

**GEORGE NORTON ANDREWS
and
CHARLES BACKUS ANDREWS
ORGAN BUILDERS**

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GEORGE NORTON ANDREWS was born in Waterville, Oneida County, New York, October 12, 1832, the son of Alvinza Andrews and Mary Norton Andrews, his wife. As a young man, Mr. Andrews worked with his father, who in 1834 founded a business for the manufacture of Pipe and Parlour Organs, in the home town of Waterville. Later, in 1854, father and son moved their organ factory to Utica, New York, where they built and shipped organs into many states. On September 25, 1856, George N. Andrews was united in marriage to Mary Backus, daughter of Judge Talcott Backus and Nancy Root Backus, his wife, all of Cazenovia, Madison County, New York. Mr. Andrews brought his bride to the home which had been built by his father on Rutger Street, near the organ factory. A note in passing - the organ factory in Utica, which was built on Seymour Avenue, is now occupied by the Buehl Organ Factory.

CHARLES BACKUS ANDREWS, only child of George and Mary Andrews, was born May 26, 1858, at the family home in Utica, New York. At an early age Charles was initiated into the mysteries of organ building, and grew up in the business. On the 3rd of October, 1882, he was united in marriage to Clara Ann Thomas, daughter of David and Eliza Thomas of Utica, New York. Both George and Charles Andrews were proud of their ancestry which they trace back to the Pilgrim Fathers, and then in England back to the time of William the Conqueror, 1066.

In January of 1886, Mr. George Andrews and son Charles, having been assured of a larger field for church organs in the West, moved with their families, including Mrs. Alvinza Andrews, to Oakland, Alameda County, and having found a suitable home and building for their use at 620 - 16th Street, began their business in the new location, having great success in this field. Mr. Andrews specialized in small organs, and although Mr. George Andrews has long ago passed on, his work and that of his father and his son stands as a memorial to honest, efficient and faithful service.

After the death of George Herten Andrews on September 17, 1904, his son carried on the business of building, repairing and tuning organs. During the earthquake of April 18, 1906, many of the churches in which Mr. Andrews worked periodically were destroyed, and having had a desire for many years to become a rancher in a small way, Mr. Charles B. Andrews with his wife moved to Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, California, where they lived happily for many years.

The writer of these few lines, Miss Alice J. Andrews, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Andrews, recently visited Utica, New York, and found organs built long before 1886, still in constant use. The most interesting organ and the oldest which was found was in the Trinity Episcopal Church in Newton, Fairfield County, Connecticut. An organ which was erected in the year 1854 by Mr. Alvinza Andrews. The name plate is still on the organ as evidence of its manufacture, with an additional plate noting that the organ was rebuilt in 1896 by George Jardine and Sons of New York City, New York.

At the present date (August 12, 1948), Mr. Charles Backus Andrews, aged 90 years, is still in good health and living with his daughter, Alice J. Andrews, at 445 San Jose Avenue, Los Gatos, California. Mrs. Andrews passed on August 24, 1947.

A list of organs as far as could be compiled, which were manufactured by "George H. Andrews & Son" is attached, a goodly list and a record of achievement.

