

The Bytown Times

VOLUME 33 NO. 5 NOVEMBER 24, 2013

ISSN 1712-2799

SEPTEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



The Phoenix Project Team—Jordan Renaud, Ray Springer, John Ruhland, Daniel Burgoyne and J. P. Tourigny.

Thirty-eight members attended the September meeting of the Ottawa Valley Chapter #111.

Keynote Presentation

The keynote speaker was Ray Springer, who introduced the "Phoenix Project", a chapter program to create a Twiss, wooden works tall case clock using found parts from old, damaged, and incomplete Twiss cases and movements. Missing pieces would be made by the club members using tools that would have been available at the time of the original manufacture.

Ray gave a brief history of the Twiss family and business. The family (father Hiram and sons Austin, Benjamin, Joseph, Ira and Russell) arrived in Montreal, in what was then known as Lower Canada, around 1820. They had moved from their home base in Connecticut where the family had been involved in the clock making trade - a number of the boys apparently having apprenticed to Silas Hoadley. Once settled in Montreal, the family established a clock making business which appears to have remained in operation until possibly as late as 1850.

But why move from Connecticut, a major clock making centre, to the remote location in Montreal? Ray raised a number of possibilities. The Twiss family were Free Masons and the 1820's saw a firestorm of opposition to the Free Masons in the area, perhaps making the move necessary for safety's sake. Another possibility was due to Connecticut being saturated

Cont'd Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

September Meeting Highlights and Photos	1,2,3,4
Officers and Contacts	2
Winston Churchill's Watch	4
Phoenix Project Plan	5
Dan's Suggested Reading	6
Did You Know?	6
Editor's Corner	6
President's Corner	6

Our next meeting:

November 24, 2013

At the

**Ottawa Citizen Building,
1101 Baxter Road**

Special Guest Speaker!!

Steven Humphrey
Executive Director
NAWCC

Steven is coming from Pennsylvania to speak to us about the mission of the NAWCC, its activities, and the benefits provided to members. He will leave lots of time for us to ask questions about the NAWCC and its programs.

Be sure to make it to this Special Meeting.

Show and Tell

In a break from our normal format, we are asking members to bring horological items relating to Canada for display and / or Show and Tell. Let's show Steven all about Canada's watch and clock history!



OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

President :	Daniel Burgoyne	burgoynedaniel@yahoo.ca
Vice President:	Don Purchase	donpurchase@rogers.com
Treasurer:	Ray Springer	celineandray@bell.net
Secretary & Bytown Times Editor:	Gary Fox	chapter111.gary@yahoo.ca
Auditor:	Jean Paul Tourigny	
Immediate Past President:	Wally Clemens	wallysc@gmail.com
Program	Don Purchase	donpurchase@rogers.com
Education & Workshop Chairman:	Dan Hudon	danhudon@sympatico.ca

SEPTEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D)

with clock makers, making competition fierce, which could have caused them to seek out new territory where there was less competition. On the other hand, Ray also noted that it could have been because of the plentiful pine trees in the area surrounding Montreal from which to make the clock cases.

Regardless of the reasons for moving to Montreal, the family was very successful in producing and selling clocks for many years. While there is some thought that the family did make some of their own clock movements, most were imported from the Connecticut shop of Silas Hoadley - with some from Riley Whiting. The cases were made from local pine and were painted with a faux finish to make the case appear to be made of a more expensive wood such as mahogany. The dials were painted by two local ladies and were beautiful with raised gesso decoration. The clocks sold very well since, staying with wooden works movements and pine wood cases, they were quite inexpensive. Yet, despite this, the clocks were beautifully finished.

As explained by Ray, the project will be to build a Twiss clock, using parts from members parts collections and replacing missing pieces with hand tooled parts made by the team. The clock will be entered in the NAWCC Craft Competition and ultimately will be sold at auction to the chapter members - with the proceeds going to the chapter.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell featured the letters G, H and I. First up was **J P Tourigny** who presented a **Gruen Precision** two button Chronograph and a **Gruen Veri-thin** in a beautiful curved case. **John Ruhland** presented an English clock from Clerkenwell which was made to commemorate the coronation of King **George VI** in 1937. The clock was time only with a passing strike on the hour. Next, **Daniel Burgoyne** presented a **Hamilton 4992B** with the black 24 hour dial, used by the US armed forces. Finally, **Allan Symons** presented a book published in London. Titled "Clock and Watch Repairing for Amateurs". The book was one of a series titled "Do it Yourself Series". The thought is **horrifying!**



Daniel Burgoyne's Hamilton 4992B



J. P. Tourigny's Gruen Veri-thin in a curved case (far left and middle) and Gruen Precision 2 button chronograph on the right





