

Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

www.hilbus.org



Volume 37

Number 7

March 2008

Whole No. 339

Saturday, March 29, 2008

[THANKS TO TED GUSTIN FOR ARRANGING THIS DAY!]

A Day in Old Town Alexandria

Let's hope for good weather; this will be a walking tour of four organs in three historic churches. We suggest parking once and enjoying the sights of Old Town Alexandria. See the map on the next page.

10:00 AM

Old Presbyterian Meeting House

323 S. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

1849 one-manual Henry Erben; 1997 two-manual Lively-Fulcher (mechanical action)

Host: Sam Baker

Directions:

The church faces Fairfax Street; there is ample parking in a lot just north of the church (sign-posted "St. Mary's Catholic Church" but we've been assured that we may park there as long as we vacate before their 5:00 pm Mass).

11:15 AM

Christ Church (Episcopal)

118 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

1975 three-manual Austin

Host: Jason Abel

Directions:

Make your way north and then west along the historic streets (see map).

[crawl information continued next page]

CHAIRMAN: Carl Schwartz, 12802 Ruxton Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

(301) 236-0315

VICE CHAIRMAN: Kevin Clemens, 711 Court Square Way, Edgewood, MD 21040

(410) 679-2271

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Barbara Birckner, 6606 Farmer Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744

(301) 449-4399

EDITOR: Thom Robertson, 7511 Ashby Lane, Unit A, Alexandria, VA 22315

(703) 922-0719

EDITORIAL ADVISOR: Carolyn Fix, 116 Battle Street, SW, Vienna, VA 22180

(703) 281-5046

Articles and news may be submitted to the Editor electronically: music.director@gracealex.org

Dues due in October: \$14, mailed to Secretary-Treasurer (Checks payable to Hilbus Chapter, OHS)

12:30 – 1:30 PM

Lunch

There are over a dozen restaurants, including many ethnic styles, along King Street between Columbus and Pitt Streets. Rather than suggest a single place, we’re suggesting that you walk along until you find something that strikes your fancy; it might be easier to find tables for four rather than one restaurant that could seat everyone.

Directions:

From Christ Church, head out towards Columbus Street, turn left, and go one block. Turn left on King Street and enjoy!

1:45 PM

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

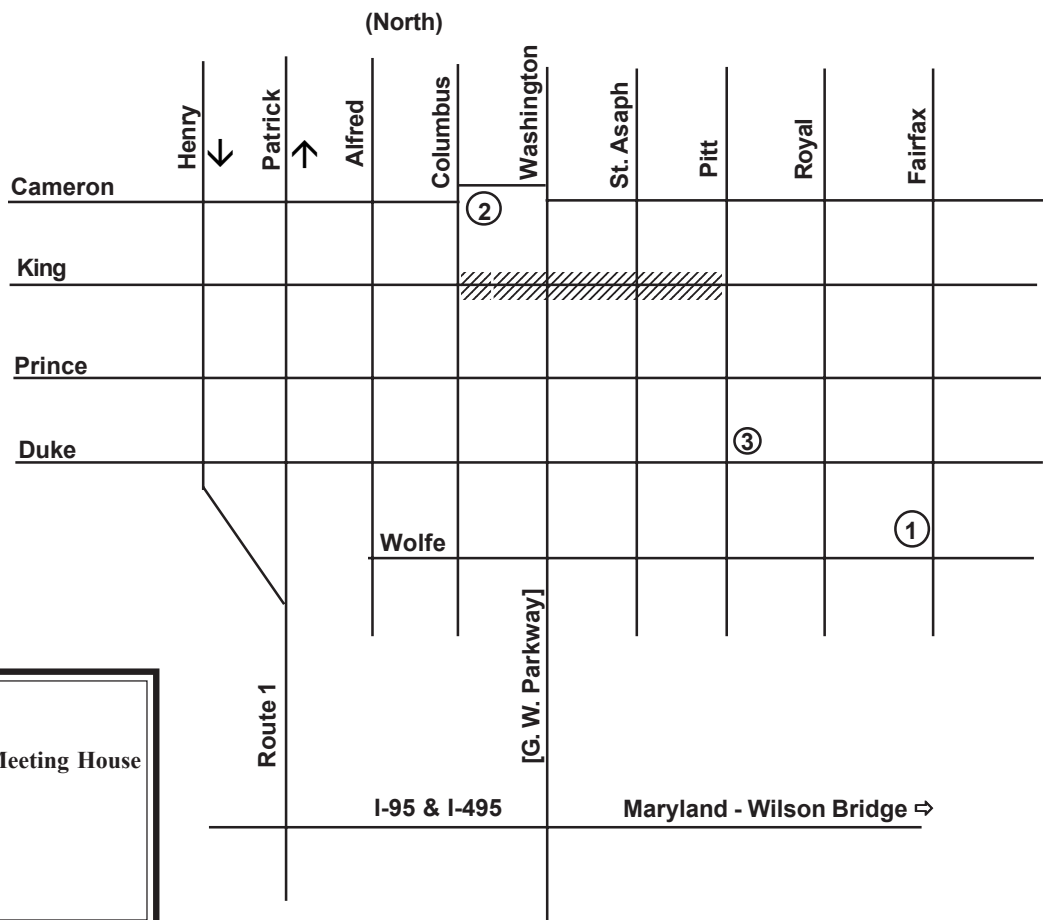
228 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

1968 two-manual Casavant

Host: Douglas Beck

Directions:

St. Paul’s is on the east side of Pitt Street, two blocks south of King Street.