Alice J. Andrews

ORGANS MANUFACTURED BY THE FIRM OF
 "A. ANDREWS & SON"
 1856 to 1886

June 4, 1852	Church of the Reconciliation - Utica	\$ 750.00
Mar. 27, 1858	Rev. A. C. Tuttle - Pau Pau, Michigan	350.00
May 6, 1858	Presbyterian Church - Reesville	1,650.00
Mar. 21, 1859	Church of the Ascension - WASHINGTON, D. C.	1,200.00
Nov. 1, 1860	German Lutheran - Rochester	1,280.00
May 28, 1862	Congregational Church - Norwich	575.00
Mar. 26, 1862	Dutch Reform - Mohawk	750.00
Aug. 2, 1862	Methodist Church - Lowville	500.00
Sep. 20, 1862	Episcopal Church - Holland Patent	350.00
Oct. 7, 1862	St. George's Church - Utica	825.00
Apr. 25, 1863	German St. Pauls	701.00
Aug. 1, 1863	Congregational Church - Walton, Delaware Co., N. Y.	550.00
Aug. 21, 1863	Brick Church - Rochester	335.00
Oct. 8, 1863	Central Congregational Church - Brooklyn	1,780.00
Jan. 12, 1864	Salem Church, Chicago, Illinois	860.00
May 7, 1864	Presbyterian Church, Lima, New York	1,200.00
June 1, 1864	Henry E. St. John, Walton, New York	250.00
Aug. 29, 1864	Congregational Church, Jacksonville, Ill.	1,900.00
Oct. 25, 1864	German Evangelistic Lutheran, Zion Church, Syracuse, New York	1,400.00
Dec. 18, 1868	?????	1,750.00
Nov. 23, 1864	Methodist Episcopal Church, West Helen	560.00
Feb. 11, 1865	Presbyterian Church, East Winfield	600.00
May 27, 1865	Reformed Dutch Church, Scuylerville	625.00
June 1865	Our Saviour's Church, Chicago, Illinois	1,000.00
June 8, 1865	Julius Bauer & Co., Chicago, Illinois	800.00
Aug. 16, 1865	Baptist Church, Cortland, New York	1,075.00
June 2, 1874	Baptist Church, Cortland, New York	1,200.00

Dec. 18, 1865	Methodist Episcopal Church, Illion, New York	800.00
Dec. 20, 1865	Methodist Church, Waterville, New York	400.00
Jan. 3, 1866	Universalist Church, Troy, New York	2,400.00
Jan. 25, 1866	Unitarian Church, Rochester, New York	1,300.00
Apr. 5, 1867	St. James Church, Barrington, Mass.	2,400.00
Sep. 20, 1867	Baptist Church, Frankfort	1,500.00
May 26, 1866	East Greenbush, N. D. Church	1,050.00
Nov. 22, 1866	Methodist Episcopal Church, Adams	706.00
Apr. 28, 1868	Presbyterian Church, Danville, New York	1,450.00
July 30, 1869	Presbyterian Church, Richfield Spa	750.00
Aug. 9, 1866	Church Immaculate Conception, Rochester	2,750.00
June 7, 1867	Methodist Episcopal Church, Norwich	1,125.00
Mar. 22, 1868	Chauncey Palmer	1,592.00
Oct. 4, 1866	Methodist Episcopal Church, Illion	1,600.00
Sep. 3, 1867	Baptist Church, Cassville	500.00
Dec. 24, 1869	St. Augustine's Church, Illion	750.00
Dec. 31, 1867	First Universalist Church, Peoria, Illinois	2,600.00
Mar. 12, 1868	First Presbyterian Church, Peoria, Illinois	2,175.00
Sep. 12, 1868	Congregational Church, Franklin, Delaware Co.	1,125.00
Apr. 10, 1868	Methodist Episcopal Church, Canastota Sandries	1,300.00 10.75
Aug. 26, 1868	Universalist Church, Canton	1,600.00
June 22, 1868	Trinity Church, Camden	1,150.00
May 29, 1868	Baptist Church, Morrisville	1,200.00
May 9, 1867	Congregational Church, Granville, Michigan	800.00
May 27, 1867	Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville	1,032.70
Oct. 6, 1869	Wm. Blaikie	410.00
Oct. 28, 1868	Norwich Baptist Church	1,700.00
Jan. 30, 1869	Presbyterian Church, Camden, New York	1,100.00
Apr. 22, 1869	First Congregational Church, Beloit, Wis.	2,500.00

