

# Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

*Where the Tracker Action Is!*

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## The Young and Old of Pipe Organs in Baltimore

Crawl prepared by Paul S. Roeder.

**Saturday, October 25, 2014**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Zion Lutheran Church**

**400 East Lexington Street**

**Baltimore, Maryland 21202**

**Patrick J. Murphy and Associates, Inc. Organ**

**2014, Opus 60**

**3 manual and pedal, 34 stops, 43 ranks, 2,572 pipes**

**Host: John Heitzer**

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**Directions:** From Washington, DC - Take Baltimore/Washington Parkway, MD - 295 N about 31 miles. Right onto W. Baltimore St., 0.5 miles. Left onto N. Calvert St., drive about 312 ft., Turn right to stay on N. Calvert St., drive 279 ft., Take first right onto E. Lexington St., 0.1 mile. Church is on the left. Around the corner on Gay Street a church parking lot is available, although another church event that morning might make that tight. There should be on street parking readily available.

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

**Directions Continued:** From North of Baltimore - Drive down I-95 South and keep right to continue on I-895 South, follow signs for Baltimore Harbor Tunnel Thruway/Annapolis, 0.8 mile. (You will not go through the tunnel.) Take Exit 14, Movaria Road, 0.3 miles. Keep left at the fork, follow signs for Movaria Road/E. Pulaski Highway, drive 243 feet. Left onto Moravia Road, 0.3 miles. Take ramp onto US-40 West, 4 miles. Right onto N. Exeter Street, drive 367 feet. First left onto Hilten Street, drive 417 feet. Merge onto Holliday Street, drive 0.1 mile. Holliday Street turns left and becomes E. Lexington Street, drive 85 feet. Church will be on left.

From West (Frederick) - Take I-70 East, 37 miles. Take Exit 91A - 91 B for I-695 South toward I-95 S. Baltimore/Glen Burnie, 0.7 miles. Merge onto I-695 South, 5 miles. Take 11A - 11B for I-95 N toward Baltimore, one mile. Merge onto I-95 North, 3 miles. Take Exit 53 for I-395 N. toward Downtown/Inner Harbor, 0.6 miles. Continue on I-395 N, one mile. Slight Right onto W. Conway Street, 0.3 miles. Left onto Light Street, 0.2 miles. Light Street turns slightly left and becomes S. Calvert Street, 0.3 miles. Right onto . Calvert Street, drive 279 feet. First Right onto E. Lexington Street, 0.1 mile. Church on left.

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**11:45 a.m.**

**Marie Louise Bistro**  
**904 North Charles Street**  
**Baltimore, Maryland 21201**

**DIRECTIONS:** Driving East on E. Lexington Street toward Holliday Street, 0.07 miles. Left onto N. Gay Street/MD-147, 0.07 miles. Left onto E. Saratoga Street, 0.2 miles. Right onto N. Calvert Street/MD-2, 0.4 miles. Left onto East Madison Street, 0.1 mile. Right onto N. Charles Street, 0.09 miles. Restaurant is on left.

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**1:30 p.m.**

**Saint Cecilia Roman Catholic Church**  
**3301 Windsor Avenue**  
**Baltimore, Maryland 21216**

**A.B. Felgemaker Company**  
**1907, two manual and pedal, mechanical key and stop action**

**Host: Herbert Mills**

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**DIRECTIONS:** Drive North on North Charles Street toward E. Eager Street, 0.2 miles. Take Second Left onto W. Chase Street, 0.1 mile. Stay straight to go onto Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., 0.7 miles. Take Franklin Street ramp toward US-40 W., 0.1 mile. Slight Right onto W. Franklin Street, 0.1 mile. Merge onto US-40 W via the ramp on left, 2.2 miles. Take the Hilton Parkway North Exit, 0.1 mile. Merge onto Hilton Pkwy, one mile. Hilton Pkwy becomes N. Hilton Street, 0.3 miles. Left onto Windsor Avenue, 0.02 miles. Church is on the left.

## A Short History of Henry Niemann

David H Fox's book "A Guide to North American Organbuilders" says that Henry Niemann was born 1838 in Osnabruck, Germany. Fox's entry goes on to say that Niemann worked for John Closs, Cincinnati, OH in 1857-1859; with Charles Barker, in France, 1860-1862; with Cavaille-Coll, Paris 1862-1867; and in France & Meppen, Germany 1867-1872; and finally in Baltimore 1872-1899. It is probable that Niemann was not drawn to Baltimore, directly, from Europe, especially since his first child was born, 1873, in Pennsylvania, but probable that he sought out Baltimore (1874) following the death of Pomplitz. In 1871 a Bremen ship's manifest landing in New York lists a passenger, "Heinrich Niemann", with the correct date of birth.

Osnabruck is a small city in the state of Westphalia, due west of Hamburg.

There were at least two well established organ firms in the city which might have been where the young Henry Niemann apprenticed. His first American travel, to Cincinnati Ohio, would have been a fitting destination as the town had at least two active organ firms in the 1850's, Mathias Schawab and John Cross.

The first sighting of Niemann, in the Baltimore Sun newspaper, is 10/6/1874, just eight months after Pomplitz's death, with an announcement that he and Christopher Doeller, another German immigrant, had formed an organ building partnership. As they set up shop at Niemann's address, Niemann might have been the senior partner. Doeller appears in Baltimore some years before Niemann and in the 1865 Baltimore city directory is listed as an "oil manufacturer", living at #53 Fawn street. The entry of oil manufacturer could have been a misinterpretation of organ manufacturer. In the 1868 directory he is listed as an organ builder. After a brief partnership with Niemann, Doeller lists himself as a carpenter. #53 Fawn Street is in walking distance to either Henry Berger's or the Pomplitz shop, so it is conceivable that he previously worked with either men. Unlike Niemann, Doeller maintains his Fawn Street residence for several decades.

