



2016

PHILADELPHIA

THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S
60TH ANNIVERSARY

PHOTOGRAPHY LEN LEVASSEUR

2016

ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY • JUNE 26 - JULY 2
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



Longwood Gardens ~ The Main Conservatory

WELCOME BACK!

OHS 61st Annual Convention Guide by Michael Krasulski

AFTER TWENTY YEARS, the annual convention of the Organ Historical Society returns to Philadelphia. History, culture, and a vibrant city provide an exciting backdrop for the 2016 OHS conference attendees. The city and its environs provide a unique blend of the classic and the modern, the old and the new. All of this and more is in store for you and your companions from June 26 to July 2, 2016.

Metropolitan Philadelphia is rich in history and central to the founding of the nation. Although Philadelphia is commonly referred to as the Quaker City, the first Europeans to settle permanently were the Swedes in the 1640s. William Penn arrived some forty years later, and Philadelphia came into being. Penn, a Quaker, envisioned his city and colony as

places where anyone could live freely and worship, or not, as they saw fit. So successful was Penn's "Great Experiment," the Quakers soon found themselves a minority in their own colony as non-Quaker English, Scots and Irish, French Huguenots, and Germans settled in Philadelphia and the surrounding countryside. In this milieu of religious toleration and ethnic diversity, a leading city grew. Philadelphia was once the second-largest city in the British Empire, once the capital of the United States, once the nation's largest city, and once the capital of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

As the centers of American politics and commerce shifted elsewhere, 18th- and 19th-century Philadelphians grew rich exploiting its position as a leading port as

well as the natural resources found in its countryside. Such exploitations allowed Philadelphia to become a center of shipping and railroad transportation, textiles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, banking, and insurance. Those well-heeled Philadelphians founded, funded, and endowed institutions of learning and healing as well as their religious congregations. Found within the walls of the various congregations across the region are pipe organs of the highest quality, waiting to be heard and appreciated by a new generation of enthusiasts.

As the city was a center of manufacturing, it should come as no surprise that many of these instruments were made locally. Builders such as Henry Knauff, Sr. and Jr., William E. Haskell, Bates & Cully,



Carmelite Monastery of Philadelphia
Hook & Hastings, Opus 1977 (1902)

and Hilborne Roosevelt built organs here and delivered them to a nationwide market. Examples from several local manufacturers, as well as nationally known builders such as Boston's E. & G.G. Hook & Hastings and Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company and Hartford's Austin Organ Company will be highlighted during the convention.

The cultural and historical sites are located near the heart of Center City. The world-famous Wanamaker Organ at Macy's Department Store and the associated noonday concerts are certainly enough to draw any OHS convention attendee to Center City. While you are here, there are other sites worthy of a look: The Philadelphia Museum of Art, or the "Parthenon on the Parkway," is a world-renowned museum located at the end of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia's Champs-Élysées. The museum's west entrance looks toward City Hall, and these steps were made famous in a scene from the movie "Rocky" (1978). Several blocks to the south of the Philadelphia Museum of Art is the Barnes Foundation. Founded by pharmaceutical magnate Albert

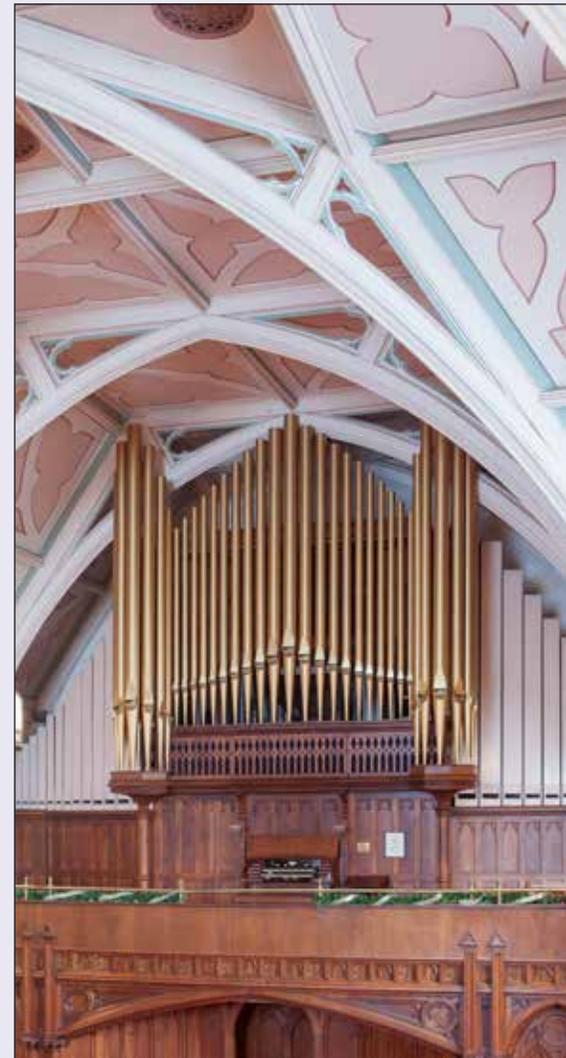
C. Barnes, the collection includes some of the most important works by Renoir, Van Gogh, and Matisse.