SEPTEMBER MEETING – PHOTOS

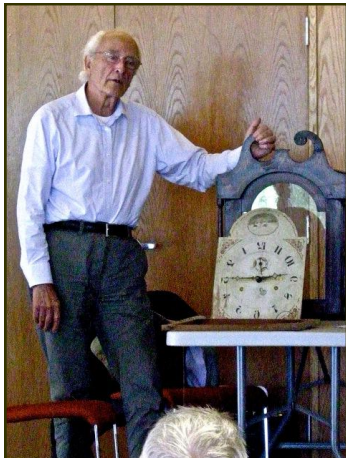


CONTENTS		PAGE
PRELIMINARY REMARKS		9
HOW A CLOCK WORKS		12
HOW THE HANDS OF A CLOCK MOVE		17
THE PENDULUM AND ITS SWING		20
THE ESCAPEMENT		24
WHEN THERE IS NEITHER PENDULUM NOR WEIGHT		29
THE STRIKING MECHANISM		36
WHEN A CLOCK REFUSES TO GO		40
SETTING A PENDULUM CLOCK IN BEAT		46
REPAIRING AND CLEANING A WATCH		48
THE REPAIRER'S KIT		59

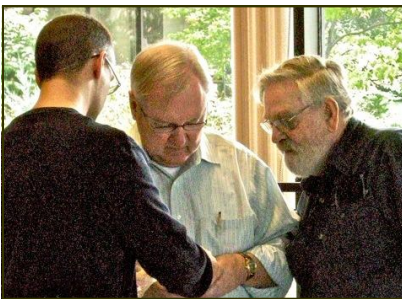


Allan Symon's book on "Clock and Watch Repairing for Amateurs"..... **Oh the humanity!!!!!!!**

John Ruhland's Commemorative clock celebrating the coronation of King George VI



Ray Springer and John Ruhland discuss the project to resurrect a Twiss tallcase clock from parts. They are showing a case and a hood similar to what would have been made by the Twiss Family.



SEPTEMBER MEETING - SOME OF THE MART ITEMS FOR SALE



WINSTON CHURCHILL'S WATCH



Young Winston at Sandhurst

Winston Churchill had a run of bad luck with watches as a young man. His father, Lord Randolph Churchill, gave him an M. F. Dent Co. demi-hunter with the family coat of arms engraved and enamelled on the case.

Shortly after Winston arrived at Sandhurst Royal Military College, another cadet knocked the watch out of his hand, breaking the balance among other damage. Lord Randolph was furious but had the watch repaired.

Shortly after getting the watch back, Winston was out by a local stream where he bent over, causing the watch to fall out of his pocket and into the water. He dove in, but couldn't find it, so he hired 23 fellow cadets **who redirected the course of the stream!** He then got the local fire brigade to clear out the last of the water and found his watch. It was badly rusted and needed repair, so Winston sent it personally to Dent, hoping his father wouldn't learn of the mishap. But, as luck would have it, Lord Randolph visited Dent's shop on another matter and found out from Dent himself!

Lord Randolph was beside himself and wrote *"It is clear you are not to be trusted with a valuable watch & when I get it back from Mr. Dent, I shall not give it back to you. You had better buy one of those cheap watches for £2 as those are the only ones which if you smash, are not very costly to replace. Jack (Winston's younger brother) has had the watch I gave him longer than you have had yours; the only expenses I have paid on his watch was 10/s for cleaning before he went back to Harrow. But in all qualities of steadiness taking care of his things & never doing stupid things, Jack is vastly your superior."*

I guess that Lord Randolph didn't know the lengths to which Winston went to avoid a tongue lashing, otherwise, he may have been more impressed than angry! Then again, what did brother Jack accomplish in his lifetime?

J. Deshpande, Watch Time, April 2013



PHOENIX PROJECT PLAN

The following is the original plan for the Phoenix Project as proposed by Ray Springer.....

The overall objective of the Phoenix Project is to create a fully functioning Twiss tall case clock, using as many original parts and materials as possible in order to give the clock the look, feel and character of a genuine Twiss clock. Where possible we will use the processes which would have been used by the Twiss family in the early 1800's e.g. use of hollows and round planes to make mouldings as opposed to a router.

There will be some difficulty in matching new wood with an existing case. Therefore, it will be necessary to decide early on whether to conserve, restore or redo the case finish and then how to match or finish.

We will attempt to keep costs down by borrowing tools from Club members as necessary.

A record of all the work performed will be placed on a label inside the clock, written in India ink, describing the origin of the parts, the repairs and previous ownership.