Throughout his time in Baltimore, Niemann bounced around the city, setting up house or shop for no more than a year or two in one place. Unlike Henry Berger, who billeted a number of organ men, only the Niemann family are in residence. The fact that most people walked to work, and thus had to live near by, makes one wonder how popular Henry was with his employees who must not have been happy with their work place moving so often. The penchant for moving seems to have been a condition his wife and children carry on after his death. Additionally, the newspapers who regularly devoted space to Berger and Pomplitz, rarely mention Niemann and never in a context other than related to his organ work. Other builders have been found in the papers for social, civic, and church activities. At first Niemann's lack of press might be attributed to a language barrier, but upon further research it can be seen that more of his customers were not of German heritage, nor did the local German language newspaper, Der Deutsche Correspondent, give him much coverage, and this was a paper which often provided its readers with much greater detailed information about organs, than the other English language papers.

During the 1870s and 1880s, organ building in the United States was maturing and a national style was developing, or at least the stylistic differences between German builders and British builders had all but disappeared in the East Coast. Niemann's instruments reflect this. Based on his extant instruments, Niemann organs are well built have a full but clean tone, and the key desk is relatively easy for modern organists to negotiate. The larger organs often made use of a Barker machine to assist in lightening key touch, no doubt he learned this from Barker, the inventor of the device or Cavaille-Coll who made regular use of its invention.

Another short lived partnership, who's formation was not publicly announced, but its dissolving was aired May 25, 1891, was with a Charles Tillman. Tillman, was an organist and choir director in various churches in Baltimore. Around the time of his joining with Niemann, he was organist at Broadway Methodist Episcopal, a church which Niemann had, recently rebuilt an organ. In 1894 Tillman joins forces with several other organ related men in forming the "Maryland Church Organ Company". Tillman's day job was with the Heald Saw & Planing Mill. This dual interest seems to have had made for a perfect fit with an organ builder. The 1891 City directory lists him as "manager" for the Niemann company as well as working for the saw mill. Another possibility for the separation might have been that Tillman was brought on by an ailing Henry Niemann, but was not welcomed by Frank, the air-apparent to the company.

### Shop Fire

In 1895 the Niemann shop was located at 561-563 E. Monument Street. Around 11 AM, on June 10, a fire started in the drying room of a lumber company located at 557-559 E. Monument St. It quickly spread to neighboring buildings. The buildings on this stretch of the street were at a severe angle to the street and made for confusion for fire fighters at the rear part of the buildings to know where the building lines were located. In the Niemann shop were two organs nearing completion, One for St. Paul's Suffolk VA and the other for an unknown destination. As the Niemann building was at the outer edges of the fire line, the organs were covered with heavy tarps and the building doused with water. According to the Sun Papers the building received little damage, and both organs were saved.

Another fire, In 1905, when the shop was located at 655 W. Lombard St., a small fire started in the Niemann shop, but was quickly caught and extinguished. Though the Sun Paper reported that the fire truck which answered the call suffered a broken axle upon its return to the station.

### Niemann and Adam Stein.

There are two newspaper accounts which indicate that the Niemanns' and Adam Stein occasionally collaborated. The Baltimore German Newspaper, Der Deutsche Correspondent, 9/15/1882 gives a paragraph about the first Baltimore built organ, going to New York, with the Roosevelt nameplate, having been built in the Stein Shop, on German Street, with assistance of Henry Niemann. A later report announced the dissolved partnership between Frank Niemann and Adam Stein.

### Niemann's Death

Henry Niemann died, Oct 26, 1899, the same date as Caville-Coll. His death was attributed to "Bright's Disease", a kidney disorder which today is known as Nephritis, where an excess serum calcium builds up in the kidneys forming painful kidney stones and other symptoms which if untreated can lead to death. With the limited treatments of the late 19th century, the sufferer of the disease would have exhibited symptoms for a long period of time before succumbing. It is probable that by the late 1890's, eldest son, Frank, would have been caring out much of the day to day running of the business. To date the whereabouts of Henry's burial have not been found.

### The Niemann Family

Henry and Elizabeth had five children. A wonderfully clear mid 1880's studio photograph, owned by David Storey, shows the handsome family.

A few months after Henry's death, the 1900 census lists the recently widowed Elizabeth and all five of the adult children living at home. Within ten years they would all move out.

Elizabeth (1847-1924) Research has not revealed if Henry and Elizabeth came to the United States as a couple, or if he met her after he got here. In the census, she is listed as having been born in Germany. Her maiden name has not been found. After Frank moves to Philadelphia, Elizabeth moves in with daughter Cecelia, with whom she stays with until her death in 1924.

Henrietta (Hetta) (1873- 1908) born in Pennsylvania, lists herself as a Milner; marries George Place, a foreman, who is in the building trades, originally from Boston, in 1905, and dies in Burlington NJ. they have no children. George was 47 at the time of the marriage.

Frank, (1875- 1937) born in Baltimore, in organ business with his father, carries on business until 1908, moves to Philadelphia to run organ service firm, has connections with Welte Organ Co and Kimball Organ Co. He marries in 1920, dies in 1937 in Philadelphia. He has no children.