February Crawl to Baltimore's Highlandtown

(compiled from notes by Alan Hastings)

The first organ visited was a 1927 Hall, located at Nazareth Lutheran Church, 3401 Bank Street, Baltimore, MD 21224.

GREAT	SWELL
8' Diapason	16' Bourdon (ext.)
4' Octave	8' Diapason
8' Clarabella	8' Salicional
8' Tibia	8' Voix Celeste
4' Flute Harmonic	8' Gedeckt
8' Trompette (SW)	4' Flute D'amour (ext.)
Swell to Great 16'	2' Piccolo (ext.)
Swell to Great 8'	8' Oboe
Swell to Great 4'	8' Trompette
Great to Great 16'	Tremolo
Great to Great 4'	8' Vox Humana (prep.)
	Swell to Swell 16'
	Swell to Swell 4'
	Chimes
	Harp

PEDAL
16' Bourdon
16' Lieblich Gedeckt
8' Dolce Flute (Gt. Tibia)
Swell to Pedal 8'
Swell to Pedal 4'
Great to Pedal 8'



Nazareth Lutheran Church

The church has an altar area [chancel] set off from the nave by an arch, and the organ is in a room high up on the north wall of the chancel. There is a single chamber with swell shades across the opening. Most of the area of the room is chest with the stops, for the most part, parallel to the opening; there are some offset chests on the walls.



Nazareth Lutheran console

The pedal Bourdon and Lieblich Gedeckt are probably the same pipes with a wind pressure mechanism; the timbre of the stops is identical if drawn separately with the Lieblich Gedeckt being very slightly softer. If one is drawn while the other is playing, there is a distinct transition effect after which one hears only a single note.

The harp is a curious thing. It is suspended approximately centrally over the pipes and has wooden bars with short resonators, although not in a one per note arrangement. There is a motor on the harp assembly, and it drives a set of four bellows arranged around a central drive shaft, the purpose of which was not obvious.

The Trompette 8' is present in both the Great and Swell, but sounds only when drawn on the Swell; the Great tablet is not functional.

The console is across from the organ chamber in a shallow transept, the depth of the transept being just about the width of the console. The organist has his back to a wall and is facing forward with a good view of the altar

[Review continued next page]

and the organ, and in a good position to hear the organ as it is heard by the congregation.

The organ is small, but has a strong sound and is quite adequate for the space. The room is acoustically hard and supports the organ well.

The second organ visited was directly across the street from Nazareth Lutheran Church – Abbott’s Memorial Presbyterian Church, 3426 Bank Street, Baltimore, MD 21224. This organ is a 1918 Möller much revised and rebuilt.

GREAT	SWELL
8' Open Diapason	16' Bourdon
8' Melodia	8' Violin Diapason
8' Dulciana	8' Stopped Diapason
4' Principal	8' Viola D'Gamba
4' Flute D'Amour	8' Salicional
Chimes	8' Voix Celeste
Swell to Great 16'	8' Aeoline
Swell to Great 8'	4' Principal
Swell to Great 4'	4' Flute
Great to Great 16'	2' Piccolo
Great to Great 4'	8' Vox Humana
Great Unison Off	Tremolo
	Swell to Swell 16'
PEDAL	Swell to Swell 4'
16' Bourdon	Swell Unison Off
16' Lieblich Gedeckt	
8' Flute	
8' Octave Bass	
Great to Pedal 16'	
Great to Pedal 8'	
Swell to Pedal 16'	
Swell to Pedal 8'	
32' Resultant	



Abbott's Memorial Church



Abbott's Memorial console

The interior of the church is much modernized from its original interior, and what looks to be a large high-vaulted nave from the exterior is actually low-ceilinged; the church's fellowship hall is upstairs. No organ pipes are visible behind the contemporary façade, and the console is a 1950's console replacing an earlier one damaged by fire. There is no record of when or by whom the organ was electrified.

The pedal Resultant 32' did not get a stop tablet; it is actuated by a reversible toe stud, and has an indicator lamp to show that it is on.

Speculation among the church members eventually led to the discovery, inside the organ itself, of a nameplate on a wind trunk below one of the chests:
M. P Möller, Hagerstown, Md. U.S.A. Opus 2523 – 1918.