Further to the east is the Independence National Historical Park. This park includes Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. To the north of the Mall is the National Constitution Center. The neighborhoods that border Independence National Historical Park are Old City and Society Hill. They are a reminder that while Philadelphia is steeped in history, the city is still very much alive. Old City is located next to Independence Mall and still boasts charming cobblestone streets and plenty of 18th-century charm. Visitors and residents alike love the neighborhood for its fashionable boutiques, great restaurants, eclectic galleries and theaters, and vibrant nightlife.

Society Hill is to the south of Independence Mall and is one of the city's most sought-after neighborhoods. In the colonial period, Society Hill was the central residential district in the city. By the late 19th century, the neighborhood slipped into a state of decline. Yet many of the neighborhood's historic buildings remained, which inspired city planners to craft a plan to revive Society Hill and help convince people to reconsider the conveniences of city living. The experiment worked. Space does not permit a complete list of activities and sights to see in Philadelphia. If you are looking for more to do, ask a local.

Convention registration opens on **SUNDAY** with free time and an invitation for small groups to experience a private visit to a du Pont estate. Hear Aeolian Op. 1512 (1921) in a program featuring Stowkowski's legendary DuoArt roll. After dinner on your own the Convention officially opens with the four-manual Austin organ, Op. 1416 in the 1928–1929 Irvine Auditorium of the University of Pennsylvania. Just a short walk from the convention headquarters hotel (the Sheraton Philadelphia at 3549 Chestnut Street), Irvine Auditorium was designed by Philadelphia architect Horace Trumbauer in the style of the French monastery Mont Saint Michel. The 1926 Austin was built for the Sesquicentennial International Exhibition in Philadelphia. After the Exhibition, publishing magnate Cyrus Curtis purchased the organ, and he subsequently donated the instrument to the University of Pennsylvania.

On **MONDAY**, the focus of the convention will be centered in and near the city's Society Hill neighborhood, including Third, Scots, and Mariner's Presbyterian Church, also known as "Old Pine." Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church was founded in 1768 and is the oldest Presbyterian edifice in the city. Inside this Greek revival building, we will hear the 1892 J.W. Steere & Sons organ, Op. 344; this instrument was relocated from Robert Whiting's estate in Schwenksville, Pa., and originally built for the First Universalist Society, Elgin, Ill. We travel about one block to the 1758 Georgian-style St. Peter's Church (Episcopal) to hear its 1931 Skinner organ, Op. 862. The unmistakable pipe case in the gallery dates from 1767 and was created for the parish's first permanent organ, built by Philip Feyring between 1763 and 1767. When the organ was



Highway Tabernacle Church
Hilborne L. Roosevelt, Opus 148 (1884)



