

Selma, Alabama
St. Paul's P. E. [Episcopal] Church

Frank Roosevelt Organ, Op. 466 (1890)

Documents in Church Archives

1. Photocopy of Inaugural Recital Programme
 - a. No date appears on the program
 - b. Performed by "The Rev. Vardsy McBee, Mus. Doc., Assisted by the Choir."
 - c. The program contains an article, consisting in part of boiler-plate descriptions of the best qualities of Roosevelt organs, about the organ at St. Paul's
 - i. Tracker key and stop action are clearly described in detail.
 - ii. "Roosevelt Patent Chests" are "described as 'tubular pneumatic' in principle, and affording a separate pallet for each pipe."
2. A letter from Orla D. Allen to Dr W. J. Reynolds
 - a. Dated "Jan'y 17th 1919"
 - b. Mr. Allen was a partner with Morton B. Welch engaged in "Pipe Organ Work." They were effectively representatives of the Austin Organ Company during the years following WWI.
 - c. The final paragraph of the letter implies the action of the Roosevelt organ has been electrified. [A copy of the letter is accessible from the Database page.]
3. A letter from Orla D. Allen to Dr W. J. Reynolds
 - a. Dated "Feb'y 18th, 1919"
 - b. The third paragraph mentions work being done in Atlanta on "a large old Roosevelt organ, which your organ originally was before being re-built by Hutchings."
 - c. The same paragraph mentions the possibility of using the "old case and pipes, which in these days of high prices in every line of business and work will effect considerable saving." [A copy of the letter is accessible from the Database page.]
4. A hand-written note dated "Sep. 20 - 1920" records a meeting of the Vestry in which it was decided to purchase a new Austin organ. The Organ Committee was "authorized to dispose of the old organ to best advantage."
5. A hand-written note records the "Specification of the Old St. Paul's Organ."
 - a. Written on low-quality paper, 6.2" x 8.5"
 - b. Initial page and half of second page in pencil; corrections and following description in black ink.
 - c. Contains
 - i. Specification [Stoplist] of the Organ
 - ii. Attribution of the organ to Geo. S. Hutchings Co.
 - iii. Description of the action as "tubular pneumatic"
 - d. [A copy of the note is accessible from the Database page.]