John J. (1876- 1946) born in Baltimore, various train related jobs for Pennsylvania Railroad. He marries Dora Rupert in 1906. They have no children.

Ella, (1878- died after 1948) born in Baltimore; music teacher and for much of her adult life works for the US Department of Labor and lived in Washington DC. She also was a sought after as contralto and sang in many of Washington's prominent churches as well as various civic choral groups; never married, no children.

Cecelia, (1880- 1966) born in Baltimore, marries James W. Owings , a chemist, in 1906, has one daughter, Elizabeth Owings, who never marries, no children.

With the death of Henry's only grandchild, in the early 1990s, his branch of the Niemann lineage dies out.

The Company Continues.

After Henry's death, Frank takes out several ads in the Sun Papers announcing the continuation of the company. The name of the firm did not change and all subsequent announcements of new organ work reference Henry Niemann in a manners as if he were still alive and active.

The work carried on by son, Frank Niemann, should be noted as he was able to produce a number of important instruments, most notably that of St. Alphonsus Church at Saratoga St. and Park Ave. The Sun paper reports that it was a "new organ with 47 speaking stops" on 3 manuals and pedal. The 1840's Schwab case was incorporated and possibly Schwab pipes. Its lateness, in completion, was also noted as there were several delays in a grand choral concert which was to have featured the new organ. Though the slim accounts in subsequent articles makes one wonder if Frank was struggling with each new organ project, and this is partially the reason for his closing down and moving to Philadelphia to operate an organ service shop. It is puzzling why he simply did not stay in Baltimore to carry on in the service business as the field of organ companies, in Baltimore, was slimming down and the number of churches increasing. Currently thirteen organs can be credited to Frank's efforts as they all date after Henry's death and span an eight year period.

There is one 1907 newspaper account where Frank publicly announces his firing of William Bardroff, and warning the public that William has no more to do with the Niemann business. Frank appears to be was defending his reputation against William Bardroff both in the paper and in court. The Sun Papers also covered the legal assessing and sale of Franks business assets. In the end it appears that he was able to realize some profit with its liquidation. During much of his time in Philadelphia, he lived in a boarding house, which is where he met his wife.

One final curious note, which made for interesting research, but difficult sorting out of the wheat from the chaff. Berger, Pomplitz, and Niemann all lived in Baltimore when, at least one or more other men shared their names. In the case of Henry Berger, there were two families, One Henry Berger, who's brother George, also of a similar age were the bakers who invented the Berger cookie. The other

Henry Niemann, was a drunk and bully who was listed in the newspapers in his court or jail related incidents. His children found his body in the garden shed after a drinking binge.

In the end, Henry Niemann may not have been Mr. Personality, and thus did not engender much press attention, even attention like his doppelganger, but there are a number of worthy extant instruments which can attest to his skills as a fine organ builder. We can only hope that the remaining instruments will not end up in the dumpster.

Steve Bartley

Baltimore

Have any information to add?

### **The Niemann Organ List**

It is very probable that more Niemann organs were constructed for churches in other towns, as was seen with Berger and Pomplitz.

#### **1875-----**

Zion Reformed, Baltimore - Aisquith Street north of Orleans. New organ This congregation wanted a smaller building and in 1880 they swapped with Aisquith Presbyterian. The building is currently owned by Waters AME church. A 19th century pipe façade exists behind the pulpit.

#### **1876-----**

St. Joseph's Catholic -Taneytown, MD - rebuild, 1 man/ped 8 speaking stops, new installation. 1804 George Pike England built for St. Paul's or Christ Episcopal Baltimore. Moved to St. Joseph's and altered by Niemann. Organ is extant and in use .

#### **1877-----**

Univeralist Tabernacle - Baltimore, MD Greene Street - new organ 9' x 17', building, contents, and organ sold several years later. Building demolished by University of MD.

#### **1878-----**

Eutaw Methodist - Baltimore, MD - Eutaw St north of Mulberry. New organ. 1 man/ped 6 stops Organ replaced by 1920s Möller, and was installed in a church in E. Baltimore County. Presently restored and is in Maryland Institute, Baltimore-Harrison St. between Second and Baltimore. 17' tall x 13' wide x 9' deep. \$1,200.

#### **1880-----**

Catholic Cathedral - Baltimore,MD - Cathedral Street. new sanctuary organ , three manuals. See Associate Reformed. Picture of original case extant.

St. Mary's Industrial School, Baltimore, MD - Wilkins Ave, near Caton Ave. new organ 1 man 6 speaking stops. Presently in the parish house of 1st Unitarian Church in Baltimore, MD, in use. Organ was replaced with an Estey Pipe Organ.

#### **1881-----**

St. Leo's Catholic, Baltimore, MD - Exeter Street & Stiles, new organ 2 man 19 stops, extant in use altered key action.

Chatsworth Independent Methodist, Baltimore, MD - Pine and Franklin Streets, rebuilt organ. The church was sold to Whatcoat Methodist around 1903. A photo of the interior of the building, soon after a 1920 fire shows a small fully encased free standing organ. Approximately 12' tall x 9' wide. With two narrow flats of five pipes on either side of a lower wide center flat. The photo is not clear, but the organ looks to date from the mid 1840s - 1850s. Extended key desk possibly indicates a renovation.

**1884**-----

St. Joseph's Passionate Monastery - Baltimore, MD - Frederick Rd. (Irvington) . New organ, some records say this organ was installed a few years later, 2 man/ped. 15 ranks, building owned by Mountain Manor Treatment Center. Organ extant, unused.

