

THE TRACKER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume V

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Number 3

The Sixth Annual O.H.S. Convention Plan and Program Announced

Boston, Mass. June 21 - 23, 1961

For the hardy conventioners of the Organ Historical Society a unique arrangement has been made this year whereby our convention will be held directly following a three-day A.G.O. regional meet (June 18-20) which will include events of interest to our members. In order to accomplish this it was necessary for our committee to adjust the dates we had originally planned for our own convention, and therefore attention is called to our new dates of June 21, 22 and 23.

Both programs have been planned to avoid any duplication, and arrangements have been made for the maximum convenience of those planning to attend both gatherings. In addition, the new schedule will permit those wishing to see more of New England's most historic city to do so.

● H. S. DETAILS

The ● H. S. convention will begin Wednesday, June 21, with a registration period at 9 a. m. in the parish hall of St. Paul's Cathedral, 136 Tremont Street, in downtown Boston. St. Paul's may be reached by public transportation from any part of the metropolitan area. While there are commercial parking lots nearby, it is recommended that drivers leave their cars at their lodgings and arrive at headquarters by subway. The Park Street station of the subway is almost directly opposite the Cathedral.

During the registration period there will be opportunity to get together to talk and examine exhibits. Members having exhibit items (scrapbooks, picture collections, nameplate collections, old books, magazines and other "organabilia") are invited to bring these for exhibition, properly marked as to identification of subject matter as well as ownership. Exhibitors are asked to notify the committee in advance so that sufficient space will be available. In addition, the A.G.O. displays will remain assembled for our enjoyment for the first day of our convention.

Not only will there be the double exhibition at our headquarters, but the Boston Public Library on Copley Square has arranged a full-sized lobby

display on organs for the entire month of June, and conventioners are urged to visit this exhibition which will contain much of the valuable material belonging to the library. Also the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities is planning a display of pertinent holdings which includes many items of interest to O.H.S. members.

THE BUSINESS MEETING

At 10:30 a. m. the business meeting will convene at headquarters. All of the very latest developments, including those having to do with the establishment of our permanent headquarters at York, Pa., and plans for incorporation, will be discussed, and the results of the balloting will be announced. This is an important year in the life of our organization. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

A luncheon will follow the business meeting at 12 noon, after which all duly registered conventioners will board a bus for the first organ tour.

THE WEDNESDAY TOUR

Leaving St. Paul's we shall spend the afternoon in downtown Boston and the Back Bay area. Organs to be visited include the famous "Coronation" organ, once owned by hymn-writer Oliver Holden, in historic Old State House; an 1852 George Stevens in the old Mariner's Church; an 1877 electrified Johnson in St. Mary's Church; an 1854 Stevens chamber organ, now being restored, in the Preservation Society; a large 1859 Hook at All Saints' Lutheran Church; and the large Hook in Immaculate Conception Church where a short recital of French music will be heard. While it was electrified in 1903, this magnificent French-style instrument, designed by J. R. Willcox (he of "Thunderstorm" fame!), remains entirely unaltered tonally, and stands in a building ideal for sound.

The bus will return to headquarters at 5:30 p. m., and we suggest that members avail themselves of the several excellent restaurants nearby for supper. A list of these will be made available at registration time.

DON PATERSON'S RECITAL

At 7:15 p.m. we will reconvene at First Unitarian Church, Jamaica Plain. This is easily reached by taking the Huntington Avenue trolley out of Part Street station to Centre & Elliot Streets in Jamaica Plain. Here a unique situation is found since this is the only known town in America where one can find three 3-manual organs of the same builder, all over a century old, within a few blocks of each other. First Unitarian has one, a Hook of 1854, and the others are in First Baptist (1859), and St. Thomas Aquinas (1854). The latter organ once stood in St. Paul's Cathedral, our headquarters church. We shall visit the two last-named organs by foot, returning to First Unitarian by 8:30 p.m. for a recital by our vice-president, Donald R. M. Paterson, whose demonstrations were so well received last year in Philadelphia. After the recital there will be opportunity to examine this organ as well.

