The Organ Historical Society
Post Office Box 26811, Richmond, Virginia 23261
(804)353-9226  FAX (804)353-9266
e-mail: TRACKER@ORGANSOCIETY.ORG  web: WWW.ORGANSOCIETY.ORG
online catalog: WWW.OHSCATALOG.ORG

THE TRACKER

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Chapters, Founding Date
Boston Organ Club 1965, '76 OHS Charter
Central New York, 1976
Chicago Midwest, 1980
Eastern Iowa, 1982
Florida, 1998
Greater New York City, 1969
Greater St. Louis, 1975
Harmony Society (Western PA & Ohio Valley), 1990
Hilbus (Washington-Baltimore), 1970
Memphis, 1992
Minnesota Chapter, 1997
MIOHS (Michigan)
Mid-Hudson, New York, 1978
New Orleans, 1983
Pacific-Northwest, 1976
Pacific-Southwest, 1978
Philadelphia
South Carolina, 1979
Tannenberg (Central Pa.), 1976
Wisconsin, 1988

Newsletter, Editor, & Annual Dues
The Coupler,
Cullie Mowers, $5
The Stopt Disparoon,
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Greater New York City, 1969
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Mid-Hudson, New York, 1978
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Back issues of THE TRACKER (index of vols. 1-33, $7.50) are $5 each or $18 per volume plus $2.50 S&H. THE TRACKER is indexed (Vols. 37-40 only) with abstracts on CD-ROM and Internet with 400 other music periodicals by the International Index to Music Periodicals <http://chadwyck.com>.

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Kristin Farmer, Convention Coordinator 3060 Frazerity Church Rd. - Winston-Salem, NC 27107

Kristin Farmer, chair, address as above. Information at www.organsociety.org

2002 Chicago -------------------------- June 25-July 1, 2002
Stephen J. Schnurr, Jr. chair, address as above for Secretary

2003 South Central Pennsylvania -------------------------- Early August, 2003
Ruth Brunner, P. O. Box 46, Silver Spring, PA 17575

2004 Buffalo, New York -------------------------- To Be Announced
Joseph M. McCabe, 29 Mayer Ave. BuffaloNY14207

2005 Southeastern Massachusetts "The Old Colony" . To Be Announced
Historic Organ Citations: One, Two, or More Types?

When OHS cites an organ of “exceptional historic merit, worthy of preservation,” why do we do it? To raise consciousness about a particular instrument. To let the world know that a very special instrument is recognized by the people who know about such things. To remind the owners that they are stewards of an important organ. To enhance the chance that the organ will be preserved for a longer period than if we had done nothing (forever is the unattainable but ideal goal, of course). To test our standards by means of example.

This last reason bears great difficulty and keeps us honest. Honest variations in opinion about selection criteria for organs to be cited required almost two decades to resolve before the first citation was conferred in 1975. Such designations were considered a potential activity of OHS at its founding in 1956.

As the third chairman of the Historic Organs Committee (which had been impanelled in 1968), George Bozeman was able finally to gain sufficient consensus on criteria so as to present the first citation. The committee created two categories of citation: one called “citation” and the other called “recognition.” A “citation” required more rigorous documentation of usually unaltered and virtually intact instruments while the “recognition” included instruments with some alterations. These distinctions proved confusing to subsequent members of the Historic Organs Committee who have long ignored them in their deliberations.

In his Opinion written in this column two issues back (44:2), OHS President Jonathan Ambrosino calls for further consideration of our citation process and, in meetings of National Council, Vice-President Scot Huntington has advocated a return to two types of citations, the criteria for which are yet to be considered. Also of growing concern are the conditions under which a citation should be rescinded.

As examples of these issues, Jonathan Ambrosino named three organs: the 1937 Aeolian-Skinner at St. Mark’s, Philadelphia; the 1876 E. & G. G. Hook & Hastings at St. Joseph’s Cathedral, Buffalo; and the 1938 Kimball at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John in the Wilderness, Denver. I opine that all of them, the Denver organ is the most intact and rarest example of superb musicality and craftsmanship that we simply must not lose to foolish acts or to well-intended alteration. Both of the other organs had been altered before receiving OHS citations and both are involved in current projects.

The dialogue on these issues and organs has brought new information and differing opinions which we share in the letters below.

To the Editor:

It was with amazement that I read Jonathan Ambrosino’s account of our rebuilding of the E. & G. G. Hook & Hastings Centennial organ for St. Joseph’s Cathedral in Buffalo, New York. I began to wonder if the organ Mr. Ambrosino was describing and the one we are rebuilding were one and the same.

First of all, Mr. Ambrosino mentions the move from the Centennial Hall to St. Joseph’s and says: “Since that time it has been electrified and has received a few changes.” These few changes include:

- 1. Destroying the original four-manual attached console, key and stop actions, and the Barker-lever machine, and replacing them with electric pull-down units and electro-pneumatic stop action units.
- 2. Installing a new, four-manual, detached, electric-action console.
- 3. Moving the Stentorphon (which was stenciled and part of the case design) and the Tuba Mirabilis, along with the Solo windchest, to a much lower position just in front of the Swell box, and enlarging the Swell box to include these stops.
- 4. The addition of a Pedal Lieblich Gedeckt on an electro-pneumatic chest as well as a Harp and Chimes. (Is it really appropriate to hear a Harp in the same context as a big Frank Hastings Diapason chorus of the mid-1870’s?)
- 5. Revoicing all of the reed stops, including making new tongues for many of the stops, soldering up scrolls and cutting new scrolls higher up on the bells, and the leathering of the shallots with added weights to the tongues to give a softer, more mellow sound as well as to lower the pitch.

In 1923:

Volume 44, Number 4, 2000

THE TRACKER

JOURNAL OF THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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COMING OCTOBER 2001

COMING JUNE 2001

E.M. Skinner (left) & G. Donald Harrison (right), of the Skinner Organ Co.
• 6. The Swell 4’ Violina was reworked as a Tenor C 8’ Voix Celeste and the top octave was thrown away.
• 7. The Oboe was capped.
• 8. Replacing the Vox Humana stop with a new one built by Gottfried.
• 9. Enclosing the Choir division.
• 10. It is difficult to say whether the flues were softened due to work that was later done to these stops.
• 11. The high pressure reservoir for the Solo was removed and used as a static reservoir for the new blower, which replaced the water motor.

**Sometime between 1923 and 1976,** the Stentorphon was removed from the Solo chest and stored in a room adjacent to the organ. One day, the organist found the rank in the dumpster so pipes of the bass and tenor range were rescued and stored beneath one of the reservoirs. Unfortunately, the treble was destroyed.

**In 1976:**

• 1. The Tuba was removed from the Solo chest in the Swell box and mounted horizontally on an electric chest on top of the Swell box. The shallots were opened up.
• 2. The wind pressures throughout the organ were lowered.
• 3. The toes of many flue stops were changed to open toe voicing.
• 4. Slider seals and secondary sliders were installed on all of the slider windchests. These were of inadequate size for the bass pipes, making them speak much softer for lack of wind.
• 5. Solid state switching and a solid state combination action were installed.
• 6. A new, three-manual console of modern design and with a tilting-tablet assembly was installed.
• 7. A schwimmer was installed on the Swell chest.
• 8. Several changes and modifications were made to the pipework, especially to the Mixtures.

All of the above changes occurred before the OHS presented the organ with the citation plaque.

Our new, solid walnut, four-manual console was designed by Andover and built by Robert Turner. It copies as closely as possible an E. & G. G. Hook & Hastings console of the 1870s with terraced jambs, oblique knobs, and appropriate moldings and panels to match the organ case. It does have all of the modern pistons and whistles, however, as requested by the Cathedral.

Mr. Ambrosino’s fact-finding tour of our shop, which he states backs up Mr. Snyder’s petition, lasted all of twenty minutes, most of which was in our office to obtain material for the OHS *Organ Handbook 2000* which had been lost when his computer crashed. His looking at the organ consisted of about three minutes on our main floor. He was not interested in seeing more. Had he ventured to our second floor he would have seen the “discarded” Solo windchest miraculously restored to its original position with the newly restored Stentorphon and Tuba Mirabilis standing proud. Indeed, the Solo division was expanded, but by only one stop and that, a Tenor C, five-rank Grand Cornet on its own slider chest under the original Solo chest. Had Mr. Ambrosino looked at the stoplist that has been published and/or had he asked us for a copy, it would have been readily apparent that there was a vast difference between what he was being told and what was actually happening.
We did expand the organ by adding an additional floating Celestial division on a slider windchest. This division is based on the more usual E. & G. G. Hook Solo division as typified by the organs in the Cincinnati Music Hall and Mechanics Hall, Worcester. There is a 8’ Philomela copied after Immaculate Conception, Boston (labeled Concert Flute at Immaculate), an original Hook 4’ Hohlfeife, a 2’ Harmonic Piccolo, a Cor Anglais and yes, there are a few fun stops such as the French Horn, Dolcan Gamba with Celeste, Spitz Flute and Celeste, but then the original stoplist has the Stentorphon. We believe that it is the first instance of this stop being used by any builder. Hook & Hastings later made French Horns which were very highly regarded by Audsley.

Mr. Ambrosino’s biggest concern seems to be “with regard to the raising of the pitch.” Any organ historian should be aware that the pitch of the Hook organs of the 1870s was sharp of modern pitch, not flat. The original pitch was approximately A=449. At the time we first examined the organ, the pitch had been lowered to approximately A=444. It was a conscious effort on the part of past rebuilders who rolled up the scrolls and coned in the pipes drastically and lowered the wind pressures to accomplish this.

One must remember that this instrument is located, not in the room for which it was built, but in fact, in a room that is about one-quarter the size of the Philadelphia Exhibition Hall. Its scales are almost identical with those of Holy Cross Cathedral in Boston, again a much larger building than St. Joseph’s. Andover’s lowering the pitch to A=440 (at 65 degrees at balcony level) made the scales of the Principals and many flutes somewhat smaller. Many of the strings and some flutes were rescaled one pipe larger to lower the pitch. The issue of pitch became important enough in the 19th century that the Cincinnati Music Hall organ was rescaled one pipe larger, probably by Hook & Hastings, to lower the pitch, as was the Mechanics Hall organ. “Frank” Hastings, himself, lowered the pitch at Immaculate Conception Church. Was this “a radical change... to the color and effect of the ensemble?” Evidently “Frank” Hastings didn’t think so.

In undertaking this immense job, we have sought to retain and restore as much of the original as possible. Andover has long been associated with the work of the Hook firm and has based our own new instruments on those of Hook. Robert C. Newton, our Tonal Director, is a well known authority on Hook organs and their voicing. Any additions we have made are voiced in the Hook style and are copied from, or are, Hook pipes. We have researched and examined the Holy Cross Cathedral, Immaculate Conception and Mechanics Hall organs, among others, to develop scalings appropriate for the additions to the St. Joseph organ. The Choir is no longer enclosed, the Swell box is back to its original size, and the Solo is restored to its original position. Many of the missing and added pipes were replaced with pipes from the Cincinnati Music Hall mix-
The list is much too long for this letter, but we are preparing a detailed article outlining our work on this organ that will give the process and reasoning behind our decisions. Would The Tracker be bold enough to publish the true story of the Centennial Organ?

Mr. Ambrosino does not take into account that this instrument is not just an historical artifact, but a living, breathing part of the life of the Cathedral and must fulfill the uses that are required of it. We have never stated that this was to be, or is, a strict restoration. We refer to it as a sympathetic rebuild. Much has been restored, however, and we feel that the organ, when finished, will be far closer to the original than it ever has since the 1923 electrification and rebuilding. We have used all of our skills to ensure that it will not only fulfill the needs of the Cathedral, but that it will be an organ that Frank Hastings would recognize and that it would make him proud – this most magnificent of instruments.

What is most worrisome about all of the above is that there was no one from the OHS who officially approached us to find out exactly what was happening. Everything was done by rumor and innuendo and downright lies. This does not seem to be a proper approach for those who would be in judgment of others. It calls into question the methods and integrity of the OHS and the integrity of a most respected organ historian, scholar and President of the Organ Historical Society.

Respectfully submitted,
ANDOVER ORGAN COMPANY
Donald H. Olson, President

Editor:

It was with great interest that I read Mr. Ambrosino’s opinion regarding the Aeolian-Skinner at St. Mark’s Church in Philadelphia (Tracker 44:2).

I spent many hours practicing on that instrument as a teenager and had great respect for my friend Wesley Day and his protective spirit in maintaining the organ’s tonal integrity. It is my belief that while the sound is beautiful and clear in the choir, it never gets a chance to bloom in the building. However, adding digital voices and inappropriate stops to a 20th-century masterpiece is unconscionable in light of the necessary restoration to the mechanism. It is characteristic of the lack of education and appreciation some organists have for historically significant instruments.

I hope a major campaign can be mounted to persuade the rector and vestry that they are simply succumbing to the fadish wishes of a very few and wasting the resources and treasures of past and future parishioners.

Thom Thomas
Palm Beach, Florida

Dear Sir:

[With regard to Jonathan Ambrosino’s Opinion in 44:2], the Aeolian-Skinner organ as designed by G. Donald Harrison is being preserved intact. The work we have undertaken in no way violates Mr. Harrison’s instrument or any organist’s ability to play it with complete integrity.

Three reed stops — a French Horn, English Horn, and Tuba — built by E. M. Skinner are being installed in the organ chamber above the Quire ceiling with the Wanamaker strings. While being careful not to house these stops within Harrison’s Aeolian-Skinner, we also reviewed Rodman Wanamaker’s gift documents that make it clear no violation of his wishes will
take place by installing these color stops within the String chamber.

The addition of these voices is not intended to overcome any "perceived deficiencies." It is primarily to assist in the performance of choral works heretofore not used as a regular part of worship that they are being added. Since Harrison and Hawke were not able to discard the Wanamaker's String section, as Mr. Ambrosino presumptuously concludes they would have, our inclusion of color stops in that chamber does not violate the Aeolian-Skinner organ as they left it.

Contrary to Mr. Ambrosino's assertion, no straight pitman stops are to receive unit actions. At no time has any replacement of any chests been contemplated.

As for the Grande Choeur department [sic] to be installed in the West gallery, we clearly understand the controversial nature of it. As it is located almost one-quarter of a city block away from the Aeolian-Skinner and can be played independently of it, we feel it is a fitting reflection of twenty-first century sound technology and fully appropriate to our growing needs.

We have always carefully maintained the internal workings of the instrument, including releathering as necessary, and will continue to do so through an endowment specifically earmarked for that purpose.

To remove the OHS Citation would place the instrument in serious jeopardy. Just as it served to stop a previous rector from replacing the organ, and encouraged our current rector and vestry to preserve the organ, it may well serve as a reminder to future generations just how precious the instrument is. Were the plaque removed, future generations might misuse the pipework as lead for the roof or wood for the rectory fireplaces.

Sincerely,
Walter Bayard Peterson,
Parishioner, St. Mark's Church

Editor's Note: A widely circulated specification of the new console (to be built for St. Mark's by the Zimmer firm which lists the project as opus 58 on their website) shows the reeds of the Bombarde division to be available on the Great. It is not possible for these ranks to be duplexed without altering the original Bombarde windchest, thus the Society's concern for potential changes to the original fabric of the organ as expressed in Jonathan Ambrosino's Opinion in 44:2. In a telephone conversation of February 22 with this editor, Mr. Peterson said for quotation, "The Bombard reeds will not be drawn on the Great." This new information relates to his remark in the letter above, "no straight pitman stops are to receive unit actions." He commented that plans changed regarding the availability of the Bombarde reeds on the Great when it was realized that such an arrangement could not be made possible without altering or replacing the original windchests of the Bombarde division. He did not indicate whether this realization occurred before or after the issue was raised in The Tracker.

A vestryman at St. Mark's confirmed that an endowment for the organ, the Catherwood Fund, was created in 1926 and continues to yield funds. The fund was established at the same time that the Midmer-Losh firm was commissioned to build in the West end of St. Mark's a 27-rank "Principal Chorus" designed by Senator Emerson Richards. The organ was removed about a decade later. Its troublesome history and the contemporary organist's low opinion of it are recounted on page 40 of the Organ Handbook 1996. Pictures of it and others of the organs at St. Mark's appear on pages 6 and 7 of The Tracker, 40:1. The Aeolian-Skinner is heard on the OHS 4-CD set, Historic Organs of Philadelphia, OHS-96.
To the Editor:

I write this in response to Jonathan Ambrosino’s Opinion which was published in The Tracker, Volume 44, Number 2.