**1886**-----

Trinity Episcopal , Easton Maryland. New organ, 2man/ped. 8 ranks. Organ relocated to St. Charles Anglican Church of Poulso, Washington.

**1887** -----

Christ Episcopal - Cambridge MD new organ \$1250 16' tall.

**1889**-----

Harlem Ave Christian Church - Baltimore, MD - Harlem Ave & Fremont - new organ, 2 man/ped. in front-side chamber, with façade photo exists. Replaced or incorporated into 1907 Möller.

St. Thomas Catholic Church - Baltimore, MD - Hickory Ave & 36th. St. New organ 2 man 15 speaking stops. Extant, unaltered, in use

**1891**-----

Twelfth Presbyterian Church - Baltimore,MD - Franklin St near Fremont. new organ, \$1500, replaced or incorporated into a 1 man Jardine. Building demolished 1940s, fate of organ unknown.

Associate Reformed - Baltimore, MD - Preston & Maryland Streets was built for the sanctuary of the Cathedral' Sanctuary organ built in 1880, removed and installed with new façade. Organ removed during building alteration in the early 1960s, some pipes used in present organ. Photo of second facade extant.

St. John's Independent Methodist Church - Baltimore, MD - Liberty Street, new organ, cost \$2,500, replaced a Pomplitz. Placed behind pulpit, building demolished c.1900, organ moved to new church at St. Paul St. and 28th St.

St. John's Methodist Episcopal South - Baltimore, MD - Madison Ave & Laurens - new organ 2 man/ped. 11 speaking stops, placed on main floor left of pulpit. \$2,000, walnut case. Building demolished early 20th century. Fate of organ unknown.

**1892**-----

St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church - Baltimore, MD - Hollins and South Poppleton Streets. New organ 2 man/ped. 23 ranks, Church sold, organ is in storage.

St. Thomas Lutheran Church - Baltimore, MD - Pulaski St. and Mary Anne St. new organ 9 registers, \$900. In the 1970's organ replaced with 1890s Miller pipe organ from St. Andrew RC Church by Tom Eader. Fate of Niemann unknown.

Grace Lutheran Church - Baltimore,MD - S. Broadway & Gough. New organ replaced or incorporated into previous organ. 1932 Möller replaced Niemann.

New Jerusalem Church - Baltimore, MD - N. Calvert Street. New organ or rebuild of old, 1 man/ped 13 stops, have stop list.

**1893**-----

Greene Street Evangelical (AKA Emmanuel) - Baltimore.MD - Greene Street north of Lombard Street. Rebuild or replaced Pomplitz organ. Building demolished in 1940's. Fate of organ unknown. Photo exists in the parish anniversary booklet. Façade is similar to 1st Unitarian and Old Otterbein.

1st Unitarian Church - Baltimore, MD - Franklin and Charles Streets, new organ. 2man/ped. Organ intact, with additions. In regular use.

**1894**-----

Appold Methodist (AKA Christ Meth) Baltimore, MD - East Chase St. and Washington, new organ, 2 man/ped. 26 stops, 1192 pipes, Oak case , \$1,200

**1895**-----

St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Suffolk Va. New organ, \$2,000 This organ was nearly ready for shipment when an adjacent building caught fire. Niemann's shop suffered some damage but the organ was quickly covered and saved.

Unknown Church - This organ was nearing completion when a fire in a neighboring building caused damage to the Niemann shop. The firemen covered the organ and it was saved.

St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church - Baltimore, MD - E. Baltimore Street and Patapsco. The first building was opened in 1895, as a two storied building, with the church on the upper level. The building was turned over for school use in the 1920's when a new larger building was erected. In 1925 a Möller was installed in the new building. The original organ may well have been the second organ saved from the 1895 shop fire.

**1897**-----

Fourteen Holy Martyrs Catholic Church - Baltimore, MD - Mount St. near Lombard. New organ 2 man/ped. \$2500. Church closed in the 1960's, organ removed, and is in storage. This organ replaced a small Pomplitz organ.

Methodist Church - Chestertown, MD - rebuilt organ. Replaced in 1908 with an Estey Pipe Organ.

German Evangelical Reformed Church - (aka Otterbein United Brethren) Baltimore,MD. Sharp and Conway Streets. New organ 2 man/ped. 13 speaking stops, \$1,700, Restored by D. M. Storey and in regular use.

**1898**-----

Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church - Cumberland, MD - new organ. \$3,900, pneumatic assisted key action, Ross water motor. Replaced in the 1960's by a 3 manual and pedal Wicks Pipe Organ.

Ss. Philip and James Catholic- Baltimore,MD - N. Charles Street near 27th Street. Rebuilt organ installed circa 1898 when building was opened. 2 man of 54 notes and pedal of 27 notes. Specification indicated it was probably a Baltimore builder of German decent, possibly Pomplitz, and dated from the 1870s or earlier.

**1899**-----

Second English Lutheran Church - Baltimore,MD - Lombard St. near Greene St. 2 man/ped. 26 stops, oak case, 59 façade pipes, pneumatic key action, detached console, organ in chamber behind pulpit, photo exists, building gone in 1940s, fate of organ unknown.

Holy Rosary Catholic Church - Baltimore, MD - Eastern Ave and Bethel Streets. This organ was built by Henry Erben in 1850 for St. Peter's Episcopal, (then at German Street) . In 1868 St. Peters built a new church on Druid Hill Ave, and sold the Erben to St. Patrick's Broadway. When St Patrick's bought a new Hook & Hastings, Niemann rebuilt the Erben and moved it into Holy Rosary, in 1899. In the 1920s Holy Rosary built a new building further east, the old building was demolished.



