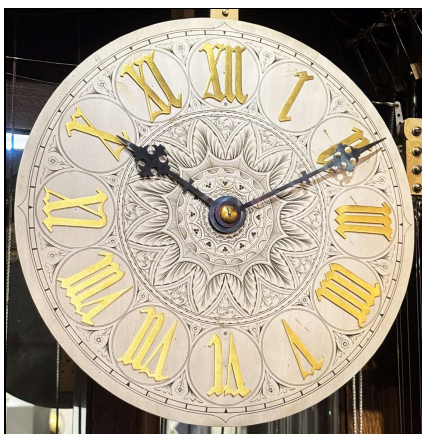


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## NEWSLETTER

**August 2026**

Greetings!

The big news is the opening of the long-awaited addition to the Museum's public time gallery. July 25 saw the official opening of the special display of the Ansonia street clock, known affectionately as Quincy. This project couldn't have turned out any better. Thanks to the many volunteers and donors, this enormous street clock is wowing visitors with its impressive 18.5-foot stature and beautifully gilded ornament. It even tells the time with its original, weight-driven movement that is untypically placed outside of the cast-iron body of the clock case.

Along with this project, the conservation studio has become a visible component within the Museum. Over the coming months, we will be working our way through a queue of important timekeepers that require cleaning and minor repair work. These projects will be appearing on our [YouTube channel](#) as soon as possible. We hope to share the objects' known history, mechanical points of interest, and some of our conservation techniques in these videos.

Elsewhere, we are planning some changes to other areas in the Museum. Our display of electrical clocks is developing nicely. We have arranged the clocks to tell important stories that chart the development of this exciting technology as well as highlight the different approaches to using electricity to regulate clocks and distribute accurate time. The clocks on display were chosen because they can run using the built-in variable power supplies. We have been working with the Electrical Horology Chapter to use their expertise in the conservation studio to help bring these important clocks into good operational condition.

Do you have a specialty or interest in helping at the Museum, Library, or School? If so, please drop us a line. We would love to hear from you.

As ever, I hope that you enjoy this newsletter and reach out with your ideas and suggestions.

## America's 250th: Celebrating Horology

We're celebrating the 250th anniversary of America by highlighting uniquely American pieces in the Museum's collection. Timepieces made in this country are beautiful, innovative, or whimsical, and always a reflection of the craftsmanship and entrepreneurship fostered by a spirit of independence.



Skeleton clocks are almost exclusively English or French, but Silas B. Terry of Connecticut crafted this stunning example, circa 1850, with a large brass balance wheel, a Terry signature.



"What led me to collect skeleton clocks is the fact that they show two aspects of horology: the technical side (since the works are exposed) and the aesthetic side (since the beauty of the design is exposed). An example is this very rare American Silas Terry skeleton clock with a large balance wheel that runs for two weeks." —Hal Cherry (left), pictured with Leigh Extence at the Hal & Maida Cherry Collection in the Museum.

## This Month in Horological History

with Thomas Stocker, Librarian & Archivist

August 9, 1847

On this day, Sigmund Riefler was born in Maria Rain in the southernmost district of Germany, Oberallgäu. He was the son of Clemens Riefler, who invented and produced some of the most precise drawing tools in the industry and some of the finest precision clocks in the world.

Sigmund trained as a mechanic in Munich and later took over his father's drawing tool company after Clemens died in 1876. Sigmund and his brothers turned their attention to precision timekeeping. In 1889, Sigmund patented a free escapement for pendulum clocks that became the standard for precision timekeeping at observatories and scientific





institutions. He used Invar nickel steel for his clocks. He invented a process to artificially age Invar rods to make them as stress-free as possible.

Many other inventions by Sigmund sought to reduce rate error and improve the accuracy of his precision clocks. His inventions and efforts to improve precision continued after his death in 1912, as the company continued to manufacture and sell precision pendulum clocks and precision pendulums. The year after his death, his precision clock invention of a gravity escapement with two driving levers was awarded German patent DRP No. 272119.

