



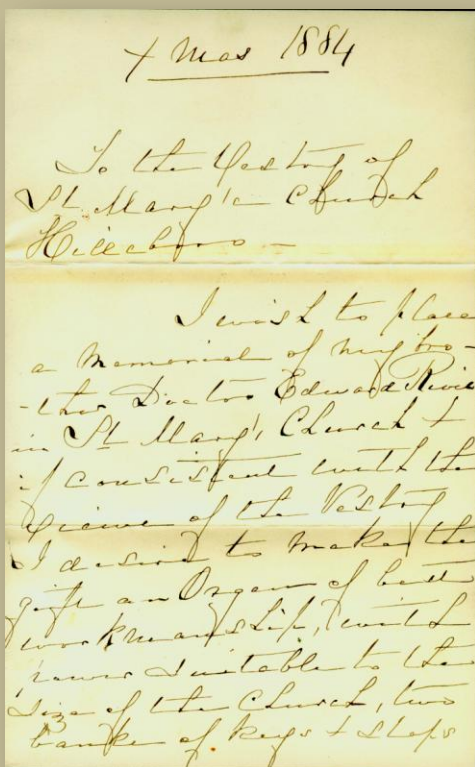
History of St. Mary's Episcopal Church Pipe Organ

The Episcopal Church came to Hillsboro more than one hundred fifty years ago. Episcopal services were first held in the Hillsboro Court House, presumably in the Court Room. At the

suggestion of Isaac Sams, "St. Mary's" was adopted as the name of the new parish, and a committee appointed to solicit subscriptions for the purpose of erecting a church building. In 1854, it was resolved to build a church edifice upon a lot bought from Mathew Lane. The cost of the new church was \$12,000 and was consecrated on October 25, 1855.

From that time until 1885, it is unknown what type of instrument provided music for services at the young St. Mary's. It is known that there had been an Estey pump organ in the chapel in later years and there is speculation that this had been used in the sanctuary at one time, however the official record states there had been no organ in the church.

The first Cincinnati organ builder of more than local note was German born Matthias Schwab (1808-1862) who had arrived in the city in 1831. In 1860, he apparently relinquished ownership of his factory at Sycamore and Schiller to several partners, principally to Johann Heinrich Koehnken (1819-1897) and Gallus Grimm (1827-1897). Saxon born Koehnken arrived in Cincinnati in 1839. In 1860, he established Koehnken and Company. Grimm served as an apprentice to German organ builders before moving to Cincinnati in 1853. The official name was changed to Koehnken & Grimm in 1876. For forty years, the firm had a virtual monopoly in this part of the country.



Vestry minutes from December 28, 1884 show the following letter copied into the record:

*To the Vestry of St. Mary's Church, Hillsboro:
I wish to place a memorial of my brother Dr.
Edward Rives in St. Mary's church, if consistent
with the views of the Vestry. I desire to make the
gift an organ of best workmanship, with power
suitable to the size of the church, two banks of*

keys and stops and pedals sufficient for the most elaborate church music. I would wish this condition entered upon your minutes, that the organ shall be exclusively for the use of St. Mary's Church, and in case the church shall become extinct, it shall revert to my heirs. Hoping that my desire to memorialize one so dear to me will find response in your hearts, I am very Respectfully yours,
Margaret Rives King

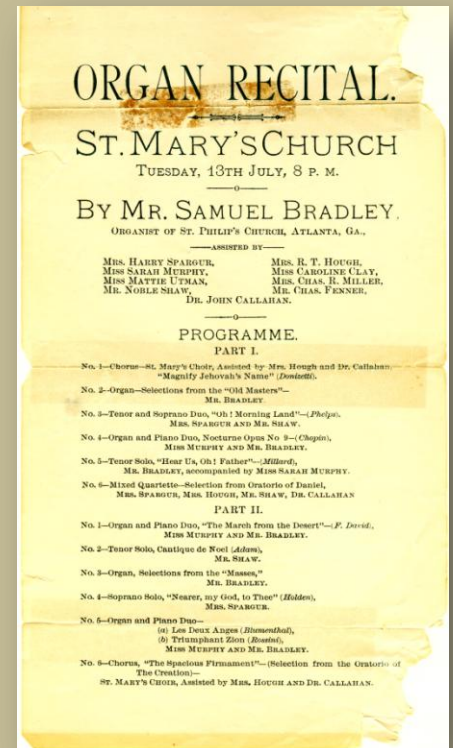
The Vestry voted to accept the offer, agreeing to the stipulated condition. The Rector at the time was the Reverend Edward Bradley and the organ was blessed and used for the first time on August 20, 1885.