The Organ Citations Committee was officially formed in 1969 under the title “Historic Organs Committee.” At that time it was given the mission of formally recognizing organs that are - I quote the minutes -

1) of unusual age and in reasonably original condition;
2) outstanding or typical examples of either a particular period or a builder’s work;
3) of exceptional tonal or architectural beauty;
4) the only known instrument by some small but significant builder;
5) deemed historic, beautiful, or exceptional for any reason.

There was no limit put on the number of citations the committee could award. In point of fact, there have been only 269 citations awarded since the first one, which was given in 1975 to the 1867 Marklove at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, in Can- dor, New York (see The Tracker, Fall 1975, Volume 20:1). At a rate of about ten citations a year, this is hardly “giving out plaques like candy.”

The plaques serve the purpose not only of advertising the OHS and its activities, but also of letting people in the local congregation know that they have a valuable musical instrument, not just a piece of old technology. In this age of temporary technology (think of five-year-old computers), when purveyors of electronic substitutes are telling congregations that they can have an appliance just as good as a real pipe organ, the more education and publicity we can manage, the better. The citations, with the plaque visibly displayed near the organ, help greatly.

Mr. Ambrosino seeks to find parity in three entirely disparate situations. In the case of the 1876 Hook & Hastings at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph (Roman Catholic), Buffalo, the work is being carried out by the Andover Organ Company, which has a long, solid history of organ restoration. Andover is undoing some of the work the Tellers firm did in 1926, which altered the organ greatly. Although the organ is being enlarged, the additions are being done in the spirit of the original work, in accordance with OHS guidelines.

Plans for the 1937 Aeolian-Skinner organ at Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, which include the addition of electronic stops, may be at variance with OHS Guidelines for Conservation and Restoration. As far as the 1937/38 Kimball organ at the Cathedral of Saint John in the Wilderness in Denver is concerned, plans are in flux; one hopes that the church will seek to preserve the instrument. Generally, preservationists know that artifacts older than about thirty years and younger than about seventy years are in a critical time period. They are recent enough to have been of the era of one’s parents (read: old fuddy-duddies) and not yet old enough to antedate the era of one’s grandparents (read: enticing and wondrous). Both the Philadelphia and Denver organs fall into that category – just a few more years and they will be widely recognized for their qualities. Until then we can seek to educate the congregations and the organists.

The Organ Citations Committee, with its publicly presented and displayed plaques, is part of that educational process. Only ten historic organs cited each year? That’s far too few!

Sincerely,
Mary Gifford, Chairman
Organ Citations Committee
OHS Research Grants

Applications for grants in aid of research to be conducted in the OHS American Organ Archives at Princeton, New Jersey, will be received until September 1, 2001. Recipients of grants will be announced by October 1. In amounts of one thousand dollars or less, the grants fund travel expenses. Information and application forms are available from committee chair Rolloin Smith, 313 Fulton Street, Westbury, New York 11590-2127.

To the Editor:

We read with great interest the article “The Organs of Costa Rica” by Jason Alden (The Tracker 44:2). The activities in Costa Rica of the Belgian firm Schyven are not known in our country. However, examining photos of the organ of Nuestra Senora in Heredia, it does not appear to us as a Schyven but rather a Cavaillé-Coll; it seems likely “Orgue no. 8” of its catalog of 1889 (reprinted in Documenta organologica, band 2, Verlag Merseburger, Berlin, 1977).

Luc De Vos
For the magazine L’Organiste
Union Wallonne des Organistes Romainville, Belgium

Earthquake Damage

The Earthquake of February 28, 2001, in the Pacific Northwest spared serious damage to most of the landmark organs in the wide area affected, but the Flentrop at St. Mark’s Cathedral (Episcopal) in Seattle sustained major damage. Braces to the wall near the top of the organ failed, allowing the Swell (Bovenwerk) to be severely shaken and framing to be damaged. A reservoir weight and wood fell into the Great pipes and action. Fund raising has already begun to meet the early estimates of $200,000 for repairs. Plans are to make parts of the organ playable immediately and to rebuild the Bovenwerk over a longer period. Paul Fritts of Tacoma completed major work several years ago and is expected to make the repairs.

Obituaries

William David Redd of Charleston, South Carolina, died unexpectedly February 23, 2001. Organist and minister of music at Charleston’s First Baptist Church for more than 30 years, Redd, 61, long-time member of OHS, was also on the faculty of The Citadel. He designed organs for several local churches as a representative of the M. P. Moller Co. in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Robert C. Archibald of Mesa, Arizona, died September 7, 2000. Retiring as an Army major after tours in Germany, Italy, Vietnam, the Azores, Okinawa, and The Netherlands, he switched to the Civil Service while continuing his work in The Netherlands as a transportation specialist, remaining there until 1995. A violist, he accompanied his mother, Rachel Archibald, who survives him, to his first OHS event in 1994, the Ozarks mini-convention conducted by the New Orleans Chapter. They had attended all OHS conventions since.
**ORGAN UPDATE**

**Outrageous Design**

CLAIMED ARCHITECT FRANK O. GEHRY designed the case for the huge new organ now under construction for the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles which itself was designed by Gehry and seems to have no parallel exterior surfaces at all. The organ appears as if the facade pipes are falling out of it — or have already done so, for they are situated at widely varying angles, both on the impost and on the floor in front of the organ — including the 32’ Violonbasse of wood, some of the 16’ Prestant of polished tin, the 32’ Contre Basson, as well as the horizontal Llamada (a Tuba at 16’, 8’, and 4’) and the horizontal 8’ Trompeta de Los Angeles of brass. Of about 110 ranks on four manuals and pedal with three enclosed divisions, an unenclosed Great of 25 stops, and five ranks at 32’ pitch (three of which play in the Great and four in the Pedal), the organ is a collaboration of Rosales Organ Builders of Los Angeles and Glatter-Götz Orbelbau of Germany.

**Termites Attack Erben Holder**

The 1851 Erben 1-4 will be temporarily relocated from the Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross in Stateburg, SC, to St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church in Winston-Salem, NC, where it will be played by Rachelen Lien during the 2001 OHS National Convention. Built for the Stateburg church with a very elaborate case in neo-Gothic style, the organ was also heard during the 1985 OHS convention following its restoration in 1983 by John Farmer. The organ will be returned to Stateburg after ter-
The 1915 Austin 5-95 at Medinah Temple in Chicago will be removed to storage until a new home for it can be found, according to an article appearing March 7, 2001 in the Chicago Sun-Times. A successful effort to preserve the architectural landmark Medinah Temple, earlier to have been demolished, has secured its conversion to a Bloomingdale’s retail store. The organ was not wanted by the retailers. The movement to preserve the famous organ has been mounted on several fronts, especially by at least two highly motivated OHS members, the Austin firm, and by the Chicago-Midwest Chapter of OHS. Stephen Schnurr, president of the chapter, is quoted in the Sun-Times, the Austin firm, and by the Chicago-Midwest Chapter of OHS.

Jardine to Little Rock
St. Michael’s Episcopal Church in Little Rock, AR, replaced an electronic organ in November with an 1887 Jardine 2m which has been restored by John Farmer of Winston-Salem, NC. Of eleven ranks and stops, the organ was built for St. John’s Convention in Middletown, CT, and was moved in 1991 to be refurnished by Farmer and placed in the same year at Trinity Episcopal Church in Myrtle Beach, SC. Farmer will add a Trumpet to the Swell on an original, blank slider. The Myrtle Beach church will receive later this year the much larger 1876 Johnson & Son 2m op. 476 now being restored by Farmer and fitted within a handsome Greek revival case remaining from an otherwise destroyed 1863 Henry Erben which had been removed from a Baltimore church about a quarter-century ago.

Roosevelt for Jackson, MS
The 1885 Roosevelt op. 291 built for First Baptist Church, Nashville, TN, will be rebuilt by Roy Redman for Tougallo College in Jackson, MS. The organ was donated to the college by Glenn Gentry of Jackson who had removed it from Nashville many years ago to use some parts to build an organ in his house. Both the house organ and remaining parts of the Roosevelt were donated. The Roosevelt was originally built with two manuals and had pneumatic windchests rather than slider chests, reported Redman. In addition to slider chests, the Roosevelt firm also used pneumatic chests with many variations of action including: trackers all the way to primary valves in the chests (as in op. 382 of 1888 at First United Methodist Church, Boulder, CO, visited during the 1996 OHS Convention); a mechanical keydesk with short trackers to a pneumatic “touch-box” from which tubes run to primaries in the chests (as in op. 494 of 1891 at St. James Roman Catholic Church, Chicago, visited during the 1894 OHS Convention), as well as conventional tubular pneumatic action and also electropneumatic action (as in op. 113 of 1883 at First Congregational Church, Great Barrington, MA, originally built with tubular action to the main divisions and electric action to the Echo). At Tougallo College, the organ will be installed behind the facade remaining from a Murray Harris organ, reports Redman.

Kney & Bright Finds New Home
A 1959 Kney & Bright 2m has found a new home at Bethel Presbyterian Church in Olive Branch, MS. The 11-rank, all exposed, slider-chest instrument was the first of several collaborative designs by the organist and composer Harald Rohlig and organbuilder Gabriel Kney. Originally built for the chapel of First Presbyterian Church, Montgomery, AL, the organ became available when the church relocated. Bill Robinson and Kerry Bunn of R.G. Capra Organs, Inc., dismantled and moved the organ, reinstalling it in its new home with the help of church members.

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Follen Community Church, Lexington, MA
List Of Davis Organs

There are 230 organs on the following list. Of these 230 organs, 155 are undescribed (manuals and stoplists), leaving 75 that are more or less known. Of these 75 organs, three are three-manual, 34 are two-manual, eight are reed organs and thirty are one-manual instruments. Of the 155 undescribed organs, most, but not all, were probably one-manual, six- to ten-stop instruments. The number of stops shown in headings generally refer to the number of drawknobs.

The Davis firm’s clientele were largely in New York and New Jersey. Of the 230 organs on this list, 29 (12.7%) were installed outside the states of New York and New Jersey; 43 (18.8%) were installed in New Jersey; and 158 were delivered to clients in New York (68.5%). New York City alone received 45.9% of the Davis output. The firm was essentially urban in orientation.

ALABAMA

Marion
St. Wilfred’s Episcopal Parish, 1854, ?
Not on any Davis list but there is a testimonial letter from the founding pastor, Rev. W. A. Stickney, Rector, in the 1891 catalog. Stickney says, in 1869, “the organ which you built in St. Wilfred’s, Marion, Ala. in the year 1854, is still at its post, doing as well as when first set up.” The organ was lost to fire in 1891.

Mobile
Franklin Street Methodist Episcopal Church, 1880. 2/21
The organ moved with the congregation from Franklin Street to Government Street in 1891 where, according to the Board of Stewards, “the large organ is powered by water [or] pumped by the sexton.” The organ was later sold to the Franklin Street Baptist Church of Mobile.

Note: Theodore Davis’ biography of William H. Davis appears in The Tracker, Volume 42, Number 2 as “Finding a Place Among the Great: William H. Davis & Son of New York.”
Church which moved the organ to its new sanctuary on St. Stephens Road. The casing and decorative pipes still exist in that church as decoration though the organ was discarded in 1970. According to the February 26, 1880, issue of the Mobile Daily Register, Mr. Davis, organ builder, of New York, arrived here last week with the new organ he built for the Franklin Street Methodist Church. He succeeded in getting it into position and playing order Saturday, and on Sunday last it was heard by the congregation for the first time, under the manipulation of Mr. Davis. The organ is situated in the alcove immediately back of the pulpit, and with its varicolored pipes, presents a most attractive and pleasing appearance. It has two banks of keys, 21 stops, and 900 pipes. The compass of the great and swell organs extends from CC to A, making in all 58 notes. Every stop runs through. The compass of the pedal organ extends from CC to F; 30 notes the largest pedal board of any organ in the city.

The Davis who set up the organ was probably Henry Livingston Davis.

BERMUDA
Warwick Parish

CALIFORNIA
San Francisco
Grace Episcopal Cathedral, 1865, 1/6
See Extant List

CONNECTICUT
Middletown
Res. William Cooley, 1850, ?
The 1850 Census for Population in Middletown, Connecticut, shows a William Cooley who was a 57-year-old gunsmith and manufacturer. There was no local minister by this name in Middletown. This may be the original placement for the extant Davis organ at Mechanicsburg, Pa.

East Hampton, Conn.
East Hampton Congregational Church, ca. 1850, 1/7
There is no Davis listing for East Hampton, but it is as far back as the extant Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, organ can be traced. See Extant List, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

New Canaan, Conn.
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 1854, 1/6
Listed in the 1891 catalog as “Rev. W. Long, New Canaan, Conn.” William Long was pastor of St. Mark’s from 1852 until 1855. The first record of St. Mark’s having an organ appears in their vestry minutes, “voted that a lock and key be put upon the organ and none allowed to use it but the organist and those preparing themselves to be such (April 3, 1865).” Apparently the first musical instrument was a melodeon which was replaced when “the first old reed organ was purchased during the rectorship of the Rev. William Long, while the [first pipe] organ was given in 1889 by Mr. Frederick W. Lockwood in memory of his son Harry Lockwood. St. Mark’s was thus the first New Canaan church to have a pipe organ…” (John Pennypacker, St. Mark’s and Its Forebears, 1964). This entry in the St. Mark’s history is the first documentary evidence for Davis making reed organs. The 1889 organ was J. H. & C. S. Odell, Op. 271, which in 1934 was replaced by a Hall.

New Haven, Conn.
St. John’s Episcopal Church, 1871, ?
Joseph Dzeda, Curator of Organs, Yale University, (8/14/95), writes, “Although the building still stands, the organ was replaced by the Hall Organ Company in the early 1920’s. The original (Davis?) organ was a tracker organ with the pipes and the chassis in a chamber about fifteen feet above the floor of the church, with the trackers and other mechanisms running vertically down to the console at floor level.”

West Haven, Conn.
Calvary Episcopal Church, 1886/87, ?
There is no present Calvary Episcopal Church. Joseph Dzeda (8/14/95) said there is no trace of the Calvary Church, “I suppose the building has been pulled down.” The diocesan office in New Haven has no record of there ever having been a Calvary Episcopal Church in West Haven. Perhaps Davis got the name wrong. There was a Christ Church in West Haven founded in 1722 whose building was torn down in 1906.

Bridgeport, Conn.
Res. Parlor Organ, 1877, ?
A guess would be that the organ was for the First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeport whose pastor, the Rev. Henry A. Davenport, performed the marriage ceremony for Henry L. Davis and Anna Keene in 1881.

ILLINOIS
Chicago
First Baptist Church, 1863, ?
The first known organ at First Baptist Church was built by Garrett House of Buffalo, New York, in 1857, according to Michael Friesen. It is presently unknown if the 1863 Davis
replaced the House or was perhaps placed in another part of the church. First Baptist sold its buildings and fixtures, according to Friesen, to the Second Baptist Church in 1864, when First Baptist began building a larger building. A Johnson organ (Op. 216) was installed in 1867, which was enlarged by Chicago organbuilder Ira Bassett in 1871. The Johnson escaped destruction in the Great Fire of 1871, only to succumb to the Second Great Chicago Fire of 1874 when First Baptist burned. After 1864, no mention is made of any other organs connected with First Baptist. The history of Second Baptist has not been traced, according to Mr. Friesen.

LaSalle, Illinois
Res. S. G. Greenwood, 1856, ?
Quincy, Illinois
Res. G. M. Skinner, 1856, ?
   Skinner is not listed in the 1856 Quincy City Directory, but other local Skinners are lawyers and Illinois Supreme Court Justices.

Rock Island, Illinois
Trinity Episcopal Church, 1852, ?
   Organized for worship in 1853, the congregation moved to a new frame sanctuary in 1857. The Davis organ may have been acquired just prior to the 1857 move. In 1869 the present church was built, and the congregation acquired a Möller (Op. 8479) organ. The congregation replaced the Möller with another in 1953 and again in 1985.

MAINE
Parlor Organ, 1874, ?
   For a Mr. Packard in Portland.

MASSACHUSETTS
Amherst
Grace Episcopal Church, 1857, 1/6
See Extant List

Lawrence
See Extant List

MINNESOTA
Rushford
Emanuel Episcopal Church, ca. 1895, 2/8
See Extant List

NEW JERSEY
Bayonne [Parampo]
Calvary Episcopal Church, 1881, ?
   Located in Parampo [sic], N. J., according to the Davis catalog. Parampo was one of three divisions of Bayonne. The congregation built a small frame building in 1859, which, though moved, is still in use. The Davis was replaced by 1950 by an electronic.

Grace Lutheran Church, ?, 1/9
   One of those organs not on any Davis list but identified as a Davis by the Möller records in 1912. Grace Lutheran received a three-manual, electric-action Hinners in 1928.

