

# Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

*Where the Tracker Action Is!*

www.hilbus.org



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## A Circuit through Central Maryland

Prepared by Paul Roeder

### Saturday, April 30, 2011

#### 10:30 AM

HOME OF DICK KLINE  
7007 Spahr's Quarry Road  
Thurmont, Maryland 21788

**1826 Wilfred Hall**

*(Original to All Saints Episcopal Church of Frederick, Maryland.)*

**1 manual, 6 ranks**

**Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ**

*(Two instruments combined: 1927 from the Fox Theatre in D.C. and from a theatre in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.)*

**Instrument is in 5 chambers. Möller built the 4 manual console.**

Directions: From Frederick take Route 15 North about 10 minutes. There is a 711 Convenience Store on the Northwest corner at Anglesberger Road. Turn right and go up hill past the little red church. At the bottom (one half mile) turn left and go exactly one mile on Hessons Bridge Road. Spahr's Quarry Road is on the left. Turn left and go West, towards the mountain. One half mile and you will see a long fence. Mailbox on the left with Dick Kline on the box. Turn in and continue to bear left. Then over the driveway bell, drive under the breezeway and park. A tenant house is to the right so keep turning left as you enter the property.

If you are coming from Thurmont you will go about 4 miles or so and then come out of the hilly wooded area onto a flat area and the 711 Convenience Store will be on the left. Follow the direction above.

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Articles and news may be submitted to the **Editor** electronically: [kevinclemens@mac.com](mailto:kevinclemens@mac.com)

Dues are due in October: **\$14.00** mailed to **Secretary-Treasurer** (Checks payable to: **HILBUS CHAPTER, OHS**)

**12:15 PM**

**Lunch**

**CASO RICO RESTAURANT**  
1399 West Patrick Street  
Frederick, Maryland 21702

Directions: Start out going East on Spahr's Quarry Road toward Hessong Bridge Road. Turn right onto Hessong Bridge Road. Take first right onto Angleberger Road. Take second left onto US - 15 South and drive 10 miles. Merge onto West Patrick Street, US 40 via Exit 13B. Drive 1.5 miles and restaurant is on the right.

**1:30 PM**

**BUCKEYSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
3440 Buckeystown Pike  
Buckeystown, Maryland 21717  
  
**1897 John Brown Pipe Organ**  
**Wilmington, Delaware**  
**2 manual and pedal - 9 ranks**

Directions: Follow US 40 back the way we came into Frederick. Exit on right US 15 South towards Washington, D.C. (Sign may also indicate I-270 South.) Follow onto I - 270 South. Drive 1.6 miles to MD 85 South, Exit 31B towards Buckeystown. Drive 0.3 miles and make slight right onto MD 85 / Buckeystown Pike. Drive 3.8 miles to church.

**Attention Hilbus Chapter Members**

Would you like to sponsor or cosponsor one of the recitalists for the 2011 Convention? The fees for most of the recitalists are actually very reasonable and affordable. Contact Carolyn Booth and/or Carl Schwartz for more information. Their telephone numbers are on the front of this newsletter. E-mail addresses are: Carl Schwartz [ruxtoncar@aol.com](mailto:ruxtoncar@aol.com) and/or Carolyn Booth [clbmuscmk@aol.com](mailto:clbmuscmk@aol.com)

**UPCOMING CRAWLS**

May Crawl is scheduled for May 21. The **third** Saturday of the month. Host: David Storey.

## March Crawl Review

By Carl Schwartz

The Hilbus Chapter March crawl was organized by John Becker. We visited two organs, one old and one new, in the Colesville, Maryland vicinity.

Colesville Presbyterian Church  
12800 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

The instrument is well known to Hilbus OHS Members and is a very beautiful organ and a joy to play. It can be heard well in the room, which is not large nor very live acoustically. When we visited we found one note down on the Swell manual but the organ was in otherwise good condition. The Swell to Great Octaves coupler is literally broken, however, but discussions are underway to arrange for repair.

