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NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Greetings!

When I look back over previous newsletters, it is gratifying to see the number of projects that we have completed over the past few years and how they now contribute to meeting the NAWCC's mission. Ticking off the list of projects is important, but the real benefit is that as we do so, our community becomes stronger.

We have built up a great team of volunteers who regularly come to Columbia to help with the School, Library, and Museum. As you will see in this newsletter, they bring skills and ideas that really make a difference. At the end of a long day, seeing our Ansonia street clock, aka Quincy, standing proudly in its permanent home was a delight.

Knowing that we are preserving and sharing the best example of only three survivors of one of the largest models of street clock ever produced gives us all a real reason to be proud to be a part of the NAWCC. A huge thank you to all who have helped us complete this project with your time and cash donations.

The project is expensive and thanks to the many volunteers, it will come in under budget. However, money raised to date does not meet the final building costs. I encourage you to read John's summary below and consider helping to complete the project.

Elsewhere, we are pushing ahead with the digitization of the Hamilton archives, remodeling the Electric Time gallery, building the Maker Space at the School of Horology, and preparing for the [National Convention](#) in Lexington, KY.

As ever, please drop us a line if you want to join our team of volunteers, and we look forward to hearing your feedback and suggestions.

—Rory McEvoy, Executive Director





Quincy Stands Tall

by John Paolini, Director of Philanthropy

To be precise, Quincy (upright at last!) stands approximately 18 1/2 feet tall, gilded and gleaming in its new home at the Museum. As Rory mentioned above, the combined efforts of donors and the many volunteers who participated in the restoration project demonstrate the strength and commitment of the NAWCC community.

Although contributions to the project have been strong—donations to date total \$69,747—we nevertheless face a shortfall of \$40-50,000 to cover the full project costs, despite coming in well under the original budget. If you have not yet done so, we hope you will consider making a contribution to our beautifully restored Ansonia street clock.

[Click to Donate to the Quincy Project](#)

Please mark your calendar for the official Quincy ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 25, 2026, at the Museum! Event details to follow soon.

This Month in Horological History

with Thomas Stocker, Librarian & Archivist

May 8, 1804

On this date, Aaron Dodd Crane was born in Caldwell, New Jersey. His family traced their lineage back to the founders of Newark, New Jersey, in 1666.

Not much is known about Crane's childhood, but by age 22 he received his first patent in 1826 for a clock. Unfortunately, the record of that patent was destroyed in the 1836 Patent Office fire. We know from other sources that this patent related to a radical clock design with new escapement, pendulum, and motion work designs.

Crane's next major patent (US Patent No. 1973) was for a single ball, one-year torsion clock. This patent design was signed over to J. R. Mills & Co. for marketing and selling this ingenious clock. After the fall of J. R. Mills & Co.'s successor, The Year Clock Co., Crane sold his torsion clock under the Boston Clock Co. name. It was during this time that Crane designed and created his first astronomical timepiece in 1850.

Crane continued to invent and received several more patents related to clocks and machinery. One of his major designs incorporated the walking escapement popularized by John Harrison. Crane used this unique escapement in his clock designs, including the tower clock seen here.



Crane died on March 10, 1860, in Boston. His horological innovations and mechanisms influenced clockmakers after him and received fresh appreciation as research into his life and legacy grew in the last century.

Above: Aaron Dodd Crane tower clock, ca. 1860, featuring Crane's walking pawl escapement. Museum catalog no. 83.65.1.



Bulletin Buzz

With May flowers comes the fresh [May/June Watch & Clock Bulletin!](#) From mechanical aircraft clocks to a pedometer watch, this issue covers a lot of horological ground.

Published six times a year, the peer-reviewed journal is one of the [perks of NAWCC membership](#). Join or renew today to enjoy your subscription.

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On Time ~ Online

As high school and college graduation season approaches, you may enjoy this Gruen TV ad from the 1950s, posted on our [YouTube](#) channel. In that charming advertising style of the time, their wristwatches are presented as the perfect graduation gift: "How can you possibly express that tender pride?. . . Isn't this the only way, really? With a gift that bears the proudest name in time—this Gruen precision watch—the self-winding, autowind Chevron."