Bergen, New Jersey
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1861, ?
   The congregation began meeting in a store front in the 1850’s. A sanctuary was built in 1862 into which the Davis was installed. The building, which holds 250 people, is still in use. The organ was installed on the left side of the altar in its own enclosure.

Butler
St. Anthony’s Monastery, 1892, 2/17
   The organ was replaced in 1952 by a second-hand organ of unknown etiology. The work was done by the Peralgo Organ Co. The casing and facade pipes are still the original Davis pipes. The organist of the Friary in 1892, George Fritz, wrote to the Davis firm re-

Henry Livingston Davis (1852-1915) joined his father’s firm in 1875 and continued it until 1914, following the deaths of his father, William H. Davis (1816-1888), and brother Albert Eastman Davis (1851-1891) who had joined the firm in 1870. Henry was assisted after 1903 by his son, Harry (1883-1941). The firm began business in the early 1840s, perhaps with William

lating the events of the dedication of both the monastery and the organ. This service took place in 1892. “It was listened to by at least 2000 people on August 15, and drew the admiration of all. Monsignor Satolli, the Papal Delegate, spoke of its exceedingly beautiful tone qualities — in short, several prominent organists, priests of musical ability, and students have put it to a thorough test and all pronounce it a thoroughly fine instrument for its size and price” (George Fritz to H. Davis, 1907).

Cranbury, New Jersey
Second Presbyterian Church, 1878, ?
   The Second Church was founded in 1839 and merged with the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury in 1935.

Cranford, New Jersey
C. D. Bigelow, Cranford, 1865, ?
   Bigelow was a community leader and an elder in First Presbyterian Church. It is not clear whether he was acting as an agent for the church or personally. The original church building was erected in 1851 with a split chancel, with an organ in the left front-corner of the church. This was probably not the Davis organ, but Davis may have rebuilt it or supplied one. In 1868 the congregation built a new sanctuary for 300 people, for which J. H. & C. S. Odell Opus 79 was acquired. Another new building and organ were dedicated in 1894.

Cranford Methodist Church, 1865, [reed organ]
   This congregation began as a Sunday School mission of the Westfield Methodist Church in 1861. The original building of the Methodists in Cranford was a school building built in 1863. In 1868 the mission became autonomous and named itself John Hancock Methodist Episcopal Church. A sanctuary was erected in 1871 though the school building continued to be used. There was a foot-pumped organ used in the Sunday School shortly after its beginning in 1863. At some point this organ was moved to the sanctuary where some still remember its use in worship. These “old-timers” remember “foot-pumping and playing the organ.” Is this another reed organ?

Dayton, New Jersey
First Presbyterian Church, 1888, ?
   The church’s records state that a new organ was purchased in 1889 for $500 from the firm of William H. Davis and Son, and an extension was added to the 1870 building for the organ pipes. This organ was replaced by the present organ (Odell, Op. 562) in 1925. $500 seems a low price for a pipe organ in 1888; perhaps it was second-hand. In general, the Davis prices from 1880 to 1900 seem lower than before 1880.

Dumont [Scralenburg], New Jersey
Old North Reformed Church, 1887, ?
   The location is called Scralenburg (s/b, Schraalenburgh) in the 1891 Davis catalog. Organized 1724, in 1822 the church seceded and became True Reformed Church and then Presbyterian.

East Newark, New Jersey
Rev. W. E. Webb, 1868, ?

East Orange, New Jersey
Our Lady, Help of Christians, 1895?, 2/17
   Called a Davis in records of the Möller firm, which added an electric blower in 1913. The church was originally named St. Mary’s, Help of Christians, and is so named on the Möller records, thus helping to confirm the date. The rector in 1963, Monsignor William Devine, said the Davis was gone by the early 1960s. It was replaced by an Austin, according to Msgr. Devine. Alan Laufman notes that the Church of Our Lady, Help of Christians, appears on the Austin list for Opus 1093.

Gladstone, New Jersey
Peapack Reformed Church, ca. 1865, 1/8
See Extant List Shawnee, Oklahoma

Hackensack, New Jersey
First Baptist Church, ca. 1900, 2/15
   The organ is listed in the 1907 Davis catalog and also in the Möller records. Möller electrified the organ in 1912. The organist of the church, Clayton Demarest, wrote to Davis as follows, “It gives me pleasure to testify as to the merits of your pipe organs. I have played one of your instruments for the past three years and have found it entirely satisfactory….”
William H. Davis and Son List of Extant Organs

The extant organ list of the firm of William H. Davis and Son of New York City has been assembled with information from the Organ Historical Society Pipe Organ Database (Elizabeth Towne Schmitt, chair), the late Alan Laufman of the Organ Clearing House, the OHS American Organ Archives, John Ogasapian's Organ Building in New York City, 1700-1900, and the list of organs given in the Davis catalogs.

WARWICK PARISH, BERMUDA

Cobb's Mill Methodist Church, 1885, 1 manual, 6 stops.

The organ's original location was Christ Presbyterian Church in Warwick. About 1900 it was moved to Grace Methodist Church and in 1957 to Cobb's Mill Methodist Church. Cobb's Mill was built by slaves for their own use in the 1820s. The organ was repaired ca. 1990 by Thad Outerbridge of Beverly, Mass., who wrote on Oct. 27, 1995, "The pipes are original and have not been recoated. The names on the knobs at present are slightly different from the original names. I'm afraid I was the one who made up new names when it was necessary to renew the stop knob faces, some of which had disappeared."

Manual:
8' Principal from F2
8' Gedekt from F2
8' Gedekt Bass* C+E2 (17 notes)
8' Dulciana from F2
4' Octave complete
4' Lieblich Flute from F2

Pedal:
16' Bourdon 1½ octaves

* This serves as a common bass for 3 stops.

In all the organ has about 250 pipes.

Jersey City, New Jersey
First Baptist Church, 1859, 1/11

The Union Baptist Church of Jersey City was formed in 1848 by a merger of three congregations. In 1859 the meeting house was on Grove Street. In 1868 the church's name was changed to the Parmlee Memorial Baptist Church. After a few more mergers the name became First Baptist Church. An item in the Daily Evening Times, "Church Organs of Jersey City," (2 Sept, 1869, p. 3) helps to date the organ which "must be eight or nine years old, judging by the cost, which was $800." The article describes the organ as follows:

The stops, all surrounded by swells, are on the manual:
1. Open diapason, 8'
2. Stopped diapason treble 4'
3. Stopped diapason bass 8'
4. Trumpet, 8'
5. Dulciana, 8'
6. Principal treble, 4'
7. Principal bass, 4'
8. Flute, 4'
9. Fifteenth, 2'
10. Mechanical Stops

On the pedal a bourdon, 16', and a pedal to manual coupler. Speaking stops, 10. Mechanical stops, 1. Total 11.

The compass of the manual is from C to g, 4 [?] Octaves, 56 keys; that of the pedals CC to c, 1 octave, 13 keys. The open diapason goes down only to tenor low C and the trumpet, dulciana and flute only to tenor low F. This makes the total number of pipes 342. The tone of the full organ is sweet and pleasing, though not powerful in proportion to its size. The touch is easy and light, as is always the case on one bank organs.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 1869, ?

The church is defunct. The Rev. Louis Noble was the rector in 1869 when the organ was installed. He wrote to William Davis, "I am enabled to say, that I regard it as one of the best, if not the very best instrument of its size and contents, which I have ever known. All those, who are qualified to judge of the qualities of a superior instrument, say that it is scarcely possible to be excelled by any other.

I was first made acquainted with your ability to construct Organs by the uncommonly fine tones of one I heard in the interior of the State of New York. The organist, a very superior musician and performer, assured me that it was the best toned instrument he had ever touched; and that Bishop Coxe, who is an admirable judge, thought it quite the best in his diocese." (Noble to Davis, 1869)

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 1871, ?

The original St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church which housed the Davis instrument was built in 1831. The church also appears on the Jardine list. In 1905 St. Matthew’s moved and the building and organ was sold to a Catholic congregation, Our Lady of Czestochowa. The Davis was replaced in the 1940s by the Peragallo Organ Company.

Prospect Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1881, ?

The church has gone through a number of name and building changes. As best can be gathered the former Prospect Avenue Presbyterian’s descendent is the Old Bergen Presbyterian Church.

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, 1882, ?

Called in the Davis catalog “Saint Joseph’s Cathedral (Dr. Seton’s).” The present building was built in 1878. The Church of St. Joseph was established in 1856 as St. Bridget’s to serve the religious needs of Catholic laborers building the Erie Railroad tunnel nearby (St. Peter’s College Archives). It had as its pastor for many years in the 1880s the Right Reverend Robert Seton. Of the family of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, he had two earned doctorates and was referred to as Dr. Seton. St. Joseph’s is an imposing building. The present organ, built by Harry Hall, is of 4 manuals and 40 stops. It was installed in the mid-1930s and has been rebuilt a number of times. If the Davis organ was the original organ for the “Cathedral,” it must have been of some comparable size to the Hall. If my conjecture is correct, it would have made the organ the largest that the Davis firm built until the 1880’s.

North Baptist Church, 1886, 2/18

Burned in 1978. The Church is now the North Baptist Spanish Church. Two newspaper articles included in the 1891 catalog describe the organ installed in North Baptist. The Jersey City Argus (No. 12, 1886) says, “The congregation of the North Baptist Church were in their new house of worship last night. They heard the magnificent and sweet-toned organ. The veteran organist, George W. Morgan, who has not lost any of his skill, played difficult selections, which fairly tested the new instrument and delighted the hearers. The new and grand organ was built by Davis and Son, New York.” The Jersey City Evening Journal (Nov. 12, 1886) wrote,

The organ is placed in an elevated choir loft behind the pulpit platform. The instrument is of the “open front” style and the larger pipes in view are neatly ornamented in blue, drab and gold. The organ was built by W. H. Davis and Son, of New York, and has two manuals. The organ contains eight speaking stops with 464 pipes. The swell organ has nine actual stops and also contains 464 pipes. The pedal organ has twenty-seven notes, bringing the total number of pipes up to 955. The pedal is furnished with a double open diapason of remarkably even tone. Two combination pedals are on hand to lighten the work of the organist, while the usual couplers and other mechanical stops have also been provided.
N. J.” St. Lucy’s clearly was not Davis and Son’s first organ. Perhaps Henry L. Davis thought of it as his first organ.

St. Michael’s Roman Catholic Church, ca. 1900, ?

In a letter to the Davis firm the Rt. Rev. Jno. A. Sheppard, V. G. said that “you have given great satisfaction in the organ in St. Michael’s Church.” The church, which includes the Shrine of St. Jude, is entered on the Erben list (1867) and now has a Skinner.

Millville, New Jersey

First Presbyterian Church, 1855, reed organ?

Listed in the Davis catalog as “Mr. Condits, Millville [sic], N. J., 1855.” The church was built in 1830 and expanded in 1855 when the organ was added. The church’s history by Edward Maylin notes in 1855, “reed organ purchased.” A history of the county continues that “at the time a reed organ was introduced it was the first musical instrument used in any of the churches in Millville” (Cushing and Sheppard’s History of Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland Counties, p. 640). It has been difficult to connect Mr. Condits to the First Presbyterian Church, however. Several Condicts, one of whom was a Presbyterian minister, lived in the area but no connection has been made between a Condicts and the Millville Church.

Morristown, New Jersey

Church of the Redeemer (Episcopal), 1866, ?

The 1866 building and Davis organ were replaced in the early 1920s. The new building contained a J. W. Steere & Son Op. 701 which is still there in altered form.

Newark, New Jersey

Res. Mr. Hays, 1854, ?

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 1866, ?

The present Gothic sandstone building was completed in 1846. No information is available on the Davis organ. In 1919, Möller electrified a tubular pneumatic organ in St. Barnabas and it may have been the Davis in rebuilt form. In 1927, Möller installed op. 5013. The Möller has been vandalized and is unused.

Oriental Lodge, 1870, ?

Of the three New Jersey lodges listed: Oriental, Forrester’s and Druid’s, only Oriental was a Masonic Lodge. It was chartered in January 1859 as Oriental Lodge No. 51 and retained its name until 1977 when it merged with Weequahic Lodge No. 279 and became Weequahic Oriental Lodge No. 51. In the 1870s, Oriental Lodge met in rooms that were leased. The building the lodge used in 1870 was located at Court and Broad Streets in Newark. Shortly after they moved to “Oriental Court” in the Newark Savings Bank Building (letter, Oct. 14, 1995, Kenneth Luckenbach of the E. Walter Parsons Memorial Library and Museum, Burlington, New Jersey).

Forrester’s Lodge, 1871, ?

Druid’s Lodge, 1873, ?

Sixth Presbyterian Church, 1883, ?

No information found. The church apparently dissolved or merged.

Congregation Oheb Shalom, 1890, ?

The Davis catalog lists this organ as “Synagogue, Newark, NJ, 1890.” Congregation Oheb Shalom, the original purchaser of the Davis organ, built its brick Prince Street Synagogue, Newark, NJ, in 1884. The congregation was composed mostly of German-speaking Bohemians. The congregation was Orthodox at that time, but moved toward Conservative Judaism in the latter part of the century. About four years later, in 1888, it came under the leadership of Rabbi Willner. During his tenure (1888-1890) not only was English introduced as the language of worship but an organ was purchased, both to the dismay of many in the congregation (typescript history). The synagogue held about 800 persons so the organ was perhaps of a commensurate size. In 1911 the building was sold to an Orthodox congregation and Oheb Shalom built a new synagogue on High Street, also in Newark. The old Prince Street synagogue, recently in danger of being torn down, has been preserved and is now on the New Jersey Register for Historic Places. The third Synagogue of Oheb Shalom, the one on High Street, was sold in 1958 to Wells Cathedral Church of God in Christ Tabernacle. High Street has been renamed Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. There is no record of what happened to the Davis organ which was installed in the original Oheb Shalom Synagogue. Since the building was sold to an Orthodox congregation it is likely that the organ was either moved to the new Oheb Shalom Synagogue on High Street, sold to another congregation, or perhaps it was discarded. If the organ was moved to the 1911 Synagogue of Oheb Shalom, it is possible that it was used briefly by the Church of God congregation.

Orange, New Jersey

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 1865, 2/22

When this organ was replaced is unknown. All the records have disappeared, though the church is extant. It appears that L. C. Harrison Opus 88 may have come there in the 1890s. For Watson’s comments on this organ see The Tracker 42:2:12. Watson’s Weekly Art Journal (7 Oct 1865) gives the stoplist:

Great Organ
Open Diapason
Stop Diapason Bass
Gamba Bass
Gamba Treble
Principal
Dulciana
Flute
Twelfth
Fifteenth
Trumpet

Swell Organ
Bourdon, 16 feet
Open Diapason
Stop Diapason Bass
Stopped Diapason, Bass
Stopped Diapason, Treble
Open Diapason
Dulciana
Clarebelle
Principal
Cornet
Hautboy

July 18

Pedal
Double Open Diapason, 16 feet
Pedal to Great and Swell
Compass of the Manuals, 56 Notes, C to G

Perth Amboy, New Jersey

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 1870, 2/?

St. Peter’s, founded in 1698, is the oldest Episcopal Church in the State of New Jersey. Its second and present building was completed in 1852. In 1905 the Davis organ was moved from the balcony to a chancel chamber and in 1917 was rebuilt. Between 1930 and 1935 a new Möller was installed.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Grace Episcopal Cathedral, 1865, 1 manual, 6 stops.

The organ’s original location was St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Benicia, California. There are two references to the organ in the vestry minutes of St. Paul’s. On Dec. 20, 1885, “Mr. Gabriel reported having seen Mr. Bergstrom from whom it was learned that work upon the organ is in progress, the pedals being already done, and the bellows repaired. The instrument is to be returned about January 10th. The keyboard was to be made immovable [sic] and properly covered.” On January 19, 1964, the Senior Warden reported that “during the year (1963) the vestry donated St. Paul’s old, unused pipe organ to St. Paul’s Church at Sacramento where it was put back to use in restoring their own instrument. A plaque [sic] with acknowledgements [sic] is to be mounted on the organ.” The 1988 Organ Handbook tells a slightly different story on this 1865 Davis:

“When William Baker found the organ in careless storage under the Benicia church in 1962, the cornice, reservoir, top, feeders, and action stickers were missing: those parts were carefully fabricated by Edward M. Stout when he reconstructed the instrument after Mr. Baker gave it to Grace Cathedral.” The place of St. Paul’s, Sacramento, in the OHS account is unclear.

Perhaps the organ was never shipped from Benicia to Sacramento. The present stoplist is:

Manual 54 notes
8’ Open Diapason (TF) 37m
8’ Stop Diapason Bass 17w
4’ Principal (TF) 37m
4’ Principal Bass 17m
4’ Flute (TF) 37wkm
2’ Fifteenth (TF) 37m

AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

Grace Episcopal Church, 1857, 1 manual, 6 stops.