Aug. 20, 1869	Methodist Episcopal Church, Knoxville, Tenn.	\$ 2,500.00
Jan. 4, 1870	Richards & Hovey, Camden, New York	1,240.00
Sep. 1, 1870	Trinity Church, Consterntia	250.00
Sep. 15, 1870	J. M. Hawley, Hawleyville, Conn.	605.00
Nov. 8, 1870	Masonic Lodge, Norwich, New York	575.00
Feb. 20, 1871	First Methodist Episcopal Church - Organ Utica, New York - Court Street Ext.	2,200.00 25.00
Mar. 22, 1870	Corn Hill M. E. Church - Utica, N. Y. - Organ Stool	1,750.00 5.50
Apr. 20, 1870	First Universalist Church, Victor, N. Y.	1,500.00
Aug. 23, 1870	Congregational Church, Jamestown, N. Y.	2,850.00
Jan. 14, 1871	Evangelistical Lutheran Church, Albany	3,825.00
Mar. 1, 1871	Centenary M. E. Church, Syracuse	2,050.00
Mar. 20, 1871	German St. Paul's Church, Utica, New York	1,200.00
Apr. 28, 1871	State Street M. E. Church, Trenton, N. Y.	3,000.00
June 9, 1871	First Baptist Church, Polo, Ill	930.00
May 19, 1871	Anos Rose	110.00
June 17, 1871	Swedish Evangelistical Lutheran Church, Jamestown, N.Y.	1,250.00
Aug. 31, 1871	First Presbyterian Church, Clyde, N. Y.	2,000.00
Sep. 21, 1871	Presbyterian Church, Ashtabula, Ohio	1,500.00
Oct. 31, 1872	Catholic Church, Deerfield	105.00
Nov. 18, 1871	First Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, Iowa	1,870.00
Sep. 13, 1872	St. Paul's Church-Father Barry-Organ Oswego, New York Stool	4,700.00 6.00
Mar. 20, 1871	St. John's Church - Whitesboro	475.00
Mar. 23, 1872	Presbyterian Church, Newark, N. Y.	2,000.00
Apr. 20, 1872	German Evangelical Church, Sandusky, Ohio	870.00
Oct. 1, 1872	Baptist Church, Adams, New York	1,750.00
Nov. 21, 1872	St. Paul's Universalist Church, Little Falls	1,650.00
Jan. 9, 1872	Baptist Church, Oneida	1,735.38
Apr. 24, 1873	Rev. James Hogan, Watertown	2,625.00

May 24, 1873	Reformed Church, Fishkill, New York	\$ 1,200.00
July 20, 1873	Presbyterian Church, Franklin, Delaware County Incidentals	1,000.00 15.00
Aug. 13, 1873	Baptist Church, South New Berlin	1,000.00
Oct. 20, 1873	Reformed Church - Mohawk - Additions	768.87
Mar. 16, 1874	Presbyterian Church, Bridgewater	650.00
Apr. 24, 1874	Presbyterian Church, Oxford, N. T.	1,600.00
Apr. 30, 1875	Presbyterian Church, Illion, New York	2,200.00
June 26, 1875	Bethany Church, Utica, New York	800.00
Oct. 20, 1875	Samuel Church, Norwich	3,150.00
May 25, 1876	Samuel Adams	336.50
Dec. 13, 1875	State Street Methodist Church, Watertown	1,585.00
Nov. 13, 1876	Rev. G. P. Jennings, Syracuse	550.00
Apr. 4, 1877	Edward Mailen, Red Hook	1,450.00
Jan. 25, 1879	Edward Mailen, Red Hook	1,400.00
Oct. 6, 1877	Rev. Jas. Bailey, St. John's Church, Utica	2,293.91
May 29, 1879	Seventh Day Baptist Church, Leonardsville	400.00
Dec. 24, 1879	St. Peter's & St. Paul's Church, Elmira	775.00
May 4, 1882	Methodist Episcopal Church, Essex, New York	300.00
Aug. 5, 1882	St. Patrick's Church, Slayville	600.00
Dec. 30, 1882	Catholic Church, Brushton, New York	575.00
June 13, 1883	Reformed Church, Cicero, New York	260.00
? ? 1883	Masonic Lodge, Fulaski	275.00
May 22, 1885	Methodist Episcopal Church, Chateaugay	600.00
Sep. 25, 1885	Baptist Church, Green, New York	625.00
		<u>\$136,153.61</u>

As of January 30, 1886, Mr. George Norton Andrews, with his wife and mother, his son and his son's family, were located in Oakland, Alameda County, California - the list of organs built while in California is listed elsewhere in these pages.

