

HILBUS CHAPTER
THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Where the Tracker Action Is!
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Whole No. 321

Saturday, May 27th Organ Crawl, Fort Washington, Maryland. Pot Luck Lunch, annual Business Meeting
Organ builder, Xaver Wilhelmy, will tell about his restoration work on a 1970 Walcker. We shall have music for two organs played by Thom Robertson and William Parsons using the Kleuker and Walcker organs.

Schedule

11:30 - 11:45 Arrive at the home of Barbara and Paul Birckner with your dish to share for the Pot Luck. Their address is 6606 Farmer Drive, Fort Washington, Md. (301-449-4399).

From Virginia

Exit the Beltway at exit 4A . Go through 2 lights and make a left onto Brinkley Rd. (Sharper's Florist). Stay on Brinkley until you've gone approx. 3 miles from exit 4A. Unity Presbyterian Church is at the corner of Farmer Drive and Brinkley. Turn right onto Farmer Drive. 6606 is the second house on your left - on the same side of the street as the church. From exit 4A you will pass through a total of 6 stoplights. If you reach the stoplight at Temple Hill Rd, you've gone too far.

From Maryland

Exit the Beltway at Route 5, Exit 7A, Waldorf. Travel south to a right exit at Allentown Road, Route 337 West. Proceed west on Allentown through 2 stoplights. At the 3rd stoplight make a right turn onto Brinkley Rd. Go through the next light (Temple Hill Rd.) and at second left onto Farmer Dr. Unity Presbyterian Church is on the corner. Go up the hill to 6606.

Tentative Schedule

12 to 1 o'clock Lunch

12 to 1 o'clock Lunch

Business Meeting

Mr. Wilhelmy's presentation

Recital

April 22nd Crawl Review

By William C. Parsons and Thom Robertson

The first organ visited on the April 22nd Hilbus Chapter Crawl was at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Herndon, Virginia. With a church complex situated on a generous plot of land, St. Timothy's small sanctuary was designed with a relatively low ceiling. This arrangement has necessitated placing the organ in a pit to accommodate the height of its casework. Playing the instrument from this location, an organist doubtless encounters problems in visual communication with the choral group that is seated on the main floor. Although the sanctuary is acoustically "dry," the instrument's ensemble quite adequately fills the space. Despite some momentary malfunctions with the playing mechanism, members of the chapter ably demonstrated the registers. A framed document attached to the right side of the organ provides the following information (kindly transcribed by Carl Schwartz):

"History of St. Timothy's Tracker Organ

The nameplate on this organ reads "James D. Moore, Worcester, Massachusetts 1870" and is the only known example of his work remaining.

The pipe work and case appear to have been built by the William Johnson Pipe Organ Company. A date of 1863 was found inside the Great wind chest.

In October 1968, James Baird, William T. Jones, and two of Mr. Jones' sons, Stevens and Dwight Deale, traveled to Barre, Massachusetts to get the organ, which had been donated by the First Unitarian Church. The Barre church was to be razed for a parking lot. The Board of Trustees preferred to donate the organ to a church that would restore and use it rather than allow it to be broken up and sold for parts.

It took Jim, assisted by Scott Boyd and other members of the church, more than a year to completely refurbish the organ, not only as an historic instrument but also one which could fully support the worship services in what is now Henry Hall. The mechanical key and stop action was retained, but an electric blower was added. Three new ranks of pipes were added to the manuals which are the Mixture II, the Trumpet on the Great, and the Fifteenth on the Swell.

The organ case is of pine. The side panels are new, and were built by Jim Baird to match the front. The wood for the side panels was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Bouton. The console is walnut. Mrs. Toni Galas used hand mixed paints to repair the original patterns on the case pipes. The new porcelain stop knobs were made to order in Germany, and were purchased with the proceeds from the Junior Choir homemade Christmas cookie sales. The transitional console contains two keyboards of 56 scalloped ivory keys each and a 30 note pedal board. The case is five sectioned, with the pipes in a 5-3-5-3-5 arrangement. In May of 1994 an 8' pedal rank with a 4' extension on electric chests was added along with the eight-bell Zymbel Stern which was a gift of Martha Nagic.

