



Free State Chapter 141

MD, PA, VA, WV

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Feedback for the Web Site should be addressed to Alex Snouffer at: arsnouffer@gmail.com

December – January

No.2015-01

President's Message

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all! I simply cannot believe it's December already with Christmas nearly upon us, except for the incessant holiday commercials and being bombarded with Christmas music in any commercial establishment I go to. Somehow the holiday season keeps creeping earlier every year to the point where it's infringing on Halloween! The holidays are a time of giving and goodwill, which I hope we can continue throughout the year. And don't let them become a time of stress as well; count your blessings, have fun, and enjoy the company of friends and family. I wish for everyone a very happy holiday period and a prosperous new year.

As a reminder, our inclement weather policy regarding meetings is as follows: if the Frederick schools are closed on the date of our meeting, we will cancel - otherwise the meeting is on. If you have any doubt, call Neil Amrine and ask. Our program again this year is our annual "Show & Tell." Bring something new, old, rare, odd, unusual, sentimental, beautiful, ugly or mysterious - anything clock or watch related with a story you can tell and invite others to comment. If you have an item that you cannot figure out what it does or how it works, bring it in and ask others to apply their expertise and experience to solve the mystery; that's a sure-fire way to get plenty of opinions, some of which will even be accurate. It takes several people to make this a good program, and it doesn't require any special talent; just bring a clock or watch (or anything related to clocks and watches) and provide a short explanation or story. The audience takes over from there - it's that easy. Now, to sweeten the pot a bit, everyone making a presentation gets a \$6

discount on their meal (\$10 instead of \$16); just let Neil know you're making a presentation when you pay and he will apply your discount. I am really looking forward to seeing what you bring!

We had a really good program in November with Darcy Bertelmann's presentation on Chauncey Jerome. She opened a window into the life of Chauncey and his partners with a realistic perspective of how things were in the early 19th century. Even my wife, who does not share my passion for clocks, loved it. Better yet, just like a good movie, Darcy set the table for a sequel, which I hope will be forthcoming. If you are on my e-mail distribution list, you had an opportunity to attend the presentation by Rick Shindle on Waynesboro Cocks on 9 December; I hope several of you were able to go. If you have e-mail access and are not on my distro list, please let me know and I will include you. With our newsletters coming out every other month, e-mail is the only way to get folks short notice information in a timely manner.

Finally, as always, please remember our brave men and women serving in dangerous places throughout the world, the number of which seems to increase daily. This is a particularly hard time for them and their families as they endure family separations and the uncertainty that is a routine part of their lives. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers, every day, until they return home, and look for opportunities to say thank you to our folks in the military and other agencies serving in these dangerous areas whenever you can.

Lou Orsini, president

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 8th, 2015 at Mountain Gate Restaurant

Minutes of Freestate Chapter 141 – November 13th, 2014

A Mart started our gathering followed by a great buffet meal. Our returning President, Lou Orsini, opened the meeting at approximately 7:10 pm and started by having everyone introduce themselves and give a brief synopsis of their varying interests. Ron Gaskins was welcomed as a new member from Boonsboro, MD. Rick Shindle informed members of a program he would be giving on 9 December at 7 PM at the Waynesboro Industrial Museum. Members are encouraged to attend.

Darcy Bertelmann furnished the program for the evening called "The Connecticut Clock Baron Time Forgot - Chauncey Jerome". Darcy is from Wethersfield, CT, which is also the home of Chauncey Jerome. He was born in Canaan County in 1793 which is a farming community and has a lot of water which is good for working mills. The family moved to Plymouth where his father made a living as a blacksmith. Chauncey had little education - only allowed 3 months a year. At age 9, he worked full time for his father. Chauncey was only 11 when his father died so Chauncey was farmed out to others. At age of 14, he was apprenticed to a Plymouth house carpenter until age 21 but he wanted to learn about clocks. During the cold winter, due to unsuitable weather to build, he constructed a tall case clock. About the age of 23, he got a job at Eli Terry's making Pillar and Scroll case clocks by hand. About 1816, Chauncey worked under Terry's direction and developed a way to mass produce these cases. Jerome left Terry about 1820 to go out on his own. He borrowed, bought, or bartered for materials to build Pillar and Scroll cases on his own. During the winter of 1820-1821, he sold these clocks door to door. In 1821 he moved to Bristol where he bartered with George Mitchell giving 307 clocks for a house, barn, and 1300 acres of land.