THE THURSDAY TOUR

The bus will leave headquarters Thursday morning at 9 a.m., and our tour will cover significant organs in South Boston, East Boston, and Charlestown. In South Boston, organs to be seen will include an 1871 Joel Butler rebuild of a larger older organ in St. Augustine's Church and a small Woodberry & Harris in the chapel of the same church; an 1861 Hook in Fourth Presbyterian; an 1870 Hook in the Methodist Church of Our Savior; and an 1874 Hook, recently completely restored, in St. Vincent's Church. Organs in East Boston will include a large 1854 Simmons in Most Holy Redeemer Church; a circa 1870 Simmons in the Assembly of God Church; and a Butler of the same period in First Presbyterian. On the way back we shall stop at Charlestown to see the large 1877 Moritz Baumgarten organ in St. Catherine's Church, believed to be the only remaining example of this builder's work. Lunch will be arranged en route.

NEW CONVENTION FEATURE

The bus will return to headquarters at 4 p.m. for a type of program new to O.H.S. conventions. This will be a panel discussion and demonstration of voicing, restoration, and other interesting facets of the organ-builder's art, led by Charles Fisk of the Andover Organ Company, Raymond Whalon of the Welte-Whalon Organ Company, and others. This should prove a unique experience, and a chance to acquire much useful information. Supper hour (at downtown restaurants) is scheduled for 6 p.m.

OLD NORTH CHURCH CONCERT

The Thursday evening event begins at 8 p.m. This will be a concerted program with John Feserman and the Old North Singers & Players at Old North Church, 193 Salem Street, in the North End. The program, in the form of an evening service, will be given under candlelight in this historic and beautiful old church, and will include choral and instrumental music, some by early New England composers. An informal coffee hour will be held following the program, with opportunity to see the organ, a Hutchings-Plaisted or

Stevens of the 1870's, rebuilt in 1958 by Schlicker, standing behind the original Thomas Johnston case of 1752-59.

MIDNIGHT REVELRY

At midnight a special treat is in store in the form of a theatre party at "The Met", 268 Tremont Street, site of one of Boston's best and "mightiest" theatre organs. Our hosts will be the members of the local chapter, A.T.O.E., and O.H.S. members will have a chance to "let their hair down."

THE FRIDAY TOUR

Leaving headquarters at 9 a.m., the Friday tour will be by automobile and last all day through the area between Boston and Worcester, Mass., with lunch provided en route. Organs to be seen will include an 1869 Simmons in the beautiful "Bullfinch" Church (First Unitarian) in Lancaster; and 1847 George Stevens in Shirley Centre; two other Stevens organs, dating from the 1850's, in Harvard and Still River; another from the 1870's in the Historical Society of Northboro; an 1851 William Simmons in the Baptist Church of Framingham; and an 1876 Johnson and another Stevens of the 1850's in Saxonville, in the Catholic and Congregational Churches, respectively.

GEORGE FAXON'S RECITAL

We shall arrive in Worcester in time for supper, and at 8:30 p.m. George Faxon will present a recital for us on the large 4-manual electrified E. & G. G. Hook organ of 1864 in Mechanics Hall. This is Worcester's original 19th century concert hall, possibly the only such hall still in use in near-original condition. It is noted for its fine acoustics, and Mr. Faxon's program will be one long to be remembered, an event not to be missed.

A.G.O. REGIONAL DETAILS

For the benefit of those wishing to come early for the A.G.O. regional meeting, some of the highlights of this convention will include a performance of Beethoven's "Missa Solemnis" on Sunday evening, June 18; a special concert of the Boston "Pops" in Symphony Hall on Monday evening featuring works for organ and orchestra; and a recital at St. Paul's Cathedral by Ray Ferguson at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, followed by a performance of the "Play of Daniel" on Boston Common at 8:45 p.m. Other events include a tape lecture on historic organs by E. Power Biggs; a program with positive and instruments by William McGowan; a lecture by Lawrence Phelps; and various tours and workshops.

THE SAD NEWS

Due to the increased expenses occasioned by more bus tours, meals, and advertising this year, it has become necessary to increase the registration fee for our O.H.S. convention to \$10.00, payable at the time of registration only. Please do not send any money with your enrollment reservation. For those who cannot spend all three days at the convention the fee is \$3.50 per day. We expect a record turnout this year, and it is therefore urgent that all conventioners enroll as promptly as possible so that your committee can complete its reservations and plans. Therefore,

EDITORIAL

It will probably please no one for us to bring up the subject of money, but in these days of high costs of everything the need for hard cash is an ever increasing one—even by such out-of-this-world organizations as the Organ Historical Society.