Abbott's Memorial organ façade

[Review continued next page]

After visiting Abbott’s Memorial, members made their way to the Eichenkranz Restaurant, 611 South Fagley Street, Baltimore, MD 21224. Highlandtown is an ethnically diverse neighborhood, and we were treated to very authentic German cuisine along with lively conversation.

The last organ visited was quite a curiosity. Located in Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 5401 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21224 is a mechanical-action organ utilizing the chassis from a 1905 Möller. This organ became redundant in its original location (Harrisburg, PA) and was rescued by members of the parish. It is known that Dan Meyer did work on this organ, including the addition of the off-set Pedal Flute unit (behind the organ case); it is speculated that he was mostly responsible for the present tonal design.

The façade was also newly designed at the time of the organ’s relocation.

GREAT	SWELL	PEDAL	MECHANICAL
8' Open Diapason	8' Stp Diapason	16' Bourdon	Great to Pedal
8' Melodia	4' Flute	8' Gelind Gedackt	Swell to Pedal
4' Gemshorn	2' Flute	4' Doppel Flute (ext.)	Swell to Great
Mixture III	1 3/5' Tierce	2' Nacht Horn (ext.)	Sw to Gt Super Octave
	1 1/3' Larigot		Zimbelstern
	1' Octave		
	8' Trumpet		

Keyboards are 61 notes. Pedal is 30 notes CC-f, flat and non-radiating.

Although named “Swell”, the second (upper) manual is also unenclosed; the Swell pedal is now a convenient foot rest for the organist.



Luther Memorial Church



Luther Memorial façade



Luther Memorial keydesk



GREETINGS FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

I know that many of you are already members of the Organ Historical Society along with your membership in Hilbus Chapter. I would like to encourage those of you who are NOT members of OHS to join the national organization. As you already know, Organ Historical Society will be holding their national convention here in the Washington, D.C. in 2011. I would like to set the goal of having 100% membership of Hilbus Chapter in OHS by that time. It would be fantastic if we could achieve that goal even sooner. If you want to attend the convention, you will have to be a member of OHS, so why not do it sooner.

The annual membership dues are \$60.00 for regular members, \$50.00 for members 65 years and older, and \$20.00 for members 25 and younger. The due should be sent to: The Organ Historical Society, P. O. Box 26811, Richmond, VA 23261. The dues include receiving the OHS magazine *The Tracker* four times a year and discounts on the many books and music that you can order through the OHS catalog. Most importantly, you help support an organization dedicated to the preservation of the organ, which is why you are a member of Hilbus Chapter in the first place!

— Carolyn Lamb Booth, Membership Chair

Please contact me: Phone 301-869-6271 or CLBmuscmkr@aol.com if you have any questions.



The May crawl (date and location to be announced later) will include our Annual Meeting with election of officers. The slate is as follows:

- Kevin Clemens — *Chairman*
- Tom Scheck — *Vice Chairman*
- Barb Birckner — *Secretary-Treasurer*

We express thanks to Bob Hobbs, Wayne Selleck and John Becker for being on the nominating committee.

Dates to remember:
April Crawl - Saturday, April 26th
Deadline for April Newsletter:
 Tuesday, April 8th
PLEASE NOTE THIS IS AN EARLIER THAN USUAL DATE

News of Note

The Potomac Chapter AGO is going on a crawl to Lancaster, Pennsylvania on April 19. Here's what they have planned:

- ◆ **1886 Barckhoff tracker** at Old St. Joseph's Church (unique instrument in beautiful 19th century German Catholic church; stunning acoustics. Msgr. Thomas Smith, pastor, is an OHS and AGO member)
- ◆ **2006 45-rank electro-pneumatic Schantz** at St. Peter's Lutheran Church (new versatile organ in renovated 1950s sanctuary)
- ◆ **2006 30-rank Dobson tracker** at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (featured on a recent cover of *The American Organist*; modern renovated church; striking organ case design)

Each person will have the opportunity to play each organ (though your time at the console will be limited by the number of people who wish to play.) You can have lunch at the historic Central Market or other downtown restaurants. We will all have dinner at the famous Miller's Smorgasbord (all you can eat for one price!)

The bus will depart the *Park and Ride* lot behind the Burtonsville Shopping Center (old US Rte. 29 just north of MD Rte. 198, on the east side) at 8:30 AM, and return 9:30-10:00 PM. The cost for the bus is \$25.00 per person, payable to Potomac Chapter AGO. The deadline for signing up is March 28, 2008. (Limited to 33 passengers.)

Sign me up!

Name _____ Phone(s) _____

Return this form with your check payable to Potomac Chapter, AGO, to:
 John Brooks
 9523 Treyford Terrace
 Montgomery Village, MD 20886



Did you know? The name of our chapter is in honor of Jacob Hilbus, an organ builder active in the Washington, DC area at the beginning of the 19th century. Although few of his works survive, one of note was originally installed in Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia and is now preserved by the Smithsonian Institute. The picture on the masthead of this newsletter is of that organ.