

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE 1883 BARCKHOFF ORGAN IN ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH, LOGANSPORT, INDIANA

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The Barckhoff organ in St. James Lutheran Church of Logansport, Indiana, is very well documented. The article about it in the *Organ Atlas 2007: Central Indiana Region*, which detailed the instruments heard by members of the Organ Historical Society during the OHS National Convention 2007, includes a history of the Church and its organs.¹ The Logansport Barckhoff organ's pipe scales are provided in the Pipe Organ Database of the Organ Historical Society.²

A question remains, however, about the original form of one of the stops in the Swell division. That stop, presently a 2' Principal, was provided with 8' Aeoline pipes in 1946, as recorded in the Church's Centennial booklet of 1948.³ However, it has been unclear what had constituted that stop when the organ was built and first installed in the Church in 1883.

Keith Williams has provided convincing evidence that the stop was originally a 2' stop.⁴ I believe that it is safe to conclude further that this particular stop was originally a 2' Piccolo. Two statements from Church members provide evidence of this fact. As well, a 2' Piccolo would have been the norm on a Barckhoff organ of this size built during that period of his activity.

¹ Stephen J. Schnurr, Jr., with Keith Williams, "St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, Logansport, Indiana," in the *Organ Atlas 2007: Central Indiana Region* (Richmond, Va.: Organ Historical Society Press, 2007), 243-246.

² Keith Williams, "Technical Description of the Organ," 2009-03-09, database.organsociety.org/documents/IN/Logansport.StJamesLuth.1883Barckhoff.TechDescrip.pdf (accessed 7 July 2013).

³ *St. James Lutheran Church Centennial 1848-1948* (Logansport, In.: published by the congregation, 1948), 17.

⁴ Keith Williams, "The Once and Future 2'," 2009-03-09, database.organsociety.org/documents/IN/Logansport.StJamesLuth.1883Barckhoff.OnceFutureTwoFt.pdf (accessed 7 July 2013).

I. STATEMENTS IDENTIFYING THE SWELL STOP IN QUESTION

As part of a research trip to study Barckhoff organs in Ohio and Indiana, I visited St. James Lutheran Church in Logansport on 6-7 July 1978. At that time, St. James Administrative Secretary Darla Burkhart Ward provided the phone number of Meribah Kraut, who had been pictured in the Church's Centennial Booklet as the organist of St. James. In a phone conversation Mrs. Kraut (subsequently named Meribah Kraut Ponemon), who at that time lived in Florida in retirement, talked about the history of the organ. Regarding the installation of the 8' Aeoline stop in the Swell but not naming a specific person, Mrs. Kraut exclaimed emphatically, "They stole the Piccolo pipes."⁵ Because her statement was her initial response to my question about the Aeoline stop, her mention of the Piccolo pipes struck me as being particularly telling.

Another piece of evidence is found in the files of St. James Lutheran Church, where a note also identifies the stop.⁶ Handwritten in block letters, all capitals, and signed in cursive, the note is reproduced here with the organ stop names as spelled in the note and with the original lines and dashes. The date written on the note does not include a year.

PASTOR -- AS PER PHONE CALL
TODAY 8/2

WHEN -- _____
TOOK PICOLO OUT
SOUTH BEND --
A-O-LENE IS IN
PICOLO HOLE

JACK RICE

{signed} Doranne

⁵ The author's notes on this conversation are documented in personal research papers which were sent to the American Organ Archives on 28 November 2006. At the time of this writing, those papers are apparently in storage and are consequently not accessible for reference.

⁶ Doranne Kraut Heimlich, untitled note to unspecified pastor, photocopy supplied by Darla Burkhart Ward, Administrative Secretary of St. James Lutheran Church, from the Church's files.

The signer of the note, Doranne Kraut Heimlich, is the daughter of the former organist Meribah Kraut Ponemon. Jack Rice was at one time an organist of St. James Church and could well have been cited in the note as a potential source for the information the pastor was seeking. Doranne Kraut Heimlich thinks that the Piccolo pipes were either given or sold for placement in an organ in South Bend.⁷

II. BARCKHOFF ORGANS OF SIMILAR SIZE AND VINTAGE

Just as a 2' Piccolo or a 2' Flautino would have been found in a typical organ of this size built by many American organ builders in the 1880s, it would have been standard in a Barckhoff organ. In fact, other Barckhoff organs speak to this very issue.

In 1884, the year following the installation of the Logansport organ, Barckhoff built an organ of exactly the same size for another Missouri Synod Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church of St. John the Evangelist in Brooklyn, New York. Still extant, the Brooklyn organ contains a 2' Piccolo in the Swell division. The remainder of the specification parallels the Logansport organ precisely, albeit with some variations in the names assigned to equivalent stops [comparing the Logansport stop names with stops which vary slightly in Brooklyn, one finds that the Gt. 8' Viola Di Braccio is an 8' Brarren (Gamba); the Sw. 8' Rohr Flute is an 8' Stopped Flute; the Sw. 4' Harmonic Flute is listed as a 4' Flute d'Amour; the Pedal 16' Sub Basse is named 16' Bourdon]. Like the Logansport organ, the Brooklyn organ is still in use.⁸

Barckhoff's 1888 organ for Trinity Lutheran Church in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, yet another Missouri Synod congregation, was three stops larger. It, too, had a 2' Piccolo in the Swell. Its Great and Pedal stops paralleled the Logansport organ in number, tone quality, and pitch. The three additional stops in Sheboygan were all placed in the Swell: a 16' Lieblich Bourdon, an 8' Viola and a III Dolce Cornet. Even given its expanded Swell division, this organ did not contain an Aeoline.⁹

That these organs of similar size and vintage and built for churches of the same denomination had a 2' Piccolo may offer no proof about the stop in question in

⁷ Darla Burkhart Ward, "Re: Barckhoff Organ," email to author, 13 February 2013.