Alice J. Andrews
August 12, 1948

LIST OF ORGANS MANUFACTURED
by
George Nerton Andrews and son Charles Backus Andrews
From April 24, 1888, to August 27, 1904
Inclusive

Oct. 4, 1888	Church of the Advent, East Oakland	\$ 1,500.00
May 8, 1889	Mrs. N. J. Brittin, Redwood City, California	1,800.00
Aug. 31, 1889	First Methodist Church, Washington Territory	2,480.00
Apr. 17, 1890	First Universalist Church, Oakland	975.00
<u>June 27, 1890</u>	First Methodist Church, Los Gatos	2,249.20
Nov. 7, 1890	Deaf, Dumb & Blind Asylum, Berkeley	2,500.00
Jan. 7, 1891	Crocker Old Peoples Home, San Francisco	1,000.00
Apr. 22, 1891	Masonic Temple, Oakland	1,590.00
Oct. 22, 1891	Church of the New Jerusalem, San Francisco	1,500.00
Feb. 25, 1892	First Baptist Church, Santa Cruz	1,600.00
May 20, 1892	First Unitarian Church, Santa Barbara	2,975.00
June 23, 1893	St. Mary the Virgin, San Francisco	1,800.00
Mar. 17, 1894	St. Peter's Episcopal Church, San Francisco	1,950.00
Oct. 23, 1894	Church of the Ascension, Vallejo	600.00
July 19, 1895	First Baptist Church, Alameda	900.00
Dec. 9, 1895	Centennial or Chester St., Methodist Church, Oakland	965.00
Mar. 11, 1896	First Congregational Church, San Jose	1,575.00
June 6, 1896	St. Anthony's Catholic Church, East Oakland	2,500.00
Nov. 18, 1896	All Hallows Church, San Francisco	900.00
Nov. 8, 1898	Rev. Father Louis Metsger, Albany, Oregon	2,060.00
Sep. 18, 1899	First Presbyterian Church, Santa Rosa	2,350.00
Nov. 5, 1900	St. John's Episcopal Church, Oakland	2,900.00
June 4, 1900	First German Lutheran Church, Alameda	1,129.00
Dec. 12, 1900	First Unitarian Church, Oakland	1,925.00
May 29, 1901	Christ Church, Eureka, California	1,925.00
Jan. 4, 1902	Pilgrim Congregational Church, East Oakland	700.00
Sep. 8, 1902	First Swedish Lutheran Church, Oakland	900.00

Aug. 27, 1904 Cathedral Mission, San Francisco

\$ 1,200.00



The first organ Mr. Andrews built in California was in partnership with Mr. Walley. The organ was erected in St. Luke's Episcopal Church in San Francisco and completed April 24, 1888. After the building of this organ, the partnership was dissolved, but Mr. Andrews continued servicing the organ until it was destroyed in the earthquake of April 18, 1906.

GEO. N. ANDREWS,

(Late A. ANDREWS & SON.)

Organ Manufacturer

No. 17 SEYMOUR AVENUE,

UTICA, N. Y.

The house of GEO. N. ANDREWS, formerly known as A. ANDREWS & SON, has long been favorably known for the excellent tone and durability of their Organs. The late Senior partner, (now deceased,) commenced the business in 1834, since which time, every new improvement has been adopted; every effort made, neither time or money being withheld, to make the house, in all respects, second to none in the country, for furnishing the public with instruments of a *superior character*. With what success their efforts have been attended, may be seen from the numerous Organs supplied by them to Churches in nearly every section of the country, and in the flattering testimonials received from parties using their instruments, a few of which are here annexed.

Every instrument of our manufacture is fully warranted.

ADDRESS,

GEO. N. ANDREWS,

Utica, N. Y.

To whom it may concern:

I desire to say that I have in my Church, an Organ, with two banks of keys, and containing twenty-four stops, built by G. N. ANDREWS, of Utica, N. Y., and consider it in every respect a superior instrument. Its special excellence is in the quality of tone, both in sweetness and volume. This is owing to the special attention bestowed upon the voicing of the pipes, securing a pure bell like tone, unequalled by any other organ builder, so far as my observation extends. In workmanship and mechanism, it is fully equal to the best work of the best builders.

Rev. S. GOODENOUGH,

Canton, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.