This organ does not appear on any Davis list, but it has been identified as a Davis by Alan Laufman. The organ was originally built for the Truthville Baptist Church, North Granville, N. Y., near Albany. The church was founded in 1784. The instrument, now located in the Grace Church chapel, is altered and has a new case.

Open (Diapason) 16 stops
Stop Treble
Stop Bass
Principal Treble
Principal Bass
Pedals

LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

St. Anthony’s Maronite Catholic Church, 1880, 2 manuals, 7 stops.

The Boonville [N. Y.] Herald (Nov. 4, 1880, p. 2) reports “intelligence received by J. P. Babcock from the builder of the organ for the Presbyterian Church, that it
Maynard Johnson sold the organ to Dale Schultz the organ no longer has a case, of New York.” According to Gordon by William H. Darris [sic] and Son organ, with foot pedals made in 1845 continues, “the instrument is a two manual [?] on the instrument in the Stillwater son owned the organ there was an arti-

Richard Hedgebeth of the Stuart Organ which supposedly came from the Ames Church by Croixside Press, did remove an organ Emanuel Episcopal Church in Rushford, Minn. While Maynard John-

The 1907 Davis catalog lists an organ for “Holy Trinity, Rushford, Minn.” The Episcopal Church in Rushford is Emanuel Episcopal not Holy Trinity. The present Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church results from multiple mergers of churches which appear on other lists.

The 1907 Davis built for the Presbyterian Church, Boonville, New York, is now located in Lawrence, Massachusetts, at St. Anthony’s Maronite Catholic Church, and has been extensively rebuilt.

The 1880 Davis built for the Presbyterian Church, Boonville, New York, is now located in Lawrence, Massachusetts, at St. Anthony’s Maronite Catholic Church, and has been extensively rebuilt.

Plainfield, New Jersey

Union Baptist Church, 1861, ?
Established in 1859 and disbanded 1866.

Presbyterian Church, 1863, ?
Which of the five Presbyterian churches in Plainfield was home to the Davis organ is not clear. The present Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church results from multiple mergers of churches which appear on other lists.

Rahway, New Jersey

First Baptist Church, 1907, 2/14
Not in any Davis records but notice of installation was given in the American Art Journal and Music Trades (11/24/06, p. 7). Möller electrified the organ in 1922 and identified it as a Davis. The organ was for use in the new church edifice opened on January 15, 1907, and it was replaced by another organ, 3/20 with a set of chimes.

First Presbyterian Church, 1862, ?
Begun in 1852 when the congregation met at “The Farm,” it built in 1856 at Broad and Wallace Streets. A larger sanctuary was built in 1910 at a new location and at which time a new Möller was purchased.

Rutherford, New Jersey

First Presbyterian Church, 1890, ?
It is not quite clear what Davis did for this Church. The 1891 catalog lists an 1890 organ for “Presbyterian, (enlarged), Rutherford, New Jersey.” The 1907 catalog lists an (n.d.) organ for “First Presbyterian Church, Rutherford, N. J., second organ.” These references probably indicate Davis’s altering of the Rutherford organ which was in place in 1890. An Estey (Op. 1770, 1920) was installed and was replaced in 1967 by Möller Op. 10252.
have over 140 members and an active congregation. A few of the active members appear to have joined the Tabernacle Baptist Church begun in 1859, but that is clearly a new organization in a different part of the city.” This is the opinion of the historian of the American Baptist Historical Association.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1907, ?
A note in the American Art Journal, Oct. 2, 1907, said, “Davis and Son have just completed the rebuilding and remodeling of the old organ in St. Paul’s Protestant Episcopal Church of Albany, N. Y. George William Warren, when a young man, was organist at this church and the congregation preferred to have the organ upon which he played rebuilt than have a new organ installed.” This rebuild was presumably of Johnson Opus 71 (1857).

Babylon
First Presbyterian Church, 1873, 2/13
The organ was installed in the new (1869) building in the rear gallery, moved to the front and, in 1880, returned to the rear gallery. Dr. A. G. Thompson of West Islip contributed the main cost of the $1,500 pipe organ. From Alfred Mahlman, Babylon’s church historian (January 17, 1996) “in the picture of the church interior the playing pipes were located in the spaces behind the visible pipes. The console was in a pit in the center of the choir loft behind the chancel rail.” The Session records show a bill for “organ blowing” and later that the organ was electrified in 1917. In 1929 or 1930 the Davis was replaced with a Pilcher which was situated in the front of the sanctuary. In 1973 a $40,000 Seville electronic replaced the Pilcher.

Beacon [Mattewan], New York
First Presbyterian Church, 1872, 2/24
Given in the Davis catalog as “Presbyterian, Mattewan, N. Y., 1872.” In 1943 the church building burned and the organ with it.

St. Luke’s Episcopal, 1882, 1/12
St. Luke’s was founded in 1801 and has had five organs. The 1862 Davis was the third organ. It was replaced in 1889 when a new building was erected. A picture of the sanctuary shows that the organ was a one-manual, 12-stop instrument with a dark Gothic case and 17 exposed pipes. A note from Raymond Beecher, Greene County historian, says, “Another donation from William Burroughs of Greenville in 1862, provided means for purchase of a large pipe organ” (2/21/97). The present St. Luke’s organ is “a 22-rank L. C. Carlson built in 1971 with some pipework from previous instruments” (R. Stockman, “Pipe Organs, Greene County,” Greene County Historical Journal, 8,3, p. 22).

Beacon, New York
First Presbyterian Church, 1873, 2/16
Listed in the Davis catalog as “St. Luke’s Episcopal, Mattewan, N. Y., 1870.” The name of the city, originally Matteawan, has changed to Beacon. The church was founded in 1832 and was formerly known as St. Anna’s. The organ was electrified between 1900 and 1910. It was replaced by an Odell about 1958. The church’s historian, William Metzger, believes some of the Davis pipes were salvaged.

Boonville, New York
First Presbyterian Church, 1880, See Extant List Lawrence, Ma.

Catskill, New York
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 1862, 1/12
St. Luke’s was founded in 1801 and has had five organs. The 1862 Davis was the third organ. It was replaced in 1889 when a new building was erected. A picture of the sanctuary shows that the organ was a one-manual, 12-stop instrument with a dark Gothic case and 17 exposed pipes. A note from Raymond Beecher, Greene County historian, says, “Another donation from William Burroughs of Greenville in 1862, provided means for purchase of a large pipe organ” (2/21/97). The present St. Luke’s organ is “a 22-rank L. C. Carlson built in 1971 with some pipework from previous instruments” (R. Stockman, “Pipe Organs, Greene County,” Greene County Historical Journal, 8,3, p. 22).

Cohoes, New York
St. Agnes Catholic Church, ca. 1865, 1/7
See Extant List Waterford, N. Y.

Coldwater, New York
Parlor organ, 1856, ?

Croton, New York
St. Augustine Episcopal Church, 1882, ?
St. Augustine was founded in 1756 and resumed in 1852. On May 26, 1882, the church building was renovated and a one manual hand-pumped organ was donated by a vestryman named Clarkson. The organ was in the rear of the sanctuary. In 1942 the organ was replaced by an electronic instrument.

Deposit, New York
First Presbyterian Church, 1864, ?
In 1877 the church building and organ were destroyed by fire. A Hook & Hastings of 1880 went in the new church building.

Essex, New York
St. John’s Episcopal Church, 1853, ?
Listed in the 1891 Davis catalog as “R. Putnam, Essex, 1853.” The organ was ordered by Rev. Fernando C. Putnam who was the missionary in charge. The Journal of the Proceedings of the Diocese of New York, September 28, 1853, notes, “at Essex also a very good organ.” The church was organized March 21, 1853. The History of Essex County records the beginning of St. John’s as follows: “From 1853 to 1877 services were held in a building erected by Henry H. Ross about 1835 for a school-house on the lot where the present church edifice stands, and by him devoted to uses of the church during those years. . . . The church is a frame building supported by buttresses on the east side, with a wing for the organ chamber and vestry-room, and a bell cot at the north end.” The organ is now gone.

Fairfield, New York
Methodist, Herkimer County, 1849, ?
The church is long closed and the building is now a gift shop. The congregation merged

1872 Davis at First Presbyterian, Matteawan (now Beacon) New York

1864 Davis organ at Trinity, Trenton

The organ was built for the Woodbridge Presbyterian Church in 1864; it was moved in 1868 to Trinity Episcopal Church also in Woodbridge. In 1917 the instrument was moved to St. Luke’s in Trenton. An electric blower was added in 1933. The organ was renovated and enlarged by E. A. Kelley in 1970. (See the Organ Handbook, 1973) The stoplist given is as modified and enlarged:

**Manual**
- 8’ Open Diapason Treble 39
- 8’ Open Diapason Bass 17
- 8’ Stop Diapason Treble 39
- 8’ Stop Diapason Bass 17
- 4’ Principal Treble 39
- 4’ Principal Bass 17
- 4’ Flute 56
- 2’ Twelfth 39
- 2’ Fifteenth 56
- II Cornet (19+22) 112

**Pedal**
- 16’ Double Stop Diapason 27

Dohler who in turn sold it to Schultz, an organbuilder in the Twin Cities area. The organ is described as a 2-manual, 8-rank instrument, four ranks on the Great and four enclosed ranks on the Swell. It had a pedal keyboard but no separate pedal ranks, although one owner may have connected a separate chest electrically. There was a Swell to Great coupler and a Pedal coupler from each manual. The case and speaking diapason facade pipes may still be in the church. A member of the Rushford church, whose grandfather donated the organ, recalls that it arrived on a train from a church in Kentucky (?). As far as is known, Davis never sold any organs in Kentucky. The church member recalls pumping the organ and the successive installations of a water motor and a blower. The installation of a water motor suggests that the organ may be older than the date given above (ca. 1895) but definitely not 1845.

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 1864, 1 manual, 10 stops.
BRONX, NEW YORK
Evangelical Church of God, 1904, 2 manuals, 14 stops.

Built for the Morrisania Presbyterian Church according to the Davis catalog of 1907. The organ was acquired by the present congregation along with the building in the mid-1960’s. Louis Mohr serviced this organ and his March 3, 1931, notes describe the instrument in his shorthand:

2 m Davis 58 27 Tracker Ped tubular
Grt Sw
Open Violin Diap
Gamba Dulc 1 bass
Mel Aeol
Harmon Fl Sp Diap
12 Prin
15 Pic
Oboe s/en,c

Ped Bourdon
Trem
2 com ped Gr
3 couplers pistons

HOBART, NEW YORK
St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 1854, 1 manual, 5 ranks.

This instrument is still in use in St. Peter’s Church though in need of serv-

ice. It has had an electric blower added. The 1855 Journal of the Episcopal Diocese of New York notes, “The organ, to which the Rector alluded in his last year’s Report, has been placed in the Church; and proves to be a very fine instrument credit is due to the maker, Mr. Davis, of New York.”

In a separate entry in the 1855 Journal it was noted that “with the help of a few friends abroad, formerly members of St. Peter’s, we have been enabled to procure an excellent organ, which in a few days will be placed in the church.” The Davis, which cost $450, was not the first organ. St. Peter’s first organ had “2 stops, 4 octaves and wooden

with the United Methodist Church in Newport.

Fort Ann, New York
Parlor Organ, 1862, 2 stops, 4 octaves and wooden

The Davis, which cost $500, was not

few days will be placed in the church.”

ized it and its drawing power is already seen in our increased congregation.”

The Kingston congregation purchased J. W. Steere & Sons Op. 368 organ for their new building (1893). The Steere was a 3-manual, 44-stop instrument which was rebuilt in the 1950s.

Locust Valley, New York
Parlor Organ, 1904, 2/7

A picture and description of this organ may be found in the February 27, 1904 issue of Music Trades:

Herewith is shown an illustration of a two manual pipe organ built by William H. Davis and Son, pipe organ manufacturers, Park Avenue and One Hundred and Seventy-sixth street, New York, and recently erected by that firm in the music room of William H. Baldwin, Jr., president of the Long Island Railroad, at his home, Locust Valley, L. I. It is stated that this instrument is the smallest pipe organ, of its kind, ever built, the room which it occupies being only 9 feet 2 inches in height.

The organ has two manuals, with tracker action, and tubular pneumatic action. It is operated by an electric motor. Specifications of the instrument are as follows: Great Organ: Open Diapason 8 Feet (61 metal pipes); Gamba, 8 feet, metal, stopped bass (61 pipes); Harmonic flute, metal, 4 feet (61 pipes). Swell Organ: Aeoline, 8 feet, metal (61 pipes); stop diapason, wood (61 pipes); viola, 8 feet (49 pipes). Pedal Organ: Bourdon, 16 feet (30 pipes).

Mechanical Accessories: Pedal to Great, Pedal to Swell, Great to Swell, worked by double-acting piston buttons. Great organ forte movement. Great organ piano movement, operated by pedals. Tremulant. Balanced swell pedal.

Lowville, New York
Lowville Baptist Church, 1890, 2/15

See Extant List Lowville, N. Y.

Mamaroneck, New York
St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church, 1852, 2 stops

Founded in 1704, the church had a hiatus, resuming in 1797. A new building was built in 1823 and expanded and redecorated in 1852/53 which led to the purchase of the organ. There are no church records of the purchase. A new church building was built in 1886 at which time the fittings and the organ were sold. The new organ was a Hilborne Roosevelt, Op. 176, 2/18.

Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 1887, 2/14

This church is listed twice in the Davis list. The rector in 1907, Isidore Meister, wrote to the Davis firm, “the pipe organ of two manuals built by your firm twenty years ago for our church has given general satisfaction as to quality of tone, excellence of material and workmanship, and staying qualities. Others to whom I recommended your firm had a similar experience.” Möller’s records show that in-
1915 the “Most Holy Trinity, RC of Mamaroneck, NY” was electrified, the customer being listed as John J. Smith.

**Medina, New York**

**Medina United Methodist Church, 1850, ?**

Listed in the Davis catalog as “John Parks, Medina, N.Y., 1850.” John Parks was a locally prominent businessman and Methodist who signed the contract and may have donated the organ to the Medina Methodist Church. The church was founded in 1830. A new building in 1850 occasioned the purchase of the organ. The sanctuary and organ burned in 1874, and the church purchased Johnson Opus 483 (1876). A typescript history of the church notes, “for a number of years there was no musical instrument in the church. Simeon Downs first introduced the bass viol to which there had been some opposition at first, but it soon subsided and the instrument was an institution of the church for some years. An organ was installed in the 1850 church, also a bell which weighed 1,500 pounds.”

1871 **Davis at Kingston, New York**

**Manual**, 56 notes, C-g, enclosed

- Open Diapason 8’ TF
- Dulciana 8’ TF
- Stopped Diapason 8’ TF
- Stopped Diapason Bass 8’ (to E, 17 notes)
- Principal 4’ TF
- Principal Bass 4’ (to E, 17 notes)
- Wald Flute 4’ TF
- Fifteenth 2’ (full compass)
- Tremulant (stop face absent)

**Pedal** 18 notes

- Bourdon CCC (16’), 18 pipes
- Manual to Pedal Coupler (stop face absent)
- Balanced swell pedal, vertical shutters
- Case displays non-speaking pipes, gold color.
- Electric blower installed in the late 1940s.
Mount Vernon, New York
Res. Mr. Weed, 1859, ?

Mt. Vernon Reformed Church, 1882, 2/22
The organ was removed in the 1960s and destroyed. A copy of a letter from the files of the Organ Clearing House dated 15 October 1950, author unknown and addressed to a Dr. Barnes, comments on this organ. “This morning I went to hear a ‘restored’ William H. Davis and Son organ in a Mount Vernon Church. They built many organs in New York between 1840 and about 1895. The restoration of the local example was done very conservatively, for it seems to include nothing more than new sheepskin on the bellows of the 80-year-old organ. Its tone was rather indifferent; but there is no telling what later pipe butchers may have done to it, to say nothing of the lads who pile the discarded flagstone sidewalks of New York on the reservoir so as to produce a Diapason harmonique 8’. This may not have happened to the local W. H. Davis and Sons, although some of the top notes were chipping.”

Newark, New York
St. Mark’s Episcopal, 1851, ?
The Davis list erroneously placed “Newark, Wayne County,” in “Ohio.” The Ladies Society of the church paid for the organ which was completed and first used at a church service on Oct. 10, 1852. A young man was assigned the job as “organ blower.” The organ was situated in a recess added to the original church for that purpose. The Davis was probably replaced when in 1901 a new and larger sanctuary was built.