Holy Trinity Church Hook & Hastings, Opus 1524 (1892)

restored in 1991, David Harris, of Whittier, Calif, designed and built a new console in the Aeolian-Skinner style. Five blocks to the west we explore the non-English heritage of colonial Philadelphia. Built in 1789, Holy Trinity Church at Sixth and Spruce Streets is the third-oldest Catholic parish in the city. The parish was established to serve the city's burgeoning German community. In fact, Holy Trinity was the first German national Roman Catholic parish in the United States. Conference attendees will hear its 1892 Hook & Hastings organ, Op. 1524, restored in 1998. Several blocks to the south, we visit Saint Paul Church on Ninth and Christian Streets, near the city's Italian Market. The Italian Market, which runs along approximately ten city blocks of Ninth Street in South Philadelphia, is one of the oldest and largest open-air markets in the country, and there you will enjoy a tasty break for lunch. The organ at Saint Paul's is Skinner Op. 638 from 1927, originally designed and built for Sinai Temple in Mount Vernon, N.Y. The installation project preserved the High Gothic 1849 Hall & Labaugh organ case.

Monday evening we are back in Center City to hear the 2006 Dobson organ, Op. 76, at Verizon Hall in the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. Designed by the Uruguayan architect Rafael Viñoly, the Kimmel Center and Verizon Hall is the first U.S. major concert hall to open in the 21st century. The elegant cello-shaped auditorium combines warmth and richness of design within extraordinary sightlines and acoustically advanced technologies.

TUESDAY takes us north to the city limits and beyond into the immediate suburbs in Montgomery County. We begin the day at Highway Tabernacle Church in the city's Fairmount neighborhood. Alfred Biles designed the exuberant Gothic-style brownstone edifice, which Highway Tabernacle calls home, in 1862 for the congregation of the Fifth Baptist Church. The building sustained extensive damage after a 1986 fire. The two manual 1884 Roosevelt organ survived and was rebuilt by Patrick J. Murphy. Next we travel to Germantown, a neighborhood in the northwest section of the city. As its name suggests, German Quakers and Mennonites settled the neighborhood in 1683, during the infancy of Penn's colony. Colonial-era

estates line Germantown Avenue, the neighborhood's "main street." Germantown was the site of a Revolutionary War battle (a British victory) and the birthplace of the American abolitionist movement. While in Germantown, we will visit St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The congregation was founded in 1811, making it rather new by Germantown standards, and the present Gothic-style edifice was consecrated in 1876. C.C. Michell, in conjunction with Cole & Woodberry, built the organ in 1894. From Germantown we head to North Broad Street, and the city's West Oak Lane neighborhood, to visit the Carmelite Monastery of the Discalced Nuns. This Hook & Hastings organ, Op. 1977, originally built for the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Englewood, N.J., was relocated and rebuilt by Patrick J. Murphy in 2002.

After our visit to the monastery, we head north on Old York Road, across the city line, to Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in suburban Elkins Park. Founded in 1847, "K.I.," as it is affectionately known, is Philadelphia's fourth-oldest Jewish congregation and its first reformed congregation. Formerly located in North Philadelphia, K.I. relocated to its present campus in 1955. At K.I. we will have lunch and then hold our Annual Meeting, followed by a concert that will be performed on their three-manual 1961 Austin, Op. 2348. We will then continue north into Montgomery County and visit the Bryn Athyn Cathedral, the episcopal seat of the General Church of the New Jerusalem. This imposing early Gothic-style structure, reminiscent of Gloucester Cathedral, was designed by famous Boston architect Ralph Adams Cram. John Pitcairn, industrial magnate and president of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, donated the property and the majority of the funds to construct the cathedral.

Tuesday evening we are back near Center City to hear the 1933 Aeolian-Skinner organ, Op. 872, at Girard College Chapel. Stephen Girard was among the wealthiest Americans at the beginning of the 19th century, so wealthy that he lent eight million dollars to the United States government to cover the costs of the War of 1812. Upon his death in 1831, he left a substantial legacy to establish a school for fatherless boys. Girard College was founded in 1843 as a boarding school spanning elementary through high school. Girard College still educates fatherless boys; however,

this mission has expanded twice, first by racial integration in 1968 and then by the admission of girls in 1985. The importance of the Girard College organ was earlier recognized by the Organ Historical Society as being “of exceptional historic merit worthy of preservation.”