⁸ David Schnute, "St. John the Evangelist Lutheran Church," www.nycago.org/Organs/Bkln/html/StJohnEvangelistLuthWbrg.html (accessed 12 December 2011).

⁹ www.trinitysheboygan.org/organ2.htm (accessed 10 November 2012).

Logansport, but they do demonstrate that it would be entirely plausible that the stop there was originally a 2' Piccolo.

III. CONCLUSION REGARDING THE SWELL STOP

On the basis of the evidence provided by Mrs. Kraut Ponemon's statement and her daughter's note, and given that it would have been normal to have found one in a Barckhoff organ of this size and of this era for a Missouri Synod Lutheran church, and accounting for the position of the pipes on the chest, as Keith Williams has stated in his previously-cited article, and the placement of the stop knob at the keydesk, I believe that it is reasonable and safe to postulate that the original stop on the Logansport organ was a 2' Piccolo.

IV. DATING THE INSTALLATION OF THE 2' PRINCIPAL

Ann Rehm Hansen, the organist of St. James Lutheran Church, began her tenure there prior to the time when the 2' Principal was installed. She recalls that Steve Hedstrom, affiliated with the Wicks Organ Company, installed the 2' Principal.¹⁰ Darla Burkhart Ward, the Administrative Secretary of the Church, recognized while reading materials in the files of the Church that the 2' Principal was installed between 1987, when a published stoplist included the 8' Aeoline, and 1995, when the 2' Principal was indicated in a then-current stoplist. Her search of the vendors and bills contracts in the Church files turned up the notation on a vendor's card from Mr. Hedstrom that on 14 November 1989 "the final payment on 2' Principal of \$614.31 from the Organ Fund" was made.¹¹

V. REGARDING THE PLAYING ACTION

Not only was the 2' Principal in place, then, when the Wicks Organ Company did other work on the organ following the water damage it received in 1996 following a thunderstorm that damaged the roof of the nave, but the instrument's original wooden trackers had long since been replaced by aluminum trackers.

¹⁰ Darla Burkhart Ward, "Re: Barckhoff Organ," email to author, 14 February 2013.

¹¹ Darla Burkhart Ward, "Re: Draft #2," email to author, 9 July 2013.

The minutes of the Voters' Meeting of St. James Church record discussions during 1971 of work that might be done on the organ by Kurt Roderer of Evanston, Ill. On 15 November 1971 the motion to accept the unanimous recommendation of the Organ Committee to enter into a contract with Mr. Roderer was approved. According to the minutes of that meeting, Mr. Roderer recommended "...major repairs to the organ, to include replacing the present wooden trackers with aluminum, rebuilding the organ bellows and replacing the wooden corners with nylon."¹² The Church files contain the specific proposals and bids of 7 September 1971 from Mr. Roderer.¹³

The 19 March 1972 minutes of the Voters' Meeting include the Pastor's report that work was planned to begin on the organ after Easter of that year, with the hope for completion in time for Confirmation on 29 May.

When the author visited the organ in July 1978, the aluminum trackers were in place.

VI. ADDENDUM ON ANOTHER SUBJECT CONNECTED TO ST. JAMES:

The website of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bremen, Indiana, states:

1881 First organ purchased from St. James
Lutheran Church, Logansport, Indiana.¹⁴

Further information about this instrument is yet to be discovered, but it is reasonable to assume that it is the organ St. James purchased in 1863 and replaced with a new pipe organ in 1881, the organ which was subsequently destroyed in the 1883 fire that led to the rebuilding of the church and the acquisition of the Barckhoff organ.

¹² These minutes and others cited in this article are in the files of St. James Lutheran Church, Logansport, Indiana.

¹³ Photocopies supplied initially by Keith Norrington, and also in the files of St. James Lutheran Church.

¹⁴ stpaulsbremen.org/about-us/history/ (accessed 10 February 2013).

VII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The information contained in this article has been a collaborative effort, with several people generously sharing materials and knowledge which they possessed. Darla Burkhart Ward, the Administrative Secretary of St. James Lutheran Church, has served as a resourceful ally in this study, carefully searching through files, providing source materials that are invaluable, enthusiastically suggesting avenues for research, and checking this submission for accuracy. Ann Rehm Hansen, the organist of St. James, has freely shared knowledge about the instrument that she has happily presided over for more than twenty-five years, in the process helping identify the date the 2' Principal was installed and checking the materials for accuracy. Keith Norrington of New Albany, Indiana, has shared copies of proposals from Kurt Roderer regarding work to be done on the Logansport organ, material which he has saved for decades. I am grateful to them for their exemplary care and for the assistance which they have freely provided.