The following is a history of the organ from the Church written by Lloyd Farrar provided previously by the Church and Gerald Piercey, Hilbus member and organist at the church when the organ was installed. His additions are indicated.

Colesville Presbyterian Church, Adam Stein Opus 1, 1893 - Article provided by Gerald Piercey

Quoting from the dedication brochure from March 16, 1975: Franklin Square Presbyterian Church of Baltimore was one of two churches donated by Mrs. Isabella Brown, wife of the president of the B&O Railroad, the other being Brown Memorial. The building was completed in 1861. In February of 1893 the Organ Committee recommended a new organ be purchased from Adam Stein, whose firm had opened six weeks earlier. [He just put his name over the door where it had said Roosevelt before, as he was the superintendent of the Baltimore works. GLP] The cost was \$2,500, and the organ was installed in September of 1893. S. Archer Gibson donated his services for a recital.

Beginning in 1908 the congregation began to move north, so in 1923 the building was sold and the church moved to Towson, Maryland, as the Towson Presbyterian Church. The Adam Stein organ built for Peabody Conservatory was moved there, so the congregation still had a Stein organ.

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The organ was sold to the Crisp Memorial Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn, Maryland, and it was dedicated there on October 9, 1928. It had been installed by George Houndshell and Lewis Herbst. Lewis Herbst became the Baltimore representative of Lewis & Hitchcock, Inc. in 1929 and serviced the organ from that point.

Several alterations were made for the organ to be installed in Crisp Church; the case had to be reduced in width, and the end facade pipes were too large, so new facade pipes were made by Mr. Houndshell, from old drainpipes. The mechanical action for the pedal was discarded, and electro-pneumatic pull downs were installed, operated by contacts under the pedals. One of the two blank stops was used for a 2' Piccolo, which was made from an old 8' Bell Gamba. The bells were cut off, and the result was a light Gemshorn tone. Miscellaneous pipes filled in the top notes.

By the 1970's the church had declined to the point that it merged with another, and the building and organ were sold. The organ was bought at auction by Colesville Presbyterian Church. It was moved by the church members, under the direction of Lewis & Hitchcock, Inc., who restored the action and provided the other prepared stop. The prepared stops were intended to be an 8' Trumpet, which was where the 2' was installed. The other preparation was an 8' Dulciana; several of the facade pipes are actually Dulciana basses, unvoiced, with uncut tuning scrolls. The Dulciana position was given to a new 1 1/3' Mixture II, which is mounted for ease of tuning.

The electro-pneumatic pull down action for the pedal was discarded, and the church organist devised a system of pulleys that open the valves mechanically. A two-pressure reservoir was added so that the Bourdon may also be played at lighter pressure by only pulling the knob partway out.

The organ was first used in Colesville Church on 12/8/74, but it was not complete until the dedication on March 16, 1975, and the recitalist was Geoffrey Simon.

## Specification

**Great:** 58 keys

**8' Diapason**

58 pipes, exposed, 1-14 zinc in facade, 13-58 lead

**8' Doppel Floete**

58 pipes, 1-12 single mouth wood, 13-58 double mouth wood

**8' Salicional**

58 pipes, 1-13 tin mouth, zinc body, 14-58 all tin, 1-42 bridges - it appears this stop was not made by Stein, as it does not bear the AS stamp, it may be French

**4' Gemshorn**

58 pipes, all open cylindrical pipes of spotted metal (Roosevelt often called the 4' *Octave or Principal stop* Gemshorn)

**2' Piccolo**

58 pipes, various metals and shapes; this stop was added in 1928 in place of the Trumpet, with the bulk of the pipes Bell Gambas cut into Gemshorn shapes, with miscellaneous trebles; this stop was improved in 1974

**1 1/3' Mixture II**

116 pipes, tin, installed in the Dulciana preparation on a mounted toeboard.

