

**The Pipe Organ
of
St. Peter Church
Rutland, Vermont**

This monument of rare art, celebrating the life of the prolific parish builder, Fr. Charles Boylan; actually began around 1870 when the instrument was installed in Hanson Place Methodist Episcopal Church on St. Felix St. in Brooklyn, N.Y. by Reuben Midmer.

In 1886, the firm of Hook and Hastings of Boston took the instrument as partial payment for a much larger organ they were installing. It was common practice for churches to do this as the needs of the era grew; that is, acquire a new instrument under trade and incentives. In the 1880's, Hook and Hastings led the nation in such sales.

A most noteworthy fact was revealed on a pipe in the Great division (lower keyboard) stating "James Manderville and associate Andrew Maag revoiced and tuned Midmer's organ." Of less significance is the imprint "C. Reilly" found on the Vox Humana 8' pipes in the Swell division (top keyboard). These specialty pipes were most likely supplied by him for the original construction, a common practice even today.

In June 1887 the organ was installed in St. Peter's, both the building and instrument being 15 years old. Air supply was provided by steam engine and the stop and key action was governed by a very complex system of wooded pulleys and connections called tracker action.

The organ contained 21 ranks of pipes, placed in 3 divisions; encased in a cabinet of black walnut 21 ft. wide, 7 ft. deep, and 23 ft. high. The cost was less than \$2,500.00; the cost of a 3 tenement house in 1887 Rutland.

Fifty-four years after its installation, the swell division was moved; a new console and electro-pneumatic action replaced the old controls and a new electric blower engine was connected up to the wind chests.

In the early 1970's a study was made to determine further maintenance and improvements. To date all existing pipes have been cleaned and fitted with new tuners. The wind supply has been upgraded and strengthened, and a new console to accommodate planned expansion has been installed.

The first addition of the multi-rank Mixture in the Great division, comes to us from the organ of the Old North Church in Boston.

Submitted by,
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September 28, 1993.