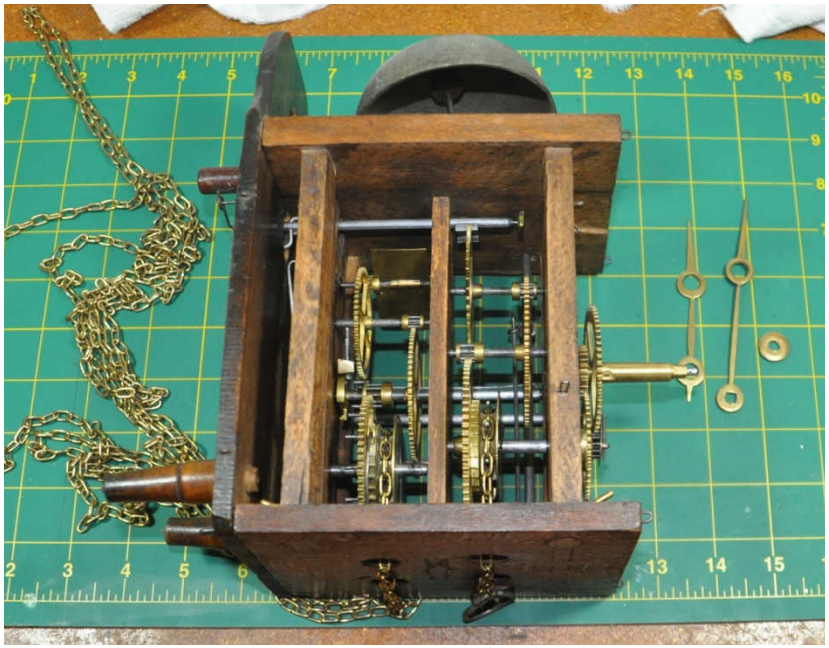
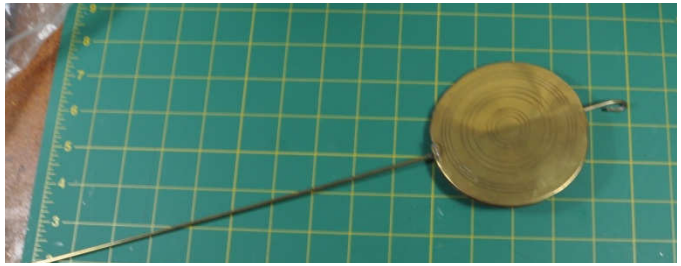
CSI: Walnut Creek, CA: Using the internet to solve a mystery

A Clock Story Investigation
What, where, when, who?
&
Putting the pieces together

The evidence – 1



Dial and bezel were separate when received. Dial was warped and has insect damage.



The evidence – 2

Name and place are not as sharp as numerals and minute marks. Suggests they were added later.