The organ was blessed by the Rt. Reverend Robert Hall on his visit in January 1970, and was formally dedicated at a concert given by David Lowry of Winthrop College, South Carolina on October 12, 1971.

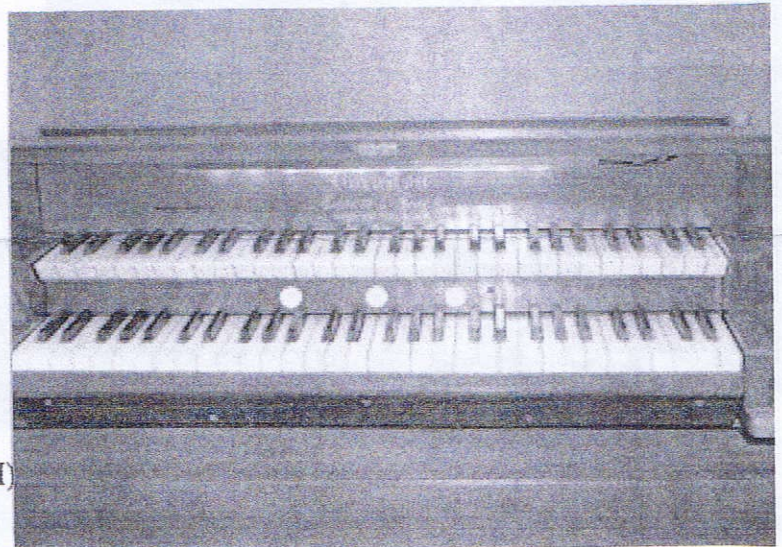
It was disassembled from Henry Hall and reassembled in this room by Jim Baird and his sons Ronnie and Steven, assisted by parishioners, to be rededicated by the Rt. Reverend David h. Lewis at the November, 1982 dedication of this building. The organ continues to be maintained by Jim Baird."

The instrument is disposed as follows:

Great	Swell	Pedal
Open Diapason 8'	Open Diapason (tc) 8'	Sub Bass 16'
Clarabelle (tf) 8'	Stop'd Diapason (tc) 8'	Principal 8' (electric action)
Stop'd Bass 8' (1-17)	Stop'd Diapason Bass 8'(1-12 wood)	Octave 4' (extension 12 pipes from Prin. 8)
Octave 4'	Viol di Gamba 8'(1-12 wood,13-56met.)	
Fifteenth 2'	Principal 4'	Normal Couplers
Mixture II	Flute Harmonique 4' (tc)	Tutti reversible
Trumpet 8'	Fifteenth 2'	

After lunch, the group traveled to Manassas and the home of John Ackley and his collection of reed organs. The instrument of greatest interest was a Mason & Risch Vocation – a large 2-manual and pedal instrument (Opus 1960, dated February 14, 1893). This is quite a large instrument with two 58-note manuals and a 30-note pedal. The Swell is enclosed, and there are the usual couplers (including a Swell to Great Octaves). There are two machine stops: Piano Great and Forte Great. The instrument is beautifully restored and in perfect working condition. Member Carl Schwartz demonstrated the organ's versatility with several pieces from the French Romantic literature. The stop list below belies the fact that this is a reed instrument!