For five years, marked by splendid growth and development and illuminated by successful efforts in the preservation of historical organs, we have met our financial obligations satisfactorily. At first the work was carried on entirely by contributions, and the generosity of our members was adequate to the needs. Then, as we grew into a better organized society, regular dues were levied against all members; but contributions were still sought and continued to come in over and above the annual dues. Thus we were able to improve our quarterly newsletter from a mere mimeographed sheet to the handsome printed magazine you are now reading.

But now comes the time for greater growth and development. The need for incorporation is an imminent one, and the funds available are inadequate. The cost of establishing our headquarters at York, Pa., is not a matter of a single outlay, but rather the adoption of a regular annual expenditure that may increase as time goes on. These are only two of many vital requirements if we are to continue our effective work and achieve any of our goals.

There are two ways that the financial crisis may be met: (1) to increase our membership from roughly 200 to 500 or even 1,000, and (2) to increase our membership dues. The National Council will present a plan regarding dues at the Boston convention, but every member should weigh the matter carefully and give consideration to the needs of the Society as a whole.

The A.G.O. has just doubled its annual dues out of "necessity", and it has over 15,000 members. What are we going to do about it?

May 30 has been set as the deadline for mailing the enclosed enrollment form.

If you wish to attend the A.G.O. regional convention also, and are not a member of a New England chapter, please indicate your desire on the enclosed form and information will be sent to you.

WHERE TO STAY

It has been decided not to have an official hotel this year. However, for those with no other plans, we would recommend the Lenox at 61 Exeter Street, which has singles from \$6.75 to \$9.00 and doubles from \$9.95 to \$13.00. The YMCA is at 316 Huntington Avenue, with rooms at \$2.50, \$3.50 and \$4.00; and the YWCA is at 140 Clarendon Street, with rooms at \$4.00 and \$5.00. All three places are near each other and the downtown area, and are convenient to commercial parking lots and the Back Bay railroad station. June is a busy month for hotels in Boston, so we suggest that you write for your reservations early.

We look forward to seeing a large and enthusiastic group in Boston in June. The city that, for two centuries, has been the center of the organ-building industry in New England offers many unique attractions to all those interested in the organ and its history, from whatever standpoint. Let's join together to enjoy them.

Your 1961 Convention Committee:

Nelson C. Barden, chairman
Sally Slade Warner
John Ken Ogasapian
Alan Laufman
Barbara J. Owen

THE CHANDOS CHAPEL ORGAN

By F. R. Webber

Some time ago the Rev'd. Robert Hunsicker, vicar of St. Paul's Chapel, New York, enquired for information regarding the organ built for the chapel of the Duke of Chandos, Canons, England. The chapel was demolished generations ago, but it turns out that the organ was removed in 1748 and still exists (or did until a few years ago) in Holy Trinity Church, Gosport. The organ is one of fifty or more upon which Handel reputedly composed "Messiah"!

At Great Witley there is a church with a three-manual, 28 rank organ with an exceptionally beautiful case, and a console within a semi-circular tribune of exquisite scale and detail. This is often called the "Chandos organ," and here again Handel composed "Messiah"! This error is no doubt due to the fact that the windows and fine ceiling of Great Witley came from the Chandos chapel, and the legend has been broadened to include the organ, too, however wrongly.

Perhaps some of our British members can shed additional light on the subject of the Chandos organ.

Enclosures

With this issue of THE TRACKER will be found two enclosures important to all members of O.H.S. These are:

1. THE BALLOT - Whether you plan to attend the annual meeting in Boston or not it is your responsibility to cast your vote for the election of officers. Immediate action is imperative, so please mail your filled-in ballot at once.

2. ENROLLMENT - The advance enrollment registration form for the 6th annual O.H.S. Convention, June 21-23, at Boston, Mass. **DO NOT SEND MONEY WITH THIS FORM.** Please mail it not later than May 30.