The leafy western and northwestern edges of the city as well as the immediate western suburbs are in store for **WEDNESDAY**. The day begins in the city’s Wynnefield neighborhood at Saint Joseph’s University, Philadelphia’s Jesuit institution. Founded in 1851, and in its present location since 1927, the University is known for quality academic programs and solid athletic teams. Located in the University’s Chapel is the 1868 E. & G.G. Hook organ, Op. 461. Built originally for the Green Hill Presbyterian Church, the organ was removed and restored by Patrick J. Murphy and Associates in 1987. The next two venues provide an interesting comparison of two Presbyterian churches and their modern organs located in relatively affluent communities that developed in the late 19th century as a result of an expanding railroad network. First we

travel to Chestnut Hill on the northwestern edge of the city. While in Chestnut Hill, we visit the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill and see its 2000 three-manual Mander organ. Then we travel westward across the Schuylkill River to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church and its 2005 Rieger organ. Located in suburban western Montgomery County, Bryn Mawr is a part of a collection of affluent and highly desirable suburban communities nicknamed the “Main Line.” The name originated from the proximity to the Pennsylvania Railroad’s principal artery, or main line, between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. We are back in Center City in the evening to hear the most beloved organ in Philadelphia, at Macy’s Department Store. A national historic landmark, the Wanamaker Grand Court Organ was designed by renowned organ architect George Ashdown Audsley and built by the Los Angeles Art Organ Company for the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition held in St. Louis. After the exhibition, merchant and marketing pioneer John Wanamaker purchased the organ for his new department store at 13th and Chestnut Streets. In this imposing structure designed by Chicago architect Daniel Burnham, the organ takes center stage and soars seven stories above the center of the store. After the Wanamaker family sold their interest in the store, subsequent owners have remained committed to preserving both the organ and its traditions for all of Philadelphia to enjoy. Besides the organ, Wanamaker purchased German sculptor August Gaul’s 2,500-pound bronze eagle, visible in Macy’s Grand Court, from the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition. If you ever hear a Philadelphian say “Meet me at the eagle,” this is the *eagle* they are talking about.

On **THURSDAY** we head to South Philadelphia and then to the Brandywine Valley in both Chester County, Pennsylvania, and northern Delaware. The day begins at the Tindley Temple United Methodist Church on South Broad Street. This anchor of the African American Methodist community was built between 1923 and 1928, and its exterior incorporates Beaux-Arts, Romanesque, and Art Deco design elements. A massive, multi-tiered, reinforced concrete balcony is on all but the south side of the interior, and the south wall of the space is dominated by the 1927 M.P. Moller, Op. 3886; the building design demonstrates the importance of music in the life of the Tindley Temple community.

The Brandywine Valley stretches across western Delaware and southern Chester Counties in Pennsylvania and northern New Castle County in Delaware. The rolling hills of the valley have provided inspiration for several generations of artists in the Wyeth family, who have called the Brandywine community of Chadds Ford their home. Besides the Wyeths, the du Pont family found a home in the Brandywine Valley. Our first stop in the Brandywine Valley is at Christ Church Christiana Hundred. The genesis of Christ Church can be traced to the work of Victorine Bauduy, the widowed daughter of Eleuthère Irénée du Pont, and her children’s Sunday school near her family’s black-powder mill along the Brandywine Creek. This Sunday school building still stands and is one of the popular attractions at the Hagley Museum, a restoration of the du Pont Company’s 19th-century milling operation, Eleutherian Mills. The parish itself was founded in 1848, and the present Gothic-revival style building was constructed in 1856. The histories of the du Pont family and the parish are interwoven, and these strong connections remain today. The organ is John Brombaugh & Associates’ Op. 32 of 1990. The Bernard Smith organ at Christ Church, Oxford, England, inspired the present casework.