The program to the right is from 13 July 1886.

There has not been found a stop list of this original organ, however we know it was a tracker action organ with the

console located
connected to the
instrument. A
photograph of
the instrument

taken in 1933 before being rebuilt shows the facade pipes were a mixture of wood and metal and were decoratively painted. Inspection of the floor area on the south side of the organ shows the location of the original console. No further information on the organ is found in the minutes until October of 1911 when mention is made of "repairs to organ and church," but on October 7, 1924, the organ was again reported to be in a state of disrepair. The next mention appears on May 3, 1926, when the Vestry decided that "Mr. Rimmer a Pipe Organ specialist from Cincinnati" was to be consulted. (This may have been John Rimmer, who was in the Koehnken & Grimm line of succession.) Two weeks later repairs were authorized amounting to \$150.





On May 9, 1933, "Mrs. Meta Wright, Organist, appeared before the Vestry and presented for their consideration the matter of repairing or rebuilding the church organ. . . . She pointed out defects and showed the need for repairs, stating that in its present condition she feared it would fail or become unusable at some special service. . . ." The following month M. P. Möller's proposal for rebuilding the organ at a cost of \$3500, based on

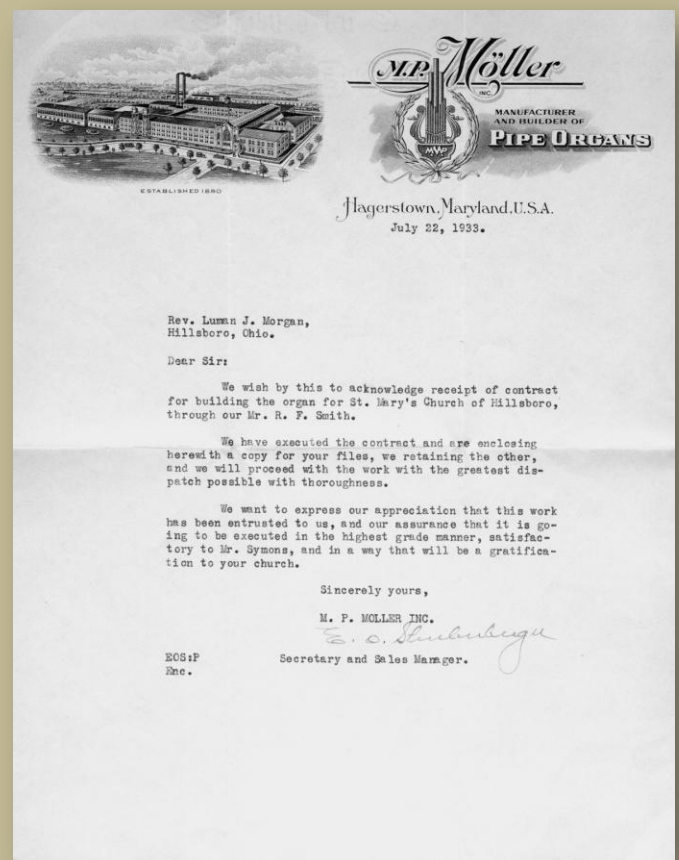
specifications drawn up by Prower Symons of Cincinnati was accepted. (Letter from M. P. Möller acknowledging receipt of the contract shown.) Approximately \$3000 of the amount came from a legacy in the will of Frank W. Armstrong. The organ was rededicated Christmas 1933.

Saint Mary's Church
Hillsboro, Ohio
Presents
INAUGURAL PROGRAMME ON THE ORGAN
OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH
--- by ---
PROWER SYMONS, M. A., F. A. G. O.
SUNDAY, MAY SIXTH
Nineteen Hundred Thirty-four, at 5:00 P. M.