OLD ORGAN — NEW HOME

By Robert J. Reich

Taunton, Massachusetts, like many New England cities, has become more and more strongly Roman Catholic as the years have passed. This has led to the closing of some Protestant churches and merging of others. First Methodist in Taunton combined with Memorial Methodist and, since 1957, the old First Methodist building has been unused. This is a large wooden structure of a modified colonial design. The organ was made in 1869 by William Stevens, East Cambridge, Mass., and had remained in almost perfect condition. Its resources are as follows:

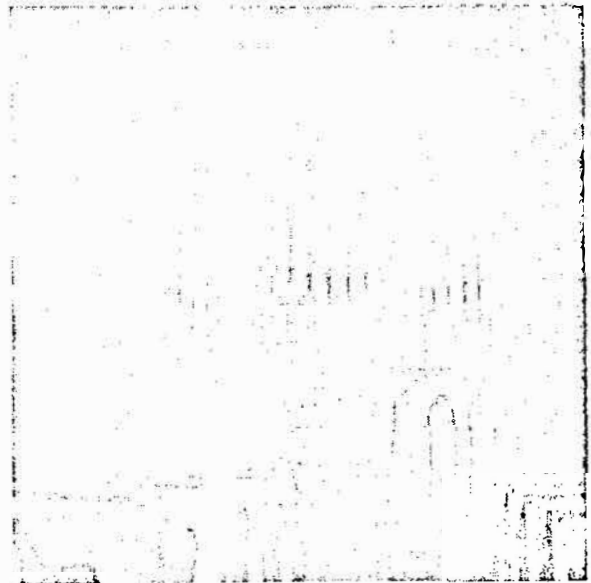
GREAT (56 notes)	SWELL (enclosed)
8' Open Diapason	16' Bourdon tc
8' Hohl Flote tg	8' Open Diapason tc
8' Keraulophon tg	8' Clarabella Treble tc
8' Dulciana tg	8' Stopped Diapason Bass
8' Stopped Diapason Bass	8' Viol de Gamba
4' Principal	4' Principal
4' Wald Flute tc	8' Hautboy tc (capped)
2 2 3' Twelfth	Pedal Check
2' Fifteenth	Tremulo
PEDAL (27 notes)	Couple Great and Swell
16' Double Open Diapason	Couple Pedal and Great
(13 pipes)	Couple Pedal and Swell

Originally there had been a 20-note pedal keyboard with the top seven keys playing the pedal pipes an octave lower. Toward the end of the 19th century, W. K. Adams of Providence, R. I., added the larger pedal keyboard and coupler mechanism for the additional notes, but left the pedal pipes and action as they were. Otherwise, the organ seems to be entirely in its original condition.

Efforts had been made for several years to find buyers for the building and/or the organ, but in the summer of 1960 the old building remained in the hands of the church with the lower floor rented for storage purposes to a paint manufacturer, and the organ upstairs was untouched.

Meanwhile things were happening at the Baptist Church in Brentwood, N. H. Brentwood is a small community spread out so much that the village itself is just a tiny cluster of houses, and both its churches are isolated miles from the village. The Baptist Church is a small red brick structure built perhaps 100 years ago. Until recent years its only musical instrument was a piano. Several years ago, however, an electronic instrument was purchased. It gave almost continuous trouble and offended some people with its tone. In the summer of 1960 the church people decided something must be done about an organ, despite a large recent expenditure for a new parish hall. Many felt the only answer lay with the purchase of a different electronic substitute, but the minister and a few others wanted a real organ.

Through the Rev'd. Harry G. Ford, pastor of the Exeter Baptist Church, the people of Brentwood learned of the Taunton organ. They sent a



committee to examine it and soon afterwards arranged to purchase it. A plan was worked out with the Andover Organ Company for the moving of the organ. According to this plan the church would provide a crew of volunteers to assist in the work and the Andover Organ Co. would provide supervision and expert workers as needed.

In July 1960, a crew of five from Brentwood and two from the Andover Organ Co. arrived in Taunton and began dismantling the organ. Three days later it was loaded into the largest available rented truck and a station wagon. After a long trip, marred only by a small truck fire, the organ reached Brentwood about 11 p.m. and was unloaded in less than an hour by an enormous crew of volunteers.

During the next few days the necessary modifications were made to the church and the organ began to take shape in its new home. For the entire four weeks the project occupied three teenage boys came every day and learned about many organ builder's skills in the process, such as how to wind tracker wires, how to assemble and adjust tracker action, and how to clean pipes. Several older people took care of the wiring, blower location and connection, front pipe gilding, and modifications to the church building, as well as helping with the organ erection.

As part of the project all damaged parts were replaced or repaired. All pipes were cleaned, repaired, and adjusted for proper speech. Felt and bushings were replaced where necessary and new leather nuts applied throughout. No changes or modifications were made. The organ fits tightly into its allotted space; indeed, the longest pedal pipe had to be shortened by three inches and two of the case ornaments had to be removed.