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

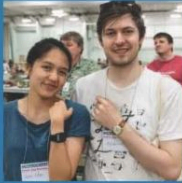
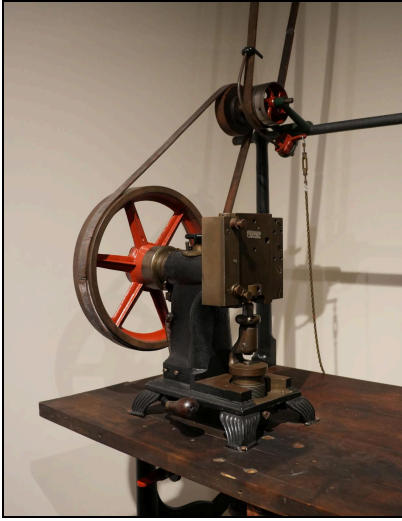


I think one of the underappreciated galleries of our Museum may be the Early American Watchmaking area. Most people assume that interchangeable parts for mechanical devices have always been with us. To the contrary, until the 19th century most objects were pretty much one of a kind. Certainly, there were some parts that were close to being interchangeable, but they always required some kind of fitting up to ensure that they worked properly. It wasn't until the mid-1850s that machine-made watches were successfully produced. Leading the advance was the Boston Watch Company. After its demise, the Waltham Watch Company took the lead and produced a great many watches made by machine. The Museum's gallery includes some actual machines used by Waltham.

Operating from a line shaft that was driven by a steam engine, and later by an electrical motor, each machine was operated with leather belting and pulleys. To turn the machine off, uncouple the leather belt; to operate the machine, replace the leather belt on the pulley. With high-speed rotating shafts, pulleys, and leather belting, working in the facility was inherently unsafe! But this was the beginning of mass-produced, interchangeable parts.

An example of one of the machines displayed is the Stiles and Parker Punch Press, shown here. Made in Middletown, Connecticut, circa 1875-80, this machine was used to punch holes in metal (such as the watch plates) with an appropriately sized die. Waltham Watch Company made all their own dies and related components. This particular punch press was in use for more than 100 years. The punched holes were then further machined, finished, and polished. And thus began the process to create a watch!

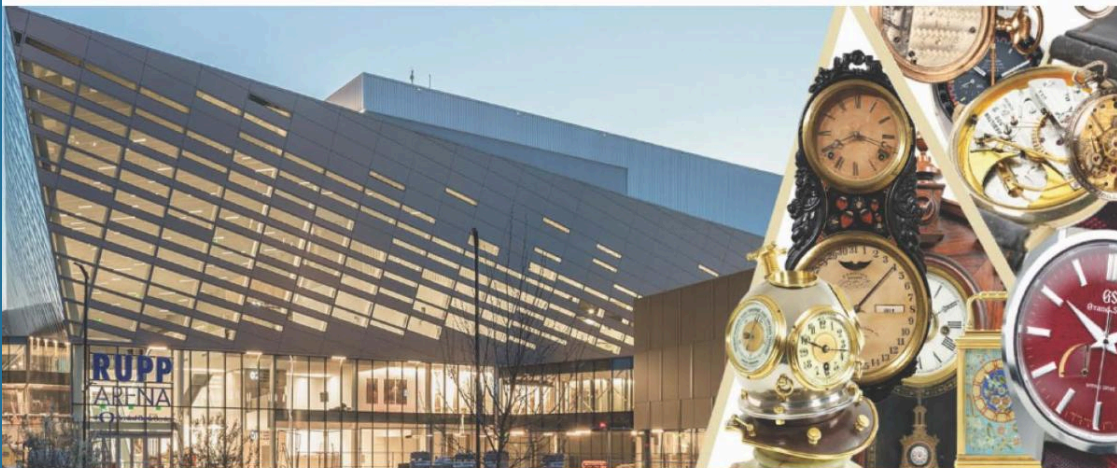
Over the years, the leather belts have stretched and rendered this exhibit static, for now. It is hoped that this gallery will soon be restored to limited functionality. With an electric motor attached to the line shaft in our display, the machines attached to the shaft via leather belting will rotate at a much-reduced speed compared to its original design. With restoration, Museum visitors will be able to hear the sounds that the machines made around 150 years ago. Stay tuned for this development in the [National Watch & Clock Museum](#).