Immanuel Baptist Church - Baltimore, MD - North Ave and St. Paul St. new organ? A stone chapel was first built at the rear of the site.

=====Built by Frank Niemann=====

**1900**-----

Clark Memorial Methodist Church - Baltimore, MD - St. Paul St. and 27th St. - rebuild of an older Niemann organ. This was the St. John's Independent Methodist congregation renamed at the move to a new building.

**1901**-----

Jerusalem Lutheran Church - Baltimore, MD - Belair Rd and Moravia Rd. New organ or rebuild of previous Pomplitz.

Lee Street Baptist Church - Baltimore, MD - Lee Street near Hanover St. new organ or rebuild of Pomplitz. In 1901 the congregation moved to a new building on Warren Street and took the Niemann with them. The old building was sold to St. Joseph's Catholic. Current organ lore says the Niemann organ was removed or demolished and the church uses an electronic.

**1902**-----

Huntingdon Baptist Church - Baltimore, MD 31st Street & Barclay. New organ \$3,500 Gt=9 stops, Sw=9 stops P= 1 stop. Possibly moved to new building, on same site, 1922. Replaced by Möller in 1947.

Arlington M.E. Church - Baltimore, MD. Reisterstown Rd & Lewin, new organ

Sharon Baptist Church - Baltimore, MD - Carey St. & Presstman St. new or used organ. Photo from the early 20th century shows a small encased organ which looks 50 years older than 1902.

**1903**-----

First German Baptist Church - Baltimore, MD - Patterson Park Ave. and Monument St. new organ for new building. Congregation folded 1941, building on site is a retail store, which may incorporate some of the church building.

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church - Baltimore, MD - Saratoga St. and Park Ave. New organ incorporated case and possibly some pipes from earlier 3 man/ped. 47 speaking stops \$10,000. Dedication concert with massed choir was delayed several times after the reopening of the renovated church, in Dec 1903, due to incompleteness, which lasted into May of 1904.

Methodist Church - Statesville NC. New organ 16 stops

**1905**-----

St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Texas, (Cockeysville) MD - new organ 1 man/ped. Organ no longer exists.

St. Paul's (aka 5th) Reformed Church - Baltimore, MD - Broadway and South Pratt Streets. Building was built as Trinity Episcopal Church which had at least two previous organs. New organ, 2 man/ped. 9 stops

**1906**-----

Fulton Avenue Baptist Church - Baltimore, MD - Fulton Ave and Baltimore St. - New organ, 2 man/ped. 17 speaking stops, tubular pneumatic key action, carved walnut case is behind the pulpit, Electric blower, cost \$2,500

St. Mary's College - Northeast, PA, new organ, contract to be built \$3,000

Washington Baptist Church - Washington DC new organ 2 man/ped. \$2,000

**Organs found in Niemann Advertisements - but no clear date or further documentation yet found.**

Aisquith St. Presbyterian Church - Baltimore, MD , Aisquith St. No citation of this organ can be found, however in 1880 the church swapped buildings with Zion Reformed, Niemann's first organ in town. The Presbyterians stayed in this Reformed building until moving to a new building on North Ave, in 1900. A Möller organ was installed in the new building.

Third English Lutheran Church - Baltimore, MD E. Madison St, East of Aisquith St. Pomplitz installed a 2 man organ in 1853. Photo of the interior of the church shows the case, from a distance, taken in the early 20th century, looks like a style more similar to Pomplitz. case, pipes parts may have been reused. Façade of an organ is only presently extant. Original building was demolished, and a new building erected behind the old building façade.

Har Sinai Synagogue - Baltimore, MD - Lexington St near Pine St. - This was built as Ascension Episcopal Church which had an 1852 Berger organ. Ascension moved in the late 1860s to a new building and Har Sinai occupied the building from the late 1860s until the early 1890s when they moved to a new building, which housed a new Hook & Hastings organ. The building went through a few more hands before being taken over by University of Maryland and demolished in the 1930's, 40's, and 50's.

St. Stanislaus Catholic Church - Baltimore, MD - S. Ann Street. A three rank Pomplitz was built for the old building, in 1881, in a much larger than needed case. A new building erected in 1889, the subsequent Niemann was a small two manual, with stops and voicing for a bigger building, and probably housed in the Pomplitz case. Church converted to condos in 2011. Organ demolished by contractor, photos and parts exist.

Eden Street Synagogue - Baltimore, MD - Eden Street north of Lombard St. Pomplitz installed an organ in 1870, there is only one reference in an 1891 Sun Paper that a fundraiser was to be held for a new organ

Macedonia Baptist Church - Baltimore, MD - W. Saratoga St. near Vincent. This building was put up in 1893 and they moved out in 1925, selling to another Baptist congregation. If a Niemann organ was built for this location, it is gone as you tube video's show a renovated interior with no organ.

St. Agnes Catholic Church - Catonsville MD - Old Frederick Rd. Originally a 1man/ ped. 4 stop organ by Pomplitz 1852, Possibly replaced by Niemann in the 1880's or 1890's. Building demolished in the 1950's or early 1960's.

North Avenue Baptist Church (AKA McCormick Memorial) - Baltimore, MD - Linden Ave and North Ave. No date or details have been found. This congregation merged with University Baptist in 1934. In 1937 the small frame building was demolished to make way for a movie theater.