Parts:

- **Lower case:** The lower case will be provided by John Ruhland. Work needs to be done on the finish to diminish the visual effect of scratches around the case. The team will require cove moulding for the upper part of the case to match the mouldings on the skirt below. This moulding should be made using hollows and round planes. John Ruhland has period specific nails to attach the mouldings. A lower case door needs to be fabricated and painted and an escutcheon, key and hinges need to be located. Bryan Hollebhone may have the escutcheon, key and hinges from his fire-damaged Twiss.
- **Hood:** So far the team has not found a hood to go with the lower case. John Ruhland has indicated he could/would take the exact measurements from his Twiss clock and provide them to the project team. John has antique pine boards and period nails available to construct the hood, the finials, two free columns, broken arch cornice and the wooden glass retainer ring. The hood will require old (wavy) glass. The team will have to locate and apply suitable paint(s) for the painted-grain-look. Locate suitable paint to be applied to the hood to replicate the original gold trim. Purfling and/or ingrained decorations of the hood needs to be added.
- **Movement:** The team will need to locate or construct a movement. If the team has to construct one, we need to decide whether this is to be a Hoadley or a Whiting type movement. Cherry wood will be used in the fabrication of the movement and/or parts. Bryan Hollebhone does have some parts from his fire damaged Twiss - perhaps the whole movement. If the movement is salvageable it may require fabrication of some new wheels. Where and if required, bone bushings will be used. Original diamond hands are also needed.
- **Dial:** The team will have to decide whether the dial will bear the initials J.B. & R. or some other combination. Suitable wood for dial will have to be found, cut and painted.
- **Weights:** Weights and hooks will likely need to be made. John Ruhland knows how to do this and has offered to help the project team. Period specific cording for the weights will be required.
- **Other:** Each purchase for the Twiss Phoenix Project needs to be pre-approved by the Project Lead. All expenditures from Club funds need to be supported by an original receipt.



An example of a
J & H Twiss Tall Case

Ray Springer



DAN'S SUGGESTED READINGS

Clocks Magazine

July 2013

- Making a moon roller dial part 2

August 2013

- Making a moon roller dial part 3

September 2013

- Night silencing longcase clocks
- A quarter-striking Comtoise
- Making a moon roller dial part 4

October 2013

- Making a moon roller dial part 5

November 2013

- Clocks at 10 Downing Street
- Meshing challenges when inserting a newly made wheel into an old movement
- Making a moon roller dial part 6

DID YOU KNOW?

2012 Watch Production

World wide watch production fell 5% in 2012 to 995 million units —the first time in the last decade (other than in 2009 during the peak of the financial crisis) when production was below 1 billion pieces. Of the 995 million, 78% were quartz analog, 19% quartz digital and 3% mechanical.

Watch Time, August

EDITOR'S CORNER

A busy November is ahead of us. Our Wine and Cheese party will be held on Saturday November 23, 2013 at the home of Brian and Judy MacDonald. If you haven't yet received your invitation, please contact me. Brian and Judy have a great collection which would be well worth the visit even if there were no wine and cheese!

Also, Our November meeting promises to be very special with Steven Humphries, Executive Director, NAWCC speaking. This will be an exciting meeting, so please plan on attending.

Once again, my thanks to the many contributors to this issue: Ben Roberts; Charlie Beddoe; Ray Springer and Daniel Burgoyne.

Gary Fox

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Autumn has been active on the Chapter front! The beginner's clock repair course given by our fellow member Daniel Hudon was very well attended, with 12 registrants. We are so lucky to have Dan as a teacher, who himself was a student of the late John Plewes. He is both knowledgeable, open minded about new ideas and a great presenter. Dan's course is the best and most affordable horology class you can find 1000 km around! Merci, Dan!

Incidentally, a few members have approached me with the idea of setting up some workshop-like activities as a continuation to the classes. It is felt we learn better from each other's that way than working alone. This is something that I have had in mind for some time. In fact, you will recall that I introduced the concept of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) last Spring. We have already two SIGs on the go. The first one is the "Phoenix Clock Project" with Ray Springer as lead. We are trying to bring "back to life" a burnt Twiss longcase clock, with a movement that is damaged but salvageable from Bryan Hollebhone and part of a case from John Ruhland. We held the first group meeting at John Ruhland's place on October 20th.

The second SIG is the construction of a wooden movement clock under Don Purchase's lead. Don is looking into plans, using a Twiss clock as a template, taking some wood turning classes himself and so on. This has the potential to be great fun as well! Another SIG will be created, this one where we could get together regularly at various members' workshops to work/practice a special skill or repair technique e.g. how to use a watchmaker or Sherline lathe and accessories, or a micro milling machine, repair our clocks, etc. This would work well for a group of 5-6 people, not more. Stay tuned!

With all those projects on the go, I hope that a SIG or members individually will enter the 2014 NAWCC Craft Contest. You will recall that I raised this in our May newsletter. You can see photos of the 2013 Craft Contest in the Nov/Dec 2013 (No 406) *Watch & Clock Bulletin*. The next NAWCC Convention will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, within driving distance from Ottawa.

On a final note, I would like to thank Gary Fox, who always does an excellent job editing this newsletter. Did you know past issues are archived on our website back to May 2001? Please take the time to read them again! I am thrilled to have received emails confirming that our newsletter is read by a number of people from other provinces and countries, not forgetting those of our "sister" Chapter 182, in Canberra, Australia. Fantastic!

Daniel Burgoyne