Hi,

A recent highlight for the Museum was hosting Tracie Young and her volunteer, Tracy, from Raven Ridge Wildlife Center as part of Columbia, PA's 4th Friday event at the end of June. Accompanied by Phoenix, an impressive—and vocal!—peregrine falcon, they presented on the adverse effects of lead shot and sinkers on wildlife and how their center helps to treat birds with lead poisoning. It was great to hear about and support the work of a fellow Pennsylvania nonprofit organization.

In July, our Museum staff did a fabulous job of making a memorable visit for a blind watch collector. The Museum is packed with striking, musical, and chiming clocks, which offer a great aural experience; however, it was the opportunity to study some pocket watches with particularly tactile cases and different escapement sounds that made a lasting impression. As ever, I am very proud of the way that our team responds to the needs of our visitors. They do a great job!

The team is currently working on a number of Museum developments that should be ready by next year’s national convention in York, PA. Just recently, we reinstalled the Stevens tower clock that features the walking pawl striking system. The decorative details and signature are a rare survival and were carefully preserved as the movement was cleaned and repaired by our volunteer, Don. Our next challenge is to install the Stevens floating hammer assembly that was donated to the Museum last year by a long-standing NAWCC member.

Looking forward to August, the Eastern States Regional will take place this weekend, British Columbia Chapter 121's annual barbeque will be on the 18th, and the All Texas Chapters Regional will begin on the 23rd. As ever, we hope...
4th Friday Programs at the Museum

If you're in the area, tour the Museum, stay to enjoy a presentation at 5:00 p.m., and then explore downtown Columbia for a fun evening of eating and shopping!

August 30: Create Columbia exhibits its international postcard art invitational entries in the Museum’s atrium
September 27: Columbia Library’s Reading Education Therapy Dog program, complete with a German Shepherd ambassador

This Month in Horological History

August 19, 1785

On this day, Seth Thomas was born in Wolcott, Connecticut, to Scottish immigrant parents. As a child, he had a natural affinity for carpentry and completed an apprenticeship with carpenter and joiner Daniel Tuttle. Thomas was hired by Eli Terry and was soon joined by Silas Hoadley, and together they produced around 4,000 clocks by 1810.

Thomas left in 1813 to work on his own in Plymouth Hollow, CT, later named Thomaston in his honor. Thomas was not an inventor or innovator like others
From the Museum’s collection: a Seth Thomas ogee shelf clock, ca. 1850, 30-hour brass weight-driven, time-and-strike movement, catalog no. 79.50.30.

In 1853, Thomas incorporated the Seth Thomas Clock Co., the start of a clock production legacy his family would carry on and expand.

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**Read All About It**

*in the Fortunat Mueller-Maerki Library & Research Center*

Several books were added to the **Library** in June and July 2024:

- *About Time: A History of Civilization in Twelve Clocks* by David Rooney
- *David Rittenhouse: Philosopher-Mechanick of Colonial Philadelphia and His Famous Clocks* by Donald Fennimore & Frank Hohmann III
- *Edward Duffield: Philadelphia Clockmaker, Citizen, Gentleman 1730-1803* by Bob Frishman
- *Hands of Time: A Watchmaker’s History* by Rebecca Struthers
- *Rolex Philosophy* by Mara Cappelletti
- *Striking Beauty: New Jersey Tall Case Clocks, 1730-1830: A Public Exhibition at the Morven Museum & Garden, April 21, 2023-February 18, 2024* by Steven Petrucelli
- *The Equation of Time – Aequatio Dierum: A Journal, a Reference & a Picture Book* by Kevin Karney
- *The Rise and Decline of England’s Watchmaking Industry, 1550-1930* by Alun C. Davies
- *The Style of Time: The Evolution of the Wristwatch* by Mara Cappelletti
- *Time & the French Revolution: The Republican Calendar, 1789-Year XIV* by Matthew John Shaw
NAWCC members enjoy lending privileges! Details are available online. Email research@nawcc.org with any questions or to schedule a research visit. Nonmembers are welcome to stop by the library in Columbia, PA, to browse and read.

Not an NAWCC member? It’s easy to join and enjoy full access to one of the world’s largest collections of horological material.

Join the NAWCC

A Closer Look in the Museum
with Ken De Lucca, Education Director

I received what I thought would be a very simple question from a clock friend of mine. Tim sent me an email with several images of his E. Howard no. 1 regulator clock. These clocks are majestic. The Museum’s E. Howard no. 1 regulator clock is found in the railroad timekeeping gallery, which is one of my favorite galleries in the Museum. I like it not just because of the huge size of the regulator clocks found in railroad stations and other venues but also because of the gallery’s background audio of Morse code. As an amateur radio operator (WA3KD), I can still manage a very slow Morse code, so it takes me back.

Tim’s clock has a blemish on the pendulum bob. Over the years the surface finish of the brass bob was damaged, and he was asking what was used to create the swirl effect on it. This is what led me down the proverbial rabbit hole, where I needed the assistance of our executive director to sort it out.
The Museum’s no. 1 regulator has thick grooves in the brass disk as does Tim’s. However, I did not see any swirls on ours. So what were the swirls and how could Tim restore his no. 1 pendulum bob?