PEORIA, ILL., *May 2, 1868.*

MR. G. N. ANDREWS,

Dear Sir:—The Organ you built and put up for us a couple of months ago, gives perfect satisfaction. Competent judges pronounce it the finest instrument in Central Illinois. The casing is beautiful in design and finish. The whole mechanism is a combination of musical excellence in modern organ structure.

The touch is remarkably sensitive; the tone is full, rich and song-like. The multitude of voices are accurately balanced, and flow through the church in grand and sweet harmony. The organ adorns the house; attracts to it, and helps our worship.

Sincerely yours,

J. H. MORRON,
Pastor First Presbyterian Church, Peoria, Ill.

CORTLAND, *Feb. 22, 1869.*

MR. G. N. ANDREWS,

Dear Sir:—I take pleasure in saying to you: the Organ you built for the Baptist Church in Cortland in 1865, is a success; it speaks its own praise; it still remains in tune. Not a shilling has been spent in fixing it, and it needs no fixing. It gives perfect satisfaction. Bass is the glory of an organ, and in this it excels in grandeur and depth of tone.

Yours truly,

A. WILKINS,
Pastor of the Church.

SYRACUSE, *June 3, 1869.*

GEO. N. ANDREWS, Esq.

Dear Sir:—We, the undersigned, came to the conclusion that every man should have what is due to him, therefore, we say that the organ you built for us nearly six years since, gave to the entire congregation the most perfect satisfaction. We used it upwards of four years, until it was burned, and had ample time to test its quality. It was always in order, ready for use, and never gave the trouble by keys sticking, and action getting out of order, so common with most organs. The tone was full, rich, and mellow; the soft stops sweet and beautiful. After the burning of the church, and when we had decided to go at once to work on a new one, it was the unanimous vote of the whole congregation, that you should build our new organ. We would accept no specification from other builders, but gave you the contract.

We have now used the new instrument six months, and if it were possible, are better pleased with it than with the first one. We cheerfully recommend you to those wishing organs, as one whose work cannot be excelled, and as a man from whom all will receive fair dealing. Wishing you success in your business, we remain

Yours truly,

JOHN SHANE, Organist,
JOHN STEIGER, Pres.
ADAM SCHOEN, Sec.

CAZENOVIA, N. Y., *June 13, 1869.*

GEO. N. ANDREWS,

Dear Sir:—The twenty-four stop organ you put up in the Frankfort Baptist Church, is all you promised it to be, a first

class instrument. After listening to it for eighteen months, I can speak knowingly about it. It is well liked and satisfactory in all respects. Much opposition was made at first to so large an instrument, but its clear sweet tones have overcome this and made it a favorite.

Yours,
J. C. WARD,
Pastor Cazenovia Baptist Church,
Late Pastor at Frankfort, N. Y.

TROY, N. Y., *April 10, 1869.*

GEO. N. ANDREWS, Esq.

Dear Sir:—I am requested by the board of Trustees, of the First Universalist Church of this city, to say to you, that the organ which you placed in our church, and which has been in constant use since January 1866, has given entire satisfaction, and that all our society are well pleased with it.

Respectfully yours,
JOHN C. COLE, Clerk.

WEST TROY, N. Y., *March 12, 1869.*

MR. GEO. N. ANDREWS,

Dear Sir:—It gives me pleasure to inform you that the Organ in the North Reformed Church in this place, built by you some eighteen years since, has given satisfaction from the first to the congregation, and, although it is now well along in years, it is “all right,” and bids fair to do good service for fifty years to come.

E. A. MENEELY,
West Troy Bell Foundry.

SHELBYVILLE, IND., *May 5, 1869.*

G. N. ANDREWS, Esq.

My Dear Sir:—Nothing can be more satisfactory than your Organs, exquisite in action, tone, and harmony, they leave nothing to be desired in these respects. And the interior material and workmanship are thoroughly honest.

Yours truly,
C. P. JENNINGS,
Pastor of Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville, Ind.