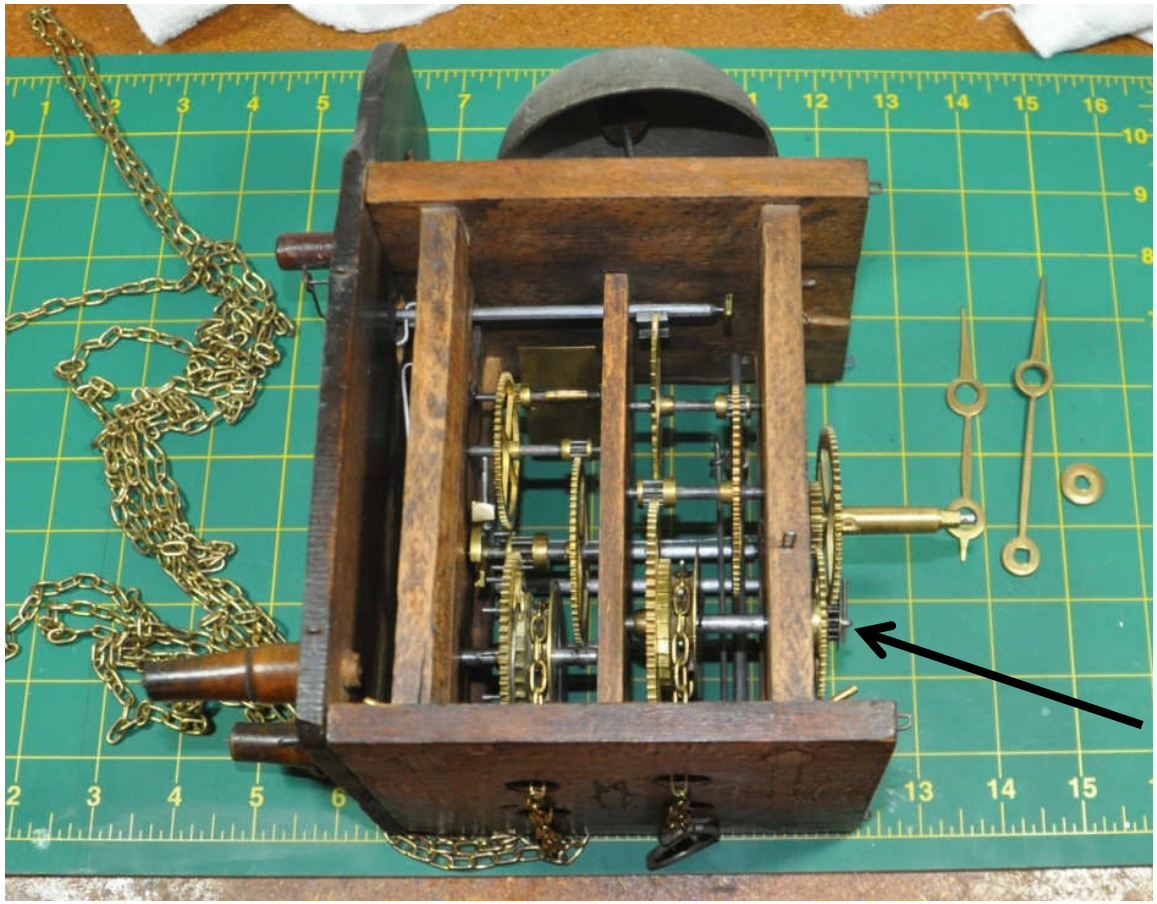
The evidence - 3

How should date be interpreted?
What is written in the circle?

The evidence - 4

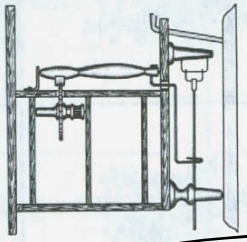
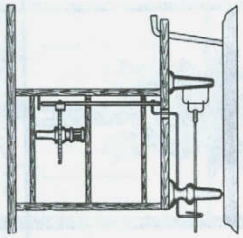
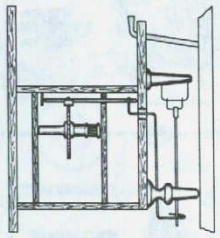
Steel screws in back obviously do not belong there. There are holes in the back and cut off pegs in the top and bottom plates. Interestingly they do not line up. Were parts of different movements combined?

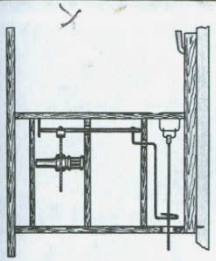
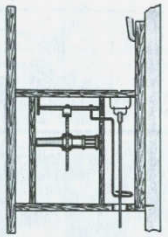
The evidence - 5



The motion works are driven from the first wheel not the minute arbor.

