In addition to funding hundreds of public libraries across the nation, Andrew Carnegie subsidized the purchase and installation of more than 6,000 pipe organs throughout the nation, and at least 200 in the Prairie State. This is the story.
Master and Mansion
From 1898 to 1919, Andrew Carnegie gave $39,172,981 to 1,406 communities to build public libraries through American. At approximately the same time, he funded and helped pay for the installation of more than 8,000 pipe organs in churches around the world, including 207 in Illinois.
Organ builders who manufactured Carnegie organs for Illinois churches

- * Hook and Hastings, Boston, MA
- * Hinners Organ Company, Pekin, IL
- * Johnson & Sons Company, Westville, MA
- * Estey Organ Company, Brattleboro, VT
- * Wicks Organ Company, Highland, IL
- * Austin Organs, Hartford, CT
Carnegie organ distribution in Pennsylvania
Carnegie organ, Virginia, Illinois
First Christian Church, Virginia
(Now Virginia Church of Christ)

Notes on the instrument

The Hook and Hastings pipe organ here in this
sanctuary is an example of the “Tracker-action” which was
used before the advent of electric wiring from the key-
board to the valve in the wind chest at the base of each
pipe. The principle of the tracker is much like that of the
manual typewriter in that the musicians can personally ex-
press a subtle shading of touch and sound from a tracker
instrument.

This organ was built in Boston, Massachusetts in
1907 and then installed in the same fall through a gift
from Andrew Carnegie and his Carnegie Foundation. The
case of the instrument is of “Quarter-sawn” oak. The
organ is composed of two keyboards and a full pedalboard.
The upper manual (swell) is under expression. The lower
manual (great) is without expression.

The organ specifications are as follows:

Swell:
- Oboe 8’
- Flute 4’
- Viola 8’
- Flute 8’

Great:
- Octave 4’
- Dulcet 8’
- Diapason 8’
- 4’ coupled from Swell
- 8’ coupled from Swell

Pedal:
- Subbass 16’
- Swell coupled to pedal 8’
- Swell coupled to pedal 8’
Details, small
Havana Carnegie Library, 1902
Funded by an $8,000 gift from the Carnegie Foundation
First Christian Church, Havana, IL
First Christian Church, Havana, Illinois

View from the pew  View from the bench
Behind the scenes
The console

Visiting organist
Paula talking shop with Havana organist Hugh McHarry
First Christian Church, Petersburg

Carnegie Organ

The keyboard
Petersburg, Illinois

Carnegie Library, 1908

1st Christian Church
First Christian Church, Petersburg
Details of the Hinners organ
Behind the scenes
First United Methodist Church, Mattoon

The new sanctuary

The original Carnegie organ
First Methodist Episcopal Church, Mattoon, 1903

Dedication program

Sanctuary, 1st ME, Mattoon
Program

9:00 a.m.  Informal Greeting.
9:40 a.m.  Public Worship.
          -  Hymn,  -  No. 862
          -  Prayer,  -  Rev. S. H. Whitlock
          -  Scripture.
          -  Scripture Lesson,  -  -
          -  Rev. W. R. Howard
          -  Second Lesson,  -  -
          -  Rev. W. S. Hooper
          -  Anthem.
          -  Sermon,  Bishop J. N. Fitzgerald
          -  Address,  -  Mr. Joseph W. Powell
          -  Dedicatory Services.
          -  Hymn,  -  No. 770.
          -  Benediction,  -  Rev. J. T. Orr
3:00 p.m.  Sunday School Rally.
          -  Song Service.
          -  Prayer,  -  Rev. T. J. Wheat

Three Three-Minute Addresses,  -
          -  J. F. Clearwater.
          -  T. H. Tull.
          -  A. A. White.
          -  Song.
          -  Benediction.
6:00 p.m.  Epworth League Rally.
          -  Led by Mr. S. R. Badgley of
          -  Cleveland, Ohio.
7:00 p.m.  Public Worship.
          -  Organ Prelude.
          -  Hymn,  -  No. 679
          -  Prayer,  -  Rev. I. Villiers
          -  Anthem.
          -  Scripture,  -  Rev. D. W. English
          -  Solo.
          -  Sermon,  -  -  -
              -  Rev. C. B. Spencer, Kansas
              -  City, Mo.
          -  Address,  -  Joseph W. Powell
          -  Hymn,  -  No. 871
          -  Benediction,  -  M. W. Everhart
Mattoon Methodist Church’s Boys Choir