

## J.B. DIDINGER & CO. (1894); "presented" Saturday afternoon, March 31, 1894

Smith Memorial Chapel  
Glen Mills, Delaware County

"A Fine Memorial Organ / The House of Refuge the Recipient of a Beautiful Instrument," *The (Philadelphia, Pa.) Times* No. 6,763 (Sunday, April 1, 1894): 7.

### A FINE MEMORIAL ORGAN

The House of Refuge the Recipient of  
a Beautiful Instrument.

A large number of prominent Philadelphians journeyed out to Glen Mills, Delaware county, yesterday afternoon to be present at the exercises attending the presentation of a handsome pipe organ to the House of Refuge at that place. The instrument is the gift of Mrs. John F. Combs in memory of her father, John F. Smith.

The visitors from Philadelphia went on a special train, reaching the Smith Memorial Chapel, in which the new instrument is erected, in time for the exercises at 3 o'clock. City Treasurer George D. McCreary made the presentation on behalf of Mrs. Combs. In his speech he advised the boys of the institution in a kindly manner, drawing lessons for them from the honor in which Mrs. Combs holds her father's memory.

James V. Watson, on behalf of the Board of Managers, accepted the gift. During the afternoon a musical entertainment was given under the direction of Shephard K. Kollock, with the accompaniments rendered on the new instrument.

The organ was built by J. B. Didinger & Co. and contains several novelties, both in mechanical construction and tone. It consists of eighteen speaking stops, eight accessory registers and eight mechanical movements, nearly 1,000 pipes. A very important and unique feature of the organ is that there are no trackers in the whole instrument, it being built with an improved tubular pneumatic system, which renders the touch as light as that of a piano, even when the manuals are coupled, as these couplers work pneumatically and do not affect the keys.

There is none of the rattling noise so noticeable in an organ built with tracker action, and the response is wonderfully prompt and the repetition as quick as could be wished. The voicing of the various registers is particularly fine and characteristic, the solo stops are of beautiful tone; the dignified power of the full organ without harshness, and the perfect blending of the whole into an agreeable and massive tone, yet not lacking in brilliancy, are all noteworthy features.