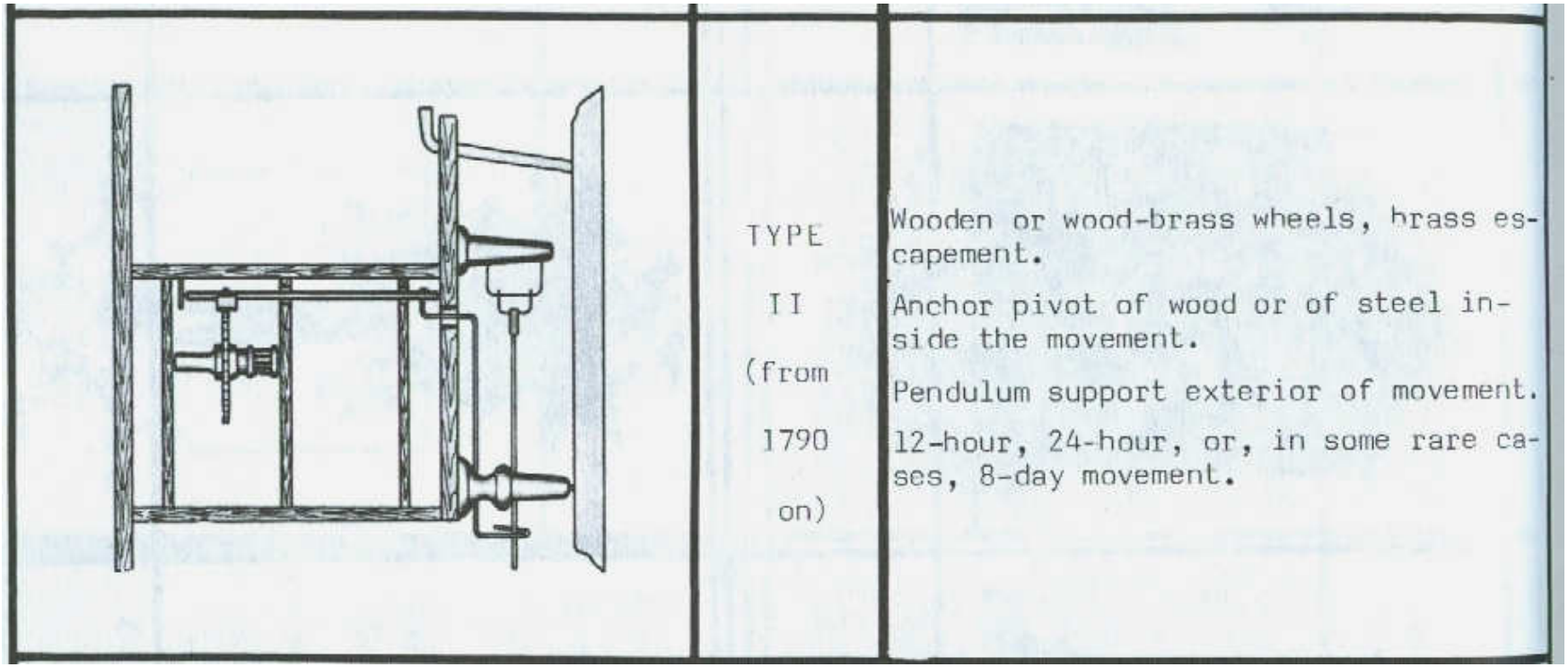
The style

CASE	DATE	DESCRIPTION
	TYPE I (from 1790 on)	Wooden wheels, brass escapement. The earliest ones have a wooden escapement. Anchor pivot of wood mounted above the movement roof. Pendulum support outside the movement, time and strike train behind each other. 12-hour movement; later 24-hour movement as well.
	TYPE II (from 1790 on)	Wooden or wood-brass wheels, brass escapement. Anchor pivot of wood or of steel inside the movement. Pendulum support exterior of movement. 12-hour, 24-hour, or, in some rare cases, 8-day movement.
	TYPE III (from 1800 on)	Wood-brass wheels, brass escapement. Anchor pivot of wood or of steel inside the movement. Time and strike train in one unit arranged next to each other on the front plate. 12-hour, 24-hour, and 8-day movement.

CASE	DATE	DESCRIPTION
	TYPE IV (from 1800 on)	Wood-brass wheels, brass escapement, anchor pivot of wood or steel, pendulum support inside the movement. Time and strike train behind each other. 12- or 24-hour or 8-day movement.
	TYPE V (from 1820 on)	Wood-brass wheels, later all brass wheels with steel pivots. After 1852, machined full-stock steel gears. Anchor pivot all steel inside movement. Pendulum support inside movement. Time and strike train next to each other on the first row plates.
		Clockmaker Matha Scherer working on wooden plate movements in his workshop "MURERHUSLI", near Gutach, Schönwald, The Black Forest.