At first, I came up with the word *damascene*. As stated by Donald de Carle (*Watch & Clock Encyclopedia*), “The word Damascene is derived from the word Damascus, once famous for its steel and ornamental work thereon....[I]n horology it refers to a complicated geometric design of fine etched lines on steel and cut lines on softer metal.” F. J. Britten (*Watch & Clock Makers Handbook Dictionary and Guide*) pretty well concurs with de Carle: “Ornamental finishing of watch parts, especially keyless wheels and bridges. This was a specialty of the American watch industry...produced similar to engine turning but with very shallow lines.”

Unfortunately, the swirls didn’t appear to be damascening. It was our executive director, Rory McEvoy, who gave me the clue I needed to figure this out.

He knew at once it was not damascening and immediately called it “curling.” Curling, according to de Carle, is “a finish to brass. Usually employed on the edges of clock plates.” Britten gives us a bit more information: “Curled: A finish applied to clock plates, sometimes to the edges and sometimes to the faces. A water-of-Ayr stone shaped like a pencil is used on a previously polished surface to produce a series of curly marks.”

What is a water-of-Ayr stone? We’ll go with de Carle for this one: “A stone similar in substance to slate and used with water for finishing brass. Found in Stair, Scotland. See Montgomerie Stone.” De Carle further explains: “Montgomerie stone: A fine, greyish blue stone similar to slate, for finishing brass. It is used with water: it is a fine grade of Water-of-Ayr Stone.” Britten also states a similar citation for Montgomerie stone.

Tim’s simple question brought all this to light. This finish was used widely on ornamental turning lathes. Our friends at Plumier have some superb examples at [www.plumier.org](http://www.plumier.org).

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**Staff Spotlight**

Rory McEvoy is our intrepid
executive director who seems to have boundless energy and ideas to enhance our Museum, Library, School, and membership experience. Plus, he has that cool British accent. Here's a quick Q&A to get to know him!

Where do you hail from?
Born in the Rotunda, Dublin, Ireland, and raised in several places including North Carolina, Brighton, and the northwest of England.

Hobbies?
Playing with mechanical things and making stuff has been a lifelong affliction and continues in numerous projects from clockmaking and watchmaking to restoring a 1930s sports car. Cycling has long been a passion, and I love exploring the trails in Lancaster County.

Bucket list item?
As a kid, I was inspired by an article in National Geographic to walk the Appalachian Trail. Now, I have a fighting chance to do it!

What is your favorite Museum piece?
It is nearly impossible to identify an absolute favorite, as the NAWCC collection is so rich and diverse. But if uniqueness and character were the criteria, it would have to be the 5-minute repeating tall case by James Arthur, made in 1904. I love the way that he prioritized the repeating mechanism by placing it in full view where normally the dial would be placed, and I really like the bold decorative turning on the weights and pendulum bob. It’s a real one-off piece!

Wednesday Coffee and Horology

Hosted by Frank Webster, "Wednesday Coffee and Horology" is a Zoom meeting open to all that covers different topics each week. It's a great place to ask questions and learn from others!

The meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. (Eastern) each Wednesday and lasts for about 30 minutes. To attend the next one, visit the thread in the Chapter News and Views section of the Forums for details. Each session is recorded and available in that same Forums thread.

Zoom Time with the BOD
All NAWCC members are welcome to attend the NAWCC Board of Directors meetings held remotely via Zoom or in person. The next meeting is scheduled for August 5 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern time via Zoom. [Click this link](#) to register for the meeting.

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**A Family Affair**

On July 26, "Team Allison" visited the Museum to see the special exhibit of Charles Allison's clocks. The exhibit shares the story of Greg Gerard Allison (*third from right*) and his quest to locate the exquisite clocks made by his grandfather.

Learn more about Greg's search in the latest [Collecting Conversations YouTube video](#). His grandfather's clocks had been lost for more than 60 years, until Greg's research led him to recover the collection, a journey that led him from New York to Montana.

The special exhibit has been extended and will now run through September 30.

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**CHARLES ALLISON ARTISAN WATCHMAKER**

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**Time to Learn**

[Register online](#) for an NAWCC education class:

**School of Horology (Columbia, PA)**

*August 16-18:* Foundational Repair Skills 1  *Filled!*

*September 7-8, 2024:* Using the Micro-Mill for the Beginner  *Filled!*

*October 26-27, 2024:* Wheel & Pinion Cutting Using the Tabletop Milling Machine  *Filled!*
Field Suitcase Workshop F103 (Shalimar, FL)
October 23-26, 2024: Introduction to Chime Clocks *Filled!*

Field Suitcase Workshop F101 (Shalimar, FL)
January 23-26, 2025: The American Kitchen Clock Movement

Interested in helping us plan more Field Suitcase Workshops? Let us know by emailing education@nawcc.org.

On July 13-14 seven workshop participants engaged in cuckoo clock repair with instructor Dave Gorrell at the School of Horology in Columbia, PA: (left to right) Raymond G. Cobb, Matthew L. Clemens, Timothy Neil Miller, Ronald Lambert, Samantha Gradel, Thomas Stocker, and Ron Janetzke; Dave Gorrell is seated.

Participants learned all about these winged messengers: they completely disassembled, polished/burnished pivots, installed bushings, and reassembled their movements. All participants were grateful for Dave’s knowledge and assistance with restoring their cuckoo clocks to proper operation.

Each month, you will receive more updates and the inside scoop on the latest events, exhibits, classes, and more.

Warmly,

National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors

Do you love watches and clocks as much as we do?

*Click to become a member!*