

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER 8

EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM - WHY WALTHAM?

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2010

OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE, STURBRIDGE, MA

Excellent Presentations, 4 Speakers, Beautiful Setting

Continental Breakfast - Snack Breaks - Deluxe Luncheon

All for only \$60 (bring a guest!)

Schedule

8:30 - 9:00 AM. **Registration: Continental Breakfast**

9:00 - 9:15 AM. **Welcome & Introduction**

Peter Nunes, President, and **Joe Seremeth**, Program Chairman, Chapter 8

9:15 - 9:30 AM. **J. Edward Hood, VP for Programs, Old Sturbridge Village,**

Old Sturbridge Village and the Cheney Wells Clock Collection

9:30 - 10:30 AM. **Robert Cheney, *New England Horology: From a Craft to an Industry***

This talk will present the works of early New England clock and watch makers, and trace early "mass production" efforts in the trade that opened the door for America's watch industry. The trade of clock and watch making in New England followed closely the English model, that is, a traditional craft practiced by a finely-divided hierarchy of artisans whose combined efforts produced timekeepers for consumers in the New Republic. While New England's early horological efforts were primarily in the clock trade, the efforts of America's first entrepreneurs were refined and adapted by watch manufacturers through the mid nineteenth century as America gained supremacy in the field.

10:30 - 11:00 AM. **Coffee Break / Refreshments**

11:00 – Noon. **Andrew Dervan, *The Waltham Horological Hall of Fame***

The success of the American Watch Co. brought many mechanically talented and ambitious individuals to Waltham. They made key contributions to the American Watch Co. developing new machinery and processes for watch movement manufacturing and/or founded numerous local companies. Their collaboration helped drive the American machine tool industry. Also, it made Waltham an attractive location for the next generation of high-tech industries during the mid 20th century. Selected factory and equipment images will be included in the talk with a lead-in to the next presenter, who will expand upon the machinery, processes, and technical advances of the watch industry.

Noon - 1:00 PM **Lunch**

1:00 – 2:00 PM. **George Collord, *American System Standards, Methods, and Automatic machinery at the Waltham Watch Co.***

In the mid 19th century no consumer product was more challenging to make than a watch with interchangeable parts. Not until 1857 was it realized that the machine department and a system of standards was the foundation upon which the company would stand. An in-depth look will be

presented of the people, machinery, tooling and standards that brought the American system to its height. This presentation will feature many photos of machines, tooling, standards, dies and gauges that were invented, made and used at the Waltham Watch Co. Also, some original machines and items will be displayed.

2:00 – 3:00 PM. **Albert Arena, Waltham, Then and Now – Why the Industrial Revolution Began in Waltham**

The Charles River played a pivotal role in turning Waltham into a major mill town and leading ultimately to its being known as “The Watch City.” The Waltham Watch Company’s assemblage of buildings changed throughout the years to meet the evolving needs of the company and the industry. The continuously developing technology of this watch factory eventually spread throughout the United States and, in its own way, contributed to the industrial power of the United States in the late 19th through the mid 20th centuries. The Waltham Museum presents these watchmaking advances, together with other Waltham industrial activities, to show how important Waltham was in America’s history.

3:00 PM. **Peter Nunes**, closing comments and, if chosen, a self-guided tour of the Cheney Wells Clock Collection and the Village

For those who want to spend the rest of the day within OSV, we have arranged for the purchase of a day-pass for a discounted fee of \$10 per person. This day-pass is to be paid separately and directly to OSV at the day of the meeting.

NOTES ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Robert C. Cheney has lectured at decorative arts and clock collecting conferences throughout the United States, Canada and the UK. He is a third generation clockmaker, consultant to over thirty museums including Old Sturbridge Village, a past board member of The National Watch and Clock Museum, Columbia, Pennsylvania, and the American Clock and Watch Museum in Bristol, CT. As Scholar in Residence at the Concord Museum, he published, *Roxbury Movements and the English Connection, 1785-1825* in the Magazine Antiques, April 2000. His other writings include numerous articles, book reviews and, *Clock Making in New England, 1725-1825*, with Philip Zea. Robert is the Director of Science, Technology and Clocks at Skinner Inc. where he oversees two major sales per year of clocks, watches and scientific instruments.

Andrew Dervan joined the NAWCC in 1997, due to his fascination with clocks. He found that researching the histories of different makers and companies as challenging as collecting. His principal collecting interest is weight-driven clocks from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He has published numerous Bulletin articles on the Waltham Willard banjo clocks, Waltham Clock Co, U.S. Watch Co, and different watch tool companies, and continues researching numerous topics. He has presented at a number of regional and chapter meetings on a range of topics. Andrew supports his clock addiction by working as a chemist for DuPont Performance Coatings.

George Collord III was born on Cape Cod MA, grew up in the Boston area and developed, from a young age, a strong interest in mechanical devices and manual machine skills. He studied machine process technology at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston. From there, he settled in Portland Maine where, for five years, he built and repaired machinery in one of the last line-shaft driven machine shops. George has had the pleasure of helping to build the collections of the Maine State and the Henry Ford Museums and installed a working watch factory exhibit at the NAWCC museum. He is an authority on the manufacturing system developed at Waltham. George was a presenter, writer and exhibitor at NAWCC 2002 Seminar: *Boston: Cradle of Industrial Watchmaking*.

Albert Arena is a graduate in Marine Engineering from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and that degree eventually led to his license as Chief Engineer in the Merchant Marine. After time in the Navy as an officer responsible for the several ships' power plants, he worked as a stationary engineer in the Boston area followed by more time at sea on the SS America as an engineer. Building on this experience, Albert returned to the academy in both engineering and teaching positions followed by other power plant positions in and around Boston while remaining in the Naval Reserve. In 1971 he helped start the Waltham Museum and remains keenly involved in the museum activities.

Next regular meeting Saturday, November 13th, Auburn Elks Lodge, Auburn, MA

+-----+

Old Sturbridge Village outdoor history museum is located just off of Route 20 (1 Old Sturbridge Village Road) in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, and is easily accessible by car from [I-84] and the Massachusetts Turnpike [I-90]. For detailed driving directions, visit Google Maps or MapQuest.

For lodging and visitors' information: www.newenglandtravelplanner.com/go/ma/sturbridge/info.html

+-----+

Registration for the Symposium (must be received by Friday, September 17th)

Name / Guest _____ Phone _____

City _____ NAWCC No. _____

Mail check (to New England Chapter 8) for \$60 per person to: New England Chapter 8, c/o Co-op Printing, PO Box 787, East Longmeadow, MA 01028

---- NO WALK-INS FOR THIS EVENT----