From Kochmann, Black Forest Clockmaker and Cuckoo Clock

The style



TYPE II (from 1790 on)	Wooden or wood-brass wheels, brass escapement.
	Anchor pivot of wood or of steel inside the movement.
	Pendulum support exterior of movement.
	12-hour, 24-hour, or, in some rare cases, 8-day movement.

Could the date be 1822?

Wheels do not correspond exactly to any of the styles in Kochmann's book

Search for Wehrle(y)

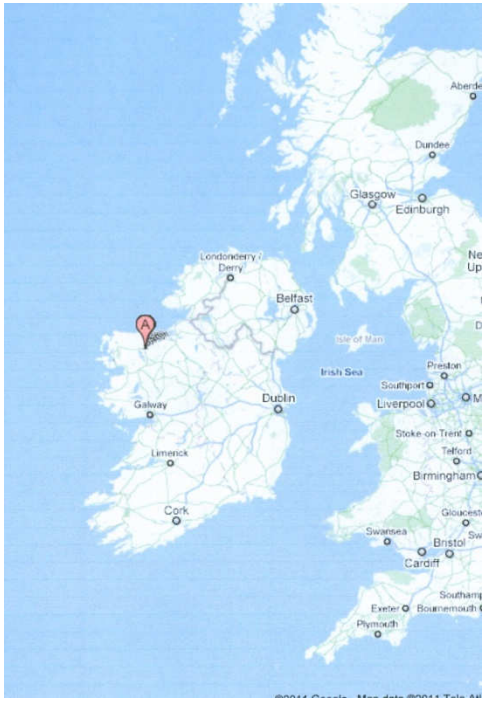
Kochmann discusses Emilian Wehrle (1832 – 1896) as the most famous member of a family of clockmakers in the Black Forest. Particularly famous for musical clocks.

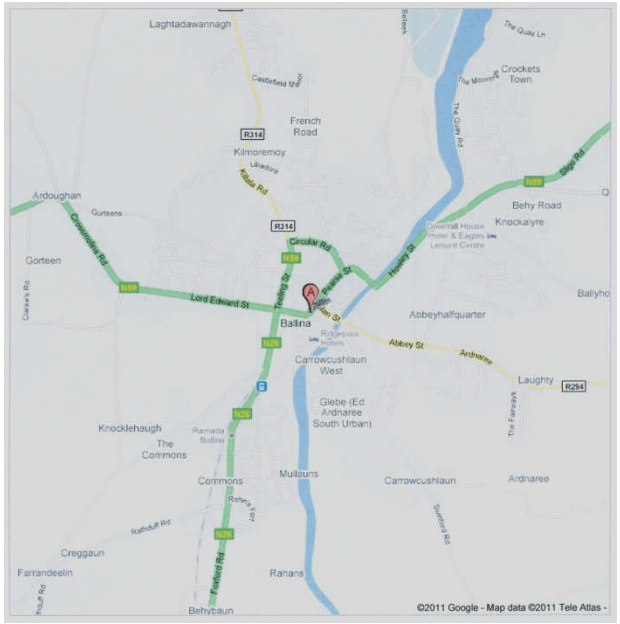
He could not have made this clock in either 1822 or 1922.

Search for Ballina

A town in County Mayo, Ireland.

What is a Black Forest style clock doing with the name of an Irish town on the dial?





Search for Wehrley & Ballina

MayoToday.ie Today's Mayo News

Family moment at Ballina Heritage Day

10. Jul, 2010

As of 9 February 2011, this post is no longer available.

Search for Wehrley & Ballina

Search for Wehrley & Ballina

Ballina Heritage Day is all about tradition and Ballina mother and daughter, Eileen Wehrley and Kathy Flynn, come from a family with a long tradition in Ballina and a strong association with Ballina Salmon Festival.

