

New England Chapter No. 8
The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

23rd ANNUAL WILLARD HOUSE WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 20, 2017, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Willard House & Clock Museum, 11 Willard St., North Grafton, MA 01536, 508-839-3500

We invite you to attend this year's workshop at the Willard House & Clock Museum. The registration fee of \$45.00 is for members, as well as for non-members, and includes three horological presentations, morning refreshments, a box lunch, and entry into the museum's excellent and extensive collection of Willard clocks and related items.

CHAPTER 8 ACCEPTS PAYPAL PAYMENTS

You continue to have the option of using PayPal: under "To" type in: chapt8@gmail.com. For "Email to Recipient," enter your name, membership number and what the amount of your payment is for in the Message box.

Seating may be limited, so please register promptly.

THIS YEAR'S WORKSHOP

As in past years, we are pleased to again have three highly-regarded speakers noted for their knowledge, experience, and their ability to give informative and interesting talks. Even if you do not perform repairs or restorations, you will still benefit as a clock and/or watch collector by gaining a better understanding of what makes up these pieces.

SCHEDULE:

8:00 am. **Registration and morning refreshments**

9:00 am. **General Introductions:** Chris Carey, President of Chapter 8, and Patrick Keenan, Director of the Willard House & Clock Museum

MORNING SESSION

9:15 am. **The Manufacture of Six Massachusetts Shelf Clocks - a Work in Progress**
David Gow

David Gow, well known to our chapter as the conservator at this museum, is presently engaged in manufacturing the movements and cases for six Massachusetts shelf clocks – a long-awaited dream for him. The presentation will begin with an introduction to the basic forms in existence. This will include construction details found while examining original clocks. Then onto the difficult reproduction decisions in the process of making the cases such as selection of material used in the construction of the cases, veneering and inlay techniques, and the use of tools. Some of the clock cases and materials used will be on hand to augment the lecture. It is hoped that a deeper insight will be gained into these beautiful

objects (many here on display at the Willard Museum) by the careful examination and construction process. This lecture is hoped to be a two-part series. This first, is primarily focused on the clock case. The next (at some point) will be the making of the movements, including the dials and hands.

Born into a family of craftsmen in Aberdeen Scotland, David continued the tradition by serving a five-year apprenticeship as a joiner and cabinetmaker. Some years later, this traditional background formed the foundation of almost forty years in the field of horology. For over twenty years he has held the position of Conservator at the Willard House and Clock Museum. His clients include, historical societies, museums, the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C. and private collectors across the country. He has taught restoration skills to students, with an emphasis on sensitive conservation / restoration techniques. Also, he has given lectures which include the annual Robinson Lecture at the Willard Museum.

10:30 am. **Coffee break and snacks**

11:00 am **“Topic: “Speaker’s Choice” – *John Losch***

Due to fact that the speaker originally confirmed for this time slot regrettably had to remove himself at the last minute for personal reasons, we invited the widely-known John Losch to share some of his far ranging horological skills with us. And John generously stepped in to take this time slot with the understanding that the topic couldn't be defined in time for the print deadline of this notice. Knowing John as we do, we can be assured that his topic will be of interest and value to the attendees. Questions and discussion will be welcome until he runs out of time.

John Losch is a semi-retired clockmaker who recently passed his milestone 70th year at the bench. In his early years he worked at the Howard Clock factory in one of its final iterations. John was associated with the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments at Harvard University as a restorer for thirty-five years. He taught at the NAWCC School of Horology. Concurrent with those associations he ran his own clock repair and restoration business for many years. Now John writes and lectures occasionally, and serves as a trustee of the Willard House and Clock Museum, and as an emeritus trustee of the American Clock and Watch Museum in Bristol, Conn.

12:15 pm. **Catered box lunch**

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:00 pm **A Tour of the Simon and Aaron Willard Galleries – *Robert Cheney***

Robert C. Cheney of Brimfield, Massachusetts will be our after lunch speaker. His topic will be an actual tour of the Simon and Aaron Willard galleries in the Willard House and Clock Museum. The two galleries provide a wide portfolio of the work of two of the better-known Willard brothers including a patent timepiece, a musical eight-day clock, a patent alarm timepiece or "lighthouse" clock, and a Massachusetts shelf clock with a silvered dial possibly engraved by Paul Revere! The Aaron gallery, will include documented eight-day clocks with cases by Stephen Badlam of Dorchester, an eight-day clock with a painted iron dial decorated by Spencer Nolen, his very popular "dish dial" shelf clocks with painted tablets, portraits and a tower clock made by Aaron Willard Jr. in 1839. A lot to talk about and the discussion will no doubt be a lively one.

Robert C. Cheney is well known to Chapter 8 members and the wider horological world. He has served as conservator and consultant to over thirty-five museums, and a Board member to three horological museums including most recently, the Willard House and Clock Museum. Robert has lectured extensively in the U. S., Canada and the UK, has written a book with Philip Zea, "Clock Making in New England, 1725-1825", and, as Scholar in Residence at the Concord Museum in 1998-2000, has re-written the Willard painted dial clock story and published it in April 2000 in "Antiques Magazine". Robert is recently retired as Director of Clocks, Watches and Scientific Instruments at Skinners in Marlborough.



Travel Information: Take any route to Grafton Center. Follow signs to Willard Museum.

From Mass Pike, take exit 11, turn right, follow Rte 122 to Rte 140 to Grafton Center. Follow signs to Willard Museum.

From I-495, take Rte 9 to Rte 30, turn on to Willard Road at Tufts Campus. Follow signs to Willard Museum.

Future Meetings: summer picnic, Sunday, August 13th, Ludlow Fish and Game Club in Ludlow, MA, and the last 2017 meeting, November 4th, Old Sturbridge Village

Want to buy / sell a horological item? See the enclosed insert. Email or phone your text for the next meeting to the secretary.

*****PLEASE CHECK THE MAILING LABEL OF THIS MEETING NOTICE AND NOTIFY US IF THE DUES EXPIRATION DATE DOES NOT AGREE WITH YOUR RECORDS. THANKS*****

REGISTRATION FORM
Please Return by TUESDAY, May 16th

Registration, Saturday, May 20, 2017 Willard House Workshop (no walk-ins for this event)

Registrations: \$45.00 each for members and non-members, total enclosed \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email option: _____

***Use PayPal (chapt8@gmail.com), or mail this form with a check (NE Chapter 8) to:
Joseph Seremeth, 23 George Allen Rd, W. Brookfield, MA 01585***