- Great: 16' Open Diapason
 8' Open Diapason
 8' Melodia
 8' Dulciana
 4' Harmonic Flute
 8' Trumpet
- Swell: 16' Bourdon
 8' Stopped Diapason
 8' Gamba
 8' Viol d'Gamba (celeste tuning)
 4' Flute d'Amour
 2 2/3' Quinte (originally 4' Eolian II)
 2' Piccolo
 8' Oboe
- Pedal: 16' Double Open Diapason
 16' Bourdon
 8' Violoncello *
 4' Flute *
 * added in 1988



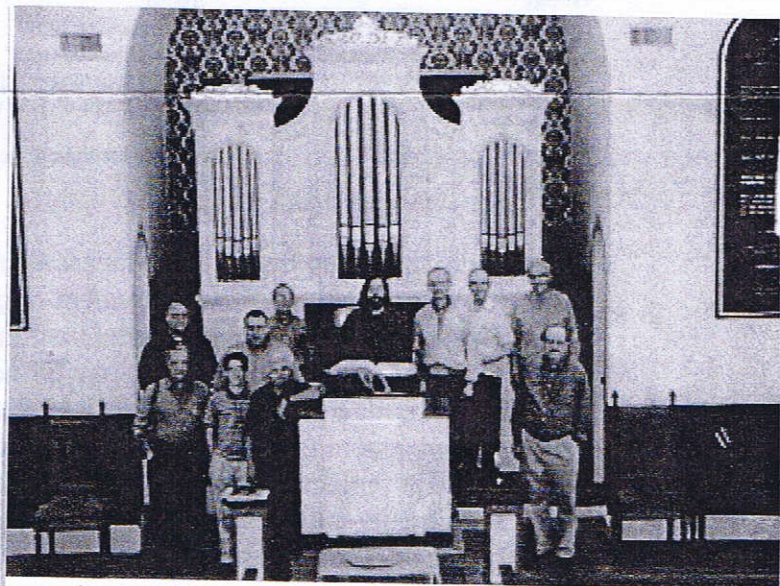
Mason & Risch Vocation keyboards, Ackley residence
 Manassas, VA Photo: Chris Schwartz

Following the visit to the Ackley residence, everyone traveled to the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Manassas, home of J.H. & C.S. Odell's Opus #80, built in 1869. This organ was originally built for the Dutch Reform Church in E. Millstone, NJ; later it was sold back to the Odell family. Only later was it sold to the church in Manassas.

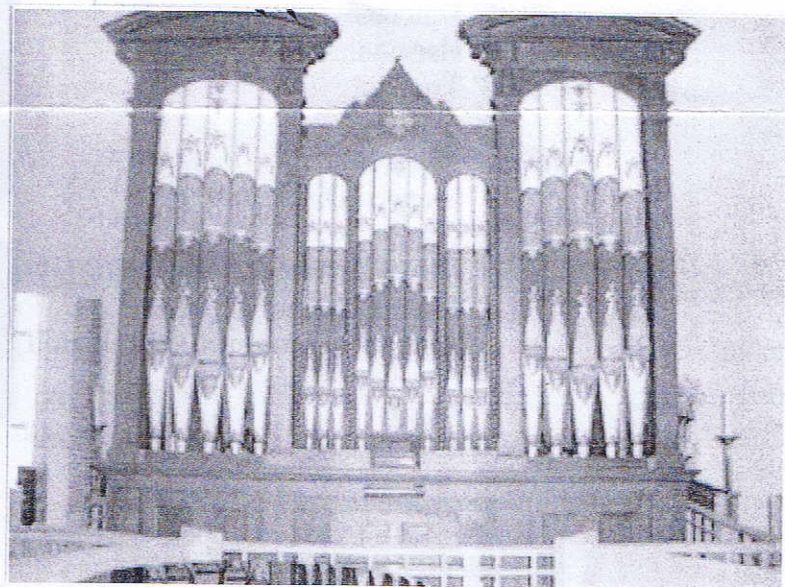
The organ is Odell Model #4, originally priced at \$1,000. It is a beautifully restored and maintained one-manual instrument placed in the front of the church building (originally a Roman Catholic church from the 1880's). The entire manual is enclosed in a swell box behind a classical façade of false pipes. Each stop is carefully voiced to work within the tonal concept – and it was a joy to both hear and play.