Then we travel into the city of Wilmington to the First & Central Presbyterian Church to enjoy its 1989 Gabriel Kney & Co. organ, Op. 112. First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington was founded in 1737 and merged with the newer Central Presbyterian Church, founded in 1855, in 1920. The present edifice was constructed in 1930. As the largest city in Delaware, Wilmington was the state’s industrial engine, and factories dotted the city. Post-World War II deindustrialization hit Wilmington particularly hard. Additionally, Wilmington experienced a riot and civil unrest following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. In fact, the National Guard occupied the city for nine months. Wilmington rebounded in the 1980s thanks to the state’s 1981 Financial Center Development Act, which liberalized the laws governing banks operating within the state. Today, many national and international banks, including Bank of America, Chase, and Barclays, have operations in the city. Through the high and low points of Wilmington’s history, while other congregations have removed

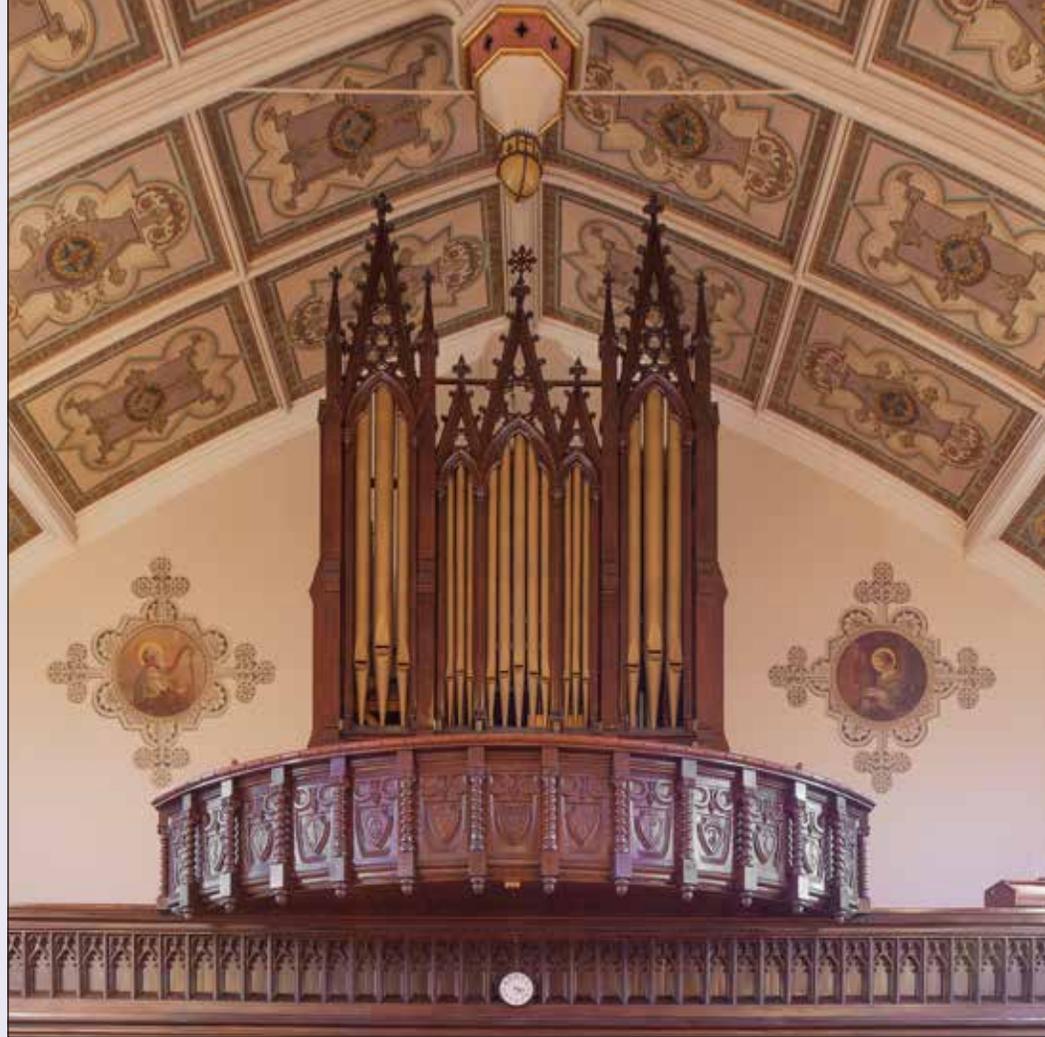


Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church
Aeolian-Skinner, Opus 948 (1937)

to more suburban environs, First & Central Presbyterian Church has remained committed to the city.