Both ladies are great supporters of Heritage Day and this year as always looked a pretty picture when they were photographed at the annual event.

Mrs Wehrley's late husband, Jim Wehrley, was a highly regarded and skilled watchmaker who ran a successful family jewellery shop on O'Rahilly Street for decades.

Mrs Wehrley, herself, was one of the stalwarts of Ballina Salmon Festival in its early years and along with many of her old friends from the town were the backbone of a community event in more innocent times.

Next Steps

Emailed MayoToday.ie asking to be put into contact with the ladies in the picture.

Received first of many informative emails from Cathy Flynn

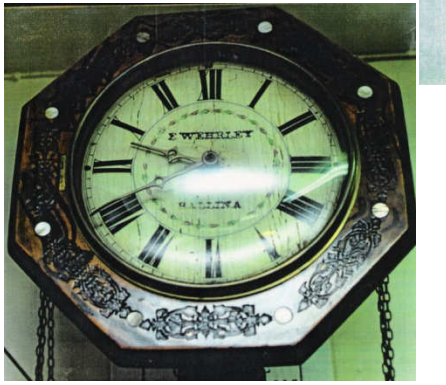
Also found listing for Engelbert Wehrley and his family in 1911 census of Ireland.

Who is Cathy Flynn?

Cathy is the great granddaughter of Engelbert Wehrley, the first of several Wherley clockmakers in Balina, Ireland.

These are examples of other Engelbert Wehrley clocks.

Most of the rest of the information presented here is from Cathy.



E(ngelbert) Wehrley

Born 1861 in Schönenbach in the Black Forest.
Same town as Emilian Wherle.

(Irish census implies birth date of 1875.)

Emigrated to Ireland in 1880.

Settled in Ballina in 1886.

Initially sold his clocks by walking from place to place with them on his back as had been done in the Black Forest.

Set up shop at 19 King Street (now O'Rahilly St.)

Died 1940.

Added "y" to name so Irish would pronounce it correctly.

The writing on the back

Family oral history says:

Clocks were always marked.

The date 6-10-22 refers to 6 October 1922. (This is late for this style movement.)

The signature of E. Wehrley matches that of Engelbert W. in census forms.

The writing in the circle is probably “Bertie” (born 1900), Cathy’s grandfather. Bertie learned clockmaking from his father.

More about E. Wehrley

Family oral history also says:

Engelbert hand carved the cases and painted the dials.

Cathy's father, Jim, took pride in fact that his grandfather hand made the clocks.

Engelbert was on his way to America but got off the ship and stayed.

Cathy has visited the house where Engelburt was born.

She knows of no connection to Emilian but says there are lots of Wehrle's in that area.

She has no explanation for the discrepancy in Engelburt's birth date. (The 1911 date for the census could be wrong.)

The shop

Engelbert Wehrley and his grandson Engelbert James (Jim) Wherley (died 1995) in front of their shop.

The shop location recently

Putting the pieces together - 1

Flattened dial by moistening back and putting weight on top.

Cleaned movement

Consulted Nile Godfrey and Wayne English about style. Dale Gardner helped decipher writing on back of dial.

Built backboard

Built doors to keep out dust

Located holes for attaching dial to movement and bezel to dial

Put it together

Putting the pieces together - 2

Weights (3.5 lb.) were way too heavy.

Replaced with ~1.5 lb

Made other minor adjustments

Put it together.

Noticed some days time chain ran out quicker than others.

It was slipping over worn pins. Replaced pins.

Should do same on strike side.

When disassembled for chain problem noticed saw dust falling from back of dial, presumably from insects in wood.

Put dial in freezer for a month.

Put it together.

On the wall

Some notes on materials

Brass tubing for weights

- OnlineMetals.com – reasonable price
  - They offer lots of materials
  - Cost is less if you allow them flexibility on length

Lead for weights

- Getting hard to come by. No longer used for tire weights.
- Obtained some from a local tire store.
- Garage sales are a good source.