During the installation many of the church people dropped in from time to time. Some were thrilled with the imposing appearance of the organ. Others, especially those who had been opposed to it from the beginning, thought it too large and that it spoiled the church's interior. Certainly it dominates the front of the church, although placed at one side. It is a very large organ for the building and, except for a few city churches, the largest in any Baptist church in the state of New Hampshire.

On Sunday afternoon, July 31, 1960, a special service of dedication was held. The Rev'd. Gay M. Judkins, pastor, dedicated the organ, followed by a soprano solo by Mrs. Judkins. The Rev'd. Harry G. Ford played the following organ program:

Prelude and Fugue in E minor ("The Cathedral")
J. S. Bach

Partita on "My Jesus I will not forsake" - Walther

Choral Prelude "Praise God together, ye Christians" - Buxtehude

Choral Prelude "Our Father who art in Heaven" -
J. S. Bach

Four Choral Preludes: "O Dearest Jesus" - Brahms
"Blessed are ye faithful souls"
"A lovely rose is blooming"
"O world, I now must leave thee"

Chaconne - Couperin

So great was the interest in the new instrument that the church was filled almost to capacity and comments seemed to be of the most favorable kind. At this writing, almost six months later, the report is that the church is now unanimously in favor of the action taken in getting a real organ, even those initially opposed.

The Brentwood Baptist Church has set an example which should be of widespread interest. They have shown that even a very small country church, if it is active enough and has enough people who really care, can have a fine organ and need not settle for a substitute. In this case, the total expense for the organ was less than the cost of even the cheapest substitute. The supply of second hand tracker organs of moderate size and good tonal quality seems to be great enough so that many other small churches could solve their organ problems by a similar means.

Big News in 1884

Ed. Note: A clipping from an unknown Boston newspaper dated December 16, 1884, describes Hutchings' Opus 138 which replaced the organ now located in Organ Hall, Methuen, Mass. We quote the article in its entirety:

"THE NEW MUSIC HALL ORGAN"

"The removal of the 'big' organ from Music Hall caused much discussion, and the taste which caused the vacant space left by the removal to be covered with cheap-looking drapery has been severely criticised. As the hall was useless for

oratorio performances, the directors felt that it was necessary to do something to prevent the Handel and Haydn Society from leaving the hall which had so long been its home, and accordingly a contract was made with Mr. George S. Hutchings to build an organ, which, to distinguish it from the old one, will probably be known as the "little" organ.

"It is placed in a room over the green room, a little above the level of the second gallery on the left side of the hall. An archway has been cut in the wall, and a balcony thrown out in front, as has been seen by every one who has been in the hall this season. This elevated position will necessarily destroy much of the effect which the instrument would produce if more advantageously placed, but Mr. Hutchings says that it is a powerful organ.

"It will be completed on Saturday and be used for the first time at the Handel and Haydn Society's performance of "Messiah" on Sunday evening. The organ has only a single manual, of the simplest construction, and without any pneumatic appliances. Its specification is as follows:

"Manual - Compass C to C4

1	Double open diapason	16 feet	61 pipes
2	Dulciana	16 "	61 "
3	Open diapason	8 "	61 "
4	Open diapason	8 "	61 "
5	Doppel flöte	8 "	61 "
6	Viola da Gamba	8 "	61 "
7	Stopped Diapason	8 "	61 "
8	Dulciana	8 "	61 "
9	Octave	4 "	61 "
10	Flute harmonique	4 "	31 "
11	Twelfth	2 2/3 "	61 "
12	Fifteenth	2 "	61 "
13	Mixture	4 ranks	244 "
14	Mixture	3 "	183 "
15	Mixture	3 "	183 "
16	Dolce Cornet	4 "	244 "
17	Trumpet	8 feet	61 "
18	Trumpet	16 "	49 "
19	Clarion	4 "	61 "

"Pedal - Compass C to D

20	Contra bourdon	32 feet wood	30 pipes (sic)
21	Double open diapason	16 "	30 "
22	Bourdon	16 "	30 "
23	Violone	16 "	30 "
24	Quinte	10 2/3 "	30 "
25	Flöte	8 "	30 "
26	Violoncello	8 " metal	30 "
27	Octave	4 "	30 "
28	Trombone	16 " wood	30 "

"Mechanicals

29	Manuale to pedal couples
30	Blower's signal

"Pedal Movements

1	Forté combination, with appropriate pedal combination
2	Mezzo combination, with appropriate pedal combination
3	Piano combination, with appropriate pedal combination
4	Chorus organ separation
5	Octave coupler manuale
6	Octave coupler pedals
7	Balanced swell pedals

Nos. 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, and 16 are enclosed in a swell box."