By 1824, Jerome and Neville set up shop in Bristol and got 200 movements which fit in dwarf cases 4 ft tall and they made 4 at a time. These sold very well in the Boston area for \$16.00 apiece. They returned to Bristol with youthful hearts but Jerome's daughter was very ill and died 2 days later. In late 1824, the company Jerome, Darrow and company was

formed including Nobel who was Chauncey's brother, and Elijah Darrow. They developed a new movement called "the groaner" due to the sound it made. In 1825, they build a new, 2 story factory in Bristol. In 1826, the latest company was dissolved. During the period 1825-1827, they introduced the "Bronzed Looking Glass Clock". This was the best clock that had been made for the price. They were made for \$1.00 less than a Scroll clock but sold for \$2.00 more. Circa 1828, Jerome & Darrow was formed and they made a variety of cases. In 1830, they were also making 8 day wooden clock movements. In 1834, the company name was again changed to C & N Jerome for the brothers. Nobel adopted a brass movement developed by Frederick Heisley of Harrisburg, PA. In 1835, Chauncey opened a "factory" in Richmond VA as a way to circumvent the Southern tariffs caused by the war.

Clocks were really only assembled there. The "Panic of 1837" caused C & N Jerome to teeter on the edge of bankruptcy. They mortgaged their properties to raise money to continue business. While on a business trip, Chauncey had an idea for an inexpensive brass movement using rolled sheet brass. The result was inexpensive brass movement with interchangeable parts. Nobel Jerome had this movement patented and in 1839, a new company was formed, Jeromes, Gilbert, Grant, & Company, to manufacture 30 hour cheap brass clocks. In 1840, Chauncey bought out all his partners except his brother Nobel. In 1841, the company made a profit of \$35,000. so when the partners were bought out, they were paid 100% on their investment. In the 1850s, at the height of Chauncey's notoriety, he provided more than half of the clocks made in the US.

"TO BE CONTINUED"

Meeting was dismissed with a reminder to remember all our various members serving our Country. Next meeting is 8 January 2015.

- Patsy Rothen

"Treasurer's Tidbits"

Hi folks!

I would remind all members to send in their dues, if they are not fully paid... dues were due at the end of June. **Contact me at Neil54@aol.com, or call me at 301-229-2587 if you have questions.** I look forward to seeing everyone at the Mountain Gate Restaurant in January. Please be prompt with your RSVPs for the meeting reservations. We will need to know the head count for the meal so reservations can be made.

Thank you!!

Neil Amrine

Attention: It is important also to keep Neil Amrine at Neil54@aol.com or 301-229-2587 advised of any change in your membership information, address changes, etc. We cannot keep you informed if you don't keep us informed.

FREE STATE CHAPTER 141 MEMBERSHIP-RENEWAL APPLICATION

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH AND CLOCK COLLECTORS

Date _____ NAWCC No. _____ Interests _____

(CLOCKS, WATCHES, TOOLS, OTHER)

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Address _____ Phone Number _____

City/State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Wish to Receive Newsletter via Email or US Mail

As of January 2007 Annual dues are only \$8.00 payable to Free State Chapter 141. Please send your check with this completed application to:

Neil Amrine, 5621 Ogden Road, Bethesda, Maryland, 20816. Phone: 301-229-2587; email: neil54@aol.com

If you have an interest in clocks or watches you are invited to Our Next Meeting
Thursday, January 8th, 2015 at Mountain Gate Family Restaurant

CHAPTER 141 PROGRAM FOR JANUARY 8th, 2015

The traditional January meeting theme for Chapter 141 has always been a Show And Tell. Members and guests are encouraged to bring whatever horologically related item, project or idea they have to share with the membership. Past January meetings have offered up a wonderful variety of presentations that always surprise a delight. I know you all have something to bring to the meeting, so don't be shy, come prepared to share. I think you will find an easy and receptive audience. Plan on attending, we're looking forward to seeing you at the meeting. Come out and join us for a pleasant evening.