CAMDEN, *May 10, 1869.*

GEO. N. ANDREWS, Esq:

I have examined your “Organs” recently erected in the Episcopal and Presbyterian Churches in this place, and take this means of expressing my satisfaction with them. They are well and durably built, and in the mechanical parts there are many improvements introduced, which are of great value to the instrument, and which give pleasure to the performer. You have rendered the action in both manual and pedal so noiseless as to overcome a great objection hitherto felt against the organ, and approached very nearly the stillness of the piano action. The tones are full and powerful in the diapasons, soft and sweet in some of the other registers, and possessing throughout that smoothness (so seldom obtained,) without which the several registers will not blend or be in sympathy with each other.

Without losing their individuality the several stops possess this property in a degree I have never seen equaled.

Your arrangement of the pedal-action; your new scale pedal-keys, the appliance for deepening or lightening the touch on the manual, are all valuable and can be appreciated by the player. I commend your work, in that though furnishing your instruments at low prices, *you do not sacrifice quality,*

evidently preferring your good reputation, to a little present gain. I am pleased with your "Organs," and will always be glad to say a good word for them and for you.

Respectfully,

Z. W. MORE,

Oganist, M. E. Church, Camden, N. Y.
NORWICH, Feb. 17, 1869.

MR. GEO. N. ANDREWS,

Dear Sir :—It is now about four months since we commenced using the Organ we purchased of you. During that time we have given it quite a thorough trial, and it gives me great pleasure to say that we are entirely satisfied with it.

We expected that you would give us a first class instrument, and we have been in no way disappointed. I have had the leadership of a choir for nearly twenty years, and I never sang with an instrument that so perfectly supports a choir, as does our organ. The tones although very full and distinct, are still rich and beautiful. All the stops blending beautifully together. The mechanical part of the instrument is superior to any Organ I have ever seen, indeed it is in every way what a good Organ should be.

Very truly yours,

A. C. LATHAM,

Leader Baptist Choir, Norwich, N. Y.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 17, 1869.

When Pastor in Albany, N. Y., the undersigned contracted with Geo. N. Andrews for a first class Organ. It was to be made with reversed action, so as to allow the conductor at once to play, and supervise a choir of one hundred singers in front of the congregation.

In due time the instrument was completed in all its parts as agreed upon, and has ever since been in satisfactory use, without derangement or failure.

E. L. MAGOON.

CAMDEN, May 10, 1869.

GEO. N. ANDREWS,

Dear Sir :—Having used the organ we purchased of you for nearly one year, and tested it thoroughly by comparing it with those much larger and more expensive than ours. I am prepared to say that for the size, it is the most complete instrument I have ever seen, and in saying this, I express the opinion of numerous others, good judges, who have tested it, and I assure you I shall not fail to recommend your instruments to those wishing to purchase.

Yours truly,

C. R. BESSEE,

Leader of Trinity Church Choir,
Camden, N. Y.

To whom it may concern :

I desire to add my testimony with others as to the very superior quality of Mr. Andrews' Organs.

From several years experience in the use of his instruments, and from considerable observation of those from other manufactories. I do not hesitate to say that I have never seen them excelled.

For purity and quality of tone, ease and exactness of action, durability and finish, I can most cheerfully commend them.

What with every facility which many years of practical experience, the most skilled workmen, and an extensive and complete manufactory can afford. Mr. A. has succeeded in keeping before the public a quality of instruments which have no superior in this country.

R. S. DRYER,

58 Franklin Square, Utica, N. Y.

The above is but a small amount of what can be produced.

We have no less than ten instruments scattered about in our own city, and can produce as many testimonials, but deem the foregoing sufficient.

Remember every instrument is fully warranted.

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From several years experience in the use of his instruments, and from considerable observation of those from other manufactories. I do not hesitate to say that I have never seen them excelled.

For purity and quality of tone, ease and exactness of action, durability and finish, I can most cheerfully commend them.

What with every facility which many years of practical experience, the most skilled workmen, and an extensive and complete manufactory can afford. Mr. A. has succeeded in keeping before the public a quality of instruments which have no superior in this country.

R. S. DRYER,
58 Franklin Square, Utica, N. Y.

The above is but a small amount of what can be produced.

We have no less than ten instruments scattered about in our own city, and can produce as many testimonials, but deem the foregoing sufficient.

Remember every instrument is fully warranted.

GEO. N. ANDREWS,
UTICA, N. Y.