Thursday evening we travel to the Pennsylvania side of the Brandywine Valley to Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square. The origins of Longwood date back to the 1790s, when the Peirce family began planting trees here. In 1905, to save the trees from being cut down, Pierre S. du Pont (of the famous chemical company) purchased the farm, and set about creating a weekend home and park, not only for himself but the public. An avid music aficionado, du Pont purchased an Aeolian organ in 1921 for his conservatory, and eventually expanded the complex to include a Ballroom for the present 1930 Aeolian, Op. 1726, With 10,010 pipes divided into 146 ranks, Longwood's is the largest Aeolian ever built. The \$122,700 instrument was designed by Firmin Swinnen, Longwood's resident organist from 1924–1956.

Like many Philadelphians in the summer, conventioners will head “down the shore” to Atlantic City on **FRIDAY**. Once dubbed “The World's Playground,” Atlantic City remains embedded in public culture thanks to the board game Monopoly, which features Atlantic City sites around the board and HBO's popular series *Boardwalk Empire*, a fictionalized drama about Atlantic City in the 1920s. While in Atlantic City we will visit Boardwalk Hall. Built in 1926, Boardwalk Hall was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1987. Boardwalk Hall is home to the Miss America Pageant and was the site of the 1964 Democratic National Convention where Lyndon B. Johnson received the party's nomination for President. Boardwalk Hall is home to the 1932 Midmer-Losh organ, Op. 5550. Designed by New Jersey State Senator Emerson Lewis Richards, this organ is the world's largest in terms of the number of pipes (officially 33,112, but the exact number is unknown). The organ has multiple entries in *Guinness Book of World Records*, including “Largest pipe organ ever constructed,” “Largest musical instrument ever constructed,” and “Loudest musical instrument ever constructed,” and holds several records in the organ world: it is one of only two organs in the world to have an open 64-foot rank, the only organ to have stops voiced on 100 inches of wind pressure, and the only console with seven keyboards. Time has not been



**Saint Paul Church
Skinner, Opus 638 (1927)**

kind to the organ, and it has not been fully functional since the Great Atlantic Hurricane of 1944; at present only 15 to 20 percent of the organ is playable. The Wyncote Foundation is a leading funder of the restoration of the instrument. It is hoped that as much as 50 percent of the organ will be operational in time for the OHS 2016 Convention.

That's a lot of organ! But there's even more — we will have a performance at the Phillips Ballroom, with its four manual 1931 Kimball.

Friday night we are back in Center City and will visit Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, near Rittenhouse Square, to hear its 1937 Aeolian-Skinner organ, Op. 948. Founded in 1847, and designed by Philadelphia architect John Notman, Saint Mark's became home to many of the leading Philadelphia families, who spawned a building boom around Rittenhouse Square beginning in the 1850s. By the second half of the 19th century, the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood had become the most fashionable residen-

tial section of the city, the home of Philadelphia's “Victorian aristocracy.” Some mansions from that period still survive on the streets around Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, although many of the grand townhomes you see were converted to apartment buildings on the eve of World War I. Interestingly, thanks to a renewed interest in city living, some have been converted back to private residences. The edifice Notman designed was among the first churches in the United States erected with the deliberate purpose of bringing Anglo-Catholic principles of worship to fruition. Rodman Wanamaker, son of John Wanamaker, donated both construction of the chapel and purchase of its furnishings in memory of his late wife. The most striking feature of the Lady Chapel is its silver altar. Designed by the London firm of Barkentin & Krall, the altar features nearly 150 individually sculpted saints and scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary. Because of these and other architectural qualities, the building has been designated a National Historic Landmark.

