blockflöte, 1 1/3 Quint, 1' Octave, Zimbel III-IV, 16' English Horn, 8' Clarinet, Festival Trumpet, 4' Festival Trumpet EXT, 8' Trompette Royale ANT, Tower Bells, Tremulant

Swell (Man III expressive) 16' Flute Couverte EXT, 8' Flute Couverte, Gamba, Viole Celeste, Flute Celeste II, 4' Montre, Flute Ouverte, 2 2/3' Nazard, 2' Flute Conique, 1 3/5 Tierce, Plein Jeu III-IV, Cymbal III, Jeux de Clochette III, 16' Basson EXT, 8' Trompette, Hautbois, French Horn, Vox Humana, 4' Clarion, Tremulant

Pedal 32' Bourdon EXT, 16' Principal, Bourdon, Spitzflöte GT, Flute Couverte SW, 8' Octave, Bourdon, Flute Couverte SW, 4' Super Octave, Mixture IV, Scharff IV, 32' Contra Posaune 32, Posaune, 16' Posaune, Basson SW, 8' Posaune, Festival Trumpet CH, 4' Klarine, Hautbois SW, Tower Bells

Antiphonal (floating): 8' Principal, 8' Bordun, 4' Octave, 4' Waldflöte, 2' Super Octave, Mixture III-IV, 16' Contre Trompette, 8' Trompette, 4' Clairon, 8' Trompette Royale

Antiphonal Pedal 16' Subbass, 8' Bordun, 32' Trumpet Cornet, 16' Contre Tompette, 4' Clairon

Following a sumptuous luncheon buffet at the Mughal Palace restaurant we headed northeast across town to St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church. The parish is the oldest African-American parish in the city and home to an Estey Organ of 1927 majestically spread across the rear gallery of this Gothic revival building. When we arrived the organ could not be started at first. We enjoyed a brief interlude with Ted Gustin regaling us with the sounds of the vintage and restored Hammond B-3 with Leslie which sits next to the pipe organ console in the chancel. Finally through the efforts of David Storey, Michael Britt and church sexton Mr. Wiggins the blower finally came to life. We were treated to a background history of the parish, sang a hymn and listened to the stops that were playing. There were some stop and note ciphers in the ventill chests but we were able to form some impression of the tone. The specification hints that this instrument may include material from an older organ although it is not an unusual stoplist for Estey, always a conservative builder. We were mainly able to hear the Great chorus and some of the pedal. The tone is noble and dignified, rich but not brilliant. The Swell Oboe is Labial. This means that it is composed of flue pipes voiced in a manner to imitate Reed tone. This was an Estey specialty. The present console is a supply house replacement from the 1940's. Perhaps the original was of the luminous stopkey type. Most of these were replaced soon after they were built. This is an organ that deserves to be heard and one can only encourage the church to consider how it might be brought back to life.

Great 16' Double Diapason, 8' Open Diapason, Melodia, Viola d' Gamba, Dulciana, 4' Principal, Flute d'Amour, 2 2/3' Twelfth, 2' Fifteenth, 8' Trumpet,

Swell 16 Bourdon, 2' Flautino (former Geigen?), 8' Stopped Diapason, Salicional, Vox Celeste,, Aeoline, 4' Flute Harmonic, Violina, Cornet III, 8' Cornopean, Oboe Tremulant

Pedal: 16' Open Diapason, Bourdon, 8' Violoncello Usual couplers

An extra treat was an added stop at First Church of Christ, Scientist located near Johns Hopkins University. Here is a pristine and unapologetic 1913 orchestral Austin. The only notable change has been the replacement of the original all mechanical console with an traditional Austin stopkey type about 1960 and the normal reactioning of the organ. The organ contradicts the view that a predominantly 8' organ of this type is tubby and opaque. Far from it, the organ's voices are individually colorful, yet the ensemble is rich and vibrant with smooth Diapasons, rich orchestral strings and snappy reeds. It is well suited, even today, to the needs of the service at this church. It plays little literature in an "authentic" manner but it will play much music with beauty and charm. Although, as Michael Britt demonstrated so well, one can play it like a theater organ it is no brassy Wurlitzer. Here is an example of restrained "high pressure" voicing that is easy on the ear. Some of us wanted to take it home with us to have on Sunday morning. This is a happy organ!

