

# THE HILLMAN PIPE ORGAN

I have come across two varying accounts of the history this organ:

1. "St. Luke's-A Parish Profile" Sally Senior (1997), Frank Daniels Pty.Ltd.

This article states that St.Luke's purchased the organ from "Mr. Hillman of Guildford" for 500 pounds in 1924. The article also states "This pipe organ was designed as a house organ, and made by Hill & Son of London in 1892, but at the time was considered to be suitable for a church of the size of St. Luke's. It had been built for Mr. R Cecil Clifton and was regarded as a fine of the organ maker's craft. The case work and stool were the work of Hookem Tchan, a local carpenter of Indian extraction."

2. The Organ Society of WA website includes an account of the history of the pipe organ installed in St. Luke's Church in Mosman Park.

This article states that that the organ was built by Hill & Son, London in 1892 and that it was built for the residence of George Hillman, Perth, but later installed in St. Luke's Church in 1905.

Comments:

George Francis Hillman moved to 236 Adelaide Tce. some time in the 1890's. I do not know if he built the house or if it was an existing house that he purchased. He was admitted to the Bar as a solicitor in 1898 and was appointed Clerk of the Legislative Council in 1902, a position he held until retirement in 1923. Shortly after this he and his family moved to Regent St in Mt. Lawley.

I distinctly remember an old family friend recalling that George Hillman frequently returned late at night from parliamentary sittings and woke the family by playing the organ. The point is that this informant was born about 1905 thus supporting the view that the organ was still at Adelaide Tce. well after 1905.

It seems to me probable that the organ was sold just after his retirement, which fits with the reported move in 1924.

Compiled by Trevor Stoneman, a grandson of George Francis Hillman

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