Notes, Quotes and Comments

President Barbara J. Owen has given numerous lectures, illustrated with color slides, on the history of the organ in America during the past winter. Among these were engagements with the Atlanta, Ga., Chapter AGO on February 20 (with a recital on a c. 1895 Felgemaker in Redeemer Lutheran Church); the music department of Shorter College, Rome, Ga., on February 22; the Brockton, Mass., Chapter AGO on February 27 (with a recital on an 1868 Hook in the Swendenborgian Church of Bridgewater); and the Pittsfield, Mass., Chapter AGO on March 13. She also gave a recital on the 1858 Giles Beach organ in the Presbyterian Church at Gloversville, N. Y., on April 16.

* * *

Richard Hill gave a recital on the Cole & Woodbury organ in the Unitarian Church of West Bridgewater, Mass., on March 5. We wish he had sent his program for inclusion here.

* * *

On a recent trip to Virginia Al Robinson saw the "Father Smith" (Bernard Schmidt) organ of c. 1665 in old St. Luke's Church, four miles south of Smithfield, Va. on Route 10. The church, dating from c. 1632, has undergone a remarkable restoration, and the organ, said to be one of four still extant, was presented by Queen Elizabeth.

* * *

John Ken Ogasapian gave a recital on the Johnson organ in Liberty Street Methodist Church, Springfield, Mass., on March 19. No details about the instrument were included with this notice, regrettably.

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Reminder is offered that members will be responsible for their own hotel accommodations in Boston. See the feature article about the convention for complete details and suggestions.

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We are now ready to begin to receive material for the library at our headquarters in York, Pa. All material must be sent to Kenneth F. Simmons, 228 Poplar Avenue, Wayne, Pa. Do not mail material directly to York. In order to keep things in good form and proper order we do not want to receive more or larger articles than we can accommodate. Therefore it is best to clear with Mr. Simmons before making shipments of sizable articles. If you have a few small items which you would like to contribute you may send them without enquiring; but if you have a large number of items or a particularly large article please write and see whether or not we can process them now or at what date we can accept them.

* * *

Barbara J. Owen writes: "Gene McCracken's article entitled 'The Spirits Cost \$0.75' is a good piece of research, and most interesting. Isn't it

frustrating to track an organ down to some recent point, only to have it vanish into thin air? Maybe it will show up in some totally unexpected place in time, like the Schuylerville organ Bob Reich described in the same issue. There is the same problem with the Bowdoin Street church in Boston - first it had a 3m Appleton, then it had an even larger 3m Simmons. Then suddenly it has merely a little 1m, followed by a medium 2m. The building is still there, the records of its three former owners incomplete or missing, and two large 3m organs apparently disappeared without a trace! I have tackled the situation from any number of angles - all dead ends."

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At this writing there are no new items to add to the "Organs for Sale" list published in the January issue of THE TRACKER. Since it frequently happens that sudden and drastic changes occur in the status of that list it is advisable to contact the co-ordinator of this material for latest information:

Alan Laufman
West Hill
Putney, Vermont

* * *

Material for THE TRACKER is needed to keep the interest of our publication fresh and appealing. Articles, news items, and dedicatory programs are always welcome. Send your contributions to the Editor today!

Have you brought any new members into the O.H.S. this year? One of the best inducements is to invite them to the Sixth Annual Convention in Boston. We suggest you extend the invitation early so that you can enroll for them by the deadline - May 30. Additional enrollment forms may be obtained from the Secretary.

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Don't forget to vote! Much time will be saved at the annual meeting if all members mail their ballots in prior to the convention. Mail yours today.

BACK ISSUES OF THE TRACKER

As we go to press we anticipate completion of the reprints of all numbers in Volumes I and II, now available from the secretary at 25 cents the copy. Some orders for the complete set could not be filled and money had to be refunded, but now all of the first two volumes (the mimeographed sets) can be ordered.

Some of the printed copies of Volumes III, IV and V are also available at 50 cents the copy, but a letter of inquiry as to the exact numbers desired would be the wisest action.

When ordering please add 10 cents for each four issues ordered to help defray cost of mailing, and be sure to give your correct name and address.