Members were able to enter the air box and see the action in operation close up. This organ's air box is of the "walk in" type and features an air lock entry. Some were surprised to see that Austin organs have trackers: in this case connecting the action motors of the relay with the valves. One should note that the 73 note compass of the Choir and Swell are an important feature of this style organ multiplying the number of stops above 8' pitch. There is a full compliment of sub and super couplers This organ is in good condition. It is under the meticulous care of David Storey

Great (Manual II – 61 note chests) Unenclosed: 16' Bourdon, 8' Principal Diapason, Small Diapason, 4' Octave, Enclosed: 8' Gross Flute, Violon Cello, Gemshorn, 4' Harmonic Flute, Tremolo

Choir (Manual I – 73 note chests) 8' Geigen Principal, Concert Flute, Unda Maris, Dulciana, 4' Flute d'Amour, 8' Clarinet, Tremolo

Swell (Manual III - 73 note chest): 16' Lieblich Gedeckt, 8' Open Diapason, Rohrflute, Viole d'Orchestre, Viole d'Orchestre Celeste, Echo Salicional, 4' Flauto Traverso, 2' Flageolet, 8' Cornopean, 8' Oboe 8' Vox Humana, Tremulant

Pedal 16' Open Diapason, 16' Violone, 16' Bourdon GT, 16' Gedeckt SW, 8' Gross Flute GT, Flauto Dolce SW

Submitted by Carl Schwartz

News and Information

A home is needed for the Johnson organ that was in the former Friendship Baptist Church in southwest DC. The owner of the church reports that some homeless people had broken into the church and may have damaged some organ parts. Anyone who knows of a place for it should contact David Storey at 410-728-1710 or dms1518@aol.com.

March 31st-April 1, 2006 is a Symposium to celebrate the rededication of the 1866 Koehnken & Co. organ at the Plum Street Temple, Cincinnati, Ohio. Restored in 2005 by the Noack Organ Co., Inc. the organ is historically one of the most beautiful old instruments in the US. Combining both American and German elements, the organ is a wonderful example of 19th century organ building distributed over three manuals and pedal with 38 stops.

Registration is \$150 per person payable by check to the Isaac M. Wise Temple. For information, write to: PSTKoehnken@aol.com or call the Temple office at: 513-793-2556. Anyone interested in car pooling to Cincinnati please let your editor, Paul Birckner, know.

We thank Paul Roeder for planning and making the arrangements for February's crawl.

Dear Hilbus Chapter Members.

First of all, it has been a pleasure serving as your president/chairperson for four terms. In many ways, it doesn't seem quite that long. And I have learned so much and have gotten to know many of you along the way. I am pleased to share information about several new activities that are taking place in our chapter.

First of all, a committee was formed late last summer to explore the possibility of hosting an OHS national convention here in the D.C. area. Those members are: Thom Robertson, Paul Birckner, Tom Scheck, Carl Schwartz and David Storey. They have been working very hard to put together a proposal to present to the National Convention Committee.

Secondly, packets are now put together before each monthly crawl. They contain information about Hilbus Chapter, a copy of the OHS Brochure and a copy of The Tracker magazine. These are given to the host at each place we visit the day of the crawl. Bill Parsons puts these packets together.

Thirdly, one historic organ recital will be given each year by the Hilbus Chapter starting this year. Members of our chapter will perform on instruments which would not normally be featured in a recital. This year, the recital will be given At Woodsboro Lutheran Church, in Woodsboro, MD where we visited in August, 2004. I have volunteered to be charge of putting these recitals together.

As we all know, nothing stays the same forever, and so it is with my present position on the Hilbus Chapter Board. Now it is time for some of you to step into a leadership role for Hilbus Chapter. Your nominating committee is as follows: Bob Hobbs, Chair; John Becker and Wayne Selleck, committee members. They are waiting to hear from you to either offer to serve on the board, or to recommend one of your friends or colleagues to serve. All of the above new activities came about because people volunteered to offer their services. So I am counting on each of you to do the same.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or even better yet, contact one of the nominating committee members. Thank You!