*Above: Wall clock with an electrically wound, weight-driven remontoir by Sigmund Riefler, circa 1908. Museum catalog no. 1999.11.*

## A Quincy Soiree

Around 125 guests converged at the Museum on July 25 to celebrate the official opening of the [Ansonia street clock](#) portion of the Public Time gallery. Doing the honors with the ribbon were Jim Coulson, Frank Del Grecco, and Eileen Stevens, welcomed by executive director Rory McEvoy. Once the ribbon was cut, the crowd surged into the gallery to feast their eyes on Quincy. Don Bugh, president of the Tower & Street Clock Chapter, gave a presentation on the clock's long journey to Columbia. The festivities continued, as local [Chapter 7](#) was also on hand to support the dedication and to offer some wristwatch chat time in the Hamilton and Bulova galleries. Smiles abounded all around—a terrific night at the Museum!





The Museum's own Janet Thompson lent a helping hand—literally!—to the display by creating this line drawing of Quincy at its original home in Illinois.

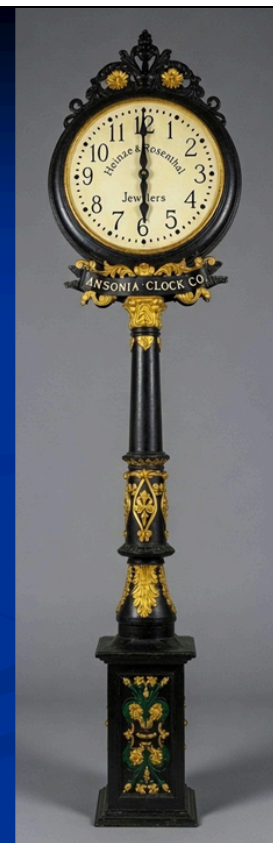
## On Time ~ Online

Don Bugh's July 25th presentation on the Quincy street clock's history and restoration is available on our YouTube channel: [click the image to check it out!](#)





# “Quincy” The Ansonia Street Clock



## Notes from the Conservation Studio

*by Ken De Lucca, Education Director*

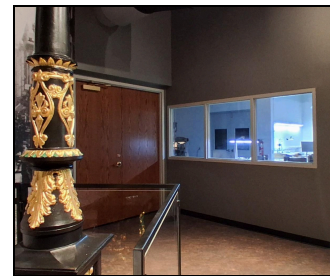
With the recent unveiling of the new Quincy clock area in the Museum, I'd like to consider the "Window Theory: The Case for Combining Perspectives."



*Looking from the newly renovated Conservation Studio toward the Quincy clock beyond the windows.*



*A view from the studio to the Quincy clock.*



*The view from the Quincy side looking at the Conservation Studio's windows.*

In his book *Artifacts in Use*, John Watson discusses the two most important perspectives related to artifacts that are used, such as organs, or in our case, clocks and watches: restoration and conservation. Once I read the window theory discussion in his book, I was struck by the opportunity that the windows in the Quincy area give visitors.

We can now provide a totally new perspective for visitors, as they watch conservators at work. If you are the owner of a clock or a watch, you know well that they need periodic attention. Generally, periodic attention will be rewarded with less work (and cost) in order to have the object continue to operate. Currently, we have a few objects that need attention. They need to be examined and action needs to be taken if they are to run, keep time, and strike the hours.

In *Artifacts in Use*, Watson discusses at length the common ground between restoring something to functionality and doing so in the most conservative manner—what he calls "restorative conservation." In other words, this method restores the object to normal everyday use in a manner that conserves the object as much as possible. Truly, there are some objects that are one of kind, that only warrant conservation for future generations. At our Museum, because of the volunteer and staff expertise we now have access to, we can provide our visitors with the full experience of a clock ticking and striking the hours and/or quarter hours.

I recently traveled to the conservation studios at the Williamsburg Foundation in Virginia. They conserve all of their horological objects on-site. That is to say, they preserve them. There are apparently only two clocks that operate as clocks in Williamsburg, and they are both modern reproductions. The rest of the clocks are only correct twice a day. I am pleased that we can provide our visitors with a full experience of timekeepers. At the [National Watch & Clock Museum](#), our artifacts *are* in use.



### Bulletin Buzz

Don't miss the [July/August Watch & Clock Bulletin](#)!

~ America's 250th Anniversary: Celebrating Horology series: David Rittenhouse, Elgin National Watch Co., and Webb C. Ball  
~ "Engineering in Miniature: Creating the World's Smallest Carriage Clock" by David Walter & Stan Boyatzis  
~ "The Clockmakers of Cork City, Ireland, 1650-1850" by Alan Myers  
~ "Wow, What a Dial! Peter Garon's Differential Watch" by Richard Newman  
~ Plus Chapter Highlights, puzzles, and more!