St. Matthew's German Lutheran Church - Baltimore, MD - Fayette Street near Center. Pomplitz installed a 2 man/ped. of approximately 15 rank instrument in 1873. Building was demolished in 1937 for a street widening project. Fate of organ unknown.

The Hilbus Chapter crawl for the month of September took members to visit two identically sized modern tracker organs in Southern Maryland. Both organs contain fifteen ranks and are of compact design suited to the particulars of the churches in which they are installed. (Review by Carl Schwartz)

### **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

25 Church Street  
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Prince Frederick was built in 1842. The present organ built by the Bedient Pipe Organ Company was installed in the church in 2012 and replaces an early Allen digital instrument. Fitting an organ in the church was a challenge and the attractive self-contained organ case is located to the left of the chancel at the front of the church. This organ, with pedal is 6' 3" deep and 6'8" wide.

The Great division consists of a complete Principal chorus from 8' to Mixture II-III including a Sesquialtera. The 8' Principal is of bright tone with a bit of edge and the 4' Octave is mellower. The Swell division is colorful with stopped and tapered flutes, a warm tenor C Salicional and Voix Celeste. The enclosed division is crowned by the split reed stop: cylindrical Cromorne in the bass and bold Trumpet from middle C up. The Pedal consists of one stop mechanically unified: a Subbass 16'/Flute 8' which stands behind the organ case.

One of the compromises in this design is that there is no soft stop in the Great to accompany the lovely voices of the Swell, all of which call out for use as solo stops. Where then does one find that poignant registration if a mezzo solo over a placid accompaniment? There is apparent "intelligent design" at work after all. The gorgeous 4' Spitzflute of the Swell, alone, is capable of an enchanting effect. A right hand solo accompanied by the left hand, played one octave lower, soars above the accompaniment. The pedal stops provide a good bass line independent of any need to couple. There is much repertoire where the left hand accompaniment does not descend below tenor C and this lovely registration can find many uses. Another interesting quality, found in the Swell division, is that the Voix Celeste will undulate pleasantly with the Gedackt 8' and even with the 4' Spitzflute alone, with or without tremolo: several warm color possibilities for those inclined to employ lush effects.

The organ fills the room well and provides an inviting sound for congregational singing: its primary purpose. The people of St. Paul's have responded well the fresh sound of this musical instrument. Our host for the visit was Susan Yoe who guided this project from its inception. Susan is the music director and organist of the church.

This version of Bedient's Phoenix model has an electric stop and combination action, useful for exploiting the resources of a small instrument to the fullest. The playing action is comfortable and sensitive. The blower is located in the base of the case.



**Bedient Pipe Organ Co.  
Roco, Nebraska  
"Phoenix 84" (2012)  
Compass 56/30**

**Great**

- 8' Principal
- 4' Octave
- 2' Octave
- Sesquialtera II (TC)
- Mixture II-III
- Swell to Great

**Swell**

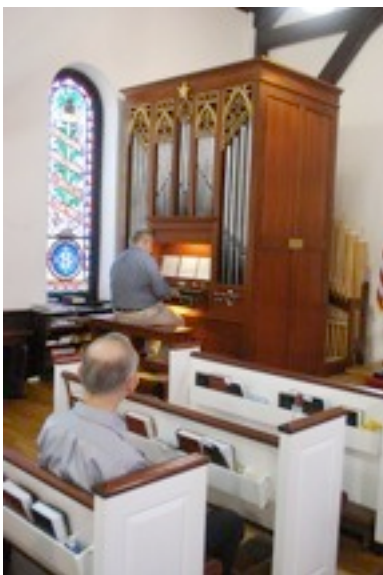
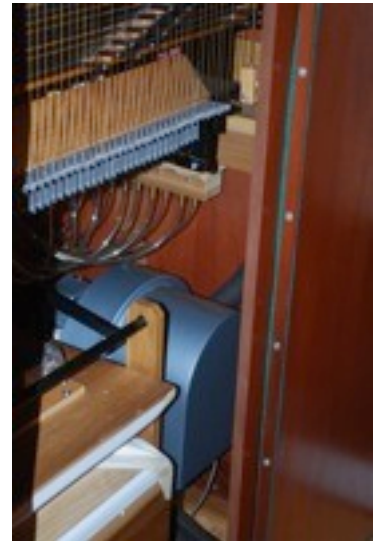
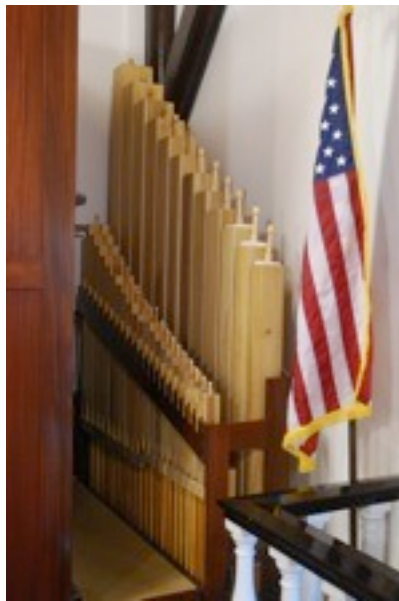
- 8' Gedackt
- 8' Salicional (TC)
- 8' Voix Celeste (TC)
- 4' Spitzflute
- 2' Doublette
- 8' Cromorne Bass
- 8' Trumpet
- Tremolo

**Pedal**

- 16' Subbass
- 8' Flute
- Great to Pedal
- Swell to Pedal

**Pistons**

- Swell 1- 4
- Great 1- 4
- Pedal 1- 3
- General 1-6 duplicated by toe studs
- Tutti
- Cancel
- Zimbelstern (controlled by toe stud)
- Balanced Swell



After members enjoyed visiting over lunch at several local restaurants we travelled north to Friendship United Methodist Church where we were hosted by chapter member Bee Hobbs and Assistant Pastor Rev. Don Stewart.