2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION

June 25-28 • Lexington, KY

Huge Mart • Lectures • Banquet • Exhibits
Live Auction • Workshops • Chapter Meetings
Convention Luncheon • Crafts Competition



natcon.nawcc.org

Crafts Competition

June 25-28, 2026 • Lexington, KY

The annual Crafts Competition showcases the finest in today's horological craftsmanship. Entries are judged by qualified experts, and convention attendees may vote for the People's Choice Award, presented during the banquet.

Visit natcon.nawcc.org/crafts for guidelines and the entry form.



Buckeye & British Bash

The Southern Ohio Regional took place on April 9-11 in Wilmington, Ohio. Sponsored by Buckeye Chapter 23 and British Horology Chapter 159, highlights included a beautiful day for the tailgate, a busy mart, and an awesome auction. Making it all possible were many fabulous volunteers!

Upcoming NAWCC Regional Events

May 15-17: Pacific Northwest - Clackamas, OR
May 22-24: Lone Star - Mesquite, TX
August 14-15: Eastern States - Cortland, NY
August 21-23: All Texas Chapters - Houston, TX
August 28-29: Mid-America - Auburn, IN

Visit nawcc.org/events for details on all NAWCC events.

Time to Learn

[Register online](#) for an NAWCC workshop:

School of Horology (Columbia, PA)

May 9, 2026: American Shelf Clock Tablets with Stenciled Borders

May 22-24, 2026: Rack-and-Snail Striking and an Introduction to the Tall Case Clock —*Filled!*

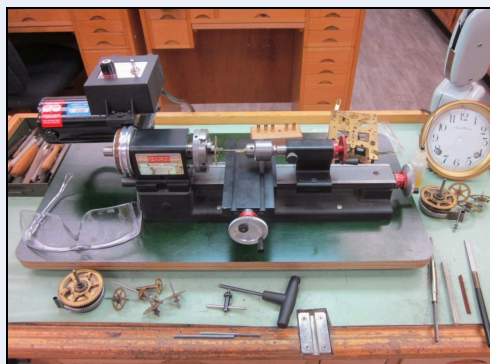
June 6, 2026: Craft-A-Clock

June 8-12, 2026: Mentorship in Clockmaking —*Filled!*

June 27-28, 2026: Using a Micro Mill for the Beginner

July 10-12, 2026: Pivot Polishing/Burnishing and Bushings

July 24-26, 2026: Foundational Clock Repair Skills II



July 24-26, 2026: Introduction to Wristwatch Servicing

August 7-9, 2026: Introduction to Chiming Clocks and 3-Train Movements

2026 National Convention (Lexington, KY)

June 25, 2026: 400-Day Torsion/Anniversary Clock Workshop —*Filled!*



Participants in the Using the Micro Lathe for the Beginner workshop on March 28-29: (back row, l to r) David Bressler, Bill Pulig, Mark Willis, Shelby Elborn, Guy Baum, Peter Lovell; (middle, l to r) Mark Roux, instructor Jerry Kieffer; (front, seated) Daniel Smith.



Participants in the Introduction to Wristwatch Servicing workshop held on April 10-12: (l to r) Greg Bowden, Brent Gerity, Jim Balsbaugh, Ben Stewart, Bernhard Stoeber, Tom Roberts, Tim Miller, John Graybeal, instructor Marc Clodfelter, Scott Heckard.



Participants in the April 10-12 Introduction to the Anniversary, or 400-Day, Clock workshop: (l to r) Larry Samuelson, Louie Blasetti, instructor Bill Forney, John DeMott, William Henry, Paul Graff.



The Pocket Watch Disassembly, Lubrication and Reassembly workshop on April 18-19: (l to r) Christopher Clement, Jessica Plummer, Kevin McCauley, William Cicale, Jennifer Ventre, David Rostad, instructor Dave Gorrell, and Alan Rosen.



American-Style Time/Strike Movement workshop on April 24-26: (left to right, behind the sign) Ron Trotter, Rachel Higginbotham, Bob Deprez, Bill Pulig, Steven Lowcock, Ryan Guerra, Chad

The Museum Polo

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The Museum Store

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

Warm regards,

National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors

Do you love clocks and watches as much as we do? Click to join or renew.

NAWCC | 717-684-8261 | www.nawcc.org



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