*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.*

[Join or Renew Today](#)

### Spotlight on . . . Chairman of the Board

The NAWCC is filled with active, hands-on volunteers who help the organization grow and fulfill its mission to preserve and promote all things horological. Twelve of those volunteers serve on the Board of Directors, and one was selected as the Board's chairman—Geoff Parker. Here's a quick Q&A with him!

*Where were you born?*

I was born in Boston, Massachusetts.

*Bucket list travel destination?*

Israel/Holy Land

*What drew you to the NAWCC?*





I had just moved to Miami, Florida, for work and started working on watches. I wanted to join a club to help me learn more, and I found Florida Gold Coast Chapter 60 in Hallandale Beach, just north of Miami. I joined the NAWCC in 2014 and soon became a director and started working on one of the early Ward Francillon Time Symposiums.

*What did you do during your last visit to HQ in Columbia, PA?*

In July I did archive work in the Library, scanned Hamilton watch parts material, and helped with the uMIS IT system. I also took a class at the School of Horology in wristwatch servicing and attended the Quincy street clock ribbon-cutting event.

*Favorite item in the Museum?*

At the moment it is the Quincy clock—it is so tall and beautiful and breathtaking. It represents so much work and contributions from so many. That piece is tied with the great watchmaking classroom in the School of Horology.



### Upcoming NAWCC Regional Events

*August 14-15: Eastern States—Cortland, NY*

*August 21-23: All Texas Chapters—Houston, TX*

*August 28-29: Mid-America—Auburn, IN*

*September 4-5: Mid-South—Dalton, GA*

*September 19: MKOA—Oklahoma City, OK*

*October 2-3: North Coast—Strongsville, OH*

*October 16-17: Mid-Eastern—York, PA*

Visit [nawcc.org/events](https://nawcc.org/events) for details on all NAWCC events.



**Celebrate Lancaster, PA horology  
with hands-on workshops, guided  
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**September 25–27, 2026**

**Details at [lancasterwatchweekend.com](https://lancasterwatchweekend.com)**

*Hosted by the NAWCC, Hamilton Watch Boutique, RGM  
Watch Company, Brent Miller Jewelers*

### Time to Learn

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



### School of Horology (Columbia, PA)

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

August 22-23, 2026: Introduction to Antique Clocks

August 31-September 2, 2026: The Watchmaker's Lathe

September 12-13, 2026: Wheel &

Pinion Cutting Using the Tabletop Milling Machine

October 23-25, 2026: American-Style Time/Strike Movement

November 13-15, 2026: Introduction to Wristwatch Servicing

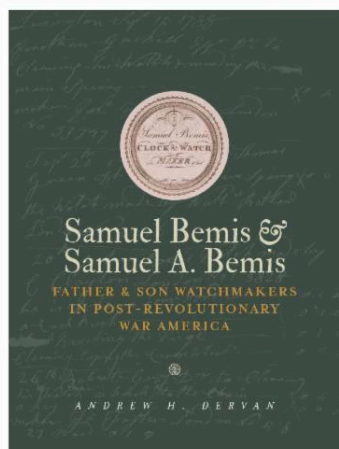
December 5, 2026: Craft-A-Clock



Participants in the Pivot Polishing, Burnishing, and Bushings workshop in July: (left to right) Francis Janton, Alison Weymouth, Education Coordinator Sam Gradel, Jeff Buck, Jon Koerber, Rollin Mazzera, Peter Lovell, Mark Willis.



# Now Available!



Here is a rare glimpse into the world of watch repair just after the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. By studying transcriptions of three watch-repair ledgers maintained by Samuel Bemis and his son, Samuel A. Bemis, Andrew Dervan provides a wealth of information about the watches they worked on, the makers/retailers, and the repairs and costs. Dervan also shares his in-depth research on the Bemis family and their interactions with several noteworthy New England makers, including Simon and Aaron Willard, Joseph Mulliken, and Richard Cranch.

*Paperback • 136 Pages*

*\$45.00 Retail • \$40.50 Member Price*



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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

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