Manual: 8' Open Diapason
 8' Stopped Diapason Bass
 8' Clarionet Flute
 8' Dulciana
 4' Principal
 2' Fifteenth
 II Sesquialtera *
 III Mixture *

Pedal: 16' Bourdon



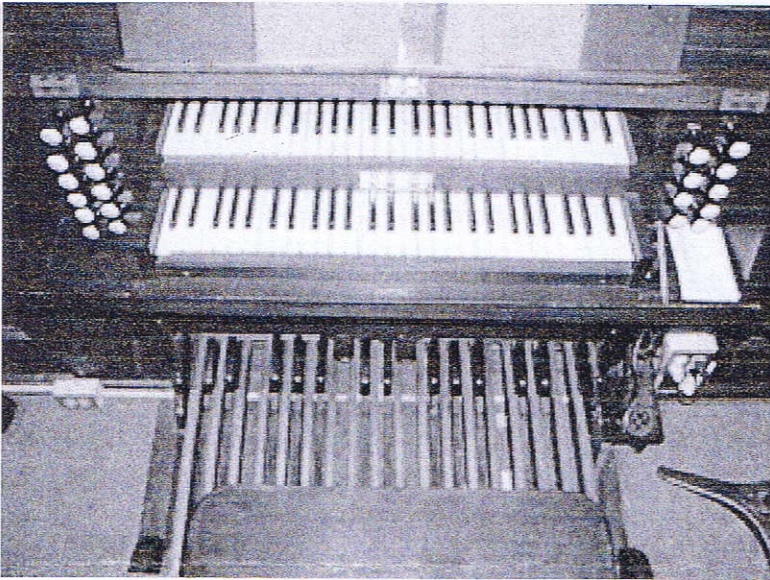
The Odell organ at the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Manassas. Hilbus crawl group Photo: Chris Schwartz



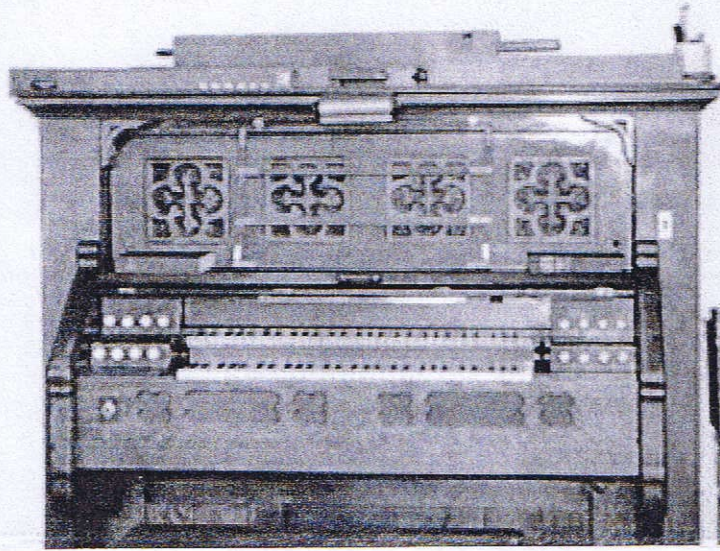
James D. Moore organ façade, St. Timothy's Church, Herndon, VA Photo: Chris Schwartz



Odell organ key desk, Manassas, VA
 Photo: Chris Schwartz



James D. Moore organ key desk. Herndon, VA
Photo : Chris Schwartz



Two manual Estey in Ackley collection
Photo: Chris Schwartz

Congratulations to Carolyn Booth, who has just been awarded a scholarship grant of \$2,000 from the DC-AGO Foundation Committee to continue her organ studies with Ken Cowen, in Princeton, NJ, where he is on the organ faculty of Westminster Choir College. These monies will cover monthly organ lessons with Ken as well as travel expenses. She will be giving an organ recital in May 2007 as part of that grant. Carolyn is finishing her first scholarship grant for this year 2005-2006, which covered lessons only, from the DC-AGO Scholarship Committee. Both grants have asked her to submit a written report at the end of each organ study period.

No crawl is scheduled for June because on the OHS convention. Crawls will resume in July. We look forward to seeing a good crowd at the pot luck and pray for beautiful weather.

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