### **Friendship United Methodist Church**

22 West Friendship Road  
Friendship, Maryland 20758

The 2006 Oberlinger organ at Friendship UMC is familiar to many chapter members. The late Robert "Bob" Hobbs who was an active and longtime member of the chapter was organist of the church and selected this instrument after much consideration.

In the July 2007 issue of this Newsletter the writer wrote the following about this organ: "Arriving as the organ was being played we were greeted by surprisingly lush and warm tones from this German built cabinet organ. The classic and compact appearance of this organ does not prepare the listener for the aural experience at all. The 8' and 4' stops of this organ each have a melodic and pleasant tone. The speech is focused, clean, but not excessively articulate. These tones combine into a rich and friendly sounding ensemble. The upperwork brings out the clarity of this organ without any screech or harshness, but rather evokes the clear bell-like sonority of Middle Rhine organs. Mention should be made that the Offenflöte of Manual I, a rank of high tin content, is a dual purpose stop. Its tone lies in a middle ground between pure Principal and Flute tone. This contributes to the warmth of the combined 8' and 4' flues."

This instrument does have string tone: Salicional and Celeste. This is the surprise - the "lush" factor - if you will. The effectiveness of these ranks by themselves and combined with the foundations is an effective response to our American taste for orchestral warmth in organ tone."

The Pedal stops are derived from one rank of stopped wood pipes; this is a feature of several types of small Oberlinger organs. In this organ the Great 8' Principal is carried down to low C in open pipes. Some versions of this compact design use stopped pipes for the lowest octave but here the height allows the open pipes to run full compass. The one reed in the organ does not impress at first hearing. It is mild and somewhat neutral and buzzy in tone, essentially colorless. However, it has a remarkable effect when combined with other stops. Used with the full organ one hears the illusion of a much larger specification."

The church opted for the 61/32 AGO compass and configuration offered by the builder. As a result there is little need to adjust to a German BDO dimension - one can simply play without guessing where the feet and hands are in relation to what one is used to. The action is precise, quick, and easy to play. Better still, the case is so configured that the player is not aware that he or she is practically on top of the pipes with resulting aural trauma. It is as appealing in tone at the key desk as at a distance. The case is handsome and a rotating star attached to a bold Zimbelstern is located at the top center of the display. If anything at all is lacking it would be Swell expression; there was simply no depth available to incorporate this, nor was it required by the church. There are case doors that can be closed for a pianissimo effect. The organ builds up and decrescendos with remarkable smoothness. For much of the organ literature this is adequate. There is a wide dynamic range available with this organ in addition to good color variety."

The instrument is located in the side rear gallery at the back of the colonial style sanctuary: much organ in a very small space. It is heard well throughout the room and is used to accompany the choir seated below and at the front of the church. Dr. Eileen Guenther played the dedicatory recital.

The instrument is based on the builder's "Jubilee" model design. There is a 4' Principal basis version of this organ at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Church Hill, Maryland. The instrument at Friendship is a credit to the organ builders' art: exquisitely crafted, beautiful to look at and elegant to play.

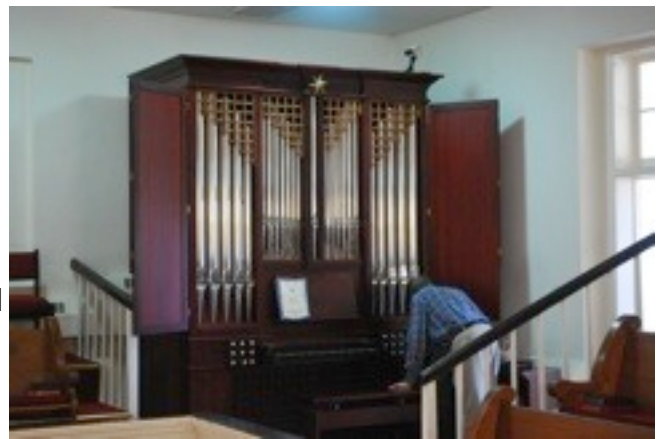


## Jubilee Model (2006)

2 Manuals and Pedal - 15 Ranks  
Mechanical Key and Stop Action  
Compass 61/32

### MANUAL I - C-C4 61 NOTES

Principal	8'	78% tin, partly in facade
Rohrflöte	8'	C-b wood; from c1 40% tin, hammered
Offenflöte	4'	70% tin
Principal	2'	70% tin
Sesquialter II	2 2/3' + 1 3/5'	70% tin
Mixture III	1'	70% tin



### MANUAL II - C-C4 61 NOTES

Gedackt	8'	40% tin, hammered
Salicional	8'	70% tin [C-B from Gedackt 8']
Vox coelestis	8'	70% tin, from Tenor C
Gedacktflöte	4'	33% tin
Sesquialter II	2 2/3' + 1 3/5'	from Great
Oboe	8'	70% tin
Tremulant		
Zimbelstern		

