

Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

www.hilbus.org



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Saturday, September 26, 2009

Organs on Capitol Hill, DC

ARRANGED BY DAVID STOREY

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Capitol Hill United Methodist Church

421 Seward Square, SE
Washington, DC 20003

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

118 3rd Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

Lunch (Eastern Market?)

(The following is tentative - awaiting confirmation)

2PM - 3PM

Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church

201 4th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(4th and Independence Avenue, SE)

Travel: All the venues are near the **Capitol South** and **Eastern Market** stops
on the **Blue** and **Orange** lines of Washington Metro

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Articles and news may be submitted to the Editor electronically: twrobertson@cox.net

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

Trackers in Cecil County, Maryland

Reviewed by Kevin M. Clemens

On a cloudy August 22, members of the Hilbus Chapter traveled up Interstate 95 crossing the Susquehanna River to Port Deposit, Maryland located in Cecil County. Our first church was the Port Deposit Presbyterian Church located on Main Street of this historic town. Members of the church greeted us, which included the organist and the lay pastoral leader of the church. The current pastor, Rev. Barry M. Gray, is currently on sabbatical until October. The church was built in 1901 and the beautiful stone building sits about 100 feet from the mighty Susquehanna River. The sanctuary of the church is a modified Akron plan and seats about 200 people. Large doors can be opened into classrooms for overflow seating when needed. An elegant wood ceiling compliments the 1903 Adam Stein pipe organ of two manuals and pedal. The church members are very proud of the pipe organ built by this firm located in Baltimore, Maryland. In 2000 Patrick Murphy and Associates of Stowe, Pennsylvania restored the instrument. A modest sized pipe organ of nine ranks, each stop is voiced to use independently or in combination. Hilbus Member Dennis Stewart, organist/director of Grace United Methodist Church of Aberdeen, Maryland, commented that as a high school student in the 1980's he accompanied the Stainer "Crucifixion" on this instrument. Several members played the instrument and I found that an album of "Victorian Organ Works" edited by Malcolm Archer worked particularly well on the instrument. Members were invited to play the organ for short organ recitals during the annual Port Deposit Christmas Candlelight Tour held the first Saturday of December.

SWELL (enclosed) 61 notes

Stopped Diapason Bass 8' 12 pipes

Stopped Diapason 8' 49 pipes

Viola 8' 49 pipes

Flute Harmonic 4' 61 pipes

Oboe Gamba 8' 61 pipes

Swell Tremulant

GREAT (unenclosed) 61 notes

Open Diapason 8' 61 pipes

Unison Bass 8' 12 pipes

Dulciana 8' 49 pipes

Melodia 8' 49 pipes

Gemshorn 4' 61 pipes

Bellows Signal

PEDAL (unenclosed) 30 notes

Bourdon 16' 30 pipes

COUPLERS (located above the swell manual)

Swell to Pedal

Great to Pedal

Swell to Great

Swell to Great Octaves



**Port Deposit Presbyterian Church
Adam Stein organ**

Balanced Swell Pedal; Great to Pedal Reversible Combination Pedal; Pumping Mechanism intact and operable

At 11:00 AM a meeting was called to order of the Hilbus Chapter. Officers Kevin M. Clemens, Chairperson and Carolyn Booth, Secretary-Treasurer were presented for approval for the 2009-2010 season of the Hilbus Chapter. Thomas Scheck, Vice-Chairperson was absent. Carolyn Booth gave a report on the finances of the chapter and Carl Schwartz reported on the progress of the 2011 National Convention to be held in Washington, D.C. Members then departed Port Deposit for North East, Maryland to dine at the Pier I Restaurant.

[review continued next page]



Wesley Chapel, Elk Neck

The next instrument was a curiosity to members since no one had every played a tracker instrument of the Italian builder Fratelli Ruffatti, of Padua, Italy. The Historic Wesley Chapel is small and seats about 100 people. The Elk Neck area sits on the Chesapeake Bay near the Delaware border and the chapel was built in 1830. Glenn Arrants, historian of the chapel, remembers how his mother served as church organist of the chapel for almost fifty years. At that time she played an early twentieth century electro-pneumatic Möller pipe organ which took up considerable space in the chapel. In the mid 1990's, the chapel went through a complete restoration and the Möller, which was then beyond

repair, was replaced with a restored Estey reed organ. Church members missed the sound of a pipe organ, and in 2005 set in motion plans to acquire a pipe organ. An electronic substitute was never considered – a pipe organ was their goal.

The organ is a good example of how a very small instrument can be pleasing and effective in spite of its very limited size. With only one manual and a total of six stops, including the pedal, it is difficult to imagine any kind of versatility at all. However, a few special ingredients give this instrument a real flexibility. The divided stops and the overall voicing of the instrument indeed make this a fine instrument to serve the congregation and community of Elk Neck. Alice Moore, organist for the chapel, cannot help but think of the dedicated craftsmen who built the organ, all the attention to detail, and the beautiful voices of the pipes. It gives her great joy to be able to sit down and play this organ, so much so that what seems like minutes in time are actually hours of enjoyment.

MANUAL *(unenclosed) 56 notes*

Principal Bass 8' 25 pipes*

Principal Treble 8' 31 pipes (Some are in the façade)

Octave 4' 56 pipes

Spitzflote Bass 4' 17 pipes (1-8 common bass with Octave.)

Spitzflote Treble 4' 31 pipes

Fifteenth 2' 56 pipes

Mixture II 11/3' – 1' 12 pipes

PEDAL 27 notes

Bourdon 16' 27 pipes (mahogany)

Manual to Pedal Coupler

7 ranks, 355 pipes

*First 12 notes are mahogany and installed against the ceiling of the organ case.

The rest are percentage of tin in tin-lead alloy and in the façade.