TRACING AN ORGAN'S HISTORY

By Albert F. Robinson

Some years ago I served as organist in Holyrood Church, New York City, and played upon a large and ponderous instrument which bore the nameplate of Reuben Midmer. I was told, however, by the organ maintenance man, Charles Mayer, that Midmer had rebuilt that instrument from a Henry Erben which once stood in old St. John's Chapel on Varick Street, New York.

There was no Organ Historical Society then, and, finding no one else interested in the organ's history and little available information about it, my own interest lagged and research stopped.

Years later it was somehow my fate to substitute there, and with the interest generated by work in the Organ Historical Society I began again to make inquiries into the organ's origin and history. Mr. F. R. Webber wrote me as follows regarding the organ formerly in St. John's, Varick Street:

"Their first organ was the famous John Lowe, which was captured in transit by the British in 1812 and held for ransom, which Trinity Parish had to pay. Thomas Hall was sent from Philadelphia to install it, and Henry Erben, then 12 years old (or 13 at most) helped him, and became bitten by the organ 'bug' until he died at 24 years.

"Their second organ was a Thomas Robjohn of three manuals and 28 ranks with two octaves of pedals, built about 1839. Frith & Hall, a music store, handled the contract, and employed Robjohn to build it. This organ had a Choir section arranged Ruck-positiv fashion. Later Erben did the same thing at Trinity Church, and Ferris did it at Broadway Tabernacle. Thus there were at least three Ruck-positivs in Manhattan alone, and long before Holtkamp's day. This organ was removed in 1874, and its Great section went to one church, the Swell to another, and the front pipes to a Presbyterian Church in upper Manhattan. It was listed in 1861 as a three manual, 28 rank instrument, but W. B. Gilbert calls it a three-manual, 20 rank as follows: Great 8 stops, Swell 6 stops, Choir 5 stops and Pedal 1 stop.

"In 1874 Henry Erben built a three-manual, 36 stop organ for St. John's Chapel of the following design: Great 13 stops, Swell 11 stops, Choir 8 stops, and Pedal 4 stops. This may be the one in Holyrood. If I am not mistaken, the Erben was still in St. John's when the chapel was demolished. Does this check with the organ as you knew it?"

Well, it certainly does; and the specification of the Holyrood organ follows:

GREAT	4' Wald Flute
16' Open Diapason	2 2/3' Twelfth
8' Open Diapason	2' Fifteenth
8' Viol di Gamba	III Mixture
8' Stopped Diapason	II Sesquialtera
8' Dulciana	8' Trumpet
4' Octave	4' Clarion

PEDAL	III Cornet
32' Resultant	8' Cornopean
16' Open Diapason	8' Oboe
16' Bourdon	8' Vox Humana
8' Violoncello	
SWELL	CHOIR
16' Bourdon	8' Open Diapason
8' Open Diapason	8' Melodia
8' Stopped Diapason	8' Stopped Diapason
8' Salicional	8' Dulciana
8' Aeoline	4' Principal
4' Fugara	4' Flauto Traverso
2' Piccolo	2' Fifteenth
	8' Clarinet

Midmer had provided a new console with varicolored tab stops, a full set of couplers and a rather unreliable electric action. During the 1930's the entire organ was usable although its condition was not first class. The mutations and mixtures were never tuned and the reeds (except the Oboe) were badly in need of re-voicing. But the Diapasons had a soft, velvety quality and the flutes were clear and pure.

Holyrood Church stands at the corner of 179th Street and Fort Washington Avenue at the George Washington Bridge-head. It is a lofty Gothic building with peculiar acoustics which, while deadly to all but the most distinct spoken word, proved flattering to most sounds of music. It was begun in 1912 and finished in 1915 when Washington Heights was a fashionable residential area. But with the building of the George Washington Bridge and its opening in 1932 the population moved elsewhere leaving Holyrood all but deserted by the end of World War II. In recent years a renewed effort has been made to preserve its life, and some degree of success is being realized.

Unfortunately the Erben-Midmer gradually wore out. First the Choir manual became useless, and later the Great and Swell disintegrated. The church was forced into action and, seeking the least costly course, chose an electronic substitute. The manufacturer is said to have allowed a small sum for the old organ, and that is the end of the tale.

Needless to say, the substitute is proving far from satisfactory, and there are many who wish that the Organ Historical Society (or one of its qualified members) had been consulted before action was taken.