New Berlin, New York
St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 1851, 1/12, oct. pedal
Richard Whittingham, 1854, ?
The 1851 organ was ordered by the Rev. Richard Whittingham for installation in the new stone church just completed in 1850. The History of St. Andrew’s Church (1899) relates, “It is supposed that the first organ at St. Andrew’s Church was a reed type and probably quite small. Undoubtedly this organ was moved into the new stone church serving until 1852 when a contract was made with Mr. Andrew Davis of New York City for an exchange of the old organ. The cost of the new instrument was $700, as the Vestry minutes note, $500 was raised by subscription and $200 was allowed for the old one... In 1885 water replaced the hand bellows to provide power to operate the organ. The water was piped from the village main into the pump underneath the vestibule of the church and up to the organ where, after being used, it flowed back down into a cistern.” The 1854 organ was probably ordered for St. Andrew’s Parochial School and Musical Institute which the Rev. Whittingham began in 1854. It was associated loosely with St. Andrew’s Church. In 1903 the church’s 1/12 organ was sold to an Episcopal Church in Sidney, a village nearby. The Sidney church no longer exists. The academy ceased to function after a decade or so. In 1903 St. Andrew’s purchased a Clarence Morey organ which was installed in the gallery. The Morey was replaced in 1956 though some of the pipes are still used.

Newburgh, New York
Calvary Presbyterian Church, 1872, ?
The present Calvary Presbyterian sanctuary was built in 1858. The Davis organ was replaced by a Jardine about 1900 which in turn was replaced in 1936 by a 3-manual, 40-rank Skinner. Gordon Shacklett, the current music director of Calvary, writes, “The Davis instrument to which you are referring was probably installed in the old Calvary Presbyterian Church, which was located around the corner from us on Liberty Street. That building was torn down when the present First Methodist Church was built on that property. Prior to that time, there existed two Presbyterian congregations: ‘First Presbyterian’ and ‘Calvary Presbyterian.’ Our present building (1857) was originally called ‘First Presbyterian Church.’ Those two congregations merged in 1940, and our building renamed Calvary Presbyterian Church.” Davis & Ferris supplied an organ to the Second Presbyterian Church in Newburgh about 1849. The first organ they built for Second Presbyterian burned at the factory in the firm’s 1848 fire. No records of a Second Presbyterian Church can be found, and the organ is not on any Davis list.

New Rochelle, New York
Church of the Blessed Sacrament, 1903, 2/16
The church’s pastor in 1903, Rev. Thomas P. McLaughlin, wrote the Davis firm that the organ “has given complete satisfaction and if there is any fault to find, it is that it is not large enough for the church. This is my fault, however, for had I wished to pay the price I might have had a larger organ.” The organ was tubular-pneumatic and is probably the last organ the Davises built in the Manhattan factory at 157 West Houston Street. A note in the American Art Journal (22 Aug. 1903) reports Henry Davis saying they “have sold their present factory building and site and will locate at some point above the Harlem River. The exact location has not yet been determined upon.

LOWVILLE NEW YORK
Lowville Baptist Church, 2 manuals, 14 ranks.
The organ is still in use in the Lowville Church. It has been refurbished a few times but remains essentially the same. The renovation work was done by the Delaware Organ Company of Tonawanda, N. Y. Repairs were also carried out by Bryant Parsons and Sons, Pennfield and Kingston N. Y. The current stop list as confirmed by the Parsons firm is:
Great 58 notes
8’ Open Diapason
8’ Melodia
8’ Gamba
4’ Octave
4’ Harmonic Flute
2’ Piccolo
Swell 58 notes, enclosed
8’ Violon Diapason
8’ Gedekt
8’ Salicional (oboe-like tone)
8’ Aoeine
8’ Vox Celeste (for use with Aeoline)
4’ Gemshorn
4’ Oboe TC
Tremulant
Pedal 27 notes
16’ Bourdon
16’ Leiblich Gedekt
one rank of pipes with two flues

ROUND LAKE, NEW YORK
Round Lake Historical Society, 1846, 3 manuals, 40 stops.
Located in the auditorium of what was the Round Lake United Methodist Conference Center, the organ was built originally for the Calvary Episcopal Church in New York City. The organ was moved from Calvary Church to Round Lake in 1887 and modified by Giles Beach. The instrument was built while Richard Ferris and William H. Davis were associated. See Stephen Piel, “A Documented History of the Round Lake Organ.” The Tracker, 30:1, (1986), 44+55.

1890 Davis at Lowville, New York

1950 Davis at New Berlin, New York

1857 Davis photographed by Alan Laufman ca. 1960 at Truthville Baptist Church, North Granville, New York
North Granville, New York
Grace Episcopal Church, 1857, 1/6
See Extant List for Amherst, Mass., page 17

New York City: Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island

BRONX, New York
Mount Olivet Baptist Church, 1854, ?
The Mount Olivet Baptist Church of Yonkers was located on North Broadway between Dock Street and Wells Avenue until 1868; then it moved to the corner of Warburton Avenue and Ashburton Avenue, changing its name to the Warburton Avenue Baptist Church. Upon completion of the new building, the old building was taken down and the salvaged materials used to erect the Nepperhan Avenue Baptist Mission. For a number of years, the Mount Olivet/Warburton Avenue Baptist Church operated a mission Sunday School at 177 Nepperhan Avenue in Yonkers. In 1891 this group was organized as a regular congregation, the Nepperhan Avenue Baptist Church. This church probably inherited the Davis organ. The church dissolved during the 1940s.

Rev. A. C. Perry, Tremont, 1858, ?
The Bronx villages of Tremont and West Farms were annexed to New York City in 1874. Between 1845 and 1860 one of each of the principal Protestant denominations began a congregation in these two villages. The Methodist group was organized in 1856 but it originated in a Sunday School started in 1850 by some members of Upper Morrisania Church. When in 1857 a small church on Tremont Avenue was erected the settled clergyman was the Rev. A. C. Perry. He stayed at the Methodist church in Tremont for one year and probably purchased the organ for the church rather than for personal use.

Parlor Organ, West Farms, 1858, ?
My ascription of the organ to the young Beck Memorial Presbyterian congregation is something of a flight of imagination. The only other possibility in West Farms is a Baptist church; the organs at Grace Episcopal and the Methodist church are known.

Res. F. W. Defoe, 1860, ?
Juvenile Asylum, 1890, ?

The first location of this organ is unknown. However, the organ was apparently moved to the St. James United Methodist Church in 1891 from the St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church, both churches in Cohoes, New York. St. Agnes was founded in 1876 and built a new sanctuary in 1891, which was probably the reason the organ was moved to the St. James United Methodist Church. In 1921 the organ was given to the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Crescent, New York, which congregation is now dissolved. Donald and Darrell Cole purchased the church building and organ at auction. The organ is still in the storm damaged building, which the present owners plan to use for an Anglican Catholic congregation. There is no listing of an organ for St. Agnes Church in either Davis catalog. See the Organ Handbook, 1967, Wesleyan Methodist Church; Saratoga Springs Commercial News, Dec. 16, 1971.

Manual (enclosed)
8' Open Diapason TF 39
8' Dulciano TF 39
8' Stop'd Diapason Treble TF 39
8' Stop'd Diapason Bass 17
4' Principal Treble TF 39
4' Principal Bass 39
4' Flute TF 39
2' Fifteenth 56
8' Trumpet TF 39
Pedal Coupler
Manual compass: CC+g3, 56 notes
Pedal compass: CC+E, 17 notes

GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1853, 1 manual, 8 stops.
The organ was placed in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Keeseville, New York by the Rev. Fernando C. Putnam. Putnam

A smaller organ, perhaps a second-hand reed organ installation rather than a clerical error. Perhaps the 1860 notation also represents an organ installation rather than a clerical error. A smaller organ, perhaps a second-hand reed organ, may have been purchased for the old converted school building used since 1854.

Reformed, 1864, ?

According to the Historical Directory of the Reformed Church, this institution probably began as a French Reformed church in 1688, and reformed in 1808. It became Presbyterian at some later date.
1853 Davis, St. Timothy's, Greenville, NC

was a missionary working the area of New York State north of Albany. The church was organized January 31, 1853. The 1853 Journal of the Diocese of New York noted that at Keeseville, a chapel has been built... It has a fine-toned organ... At Essex [N. Y.] also a very good organ.” The organ was moved to St. Timothy’s in 1982 after some renovations and the addition of a pedal by Eric Johansson. E. A. Boday visited the Keeseville Church in 1956 and wrote of the organ, “The manual slides out, and can be covered by a lid which folds up. Four square-shanked knobs at each end of the keys are lettered in script; the music desk is four-sectional. The swell pedal is a small lever of wood that brings on the Open Diapason without a notch; at the left is a piston of wood which brings on the Principal Treble. The swell shades are horizontal and the crest-shaped silver nameplate is on the impost above the console. The tone is bright and very mild; the pipes speak on a low wind pressure.”

Manual: C-F, 54 notes, enclosed
8’ Open Diapason TF
8’ Dulciana TF
8’ Stopped Diapason Treble TF
8’ Stopped Diapason Bass 17
4’ Principal Treble TF
4’ Principal Bass 17
4’ Flute TF
alarm, no pedals

SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Baptist University, 1865, 2 manuals, 8 stops.

Located in the historic Stubblefield Chapel, the organ was a gift to the University by Dr. James Boeringer, who also repaired and installed it. Prior to the organ’s installation in Shawnee, it was in the Peapack Reformed Church, Gladstone, New Jersey. Dr. Boeringer believes the organ was originally constructed for a church in Long Island and had a subsequent installation in New York City before moving to Gladstone. According to the program notes for the

Potts Memorial, Morrisania, 1868, ?
The Methodist Archives Commission for New York City says Potts was a Methodist Church. However, no corroborating evidence for that was found. Ms. Laura Tosi of the Museum of Bronx History (July 21, 1996) writes that the “Potts Memorial Church was a Presbyterian Church at 1205 Washington Avenue in the Bronx started in 1849 but no longer in existence.” If Ms. Tosi has correctly identified Potts as the First Presbyterian Church, the church building is very much in existence as Evangelical Church of God at 1205 Washington Street. Whether the proper church name was Potts Memorial, First Presbyterian, or Morrisania Presbyterian is unclear. See Extant List.

Bedford Park Congregational, ?, 1/10

This organ is not on any Davis list. The Möller records indicate it was a Davis that was electrified in 1917.

Church of St. Joseph’s, ?, ?

Another organ from the Möller records and not on the Davis lists. Möller modified the organ in 1917. The church was organized in 1873 and was located at Washington Avenue and 176th Street until 1899 when the present church was built on Bathgate Avenue near Tremont. There is considerable question about the accuracy of Möller’s calling the organ a Davis. The church’s records suggest that at one time their organ apparently was a Midmer-Losh, or perhaps a Reuben Midmer. It is not clear if it came before, after, coincident with or instead of a Davis. Möller technicians also confused a Midmer with a Davis in Brooklyn.

Bronx Masonic Temple for Guiding Star Lodge, #565 F & AM. 1931 Washington Avenue and Tremont. 1905. 2/25

The American Art Journal (March 4, 1905) notes this organ is “now building” and is “of the two manual type, and will be operated by an electric blower.” Möller’s records, a bit confusingly, indicate they installed a blower in 1920. A letter from the Temple to the Davis firm says, “the handsome pipe organ built by you for Guiding Star Lodge... has given great satisfaction, used almost nightly by the several lodges meeting there; its excellent tone and other qualities which go toward making a fine organ being appreciated by all.” The Temple no longer exists.

Evangelical Church of God, ca. 1900, 2/14

See Extant List Bronx, N. Y.

Woodlawn Heights Presbyterian Church, ca. 1913, 2/13

This organ is another of those organs in the Möller records but not on any Davis list. Möller worked on the organ in 1914 and listed it as a Davis. The organ was badly damaged in 1991 and removed. The church was built in 1913 and the organ installed in 1914. This instrument may have been the Davis firm’s last effort.

BROOKLYN, New York

Res. Parlor Organ, Brooklyn, N. Y., 1841, ?

This is the earliest Davis organ. Perhaps this parlor organ is a reed organ similar to those Davis made right after breaking up with Ferris. This organ may constitute the basis for Henry Davis to claim 1840 as the founding date for William Davis and Son.

Third Methodist Church, 1855, ?

Stiles (II:401) says this church was organized in 1849 and discontinued by 1891. At that latter time it occupied a rather large red brick building at So. 5th Ave. and 5th St.

Clinton St. and First Pl., Brooklyn, N. Y., 1856, ?

This church is unnamed in the Davis catalog. It has been determined, however, that the organ was not installed in any of the following Clinton Street churches: St. Ann and The Holy Trinity, St. Luke and St. Matthew, and St. Paul’s.

Fourth Street Reformed Dutch Church, 1857, ?

This church was organized in 1829 and dissolved in 1941. It moved a number of times but stayed on Bedford Avenue.

Church of the Redeemer (Episcopal), 1858, ?

Founded in 1853, the church remains on Pacific St. today.

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 1859, ?

St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 1859, ?

The church was established in 1836. Watson’s Weekly Art Journal (7 Oct. 1865) mentions the Davis placement in St. Mary’s in Brooklyn, but it does not appear on Davis’s lists. In 1871 a Midmer pipe organ was donated to St. Mary’s. It was rebuilt in 1916. In addition to the rebuilt Midmer organ in the sanctuary the church has an organ in the church school and an organ in the old church. However, neither of them can be identified as Davis organs.

Res. J. A. H. Bell, 1860, 1861, 1863, ?

The Brooklyn Directory of 1862-63 lists a Jas. A. H. Bell as a paint manufacturer living on Hick and Nelson Streets. Since there are three separate entries in the 1891 catalog Bell probably bought three organs. However, buying three organs in two years suggests that Bell was perhaps a musical instrument dealer as well as a paint manufacturer.

First Moravian Church, 1865, 2/14

Organs for the First Moravian Church are listed in both the 1891 and the 1907 Davis pamphlets which may mean there were two organs. The 1907 pamphlet also lists organs for two Moravian Churches in Staten Island. There are no dates given in the 1907 pamphlet. The Brooklyn organ was electrified by Möller in 1917. The Brooklyn church closed in the early 1940’s.

Emanuel Episcopal Church of Sheepshead Bay, 1866, ?

This church was founded in 1853 according to Stiles (III:683). The congregation claims 1895 as their founding date and celebrated their 100th anniversary in 1995. There is no other Emanuel Episcopal Church in Brooklyn. Whichever date is correct, the present Church has no information on an 1866 Davis organ.

Res. Andrew Campbell, 1867, ?

There are three Andrew Cambells listed in the 1870 Brooklyn City and Business Directory.
Judging by their occupations, a manufacturer named Campbell who lived at 199 Clermont Avenue was the probable buyer.

Res. Henry Mollenham, 1867, ?

Duryea Presbyterian Church, 1869, ?

Originally named Classon Avenue Presbyterian Church, the church changed its name in honor of Joseph Tuthill Duryea about 1867. Duryea was the first minister. The cornerstone for a new building was laid Dec. 1, 1869. According to Stiles (III:755), “The organ will be placed in a recess in the rear of the pulpit, the manual, however, on the ground floor so that the organist will face the pulpit. Besides him the choir will have a place. This arrangement is made in order to continue congregational singing, so successful in the chapel.” The new church was to hold 1300-1400 people and cost $100,000. The organ was probably a Hall & Labagh. This organ was replaced in 1925. The church’s history, written by a group of members in the 1960s, tells a very different story. According to that history Classon Presbyterian did not become Duryea Presbyterian. Rather, Classon Church began a Sunday School mission in 1868 which began to hold evening worship in 1877 and became Duryea Presbyterian Church in 1887. The Sunday School mission had three buildings but the principal one was the Clermont Avenue Chapel used from 1879 to 1906. If Davis provided an organ for the school mission, it was probably a small chapel instrument. Even as late as 1890s Duryea was dependent on Presbyterian Church for funds. Contemporary church members were unable to reconcile these two stories.

Commonwealth Lodge, 1870, 1/10

The stop list for this organ (Archives #4239, Organ Historical Society) is as follows:

- Open Diapason: Flute
- Open Diapason Bass: Fifteenth
- Stopped Diapason: Vox Tremolo
- Stopped Diapason Bass: Principal
- Principal Bass

The manual had 56 notes and the pedal 17. The organ was blown on the right by hand. The case was painted yellow and there were 19 pipes decorated in blue.

Atlantic Avenue Mission, 1871, ?

This mission was probably one of many Episcopal mission in the city but no information on it could be found.

Res. Rand and Son, 1876, ?

Rand and Son is listed in the Brooklyn Directory of 1877 as William J. and William J. Jr., music, 673 Bedford Avenue. Perhaps they were agents for the resale of the Davis organ.