On **SATURDAY**, July 2, with a special add-on day, we travel to northern Chester County and adjacent Berks County to visit three historically German congregations. In the 18th century, German speakers were the largest non-English-speaking group in Pennsylvania. Germans entered through the port of Philadelphia, but most did not stay in the city. Instead they fanned out, like a palm leaf, to the north and west of the city. Thus an arc stretching from Lancaster County to Northampton County forms a "German Belt" in this part of Pennsylvania. Many feared the massive influx of German speakers into the Commonwealth and were happy to see them pushed deep into the hinterland. Benjamin Franklin, for example, feared

Inside Zion Lutheran we are treated to the David Tannenberg organ built in 1791. Tannenberg was born in Saxony, Germany, arrived in Pennsylvania in 1749 and settled in the German-Moravian community of Bethlehem. Tannenberg learned the art of organ building while in Bethlehem from Johann Klemm, a trained organ builder from Dresden, Germany, who had built several organs for the Moravian communities around Bethlehem. After Klemm's death in 1762, Tannenberg relocated to the Moravian community in Lititz in Lancaster County. It is there he would build organs for another forty years. The Zion Lutheran organ is one of only nine Tannenberg organs remaining of the nearly fifty that he built.

was built in 1883. The organ at Huff's Union Church dates from about 1865 and was built by George Krauss, who lived several miles to the east in nearby Palm, Montgomery County. Brothers John and Andrew Krauss were originally Schwenkfelders, but because organs were forbidden among Schwenkfelders the brothers were able to carry on their chosen profession only at the expense of giving up their religion. Andrew's sons Joel and George continued in their father's footsteps, and George's son Edwin B. carried on the family business until the eve of World War I. The case façade was originally of the traditional German style. This façade and the towers were removed and replaced with the present Victorian style façade and the new façade pipes in 1883. The 1883 alterations seem to have been the work of George's son, Edwin B.

Finally we travel to the upper reaches of Berks County to Upper Bern Township and visit the Frieden's (Peace) Union Church in the village of Shartlesville. Frieden's Church owes its origins to a combination congregation of Lutherans and German Reformed (United Church of Christ). Unlike Huff's Church, however, Frieden's Church is, at present, affiliated only with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The present edifice was constructed in 1871. Thomas Dieffenbach built the organ in 1891. Dieffenbach was the last in a family tradition of organ building stretching back to the late 18th century, and the Frieden's Church organ was his last commission. Operating for four generations near Millersburg, the Dieffenbach family was in business longer than most of the Pennsylvania German organ builders, yet produced only about two dozen small instruments. The 2003 OHS conference in Harrisburg spurred interest in the Dieffenbach organ, and the congregation embarked on a restoration project just in time for that convention.

As I write today we've just learned of the thrilling addition of Skinner Op. 742, a player residence organ at Welkinweir in Pottstown. Our 60th Anniversary will be a banner year! Philadelphia is always a marvelous place to visit, and in this OHS Diamond Anniversary year we offer you a splendid time in the city and its environs. Join us for wonderful performances and splendid instruments in one of the world's grand — and most charming cities!

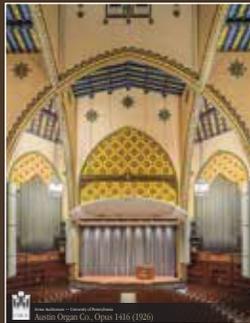


**Macy's Department Store
Wanamaker (1911, 1914, 1917, 1923-30, &c.)**

that these immigrants would Germanize rather than be Anglicized. The three churches we will visit are reminders of these various German communities that surrounded Philadelphia and provide examples of the great German (Pennsylvania Dutch) organ builders.

First we visit Spring City, in northern Chester County, and the Zion Lutheran Church. The history of Zion Lutheran is rooted in the efforts of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America, to establish a preaching point on the west bank of the Schuylkill River. The present edifice, the congregation's third, was built in 1862.

Then we travel north into Berks County to Huff's Union Church, in the village of Alburts in Hereford Township. Union Church is a combination congregation of Lutherans and German Reformed (United Church of Christ). Evidence suggests that the German Schwenkfelder sect settled Hereford Township first in the 1730s. The German Reformed settlers came next and established their church in the 1740s, and the Lutherans last in the 1760s. By 1814 both the German Reformed and Lutheran congregations were meeting in the same schoolhouse. Together both congregations built a united church the following year. The present edifice



The Organ Historical Society's Mission Statement

The Organ Historical Society celebrates, preserves, and studies the pipe organ in America in all its historic styles, through research, education, advocacy, and music.

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2016 CONVENTION CALENDAR © ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COVER PHOTO: Macy's Department Store ~ Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wanamaker (1911, 1914, 1917, 1923–30, &c.)

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