This is probably a typical situation, and our members need to busy themselves in finding out more of them before the time when there are no more worthwhile organs to preserve.

Don't forget to VOTE!

Your ballot is important to the Society. A true election is an expression of all the members. Mail yours today!

THE TRACKER

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Barbara J. Owen President
24 Canterbury St., Hingham, Mass

Eugene M. McCracken Secretary
110 Evergreen Ave., Pitman, N. J.

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Kenneth F. Simmons Editor
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E. & G. G. HOOK, OPUS 153

A silver plaque attached to the organ case in Dublin Community Church, Dublin, New Hampshire, reads "Presented by Solomon Piper, Esqr. Boston, March 2d, 1853." Mr. Piper was born in Temple, N. H., in 1789, and lived in the village of Dublin from his fifth year to the age of twenty-one, when he removed to Boston.

The history of the church begins with the history of the town. In the beginning Town and Church were one. Voters created the Church and supported it by public taxation and their own labors.

The original land grant was issued to Matthew Thornton in 1749, and his brother William became the first settler in 1752. Until 1771 the town meetings and church services were held in private homes, but that year the first meeting-house was opened and Joseph Farrar was called to serve as minister.

A second meetinghouse was built in 1818, and this was replaced by the present structure, erected in 1852.

The organ was built by Elias and George G. Hook of Boston in 1853 and is the one hundred and fifty-third instrument made by this famous firm of organ builders. While it was one of the smaller organs built by the Hook brothers, it possessed a silvery and cohesive tone-quality and served for 85 years in its original condition. In 1938 the march of "progress" caused the congregation to purchase an electronic instrument, and the Hook fell into disuse and became the victim of vandalism.

Edgar A. Boadway visited Dublin in 1958 and, after careful examination, urged the church authorities to restore the 105-year old Hook organ. Subsequently the firm of Hale & Alexander of Short Falls, N. H. was engaged to restore the organ and repair all the damaged parts. They also cleaned and regulated the pipes and installed an electric blower to supersede the old hand pump. It is now one of the oldest organs still in use in a New Hampshire church.

There is but one manual of 54 keys with a compass from CC to F3, and four ranks of pipes divided into six stops, as follows:

Dulciana	8'	37 pipes
Melodia Treble	8'	37 pipes
Stop'd Diapason Bass	8'	17 pipes
Principal Treble	4'	37 pipes
Principal Bass	4'	17 pipes
Fifteenth	2'	54 pipes

The organ was re-dedicated at a special service on June 21, 1959, by the Rev'd. Lyman V. Rutledge, minister. Elliott S. Allison, organist of the church, arranged a most impressive dedication service program, and Edgar A. Boadway played the following short recital:

Fugue in E major J. S. Bach

Chorale and Two Variations:

"Why Should Cross and

Trial Grieve Me?" J. G. Walther

Chorale and Prelude:

"Deck Thyself, My Soul,

with Gladness" Johannes Brahms

During the receiving of the offerings Mr. Allison played six 16th and 17th century hymn-tunes, the program containing his registration as follows:

Psalm 5 (1612) Melodia Treble and Stop'd Diapason Bass

Winchester Tune (1621) Dulciana and Stop'd Diapason Bass

Winchester Old (?) Melodia Treble, Dulciana and Stop'd Diapason Bass

York Tune (1640) Dulciana, Fifteenth and Stop'd Diapason Bass

St. Flavian (1562) Melodia Treble, Principal Treble, Stop'd Diapason Bass and Principal Bass

Dundee (1615) Dulciana, Principal Treble, Stop'd Diapason Bass and Principal Bass

The offering was donated to the Albert Schweitzer fund.

Other hymn-tunes sung in the service were "Duke Street", "Mear", "St. Martin's", "Old Hundredth", "Federal Street", "Aurelia", "Windsor", "America", and "Dennis". Mr. Rutledge's sermon was followed by remarks about the Organ Historical Society by Mr. Boadway.

Ed. Note: Edgar A. Boadway is now in Germany serving in the Armed Forces. He reports enthusiastically about the fine organs he occasionally plays when "on leave," and will undoubtedly have many interesting stories to tell upon his return.

MAY 30th

IS THE DEADLINE

for mailing your convention enrollment. Be sure to indicate what days you will attend. If you need more blanks for friends write to the Secretary. If you are uncertain as to whether you can attend, write this in your comments.