East Congregational Church, 1883/4, ?

The Church was organized in 1877 and dropped from the rolls of Congregational Churches in 1901. According to Dr. Worthley of the American Congregational Association, “it would appear it [the church] ceased to flourish and was simply closed or else (possibly) changed denominations.”

Macdougal Street Baptist Church, 1884, ?

Listed in the Davis catalog as a 2nd organ. In the catalogs, 2nd organ usually means an extensive remodeling of an already installed organ.

Reformed Dutch Church, 1884-5, ?

Called in the Davis catalog “German Church, 128th Street and 4th Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.”

Washington Avenue Baptist, 1887, ?

Davis called this organ “rebuilt.” The church last reported to the Long Island Baptist Association in 1924 and was removed from the Association’s Directory of Church in 1946. However, the building was sold to a Seventh-day Adventist congregation in 1929.

St. Luke’s and St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 1888, ?


Greene Ave. Presbyterian Church, 1889, ?

Organized in 1856, this “Greene Avenue Presbyterian Church” worshiped and kept its records in German. After a number of mergers the present name of the church became Westminster-Bethany.

Strong Place Baptist Church, ca. 1900, rebuilt

The organ, a 2/28, is a Ferris & Stuart built in 1853. It was enlarged and electrified by William H. Davis and Son late in the century. The building is now occupied by the Sacred Heart and St. Stephen Church. According to Monsignor Anthony Danno, the pastor, the Ferris & Stuart rebuilt by Davis was replaced by a Harry Hall organ in the old case in 1928.

Evangelical Church of Peace, ?, 1/10

Identified by the Möller records in 1921 as a Davis.

MANHATTAN

The 1840 dates in the Davis list are sometimes inaccurate. The dates in parenthesis given below are more accurate. The accurate dates are based principally on Stephen Pinel’s research on Richard Ferris.

Franklin Street Dutch Reformed Church, 1844, 1/12

Placed in, rather than sold to the church by Davis & Ferris as an advertisement for business from other churches. In 1845 the Reformed Church bought a larger instrument and asked that the Davis & Ferris be removed.

Greenwich Dutch Reformed Church, 1840 (1846), 2/22

Founded in 1803 and dissolved in 1866. The Davis catalog listed this instrument as the first organ built by the firm. As the catalog says, “notably the first, Bleeker and Tenth Streets, New York, built 1840…” The church’s records indicate an installation date of 1846 and the firm’s name as Davis & Ferris.

Res. Parlor organ, E. Smith, 1843, ?

This is another organ dated prior to Davis and Ferris’ association in late 1843. It may be another indication that Davis was making or supplying reed organs primarily for homes prior to joining Ferris to make pipe organs for
churches. It would seem somewhat unusual for Davis to jump from making pianos to making large pipe organs without some learning transition. The making of reed organs may be that transition. It would also be unusual for the exacting Ferris to invite a piano maker completely inexperienced in organ building to join with him in making organs.

[Christ and] St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 1845, 2/20

This church is a consolidation of Christ Church, St. Stephen’s Church and the Church of the Advent. However, when Davis & Ferris built the organ the Church was named St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church at Chrystie and Broome streets. This organ is listed in both the Davis and the Ferris & Stuart catalogs yet neither catalog mentions a Davis and Ferris connection. The Vestry minutes show that St. Stephen’s Church made a contract with Davis & Ferris. See Pinel’s article on this church and others in The Tracker, 30:1.

Res. Dr. Cheevers, NY, 1846, ?

Res. William Simpson, Washington Hall, 1846, ?

Washington Hall was a center for the political activities of the Washington Benevolent Society in early New York City by those who were Washington supporters. By the 1830s it had become a hotel. It apparently burned down in 1844 (Phelps-Stokes, Index, p.627). Another Washington Hall was erected at 598 Broadway (1850) as a hotel with William Simpson as the clerk of the works. The building became a theater in the 1860’s (Mary Henderson, The City and the Theater, 1973). If this story thread is accurate then the 1846 date is about five years too early. Most Davis catalog dates are a few years earlier than the installation dates.

Calvary Episcopal Church, 1846 (1847), 3/40

See Extant List Round Lake, N. Y.

Sixth Street Methodist, 1847, ?

Neither the New York Annual Conference on Archives nor the Methodist Commission on Archives and History has any information about this church. Stiles (II:266) says a Sixth Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated in Brooklyn in 1844. Davis lists the church as New York.

Church of St. Brigid, 1847 (1849), ?

Davis’s catalog lists this organ as “Catholic, 4th Street, between Avenues C and D, New York, 1847.” The Historical Records Survey (W. P. A., New York City, 1940, p.56) and the archivist for the Catholic Diocese of New York identify this church as St. Brigid’s. The W. P. A. history says, the “present church of Gothic architecture and brick construction, built 1848,” was “dedicated Dec. 2, 1849.” This latter date is probably more nearly the correct one for the installation of the organ. This placement is not on the Ferris & Stuart list.

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 1848, ?

Davis listed this organ for “St. Peter’s, New York.” In 1848 St. Peter’s Episcopal Church on 20th Street had a 2/22 (1834) built by Henry Erben. It was revoiced in 1860 by Engelfried according to the American Musical Directory. Since St. Peter’s sanctuary did not need an organ I surmise that St. Peter’s purchased a Davis for a chapel. It may be that St. Peter’s was sponsoring a dependent mission at some remove from 20th Street.
other information Watson reported about Davis has proved to be reliable.

**Berean Baptist Church, 1857, ?**

“Berean Baptist, New York” in the Davis catalog. Watson in his article called this entry “Dr. Dowling’s Baptist Church.” In 1857 Rev. John Dowling was pastor of the Berean Baptist Church in New York City. Hutchinson in the *American Musical Directory* mentions this church but does not list an organ. In 1891 a new church building was constructed on Washington Square and the name of the Church changed to Memorial Baptist Church of Christ. By 1916 it had come to be known as the Judson Memorial Baptist Church. Yet in 1891 Davis had put a new organ in the Judson Memorial Baptist Church. In 1889. In 1889 the Order’s third and largest building was constructed on 60th Street, N. Y.” This church is the founding home of the Paulist Fathers in the United States. The Order was organized in 1858 by Rev. Isaac Hecker as a missionary and literary society. This center was to serve as the rectory and motherhouse. The cornerstone was laid at 59th Street near 9th Avenue, June 19, 1859. Paul Robechard of the Office of Paulist History and Archives wrote that the 1859 residence or perhaps it was built for the 1862 frame building which was taken down. The present Gothic Brownstone Church was dedicated on November 1st 1857 St. Ann’s moved from the private dwelling on E. 125th Street near 3rd Avenue until 1831. A church building was dedicated in 1833 and used until 1870. The present Gothic Brownstone Church was dedicated in 1871.

**[Unknown] Reformed Church, 1864, ?**

According to Davis the church was located on 50th Street.

**St. James Methodist Episcopal Church, 1866, ?**

The New York Annual Conference on Archives and History and the Methodist Commission on Archives and History has no information on this church. The WPA Survey states that “the church was organized in 1830 as the Harlem Church. It was located in a private dwelling on E. 125th Street near 3rd Avenue until 1831. A church building was dedicated in 1833 and used until 1870. The present Gothic Brownstone Church was dedicated in 1871.”

**[Beekman Hill] 59th St. Methodist Episcopal Church, 1866, ?**

According the WPA this church was located on 50th Street and was organized in 1860 and dissolved in 1921. A frame church building was used between 1862 and 1873 when a stone church was built on the same site. Presumably the Davis organ was used in the frame building. The Beekman Hill Church absorbed the 37th Methodist Church in 1911 and merged with the 61st Street Methodist Church in 1921. The New York Annual Conference on Archives and History proposes a different story. According to the Conference the church building used from 1862 to 1873 was sold to the Reformed Episcopal Church in 1871 and with it, perhaps, the Davis organ.

**Res. Parlor organ, Mr. Crane, 1866, ?**

**Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Innocents, 1866, ?**

The original church on this 37th Street site was the Church of the Holy Innocents (Episcopal). It had, according to Hutchinson, a 2/20 Jardine which was installed in 1859. The Catholic church was organized in 1866 and held services in a frame church also on 37th Street and Broadway until 1868 when the present building was dedicated. In the same year Holy Innocents Church bought the Episcopal building which was taken down. The site of the 1868 Davis organ in the Catholic Holy Innocent Church is not known. The present pastor, Rev. Sakano, believes the organ was there until 10 or 20 years ago as does Fr. F. R. Webber in 1957 wrote that an 1868 Odell (1/10, Opus 78) was built for Father Hecker. This would suggest that the Davis, since it was the earlier of the two organs, was the one placed in the basement chapel and the Odell was installed in the frame church. Hook and Hastings also supplied two organs (Op. 1419 and 1420, 1889) as did Möller (Op. 9987-9988).

**Macdougal Street Baptist Church, 1861 and 1884, ?**

Davis built two organs for the Macdougal Street Baptist Church. Watson called the church “Dr. Dunbar’s Baptist Church.” Rev. Duncan Dunbar assumed the pastorate of the North Beriah Baptist Church of New York City in 1856. In 1859 the church’s name was changed to the Macdougal Street Baptist Church. Rev. Dunbar continued as pastor until 1864.

**St. Ann’s Church for the Deaf, 1857, ?**

This organ is listed in Davis as “St. Ann’s (deaf mutes), New York.” The congregation is currently associated with Calvary/St. George’s Episcopal Church at 209 E. 16th Street. The Davis organ was either a small 1/6-8 for the hearing congregation, which met in the morning while the deaf met in the afternoon. For the hearing congregation, which met in the morning while the deaf met in the afternoon. Davis has proved to be reliable.

1865 Davis, Louisa, Virginia

Davis lists this as “Centennial Methodist Church” which should be Centenary. According to The Tracker (23:1, 1979, 19, “the instrument is believed to have been built for the Shockoe Valley Methodist Episcopal Church of Richmond, Va., which later became Centenary Methodist.” The organ was sold to the Louisa United Methodist Church sometime between 1880 and 1900. In 1952 the organ was retired and replaced by an electronic organ. In 1977, the electronic organ having reached its end, the congregation decided to restore the Davis. The organ was recovered from the barn in which it was stored and a contract to restore the organ was awarded to Lewis and Hitchcock, Inc., Silver Spring, Maryland. George Payne performed much if not all of the restoration. The organ was heard again on December 4, 1977.

**Manual:** 56 notes
- 8’ Diapason
- 8’ Dulciana
- 8’ Unison Bass
- 4’ Octave Bass
- 4’ Principal
- 4’ Flute
- 2’ Fifteenth

**Coupler**

**Pedal:** 13 keys, acts on coupler only
- Bass notes are 17 notes, cc - E
- Treble stops are from F - g²
- Fifteenth is gamut, 56 notes
- Flute is chimney type
Florian Walczyk, the organist of St. Anthony’s Monastery who served the nearby Church of the Holy Innocents.

West Fifty Third Street Baptist Church, 1868, ?

In 1868 this Church was located near 7th Avenue. In 1877 it reported 578 members and did not report again. In 1881 a new “Fifty Third Street People’s Church” was organized with 93 members. In 1884 this congregation, now calling itself only “the People’s Church” moved to West 49th Street near Ninth Avenue. It appears to have disbanded about 1900. There was also a Fifty third Street German Baptist Mission for several years. Phelps-Stokes (VI:341) reports that the new 1881 People’s Baptist Church was “built of materials bought from the Church of the Puritan.”

Murray Hill Presbyterian Church, 1870, ?

It has been difficult to identify this church. There was a merger between an Ebenezer and a Murray Hill Presbyterian church in 1870 which church dissolved in 1887. Knapp in his *History of the Brick Presbyterian Church* (p. 348) mentions a Brick Church Mission Chapel on W. 35th Street which opened in 1867. The Brick Presbyterian Church built its new building in 1858 on Murray Hill but the organ it purchased was a Ferris & Stuart.

All Saints Church, 1876, ?

Listed in the Davis catalog as “St. Thomas Chapel, 60th Street, New York.” St. Thomas was founded in 1868 but it had started as the Church of the Good Shepherd. Until 1871 the congregation met in the Good Shepherd’s Mission Church on 54th Street. The present Gothic church was occupied in 1871 according to the WPA Survey.

Dr. George Marsland, 1879, ?

Dr. Marsland was the assistant secretary of the American Banker’s Association at 247 Broadway. In 1879 he wrote to the Davis firm, “Your favor enclosing specification is received. I am just preparing to go to Saratoga. When I settle down in September I will confer with you, and you can put the last finishing touches to the admirable instrument which you have constructed for me, and which is more and more appreciated and useful to me every day.”

Laight Street Baptist Church, 1880, ?

The *American Musical Directory* reports this church had a 1/12 with 1-octave pedal built by Hall and Labagh in 1844. In 1882 Laight Street Baptist Church merged with the Macdougal (Dunbar) Street Baptist Church at their building on Macdougal Street between Prince and Spring Streets. In 1897 Macdougal Street Baptist Church merged with the North Baptist Church utilizing their building on West 11th Street between 4th Street and Waverly Place (Letter, Archivist, American Baptist Convention). In 1882 the North Baptist Church had built a new building with “a beautiful grand organ.” This organ according to Stephen Pinel (*Tracker*, 30:1, p. 39) is probably a second-hand Ferris built originally for Calvary Baptist Church, 2/20. The Davis organ must have been installed in the Laight Street Baptist to replace the Hall and Labagh of 1844 and left in that church when the congregation vacated the building to merge with North Baptist in 1897.

Alexander Mission, 1882/3, ?

Located on King Street in New York according to the Davis catalog. No information found.

Bedford Street Methodist Episcopal Church, 1883, ?

This church was founded in 1807, erected a frame building in 1810, dedicated a new brick church in 1866, and merged into the Metropolitan Temple in 1913. The New York Annual Conference on Archives and History wrote, “I doubt that their building or organ survived” the merger with Metropolitan Temple.

Madison Street German Presbyterian Church, 1885, ?

Organized as a Reformed Church in 1808, it began to report to the New York Presbytery in 1868. It dissolved in 1894.

German Reformed Church, 1885, ?

Avenue B and 5th Street, N. Y. is the address Davis lists. The *Reformed Historical Directory* gives 1874 as the organizing date. The church merged with St. Peter’s to become Trinity Church, Brooklyn, N. Y. in 1919. As with most German speaking churches in the City, their congregation dwindled as immigrants were assimilated.

Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 1885, ?

Located on West 82nd Street, the congregation met beginning in 1885 in a “lower Church” or a basement. The principal edifice was built in 1911. An Estey (Op. 2654, 1927) of 3 manuals and 19 ranks was installed in the new building. This organ was replaced by a Kilgen and Son. Where was the Davis organ placed then? There is an old organ in the “lower church” according to the current organist, David MacFarlane. Mr. MacFarlane describes it as a parlor organ with foot pumps. Perhaps this is another Davis reed organ though 1885 is somewhat late in the firm’s life.

St. Thomas the Apostle R. C. Church, 1889, ?

This listing is found in both the 1891 and the 1907 Davis catalogs. The 1907 entry says, “second organ.” This church was organized in 1889 and its building dedicated 1890. It was into this new building that the 1889 organ was probably installed. The church’s records were not clear, however, about whether the 1907 catalog listing is of a newly built Davis or a rebuilding of the 1889 Davis.

Chelsea Methodist Episcopal Church, 1890, ?

Located on 30th Street, this church is a mystery to all the Methodist archival and historical groups. None of them have heard of it. The WPA Survey says the church was “incorporated as the Chelsea Methodist Episcopal Church, N. Y. Oct. 24, 1846.” From 1849 until 1907 the congregation was located in a brick church at 30th Street and Ninth Avenue.

Henry Eyre Browne, organist for Dr. Talmadge’s Brooklyn Tabernacle and a founder of the American Guild of Organists, wrote to the Davis firm, “I wish to say that I was very much pleased with your organ in the Chelsea M. E. Church, New York City. It will compare favorably with the work of the best organ builders of the city. The voicing is very fine, whilst the mechanism throughout was first-class. The specifications could not be improved upon” (Nov. 15, 1890).

Judson Memorial Baptist Church, 1891, ?

This church is a continuation of Dr. Dowling’s Baptist Church (see Berean Baptist, 1857). In 1891 a new building was constructed on Washington Square and the name of the church changed to Memorial Baptist Church of Christ and then to Judson Memorial Baptist. The church minutes mention a
new organ for the Church in 1891 by Davis; in fact, Roosevelt Op. 512 of 1892 is currently in the church.

