

M.P. Möller
Hagerstown, MD
(1894)
Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc.
Warrensburg, MO
(2001)

The organ, obtained through the Organ Clearing House, came from the Crawford Road Christian Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Its origins are somewhat uncertain. The nameplate, described by the late Alan Laufman as "unique", is silver and reads, "M. P. MÖLLER/HAGERSTOWN, MD." The instrument, which does not appear to match any instrument on the Möller opus list, is signed inside the reservoir: "Made by Henry Asler/Sept. 1894/Hagerstown/Maryland/ Möller Organ Co." The approximate date is confirmed by the use of issues from 1891-92 of the *Hagerstown Daily Mail*, *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Baltimore Sunday Herald* to line the inside of the reservoir. The Crawford Road Christian Church cannot have been its original home, since the foundation stone of the building was dated 1907. The congregation apparently moved to Crawford Road from an earlier building of 1883 on Cedar Avenue, about a mile away. Wherever it may have been originally, it appears that the instrument was in Cleveland not long after the 1907 church was built, since a sheet of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* dated November 1912 was used to shim a slipped stopper in the Pedal Bourdon.

This is a most unusual instrument in many respects. It is extraordinarily compact, being 8'9" wide at the front, 10' wide at the rear, 5' deep and 12' high. Some parts of the instrument are marked "No. 6", and the late Alan Laufman suggested that this might be a model number from some early Möller catalog of model organs. No catalog earlier than 1898 is known, however, so there is no way of verifying this hypothesis. ("No. 6" is certainly not an opus number, since if there were it would be somewhere around Opus 120.) In order to achieve the compact layout, there are a number of unusual features such as that the pedal roller board is part of the floor frame, the pedal pipes form the side façade of the instrument, access to the swellbox was originally through a trapdoor in the top, etc.

Tenor F of the Open Diapason is signed "Henry Clarke/Hagerstown, Maryland/1894", in such a way as to suggest that the inscription was made when the metal was still flat, and was

thus done by the pipemaker rather than the voicer. Rick Morrison notes that Henry Clarke is found on an 1895 list of Möller employees, and also suggests that this may have been one of the earliest organs for which the Möller company made their own pipework. All the metal ranks are either signed "M.P. Möller" in the familiar script of the later Möller logo, or initialed "M.P.M.", suggesting that the Great Dane himself may have voiced the instrument. (The Möller firm was still, of course, very small in 1894, with only around twenty employees, so Mr. Möller doubtless took a more "hands-on" approach to organ building than he was later able to.) The metal pipework is "spotted and slotted", the spotted metal containing an unusually high proportion of tin and being hardened with a considerable quantity of antimony. The single rise reservoir (which was still holding wind with its original 106 year-old leather when taken apart) has been re-leathered and the two feeders have been reinstated to allow both hand and electric blowing. The original pitch and pressure of the instrument proved impossible to determine, but since it was necessary to fit tuning slides to stabilize the brittle high-antimony pipework the opportunity has been taken to set the pitch at A=440. (The original was probably something near to A=450.) The pipework seems very happy on a pressure of 3½". The apparently unique Viola Diapason is constructed and scaled as an Open Diapason, but voiced to give a slightly stringy tone.

The fine dark oak casework has been refinished. Some modification of the instrument has been required to suit it to its new home in Tulsa. Originally the longest façade pipe was in the middle, but the façade has been rearranged with the longest pipes at the sides to avoid obstructing the rose window. The façade pipes were originally painted an unbecoming green color and stenciled in red, gold and white. The stencils have not been reinstated and the façade is now painted gold. The original façade pipes were damaged beyond repair, and have been replaced. (The stencil designs were, however, removed from the original façade pipes and retained so that they might be reinstated at some future date if desired.) The Great Dulciana has been replaced by a new spotted metal 2' Fifteenth. The original Dulciana is in storage. An additional 8' Trumpet stop has been added to the Swell, using a re-belled and revoiced Möller rank, and placed on a new slide clamped on at the back of the Swell chest.

John L. Speller
Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc.