**Swell:** 58 keys

**16' Bourdon**

58 pipes, stopped wood; pipes 1-12 are available on the bottom half of the drawknob, to use as a soft bass coupled to the pedal. The split knob was a feature of many Roosevelt organs.

**8' Violin Diapason**

58 pipes, 1-12 zinc, 13-58 spotted metal, 1-24 bridges

**8' Stopped Diapason**

58 pipes, stopped wood

**8' Dolce**

58 pipes, metal, 1-5 zinc, stopped, 6-12 zinc, open, 13-58 lead, 1-37 bridges

**4' Flute Harmonique**

58 pipes, lead, 1-20 open, 21-58 harmonic length

**8' Oboe**

58 pipes, reed, 1-17 zinc & spotted metal resonators, 18-49 spotted metal resonators, 50-58 flues

**Pedal:** 27 keys

**16' Bourdon** 27 pipes, stopped wood

The Great Diapason and the Pedal Bourdon are exposed; the rest of the pipework is enclosed in a massive Swell box.

**Couplers:**

Great to Pedal  
Swell to Pedal  
Swell to Great  
Swell to Great 8ves\*

*\*This coupler is presently inoperable and we are advised that a proposal is before the church to rebuild it.*

**Mechanical Movements:**

Swell Piano, double acting  
Swell Forte, single acting  
Swell Shoe  
Great to Pedal reversible  
Great Piano, double acting  
Great Forte, single acting  
Engine Starter, which originally started the water motor; now non-functional

After a pleasant lunch at the Greek Islands Grill in Cloverly we traveled practically next door to the new facility of the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew where longtime Hilbus members George and Marilyn Candler are members. Members were able to play the new organ built in 2009 by the Schantz Organ Company and appreciate its many excellent qualities. It registers easily and is most versatile. Music Director Rosemary Wasser, our generous host, presented a rousing demonstration of the instrument which all enjoyed and appreciated.

The church, formerly located on Georgia Avenue at Randolph Road in Silver Spring had a Steere and Turner organ which had been rebuilt by the Andover Organ Company and then was further enlarged by Lewis and Hitchcock. It has mechanical action and some stops on electric action. The church sold the building and left this organ behind.

The Schantz Organ Company has provided a straightforward and sensible specification with Great, Swell and Pedal divisions. The tilting tablet console is moveable and comfortable to play, equipped with all the modern conveniences. The naturals have bone coverings and the sharps are rosewood. They are handsome to look at and feel good to the fingers. The tone of the organ is middle of the road with friendly reeds and some interesting flute stops. The sound of the organ is pleasant but does not begin to “ring the room” if such a thing were even possible. There are many acoustical issues in the sanctuary including placement of the organ chambers and openings relative to the choir seating area. One has to applaud the result given the challenges.

The organ is built with electro-pneumatic action. While the writer did not have the opportunity to examine the organ in the chambers it is likely that the manual divisions stand primarily on Schantz electro-pneumatic slider chests. The Pedal stops and those ranks such as the Gemshorn and Celeste, the Trumpet and Oboe and part of the Swell Röhrlöte which are duplexed would logically be on individual note electro-pneumatic chests (unit). This is a common approach taken by many builders today, made more effective through the agency of the modern digitally operated control systems in general use.

### Great Organ

- 8' Principal 61 pipes
- 8' Gedeckt 61 pipes
- 8' Gemshorn SW
- 8' Gemshorn Celeste SW
- 4' Octave 61 pipes
- 4' Koppelflöte 61 pipes
- 2' Super Octave 61 pipes
- Mixture IV 244 pipes
- 8' Trumpet SW
- 8' Oboe SW