**Hope Baptist Church, ca. 1892-95,**

Returning once again to the saga of the Laight Street Baptist Church. After the congregation left the property at Laight and Varick Streets in 1882, a new mission church was organized and a new Laight Street Baptist Church was organized in 1885. In 1892 the church relocated to Boulevard at the corner of 104th Street where the Davis organ must have been installed. In 1917 the Hope Baptist Church changed its name to the Broadway Baptist Church, following that it merged with Fort Washington Baptist Church at 124 Wadsworth Avenue to form the Wadsworth Avenue Baptist Church.

**Chapel of the Messiah, ca. 1900,**

The Davis pamphlet of 1907 gives the address of the Chapel as 9th Street, City. No Church or Chapel of the Messiah has been found on 9th Street. The City Mission Society (Episcopal) Chapel of the Messiah (1891-1927) was at 234 W. 135th Street. Located in a store on 94th Street near 2nd Avenue until 1893, in a building on 95th Street until 1925, and on 135th Street until 1927 when the congregation disbanded (WPA). Stiles mentions two Churches of the Messiah but they are in Brooklyn (II:287; III:682). The word “City” in Davis records sometimes means Manhattan and sometimes any one of the five boroughs. A Manhattan congregation known as the Church of the Messiah was founded about 1825. It was renamed Community Church and later Second Congregational Unitarian Society. Timothy Driscoll of the Manuscripts and Archives Office of the Andover-Harvard Theological Library indicates that he was unable to find any references to a “Chapel” of the Messiah among Unitarian records (June 11, 1996). F. R. Webber, in “Some Early Organs in New York” (Diapason, 1 Aug. 1957) says the Church of the Messiah acquired an Odell in 1868 (Opus 64, 2/24). It is also on the Hook list for Opus 36 of 8139.

**Chapel of the Tombs, New York City Prison, 1903,**

According to the American Art Journal (May 2, 1903), the organ was “installed last January.”

**Chapel of the Penitentiary, Blackwell’s Island, 1903,**

According to the American Art Journal (May 2, 1903), the organ was “recently completed.”

**Mother African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, 1904, 2/16**

This church is now the mother church for an entire denomination and is located on W. 136th Street, N. Y. C. Davis installed the first organ in the original sanctuary on 89th Street and Columbus. The church at that time was titled the Zion A. M. E. Church. There are no church records relating to the organs. The first instrument in not listed in any Davis catalog. The 1904 instrument is variously called a “complete rebuilding,” a “second instrument” and a “second organ.” Without church records, we assume that Davis extensively remodeled his own first organ for the church. The “new” organ was tubular pneumatic. Möller also mentions the organ as one it electrified in 1905. This 1905 date seems a bit odd since Davis had only completed the organ in 1904.

**Evangelical Church of St. Matthew, ca. 1907, 2/?**

Chartered in 1664, this church, formerly called St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, is the oldest Lutheran Church in North America. It was German speaking until 1910. This organ is not, curiously, listed among Davis’s works. The OHS American Organ Archives (Archives #2212) has a note written by Louis Mohr, Sr. (9/21/13) describing the organ as a two-manual Davis, “blown by hand.” The Davis was replaced in 1956 by a Schlicker of Buffalo, N. Y. Davis seems to have worked with a number of churches and synagogues that were German speaking. Henry Davis’s wife, Anna, and her mother, who lived with the Davieses, spoke fluent German and used it in the home. Henry Davis probably had some familiarity with the language. Mohr’s note describes the organ:

- **Great:** 2 m. Davis 61, Ped. A.G.O.
- **Swell:** Bourdon, Geigen Principal, Stopped Diapason, Aeoline, Violin, Oboe
- **Pedal:** Bourdon, Quintedena, Gedekt, Violoncello, Violana.

**QUEENS, New York**

Res. Samuel Leggett, Parlor organ, Whitestone, N. Y., 1845

There were a few Samuel Leggetts in New York City in the 1840’s. One of them was the president of the New York Gaslight Co. This is another of the early 1840’s Davis organs not claimed in the Ferris & Stuart catalog.

**First Congregational Church, 1875,**

The Davis catalog lists the church only as “Congregational, Flushing, N. Y.” The First Congregational Church of Flushing was founded in 1851 and was the only Congregational church in Flushing as late as 1875. The 1875 issue of The Congregational Quarterly, 18, New Series, Vol. III:149, lists Albert C. Wood as pastor. In 1874 the church had a membership of 90. In 1972 the church and all its records burned.

**STATEN ISLAND, New York**

**First Presbyterian Church, 1857,**

Originally the “Dutch Reformed, Stapleton, Staten Island.” The Reformed Church began as a Sunday School in 1848, organized in 1851 and merged with another congregation to form the First Presbyterian Church in 1868. First Church’s records do not show whether the Reformed congregation and the Presbyterian congregation each had their own church building prior to their merger, or what happened to the Davis organ.

**St. Paul’s Memorial Episcopal Church, 1860,**

Located in Tomkinsville, N. Y. according to the 1891 catalog. The WPA Survey notes the church was organized in 1833 as St. Paul’s, Castleton. A new church was built in 1866 by Albert Ward as a memorial to his sister. Watson called this church “St. Paul’s, [Staten Island].”

Res. Parlor Organ, 1862,**

For installation in Richmond, Staten Island

**Bethel United Methodist Church, 1867 and 1888,**

Location was called Tottenville in the Davis records. Organized in 1849 as a mission of the Woodrow Church and incorporated in 1882. Initially the congregation worshipped in a frame church used until 1886. The cornerstone of the present brick church was laid in 1886. This new church also had a Davis organ installed, 1888.

**Vanderbilt Avenue Moravian Church, ca. 1903,**

Called “Moravian Church, Stapleton, N. Y. City” in the 1907 Davis pamphlet.

**Castle Hill Moravian Church, ca. 1903,**

Called “Moravian Church, Castleton Corners, N. Y. City” in the 1907 Davis pamphlet.

**Church of the Ascension, 1906, 2/12**

Located in “West New Brighton, City” according to the 1907 Davis records. Music Trades (June 2, 1906, p. 42) notes a new organ” by Davis for the Church of the Ascension. However, the magazine’s July 21, 1906 issue calls the work a “rebuilding.” The entry
in the vestry minutes of June 2, 1906, says, “the rebuilding of the organ was discussed and the Music Committee instructed to send printed appeal to the parish for contribution.” The organ was a two manual. What Davis did to the organ besides installing a blower is not known. This church was originally known as Trinity Chapel and belonged to St. Andrews Church. The church building, located at Richmond Terrace in West New Brighton, was demolished in 1930. Nothing is known of the Davis organ’s fate. The church moved to Kingley Avenue. An Austin organ (Op. 2524) was installed in the 1970s.

Olean, New York
First Baptist Church, 1865, 1879, ?
The Baptists in Olean were particularly unfortunate. Two churches and both Davis organs were burned. The first organ was foot-powered and installed in the choir loft in the rear balcony. The Olean Church bought another organ in 1879. The second Church and organ burned in 1883 and for the new building an Odell (Op. 208, 1884) was acquired. The church’s history entitled The Widening Way by Margaret Anderson, says of the 1879 Davis, “A new pipe organ, manufactured by Messrs. W. H. Davis and Son of New York, a fine specimen of mechanical art, was installed at a cost of $1,500. In addition to all the customary stops and pipes it was furnished with full and brilliant cornet melody which was considered of great benefit in leading congregational singing. The organ was built for a church in Kansas City, Missouri. The church funds were deposited in a bank which failed and consequently the organ did not reach its intended destination” (p. 17).

Ossining [Sing-Sing], New York
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1857, ?
According to St. Paul’s records the organ was purchased in the spring of 1858 from Davis at a cost of $900. An old organ was taken in trade for $300 (Rev. Holton, by telephone reading from the minutes). St. Paul’s sold their building in 1958 to the Calvary Baptist Church and moved to a new location. The Journal of the Diocese of New York, 1857 reports, “Since the present Rector entered upon his duties on the 8th of March last, a new organ has been purchased at an expense of $900.”

Peekskill, New York
—— Reformed Church, 1866, ?
The correct title for this church is unclear. The Peekskill Dutch Reformed Church was organized in 1799 and merged with the Reformed Church in Courtlandtown in 1834. There is still a Reformed Church of Courtlandtown, but whether or not the Courtlandtown Church is the “Reformed, Peekskill, N. Y.” Church referred to in the Davis catalog is unknown.

Pelham, New York
Church of the Redeemer, 1904, 2/?
The American Art Journal (4 June, 1904) notes that the Davis firm is “now erecting a two manual tracker action tubular pneumatic organ for Pelham, N. Y., Episcopal Church.” The Church of the Redeemer into which the Davis organ was installed burned in the mid-1940s. The church was founded in 1872. The Redeemer Church merged with Christ Church, founded 1695, after the fire.

Portchester, New York
Portchester Presbyterian Church, 1881, 2/22
The congregation moved to a new location in 1958 and the old building was demolished.
—— Congregational, 1889, ?
“A Congregational Church was organized in Portchester in 1888. It was dropped from the denominational rolls in 1915, presumably because it was too weak to continue” (Worthley, American Congregational Library). Worthley presumes the Congregational church merged with the Presbyterian church above.

Port Jervis, New York
Methodist Episcopal Church, 1891, 2/15
Listed in Davis as “Methodist Episcopal, Port Jervis, N. Y.” it is now Drew United Methodist Church. Möller added an electric blower in 1914. The church recently burned and is being rebuilt.

Ryebrook, New York
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, ca. 1903, 2/11
The original church was named St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran. It was built in 1865 in Byram, Conn. In 1903 the church’s facilities were redeorn, the church rededicated, and an organ added. In 1920, English replaced German as the worship language. In 1955 a new Möller pipe organ was added to the church. This organ probably replaced the 1903 Davis. In 1966 the congregation moved to Ryebrook, N. Y. and with it, the Möller organ. In 1966
another Möller was given to the church by the New York Hospital.

**Sag Harbor, New York**

Christ Episcopal Church, 1858, 1/

According to the Davis catalog this organ was purchased by “Rev. G[ordon] Huntingdon, Sag Harbor, N. Y.” Huntingdon was the priest of the Christ Episcopal Church from 1856 to 1859. The congregation was incorporated in 1845 and a small sanctuary completed in 1854. The church records indicate that they did use a Davis organ. According to the church’s historian, Dr. Lemuel Tucker, in 1895 the Aldrich family financed an enlargement of the church and the purchase of an organ, probably a Jardine, from the Boston firm of Mason and Hamlin.

**Saranac, New York**

Saranac Methodist Church, 1864, ?

Not Saranac Lake. The church is still active but the organ is gone.

**Scarsdale, New York**

St. James Episcopal Church, 1866, ?

In 1883, Hook & Hastings Op. 1191 was installed probably replacing the Davis.

**Setauket, New York**

Caroline Episcopal Church, 1888, 1/6

This congregation, founded in 1729, believes it is the second oldest Episcopal church in the United States. It installed an Aeolian-Skinner Op. 30041 in 1937 to replace the organ in place, presumably the 1888 Davis. The church has no record of a Davis organ. An extant pipe organ in the parish house was refurbished in 1965 by Gilbert Adams of New York (now of Monroe, N. C.) in association with Malcolm Lomax, an organbuilder in Long Island. The church historian, Robert Benzinger, believes this organ is an imported English organ dating from before the American Revolution. The 1996 OHS Organ List describes this organ as “1773 Unknown 1-4s Tr Rebuilt Crabbe 1858.” Supposedly the organ came to Caroline from St. Ann’s Protestant Episcopal Church of Brooklyn in 1845. It has 30 keys and remains hand-pumped. There are no identifying marks on the organ. Gilbert Adams, however, believes the case is too crude for it to be an English import and supports the idea of the organ being American made, perhaps by Davis. The case is pine with walnut stain. The instrument has a receding keyboard and wooden non-speaking pipes in the facade. Davis made many small organs with these characteristics though not with 30-note keyboards. However, 1888 seems a late date for Davis to be making such an instrument unless, perhaps, it was second-hand in 1888. It is not clear whether or not this organ belongs on the Davis Extant List. It is worthy of further investigation, particularly if it dates from 1773.

**Syracuse, New York**

St. James Episcopal Church, 1856, ?

St. James Church, now Church of the Savior, has had a checkered economic and social history being closed and reopened a few times. Founded in 1848 with free pews and no rents, the building and the 1856 Davis were destroyed by fire in 1891. After a second fire in 1912 the church acquired a Johnson organ and in the 1960s a new Möller. It is now a mission of St. Paul’s Cathedral.

**Tarrytown, New York**

The Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns, 1861, ?

The Davis catalog lists “First Reformed, Tarrytown, N. Y.” but Watson quoting William Davis says that the firm installed organs in both the First and Second Reformed Churches in Tarrytown. First Church began services in 1865 and Second Church in 1851. The present pastor, the Rev. Vander Hart, says that there is no information about organs or pictures of the churches in the records. A letter from the church’s secretary (May 1, 1996) says, “He [the Rev. Vander Hart] was pastor of former First Reformed Church since 1972 and became pastor of the reunited church in 1991. Because he has a great interest in church organs, he has conducted extensive research and knows that there are no old photographs of either organ and no specific mention of them in either church’s files as well.” Peter Cameron writes (April 9, 1996), “Second Reformed of Tarrytown later had an 1899 Hutchings, replaced in 1972 by Odell...”

**Unadilla, New York**

St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 1863, ?

Founded in 1809, the church is still active but the Davis is gone.

**Westport, New York**

Parlor Organ, Westport, 1863, ?

White Plains, New York

Res. E. G. Faile, 1860, ?

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**Fayetteville**

First Baptist Church, 1865, 1/6

The organ is dated 1865 in the Davis catalog. Some of the pipes are also dated 1865. However, the organ was not installed until 1873. Most likely the organ was built in 1865 and later sold through an agent. 1865 was a good year for organ sales in the Confederacy. The congregation was organized in 1837 and built a large frame church. In 1853 Dr. James McDaniel “purchased a large pipe organ for his daughter.” This organ was placed in the front gallery of the church. In 1872 this organ was returned to the McDaniel family and a “large pipe organ was loaned to the church and a pumper engaged for $1.00 per month” (pamphlet, *One Hundred and Fifty Years of First Baptist Church*). This latter instrument is the Davis organ. In 1910 a new sanctuary was built. The Davis organ was replaced and sold to the Bethesda Presbyterian Church of Aberdeen, N. C. In 1972 the Aberdeen Church purchased an electronic Allen and sold the Davis pipes to a “Pennsylvania” organ building firm. Some of these pipes eventually were used by George Payne to rebuild the Louisa, Va., United Methodist Church organ which is an identical twin to the Fayetteville organ.

**OHIO**

Newark, Wayne County

See Newark, N. Y.

Zanesville, Ohio

St. James Episcopal Church, 1860, ?

Founded in 1816 and using rented space, the congregation erected its first building in 1830. The congregation bought its first organ in 1824, but it may not have been moved to the new 1830 building. The second and present building was erected in 1843. Consecrated in 1855 the limestone Gothic sanctuary seats 250 people. In 1911 a new organ was purchased replacing the Davis instrument.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Huntingdon

First Presbyterian Church, 1864, reed organ

The Davis catalog lists this entry as “Presbyterian, Great Bend, Pa.” In 1949 the name of the church became the First Presbyterian Church. Founded in 1789, the congregation built its first edifice in 1831 and replaced it with a brick structure in 1886. The reed organ, of which a picture exists, was used for worship until 1886 when it was replaced by a pipe organ. A Vocalion was used in the new chapel and the reed organ remained in the old church, which became an opera house.

**Lewisburg, Penn.**

Res. James Hansel, 1861, ?

Mechanicsburg, Penn.

Mrs. Claude Hughes, ca. 1850, 1/8

See Extant List, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

**Milford, Penn.**

Baptist, 1872, ?

According to the Pike County Historical Society (Pa.) there was no Baptist Church in Milford in 1872 and no present Baptist Church. Within a radius of 50 miles of Milford, Pa., there are a few Baptist churches but all were founded well after 1872. There is, however, a First Baptist Church in Milford, Delaware, which was established in 1873 and which was a member of the Philadelphia Baptist Association. However, the Delaware Church’s historian, Mrs. Pat Beideman, has found nothing in the church’s records indicating the purchase of an organ.

**Philadelphia, Penn.**

Episcopal Chapel, 1844, ?

Given this sparse entry in the Davis catalog the diocesan archivist was unable to come up with any suggestions for possible locations of this instrument. This is another early 1840s Davis listing not found in the Ferris & Stuart list. Perhaps this is another of the early reed organs.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

Charleston

Res. George F. Cole, 1855, ?

Res. Richard de Treville, 1855, ?

There were two de Treville families in the 1850 US Census for South Carolina but there is no Richard listed.