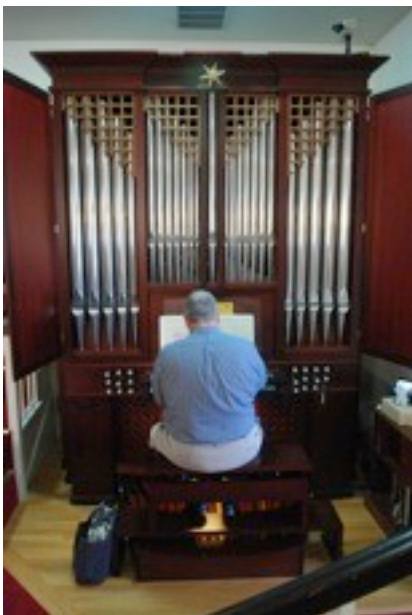
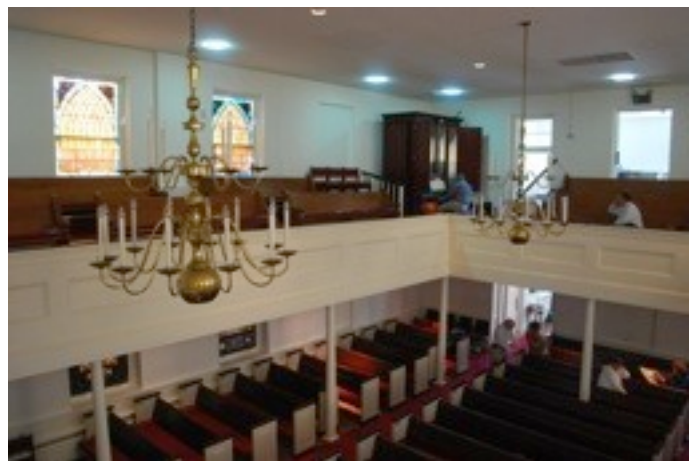


### PEDAL - C-G1 32 NOTES

Subbass	16'	wood, 56 pipes
Gedacktbass	8'	extension
Flötebass	4'	extension

### COUPLERS

I-Pedal  
II-Pedal  
II-I



### Concerts and Recitals

**Friday, October 24, 7:30 p.m.** Organist, **Wesley Parrott**, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chestertown, MD Tickets \$20.00

**Sunday, November 9, 4:00 p.m.** Organist, **Donald Sutherland and Friends**, Peabody Conservatory's Griswold Hall, Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore, MD Box Office: 410-234-4800

### Free Organ Journals

**Paul Birckner - 301-449-4399** has many years of **Ars Organi**, an excellent organ magazine written in German. If interested contact paul at the telephone number above.

### OHS Member - Monsignor Thomas H. Smith

At the age of 83 and after 57 years of active, priestly service, Monsignor Thomas H. Smith, died on August 31, 2014. For almost the whole of his life - 67 plus years (57 as a priest, 10 in priestly formation in the seminary, and all the years as a youngster dreaming in the fields outside of Hanover, Pennsylvania) - Thomas H. Smith was focused on the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Dreams and passion certainly converge in Monsignor Smith and his approach to priesthood, but his priestly service is much deeper. As a Christian vocation, it began not with his dreams or his passion, but with the Lord calling and inviting him to see that this was the life for which he was made. And what a life!

Monsignor Smith was made for the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Anyone who encountered this former farm boy from Conewago encountered a reflection of the Lord. This vocation or calling to the priesthood did not begin when he departed for the seminary as a junior in high school, nor when the young Tom in grade school answered his pastor that when he grew up he was going to be a priest. As the prophet Jeremiah heard the Lord, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you." (Jeremiah 1:5), Monsignor has been created and given life to be a priest.

And he gave a resounding "Yes," not only on May 11, 1957, the day of his priestly ordination at the hands of Bishop George L. Leech, but every day thereafter. So many of us were the beneficiaries of the daily "Yes."

Monsignor Thomas H. Smith was Pastor Emeritus of St. Joseph Catholic Church of Lancaster, PA where he led efforts to bring back the magnificent 1891 Carl Barckhoff Pipe Organ. The organ had fallen into disrepair and received enormous and intentional damage at the hands of a firm who installed an electronic substitute, placing the speakers on the great windchest and crushing the pipes. Restoration was carried out by Jim McFarland, and completed in 1985. Msgr. Smith was not only an O.H.S. member but also a past National Councilor. Early in his career, Msgr. Smith also secured an organ from the Organ Clearing House for his parish, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Annville, Pennsylvania. The E.W. Lane Pipe Organ today stands as a testament to his love of the Organ Historical Society. Msgr. Smith grew up on a farm near Hanover and attended the Basilica of the Sacred Heart Church (Conewago Chapel) where he heard the beautiful 1900 Hook and Hastings Pipe Organ, which was played at his funeral Mass. He is buried in the basilica's cemetery. He is sadly missed by his O.H.S. friends.

*Excerpts taken from many articles written on Msgr. Smith in the Lancaster Newspapers.*

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Many thanks to Gordon Biscomb for the superb photography. Photos of the Syracuse OHS Convention will appear in the November Newsletter where more space will be available.

# Renewal of Hilbus Chapter Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephones: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Dues: \$14.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Donation to E. Power Biggs Scholarship

A Hilbus Chapter Fund established to send a young person interested in the O.H.S. and the pipe organ to the 2015 Convention, June 28 through July 3, 2014 (Pioneer Valley - Western Massachusetts) headquartered in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to plan a monthly organ crawl with Chairperson, Paul S. Roeder.

Make checks payable to: Hilbus Chapter, OHS

Send to: Carolyn Lamb-Booth (Secretary-Treasurer)  
9200 LaBelle Lane  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879