Procession from "Scipio"	Handel
Hymne a Ste. Cecelia	Ch. Gounod
Suite Gothique:	
a. Introduction	
b. Menuet Gothique	Boellmann
c. Priere a Notre Dame	
Gavotte "Mignon"	Ambroise Thomas
Adagietto from "l'Arlesienne"	Geo. Bizet
Air, "Varie," from "Overture in D"	Jos. Haydn
Traume (Dreams) (Tone Poem)	R. Wagner
Largo	Handel
Prayer and Cradle Song	Alex. Guilman
Angelic Voices	Edw. Batiste
Passe-pied, air in the ancient style	Gillet
Cradle Song in D	W. Spinney
Finale--Sonata in D	A. L. Pease

The Congregation will please refrain from applause
at any time in the Church.
An offering will be taken during an interval in the recital
to help defray expenses.
Organ Architect—Prower Symons
Organ Builder—M. P. Möller, Inc.

The organ has two manuals, twenty-five stops, and full radiating-concave pedal-bank. Both organs are enclosed and under expression. There are nine hundred and ninety-six speaking pipes in the organ.



(at left)

"Inaugural Programme on the Organ of St. Mary's Church" presented by Prower Symons Sunday, 6 May 1934

In 1979 the organ again needed some attention in the form of cleaning and re-leathering of the air valves. This work was performed by the A.W. Brandt Company (Columbus, Ohio). At this time, five ranks of new pipes were added and 19 of the facade pipes were winded to speak from the lower 19 notes of the new 8 foot pedal principal stop.

In 1997, three months of work was completed by the Gary L. Mason Pipe Organ Service of Jeffersonville, Ohio, including some releathering and some preservation of leather, cleaning and faulty magnet replacement and ductwork. In addition, cleaning of a mold problem was completed.

In August of 2008, a contract was signed with the Muller Organ Company of Croton, Ohio to rebuild the console of the organ. In July of 2009, the console was removed to the Muller facility where the cabinet was cleaned and repairs made as necessary. New interior wood accents were constructed and finished to match the existing wood. There is a new lighted glass music rack as well as a new pedalboard light and indicator lights for wind, crescendo and sforzando

functions. New tracker touch keyboards were installed as well as a new pedalboard.

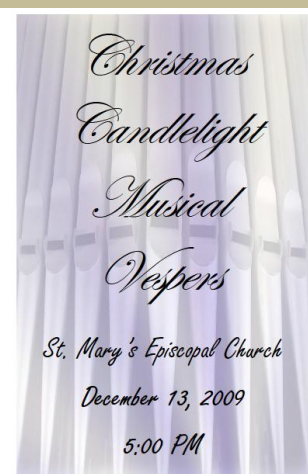
A new integrated control system, built by Peterson Electro-Musical Products provides features such as: 100 levels of memory with digital display and sequencing capability, record/playback, transposer and midi capability. The new console has all new draw knobs and coupler tabs as well as ten general pistons and six for each of the Swell, Great and Pedal divisions. The general and Pedal division pistons are duplicated by toe studs. Coupler capabilities were also increased (a coupler enables one division's pipes to be played on a different keyboard.)

In addition to the console wiring, all wiring and switching



systems were replaced inside the organ. The six large cables which previously carried signals from the console to the organ were replaced by a single wire only slightly larger than a home telephone wire. In short, 1933 technology was replaced by 21st Century technology. The console was returned to the church in August and when reinstalled, was rotated 90° counterclockwise and raised up to the chancel floor level.

The first major program on the newly rebuilt console was given by John M Glaze, Organist at St. Mary's on 13 Dec 2009.



The current stop list of St. Mary's Pipe Organ:

Great

8' Open Diapason
8' Melodia
8' Dulciana
4' Principal
4' Chimney Flute
2' Fifteenth
2 2/3' Twelfth
III Mixture
8' Hautbois (Sw)
Tremolo

Swell

16' Bourdon
8' Stopped Diapason
8' Salicional
4' Principal
4' Flute Harmonique
4' Flute D'Amour
4' Fugara
2' Piccolo
2 2/3' Nazard
1 3/5' Tierce
8' Hautbois
4' Hautbois Clarion
Tremolo

Pedal

16' Bourdon
16' Echo Bourdon (Sw)
8' Echo Flute (Sw)
8' Principal
4' Principal
8' Hautbois (Sw)

Sources:

Music In Ohio, William Osborne, The Kent State University Press

"The Centennial Celebration of St. Mary's Episcopal Church" (1955)

"The Story of a Koehnkēn & Grimm" Pat Wegner, The Tracker, Journal of the Organ Historical Society, Winter, 1973