**Unitarian Church, 1866, ?**

The Unitarian Church’s historical committee was unable to provide any information about this organ. From Alan Laufman’s article, “A Walking Tour of Charleston Churches,” *Tracker* 29:1, 20-30, it is clear that there is an open space in the organ history of the church.
into which the Davis fits. The Unitarian’s first organ was an Appleton, 1825. It was replaced by an 1854 Henry Erben during a major renovation of the sanctuary. The “movable furnishings” of the church were sent to Columbia, S. C., for protection during the Civil War where they were burned. Apparently Erben’s organ was among the “movable furnishings.” Immediately after the war, 1866, the Unitarians purchased a Davis presumably to replace the lost Erben. In 1916 the church installed an Austin, op. 649.

TENNESSEE

Sewanee

University of the South, ?, ?

Listed in the 1907 Davis pamphlet as “-Suwanee University, Suwanee, Tenn.” None among the college chaplain, the chapel organist, and the research librarian was able to identify this organ.

TEXAS

Galveston

Trinity Episcopal Church, 1842, (1844), 1/5

Dated too early by two years, the organ was built while Davis & Ferris were associated. It was one of the first Davis & Ferris organs and was undoubtedly quite small. It was used by Trinity Church which acquired E. & G. G. Hook Op. 647 in 1872.

VERMONT

Brattleboro

Res. Parlor Organ, 1860, ?

Brattleboro since 1846 was the home of the enormously productive but now defunct Estey Organ Company. Most local churches had Estey organs which were donated by the Estey family. The heretic organization which ordered the Davis organ was not found.

Barton

Conversion of St. Paul Catholic Church, ca. 1865, 2/16

See Extant List, Barton, Vermont.

VIRGINIA

Louisa

United Methodist Church, 1865, 1/6

See Extant List Louisa, Va.

ATTRIBUTED

Manlius [New York]

Christ Episcopal Church, ca. 1850s, 1/7

This is not a Davis organ but was tentatively identified as such in the extant list of the OHS. Its recent removal by Alan Laufman revealed that George Andrews around 1861-1865 may have rebuilt an earlier (ca. 1832) Christ Church organ.

Brooklyn

Church of God of Prophecy, ca. 1872, 2/11

This is not a Davis organ, but was tentatively identified as such by the extant list of the OHS. The church was formerly the Bushwick Avenue Baptist Church. The instrument was recently removed by the Organ Clearing House. Interior markings and style suggest the instrument may be a Giles Beach, 1872.

Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church, ?, 1/6 or 2/?

This organ is not on any Davis list. The Möller records identify a 1/6 as a Davis in 1912. The church, through its manager, Joe Page, indicated that it thought its organ in the early 1900s was a 2-manual tubular-pneumatic by Reuben Midmer. This is the second instance I have found where Möller workers identified as a Davis an organ which the church now insists was a Midmer.

Manhattan

Madison Ave. Presby. Church, 1845, 1/14

There is no mention in Davis records of this organ. It is listed in the Ferris & Stuart catalog, as are the Norfolk Street Baptist Church (1848), St. Mark’s Lutheran Church (1848) and the Alanson Street Methodist Church (1848). These organs were built during the time Ferris and Davis presumably were associated. Each of these instruments is larger than a number of the other 1840s Davis organs. One would think that Davis surely would have placed them on his list, but they do not appear there.

Church of the Holy Apostles, 1895, ?

This organ is not a Davis. The Davis firm installed the George Jardine 1853 organ from the Church of the Annunciation, 6th Avenue and W. 14th Street, in the above church. Davis may have altered some of the stops (Ogasa-pian, p. 117).
Organs in Switzerland

by Grant Hellmers

The ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY’s sixth European Organ Tour took place September 26-October 7, 2000. The tour, organized by Bruce Stevens and led by Martin Weyer of Marburg, Germany, covered a large part of Switzerland and provided a brief trip into Liechtenstein. Tour members could avail themselves of the opportunity to play most of the organs visited.

Switzerland, having prominent German, French and Italian cultures, has a large number of organs old and new reflecting these different cultures. Many instruments also show an early form of eclecticism in mixing elements of these styles in one instrument: German Sesquialteras live happily alongside French Cornets and Italian undulating Suavials. Church buildings range from decorated medieval through highly ornate baroque (in the staunchly Catholic areas) to plain but beautiful Swiss Reformed, both ancient and modern. The churches, too, reflect the various national styles architecturally.

The tour began in Zürich at the Grossmünster where we heard and played the Metzler organ from 1960. This organ still sounds supremely musical, despite the many changes in tonal philosophy that have occurred during the past forty years. A tour of the Metzler workshop, led by Andreas Metzler, gave us

At Fischingen, OHS members gather in the East gallery of the Pfarr- und Klosterkirche to hear the organ built in 1763 by J. G. Aichgasser. In 1956-57, the organ was among the earlier in Switzerland to be restored with concern for historic detail, including new action, console and windchests, all of which had been replaced in 1914. Restored by the Metzler firm, 27 of the original 33 stops remain and the original baroque ornament was uncovered and restored.

The tour to Austria in August, 2001, is fully subscribed. The destination for 2002 has yet to be determined and is scheduled to be announced in January. Those who request information on upcoming tours will receive registration materials for the 2002 tour when it becomes available in January. Send requests to OHS Euro Tour, P. O. Box 26811, Richmond VA 23261, or e-mail EUROTOUR@ORGANSOCIETY.ORG.

Grant Hellmers has attended all of the OHS European tours and most conventions since 1988. He played for the Baltimore convention and will for the upcoming North Carolina one. An Australian, he studied in London, Paris and Vienna and is organist/choirmaster of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia.
a close-up view of the superlative quality of that company’s work. We were to see other examples of Metzler’s fine work — new organs, restorations and reconstructions — during the tour. Among those most memorable were the 1761 J. A. Silbermann organ in Arlesheim (restoration), the reconstruction of an 1813 Callinet organ in Porrentruy, and the 1982 choir organ in this last church.

The Monastery in Muri has, within its fairly small and highly ornate, baroque church, three historic organs as well as reproductions of two other organs formerly located in it. The organist provided an informative talk about the history of the former Benedictine community of Muri, its musical practices, and its organs. He then demonstrated the three original organs. Bruce Stevens and Grant Hellmers played the 17th century Gospel and Epistle organs, performing Pachelbel’s Partita Was Gott tut in dialogue.

Other trips from our Zürich base took us to Rheinau (two 18th century organs), Fischingen (1763 organ restored by Metzler in 1957, Einsiedeln Monastery (two new Mathis organs and an historic choir organ), and to the Zürich suburb of Neumünster where the original Tonhalle organ by Kuhn (1872/1927) is now located, reduced in size from its last incarnation at the Tonhalle, but twice the 1872 size of fewer than 30 stops.

One of our more senior tour members was thrilled to see and play the 1716-21 Bossard organ at St. Urban with its unusual case displaying three large pipe flats in the form of
crosses - the shield of the Bishop of St. Urban. She wore a T-shirt picturing this organ case for the occasion.

Bern’s famous arcaded streets appropriately provided shelter from the light rain that fell the two days we spent there. The new (1999) Kuhn organ in the Münster and organs in nearby towns provided many musical delights for the group. In Thierachern the cows (with their variously tuned bells) grazing outside the village church were as of much interest to visitors as was the 1996 Kuhn reconstruction of an 1809 Schneider 1813 Callinet reconstruction by Metzler, Porrentruy.
organ inside the church! In Lyss the wonderful 1996 Kuhn organ replaced a previous instrument destroyed when a helicopter fell onto the church. We found this a rather novel way for a church to get a new organ!

Traveling to the French speaking part of Switzerland, we visited Fribourg Cathedral (organ by Mooser, 1834 — known to Mendelssohn; and the recently restored 1657 Manderscheidt choir organ — a real treasure). Lausanne brought the stunning 5-manual, 101-rank Kuhn (1995) at Eglise Saint-François, and the 1915 organ by Dalstein & Haerpfer at Eglise Saint-Jean de Cour with its Albert Schweitzer connection: he advised on this organ’s design, and played here in 1925. Louis Vierne played here while he was living in Lausanne and recuperat-
ing from eye surgery. The Swiss Organ Museum in the village of Roche is full of instruments and parts of instruments - most in playable condition - both important and curious. Included are a reproduction of a hydraulis from Alexandria (Egypt), the console of the former organ (played by Marcel Dupré) from the Monastery in Muri has three historic organs as well as reproductions of two other organs formerly located in it. ABOVE: on the left is the 1665 Schnyder 1-8 and, on the right, the 1677 M. M. Von Zuben 1-16. BELOW: in the West gallery is the Metzler reconstruction of the 1630 Schuff/1744 Bossard 2-34.
Victoria Hall in Geneva, a collection of player organs of all sizes and shapes (many being tiny toys containing organ pipes which play), small functioning organs built by Swiss school children, and other delights. A tour through the Château de Chillon proved a most enjoyable side event.

One of the highlights of the tour for me and for many in the group was the visit to Sion to see the gothic (c.1430) organ. We were given the unexpected surprise of being permitted to play this organ following the demonstration. The steep, rugged climb up to the ancient cathedral was well worth the walking effort required in order to hear and play the oldest working organ in the world.

The long (over 11-hour) bus journey from Montreux (where we stayed for two nights) to Chur was crowned by spectacular alpine views from the mountain passes we crossed. The heavy clouds lifted on cue! In Chur, the 1868/1918 Kuhn/Goll organ in the Martinskirche is a superb example of German Romantic organ building. Crossing the Bernina Pass brought us to a charming valley in the Italian part of Switzerland where we saw and played a 1787 Serassi family organ in the village of Brusio.

Above: 1995 Kuhn 5-101 at St-François, Lausanne, in case from 1776, extended in 1866/1880 by E. F. Walcker. Below: 1715 J. C. Leu organ at the Klosterkirche in Rheinau. The organ was rebuilt in 1841 by Friedrich Haas and in 1941 and 1990 by Th. Kuhn. Below, right: In honor of Haas, hasen bathe in the Nachtigal mechanism.

At the former Jesuit church in Porrentruy, Jürgen Ahrend built in 1985 this 2-30 copy of the 1730 G. Silbermann in Glauchau, Germany.
The village of Maienfeld brought us into the heart of Heidi country. One of the little shops across the street from the church we visited certainly did very well from many on the tour with sales of yodelling toy cows and various Heidi souvenirs.

We paid homage to Josef Rheinberger in Liechtenstein at his monument, his grave brought here from Munich, and his home parish church. After Martin Weyer's demonstration, Bruce Stevens, who has made a study of and recorded many of Rheinberger's organ works, played some of this composer's music on the now greatly altered organ which had been designed by Rheinberger.

The OHS Tour ended in Winterthur with a visit to another superb German Romantic organ, this one by Walcker (1888) built for the Stadtkirche. The case of this organ, seen on the cover of this magazine, was built in 1768 by Karl Joseph Riepp as part of the Liebfrauen-Orgel in the former monastery church of Salem. It was moved to the Winterthur church in 1809, where it was rebuilt in 1836-9 by Aloys Mooser and the Riepp rückpositiv was removed. A few years later, Aloys' son Maurice Mooser incorporated the Riepp rückpositiv as the center section of the case for a new organ he built for the parish church of St. Laurent in Charmey. The history of the Riepp case was discovered by Dr. François Seydoux in 1997 when the organ was rebuilt and reconstructed by Th. Kuhn in 1997. The organ had been substantially altered in 1898 and 1946. The Charmey organ was also visited by OHS.
PIPEDREAMS A program of music for the king of instruments

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American Muse . . . colorful contemporary repertoire, including two world premieres, recorded during the 44th National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Denver.


GERALD NEAR: Concerto for Organ and Orchestra (1998, premiere) – Mary Preston, o. Colorado Sym Orch/Mark Foster, cond (r. 7/1/98; MPR tape)


Program No. 0117  4/23/2001
Frankly Unexpected. . . some unusual pages from among the works of famous 19th-century reformer of the French organ scene, Cesar Franck.

FRANCK: Piece heroïque (with ‘fanfare finale’, 1878) - François-Henri Houbart (1845 Cavaillé-Coll/Church of the Madeleine, Paris) Pierre Verany

FRANCK (arr. Guggemos/Guggenberg): Andantino in g - Wolfgang Guggenberg, tpt; Anton Guggemos (1995 Schlicker/Mount Olive Church) (r. 7/2/98; MPR tape)

FRANCK: Offertoire in E-flat -Joris Verdin (1865 Alexandrine harmonium) Ricercare CD-075057

Program No. 0115  4/9/2001
This Joyful Eastertide . . . from four centuries, sonorous and splendid variations on seasonal themes.

JOHN RUTTER: Variations on an Easter Theme -Melanie Ninnemann, Helen Jensen (1981 Möller/Minneapolis Presbytery Church, Minneapolis, MN) Ten Thousand Lakes CD-112 (612-332-3421; www.wpc-mpls.org)

LODEWIJK de VOCHT: Oester Flowers -Cristel de Meulder, s. ALPHONSE MAILLY: Paques Fleuries -Jan van Mol (880 Cavaillé-Coll/JSuit Church, Heverlee, Belgium) Pavane CD-7431 (OHS)

JOHANN MICHAEL BACH: 5 Easter Chorale-preludes (In dich habe ich gehoffet; Von Gott will ich nicht lassen; Warum betrübst du dich; Wenn mein Stündlein allein; O Gott, du dich) -Franz Haselböck (1773 Pfüleger/Altenburg Abbey) Hänsler Classic CD-98.358 (PRMS; www.prms.org)


J. S. BACH: Chorale & Prelude, Christ lag in Todesbanden (Joseph Payne (1778 Malleck/St. Martin’s Cathedral, Eisenstadt, Austria) Centaur-2481 (OHS)

JOHANNE PACHELBEL: Christ lag in Todesbanden -Joseph Payne (1778 Malleck/St. Martin’s Cathedral, Eisenstadt, Austria) Centaur-2481 (OHS)

JENS RAMSING: Partita, Christ lag in Todesbanden -Jens Ramsing (1996 Frobenius/Church of Our Lady, Copenhagen) Point CD-3129 (OHS)

J. S. BACH: Chorale & Prelude, Christ lag in Todesbanden -Fynke Chamber Choir; Kevin Bowyer (1987 Marcussen/St. Hans Lutheran Church, Odense, Denmark) Nimbus CD-34578 (OHS)


Program No. 0114  4/2/2001
A Portrait of Paul Manz . . . we visit with the “dean” of America’s Lutheran organists, whose inspired, improvisational hymn festivals have touched the spirits of hundreds of thousands of music lovers from coast to coast. Now in his 82nd year (born 1919), Dr. Manz continues with his enthusiastic love of music as vibrant prayer.

PAUL MANZ: Hymn Improvisation Suite in C (Jesus Christ, my sure defense; I will sing my maker’s praises; O Lord, how shall I meet thee) -Paul Manz (Schlicker/Mount Olive Church) Manz Music CD-921 (see above)

PAUL MANZ: Hymn Improvisation Suite in F (Now thank we all our God; O God, through faithful God; What Good ordains; Now sing we, now rejoice; All praise to God, who reigns above) -Paul Manz (Schlicker/Mount Olive Church) Manz Music CD-921

FLOR PEETERS: Aria. PAUL MANZ: Blessed Jesus, at thy word -Paul Manz (Schlicker/Mount Olive Church) Manz Music CD-2021

FLOR PEETERS: Hymn to the Sun, fr Lied 728 -Paul Manz (Schlicker/St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL) Archive LP (r. 1/20/63)

PAUL MANZ: Aria -Timothy Smith (1953 Aeolian-Skinner/Riverhead, NY) JAV-107 (OHS)

PAUL MANZ: Hymn-Improvisation, O that I had a thousand tongues -Paul Manz (Schlicker/Mount Olive Church) Manz Music CD-921

PAUL MANZ: Hymn Festival Improvisation, Praise God, Praise Him -Congregation of the LCA Minnesota Synod; Paul Manz (1963 Hilgreen-Lane/Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN) MPR tape (r. 6/6/86)

PAUL MANZ: Hymn Festival Improvisation, Lord, Thee I love with all my heart. MANZ: Anthem, E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come -Valparaiso University Chorale/Christopher Crock, cond.; Paul Manz (1964 Schlicker/Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN) ALCM-04 (800-624-2526)

PAUL MANZ: Hymn-Improvisation, How brightly shines the morning star -Paul Manz (Schlicker/Mount Olive Church) Manz Music CD-921

The 1883 Hook & Hastings Op. 1169, St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, Hillsborough, North Carolina, will be played by Grant Helmers on Wednesday, June 27, during the OHS Convention.

OHS Convention 2001
North Carolina, June 21-28
Registration Information Will Be Sent to OHS Members in April
see www.organsociety.org/conventions