ORIGINAL SPECIFICATIONS

GREAT ORGAN (C-c^{'''}, 61 notes)

Open Diapason

8 ft. (C-D# stopped wood façade, E-e zinc façade, f-c^{'''} metal inside)

Melodia

8 ft. (C-e stopped wood, f-c^{'''} open wood)

Dulciana

8 ft. (C-e grooved to Melodia, f-c^{'''} metal)

Principal

4 ft. (metal)

SWELL ORGAN (C-c^{'''}, 61 notes)

Viola Diapason TF

8 ft. (metal)

Stop'd Diapason TF

8 ft. (stopped wood)

Salicional TF

8 ft. (metal)

Stop'd Diapason Bass

8 ft. (C-e, stopped wood)

Flute d' Amour

4 ft. (stopped wood)

Tremolo

PEDAL ORGAN (C-d', 27 notes)

Bourdon

16 ft. (stopped wood)

COUPLERS

Swell to Great

Great to Pedal

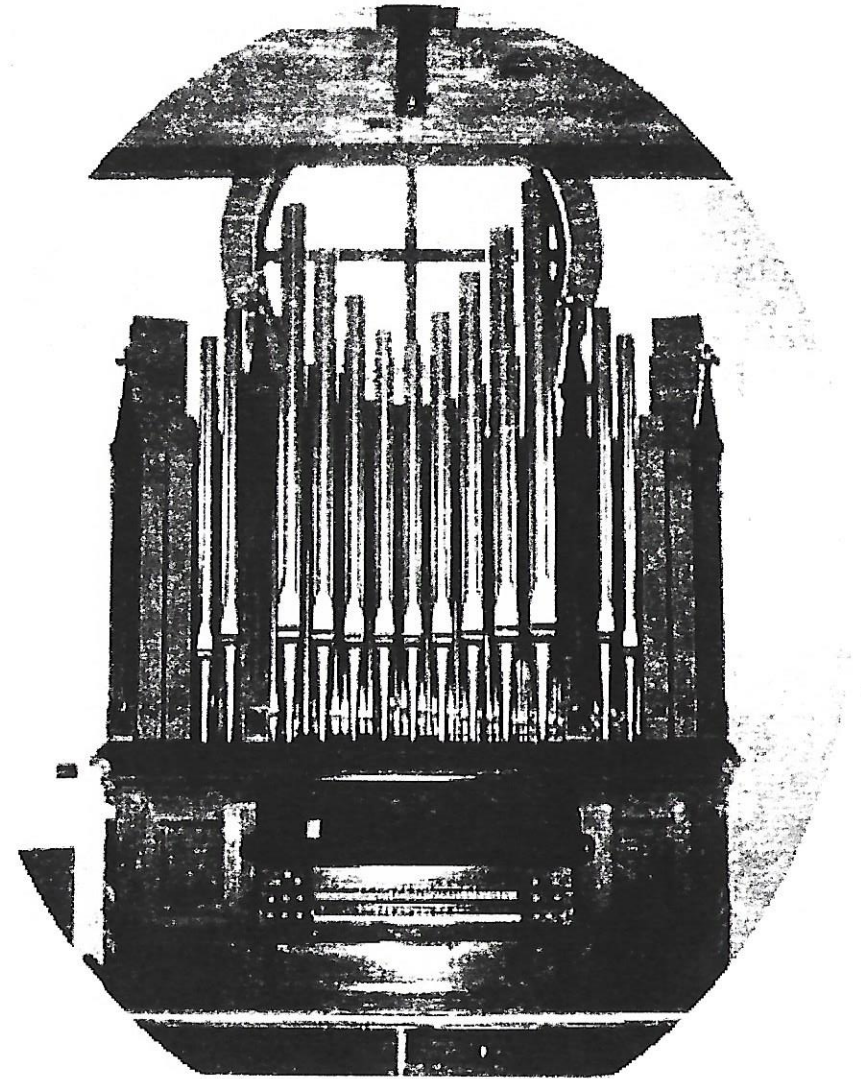
Swell to Pedal

Pedal Check

Bellows Signal

Balanced Swell Pedal

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH



Tulsa, Oklahoma