The casework is made completely from solid African mahogany. The keyboard features bone naturals with carved key fronts, and natural ebony sharps with bone inlays. The key cheeks are inlaid with thin strips of bone. The draw knobs are of ebony, with maple insets. The concave pedalboard is made of oak with the sharps topped by ebony. The mechanical action is suspended. The roller boards are made from solid aluminum rollers with wooden arms.



2011 CONVENTION UPDATE

Progress is at last being made in scheduling Convention venues; churches are now more responsive to our inquiries regarding scheduling convention events for the summer of 2011.

On August 27 Carl Schwartz, Convention Chair, attended an informative meeting at Bethany UCC in Randolph, Vermont regarding a proposed 2013 Convention that may be held in the northern portion of that state. Present were the Executive Director of OHS, Dan Colburn, and the President of OHS, Scot Huntington, Stephen Pinel, John Weaver, David Moore, Ed Boadway, David and Permelia Sears, Robert Newton and the Chair of that convention, Marilyn Polson. What this all has to do with the 2011 Washington, DC Convention is simply that a lot of ground was covered regarding requirements and expectations from the OHS membership at large as well as much helpful guidance regarding the time to allow for each event and meal. This will assist our committee in making adjustments as the arrangements unfold. At the risk of being repetitive it needs to be reinforced that simply hoping to visit a particular organ on a given day and time is a speculative matter. We are being hosted by churches and other venues and must coordinate with their schedules which often are very different from our own. As far as the many venues in the vicinity of downtown DC this does not pose an insurmountable problem with regards to transportation and timing, but certain plans turn on a finely tuned travel schedule. If you have attended a recent convention you will understand this aspect of planning.

There will be opportunities for OHS members and other interested parties to sponsor artists in recital. If you are interested in doing so please contact the Chair in the coming months. Donations to the work of the convention are handled administratively by the Executive Director of the OHS. They may be designated for a specific organ, artist or both. ~ *Carl Schwartz, Chair*



CORRECTIONS TO LAST MONTH'S CRAWL INFORMATION FROM CARL SCHWARTZ...

The Gamba in NJ should read: Gamba, 12 stopped wood, 11 zinc, 33 metal, ear tuned, bells

The present Keraulophon is, as best as I can determine from Jim Baird's answers to my questions, the Old Dulciana but loudened in some way.

The Specification for the Jardine is correct. The left hand stops are the Swell and the Right Hand Stops are the Great. There are two Fifteenths (not bass and treble) and the Gamba is on one stop knob. The Gamba is the Swell string and the Keraulophon (Dulciana) is Great. As I recall (and I was vague about this on purpose because I'm not sure from my notes)- Gamba is TC and requires the Std. Diap Bass. The Keraulophon (old Dulciana) is full compass with a Stopped Bass (perhaps the old Gamba bass). The organ's stop history is quite confusing.

I should have been clearer about that - LH stops Swell and RH stops Great but they are not labeled at all and what I listed is what you see at the keydesk. Carolyn Fix thought the flute was TC only, I think it runs full compass now. It's not original and the pipes are spotted metal and more modern.

The Stevens has a CLarabel not a Carabel.

... AND AN OMISSION NOTED BY TOM SCHECK:

The Aeolian-Skinner specification omitted the Flute Celeste rank on the Swell; the organ does have two celestes

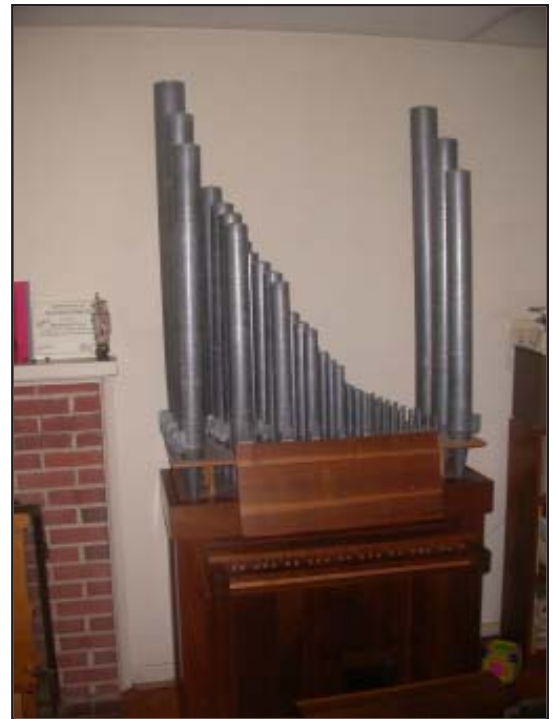


ORGAN FOR SALE

John Becker reports: Ben Givens and I saw the Bedient organ the other day. It was sold as a do-it-yourself kit by Bedient in the late 70's. It is completely mechanical including the single foot pump to supply the wind. Bedient himself assembled this organ for the clients. It is one rank, with a 54-note keyboard. Anyone interested can contact Catherine Porter at 301/622-1292. It is in "like new" condition except for a minor leak somewhere in the winding system.

DATE CHANGES

Due to delivery schedules, the dedication of the new DiGennaro-Hart pipe organ at Grace Episcopal Church in Alexandria has been moved to Thursday, October 29th at 8:00 PM. Thom Robertson will play the inaugural concert on the new organ on Monday, November 2nd at 8:00 PM. The public is invited to attend both events.



One-rank Bedient for sale



Above: Port Deposit Presbyterian façade

Left: Dennis Stewart at the console of the Port Deposit Adam Stein

All photos (except Bedient organ) © 2009 Gordon Biscomb

Dates to remember:

September Crawl - Saturday, September 26th

October Crawl - Saturday, October 24th

Deadline for October Newsletter:

Monday, October 5th

Have you paid your dues for 2009-2010?