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NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Greetings!

Visitors have been enjoying the now fully open street clock annex to the Public Time gallery in the Museum. The conservation studio has had plenty of use. Our visiting intern, Dan Batty, and our School Coordinator, Sam Gradel, spent three days carefully cleaning and reassembling an exquisite bronze and steel tower clock movement in the studio. The piece is now lubricated and adjusted and running happily in the gallery. Ken De Lucca outlines the experience below.

Dan joins a long list of interns who have enjoyed the opportunity to expand their conservation experience and horological knowledge at the Museum. We will welcome another intern this month to study our collection of wheel-cutting engines. These projects are mutually beneficial as they help us fulfill our educational mission and also bring fresh thinking to our practice and understanding of the collections.

We are excited for the second [Lancaster Watch Weekend](#) on September 25-27 and the opportunity to work with our local horological friends at [Brent Miller](#), [Hamilton](#), and [RGM Watch Co.](#) to celebrate the incredible heritage in Lancaster County. That weekend is not to be missed! On Sunday, September 27, there will be a pop-up watch fair in the Museum's atrium with some amazing brands showing their newest creations.

We look forward to seeing you at the Lancaster Watch Weekend and, as ever, look forward to your suggestions and feedback.

—Rory McEvoy, Executive Director

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.

Founded in 1892 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Hamilton Watch Co. supplied watches to American soldiers and sailors from World War I through the Cold War. The Khaki model has a luminous dial, Arabic numerals, and a sturdy case. The Department of Defense wrote the specs, and Hamilton met them, producing a supremely reliable wristwatch.



"What I admire about the Hamilton Watch Co. is how its products reflected the growth and culture of the United States from the late 19th century through the mid 20th century: starting with their early concentration on railroad watches in the late 1800s, continuing into their support of the war efforts in both WWI and WWII, and moving into their focus on modern design for their mid-century wristwatches. Hamilton's products and advertising promotions were a constant reflection of our country's progress." —*Rhett Lucke, NAWCC member since 1984 and currently serving as vice chair of the NAWCC Board of Directors*

Shown here: A 1972 Hamilton Khaki, Model STC 446, 7 jewels. Museum catalog no. 92.1.18.





2027 Crafts Competition

June 10-13 • York, PA

Call for entries!

- Open to NAWCC members
- No contest entry fee
- Categories include the creation or restoration of clocks, watches, tools, parts, and novelties.
- Judging takes place at the NAWCC National Convention.

Details at
[Committee Documents > Crafts Committee](#)

This Month in Horological History

with Thomas Stocker, Librarian & Archivist

September 7, 1851

On this day, Joseph Bulova was born in Bohemia, in the modern-day Czech Republic. Bulova was one of five children and at an early age lost his father, forcing the family to move to Prague, where they opened a small grocery store. Bulova's apprenticeship as a jeweler lasted three years, after which he decided to go into the business himself.

At 18, Bulova came to the United States, landing in New York with less than a dollar to his name. Though he had wealthy family living in New York, Bulova sought to carve out a life for himself using only his entrepreneurship and dreams. In 1875, he established a small jewelry store on Maiden Lane, specializing in jewelry and timepiece repair. Seeing the transition from pocket watches to wristwatches well before others, he turned his attention to the manufacture and sale of watches worn on the wrist. In 1912, Bulova established an American-style watch manufacture in Bienne, Switzerland. The first wristwatch designed especially for women was the Bulova Rubiyat, released in 1917. Two years later Bulova produced a dedicated men's lineup of wristwatches.



The first radio advertisement in 1926 was a Bulova ad, which the company soon followed up with the first television commercial in 1941. Joseph Bulova died in 1935 but left a legacy of watchmaking firsts that his eponymous company continued building upon with the release of the Accutron (the world's first watch powered by an electronic tuning fork) in 1960 and the Bulova Curv (the world's first curved chronograph movement) in 2016.

Above: Bulova Accutron 114 Prototype No. 20, 1959. Museum catalog no. L2025.1.1.

Notes from the Conservation Studio

by Ken De Lucca, Education Director



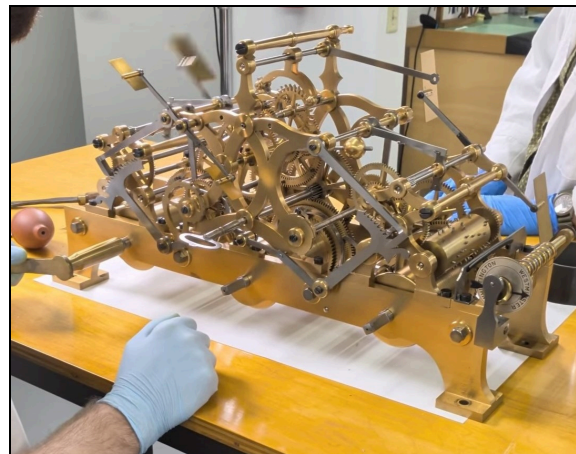
View from the Quincy street clock display, looking into the Conservation Studio, where Dan Batty and NAWCC School Coordinator Sam Gradel were working on the "exhibition" clock.

The Conservation Studio has really gotten a workout these past few weeks. We welcomed a visitor from the UK, Dan Batty, who recently completed his Clock Conservation degree from West Dean College. With our Executive Director, Rory McEvoy, in the studio along with me, there were three alumni from West Dean College all in one place at one time! Indeed, clock conservation is a small world!

Our focus in the Conservation Studio was on a new item for the Museum: an exhibition clock, or at least that is what it is called on paper. The clock is housed in a substantial oak cabinet. An intriguing motto is at the very top of the cabinet: *Toujours — Jamais* (Always — Never).