### Swell Organ (enclosed)

- 16' Rohrbass 73 pipes
- 8' Rohrflöte (ext.)
- 8' Gemshorn 61 pipes
- 8' Gemshorn Celeste TC 49 pipes
- 4' Principal 61 pipes
- 4' Traversflöte 61 pipes
- 2 2/3' Nasard 61 pipes
- 2' Blockflöte 61 pipes
- 1 3/5' Tierce 61 pipes
- 8' Trumpet 61 pipes
- 8' Oboe 61 pipes
- Tremulant



### Pedal Organ

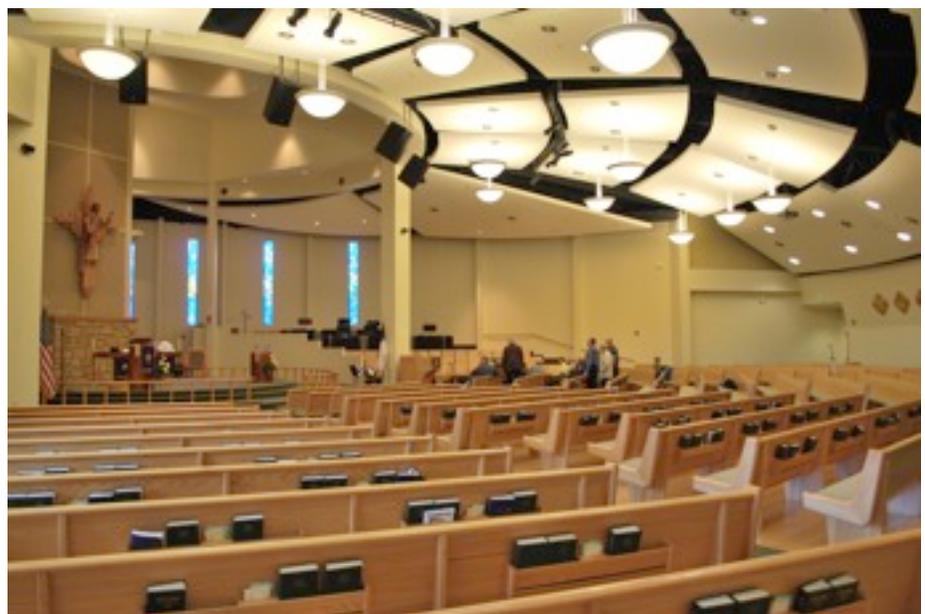
- 32' Resultant (from Subbass)
- 16' Subbass 56 pipes
- 16' Rohrbass SW
- 8' Principal 44 pipes
- 8' Subbass ext
- 8' Rohrbass SW
- 4' Choralbass (from Principal)
- 4' Open Flute (from Subbass)
- 16' Double Trumpet ext SW 12 pipes
- 8' Trumpet SW
- 4' Clarion SW



6 Pistons to Great and Swell, 8 Generals  
Full Organ Reversible (settable)  
General Cancel  
Setter

Toe Studs  
4 to Pedal stops  
8 Generals (duplicate pistons)  
32 Resultant reversible  
Full Organ reversible

Swell Pedal  
Crescendo Pedal



**Colesville Presbyterian Church**  
Silver Spring, Maryland

1893, Adam Stein, Opus 1



## **Upcoming Organ Recitals**

**Sunday, May 1, 2011**

5:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church  
9108 John S. Mosby Highway (US-50)  
Upperville, Virginia

**Dorothy Hester, organist and pianist**  
**Harlow Kittle, clarinetist**

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**Sunday, May 1, 2011**

4:00 p.m.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church  
3319 Alabama Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC

**Julie Vidrick Evans, organist**

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**Sunday, May 15, 2011**

3:00 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
2001 Old Frederick Road  
Catonsville, Maryland

*Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the installation of the  
Gebrüeler Späth Organ*

**Renata O'Reilly, organist**  
**David Storey, lecturer**

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**Many thanks to Gordon Biscomb for taking the photographs of the organs reviewed for  
the March Organ Crawl and to Carl Schwartz for writing the review.**