In his poem "The Old Clock on the Stairs," Henry Wadsworth Longfellow uses the refrain "Forever — Never!" and "Never — Forever!" He begins his poem by quoting Jacques Bridaine (1701-1767), a French Roman Catholic preacher who supposedly uttered this phrase first. It has been called into question who first employed the words, but it was Longfellow who attributed it to Bridaine.

The clock is a tubular bell clock powered by a tower clock (or "turret" clock, for our British readers) in a cabinet. It offers two chime tunes on its nine tubular bells. As of this writing, we estimate that the chime weight clocks in at 100 pounds, while the time or going train is only about 60 pounds, and the strike weight is about 40 pounds. The 14-inch silvered dial has gilt Roman numerals. One of the more interesting aspects of this clock is that the deadbeat escapement is driven by a 30-second remontoire. A remontoire is a device found between the mainspring or weight, as in this case, and the escapement. It primarily keeps a more constant force applied to the escapement for better timekeeping (see *Britten's Watch & Clock Maker's Handbook, Dictionary and Guide*, 16th



ed., revised by Richard Good). Additionally, the clock has maintaining power. A multi-pulley system creates an increased weight drop to power the clock for a longer period of running time than the cabinet would normally permit.

Research is ongoing, but at this time it can be reported that the clock has an anonymous attribution and was created around 1900.



Installing the clock in the Museum was a team effort by Rory McEvoy, Sonny McClain, and Sam Gradel.

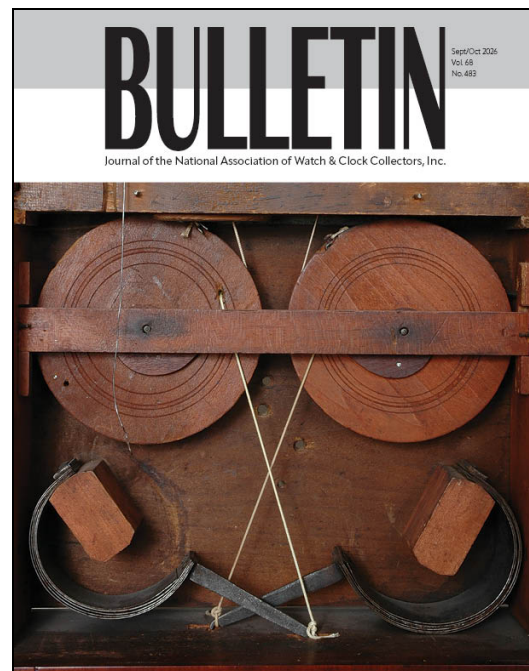


Museum catalog no. 2026.4.1. Donated by Don Saff.

Bulletin Buzz

The [September/October Watch & Clock Bulletin](#) is packed!

~ America's 250th Anniversary: Celebrating Horology series: Benjamin Banneker (by Mary Jane Dapkus); Chauncey Jerome (by Chris Bailey); Joseph Ives (by Philip Morris)
~ "The Fourth Wetherfield Clock" by Dennis Radage
~ "The Grande Dame and Her Chauffeur" by Steve Humphrey
~ "From Military Salvage to Civilian Clock" by Ed Fasanella
~ Recaps of the Time Symposium and National Convention
~ Plus Chapter Highlights, book reviews, puzzles, and more!



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Upcoming NAWCC Regional Events

2026

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

2027

January 21-23: Southwest California—La Mesa, CA

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



Watch Fair at the [National Watch & Clock Museum](#)

September 27, 2026 • 10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

RGM Watch Co. — engine-turning demo

1776 Atelier

Bell & Ross

E. F. Bowman Watches

Czapek

Grand Seiko

Love Hunter Watches

Jean Rousseau Strap Collections

Seiko

J.N. Shapiro

Towson Watch Co.
Vortic Watch Co.
Weiss Watch Co.
Plus food trucks!

Full Weekend Schedule: lancasterwatchweekend.com

Time to Learn

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

School of Horology (Columbia, PA)

September 12-13, 2026: Wheel & Pinion
Cutting Using the Tabletop Milling Machine

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

November 13-15, 2026: Introduction to
Wristwatch Servicing *--Filled!*

November 21-22, 2026: Machinist Boot Camp: Introduction to the Tabletop Lathe &
Mill

December 5, 2026: Craft-A-Clock



Participants in the Introduction to Wristwatch Servicing workshop held on July 24-26, 2026: (left to right) Robert Tollinger, Bryan Tollinger, Terence Hughes, Christopher Clement, Robert Kinsman, Bernhard Stoeber, Geoff Parker, Steve McVey, and Theodore Lountzis, photographed by instructor Marc Clodfelter.

Tee Time

The Quincy T-Shirt



NEW! Escape Wheel T-Shirt



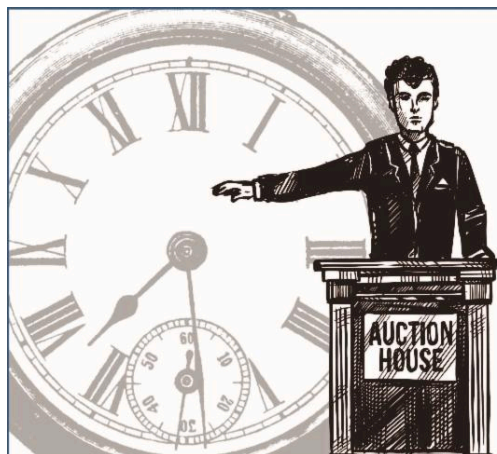
Skeleton T-Shirt



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Warm regards,

National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors

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