– Bob Rothen

Meeting time is ~ Dinner: about 6:15 PM *Mart:* Come early for the mart *Business/Program:* follows dinner

MEETING RESERVATIONS: You may use the Meeting Reservation form below to mail in your reservations for the Free State Chapter 141 meetings. Please indicate the meeting date as you complete the form. You may also make reservations via e-mail to neil54@aol.com and providing Neil Amrine with the information requested on the meeting reservation form or by Calling Neil at 301-229-2587 and informing Neil directly. (Please RSVP at least 48 hours before the meeting date)

Cancellation Policy: Our policy on meeting cancellations is simple. If the Frederick schools are closed due to inclement weather on the day of our meeting, we will cancel. Otherwise, you can expect the meeting is on. In the event of a cancellation, Neil will try to contact everyone who has made reservations (especially those who don't live locally), but it's all based on the school decision. (Several Radio & TV stations in the region carry closure information including WMAR 2, WTTG 5, WJLA 7, WUSA 9, WBAL 11, WJZ 13, x 45, & WETA 26.)

Free State Chapter 141 Meeting Reservation Form

Reservation for Free State 141 Meeting on _____

Name _____

Guest Names _____

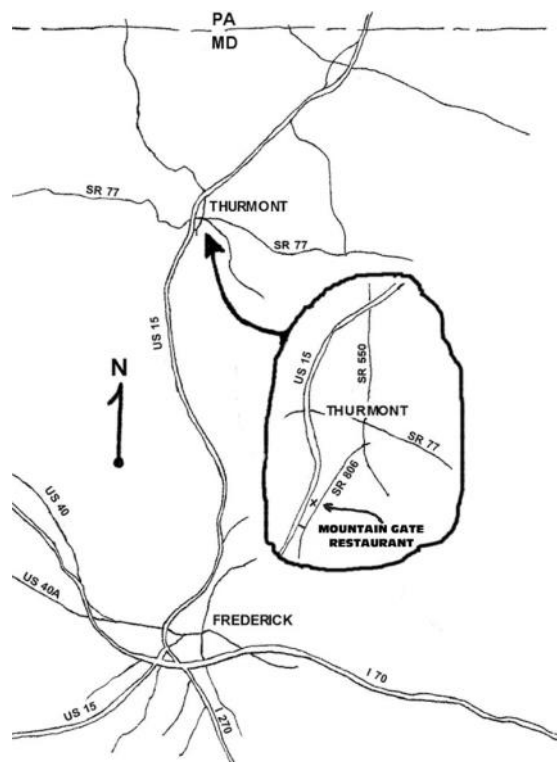
Number coming _____ x \$16.00 = Total \$ _____

Number of Mart Tables _____ (Mart Tables are Free)

Please make checks payable to Free State Chapter 141 and mail to Neil Amrine, 5621 Ogden Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20816

Phone: 301-229-2587; email: neil54@aol.com.

Directions: Mountain Gate Family Restaurant is in Thurmont, about 16 miles north of Frederick. Take Route 15N if coming from Frederick or 15 South if coming from PA. Take the Thurmont ramp to MD806 and go east on Thurmont Blvd (right if traveling north, left if traveling south) for about a quarter mile, then take a left on Route 806 (Frederick Road) heading north. The restaurant is about 600 ft. on the left. If you need additional directions, please call the Mountain Gate Restaurant at 301-271-4373.



Horological Talk & Tips

A Seth Thomas #124 Movement

Today's clock is a SETH THOMAS Tambour Mantle Clock with a #124 spring driven movement with a



pendulum. It belongs to a neighborhood friend, who asked that I take a look at it. It is time, strike and chime. That means three work-

ing trains and need for synchronizing the chime and strike. It's my understanding that many commercial shops might simply replace the movement with an equivalent Hermle movement from Germany. I have heard some shops refuse to work on them. I agreed to at least take a look at it for him.

With a quick examination it appears to be an original case and movement and not in too bad of a shape. It was serviced by Auto Clock Shop, 1801 Bladensburg Road, NE, Washington, DC 20002, Ph 399-0699 (per label on door) and receipt inside is dated NOV 1972. It needs a good cleaning and oiling plus adjustment as a minimum. It ticks but doesn't run, doesn't strike or chime and the strike cam appears to rub continuously. The key and pendulum bob are present. The dial is silvered type and could use a re-silver job but I won't do that. I will start by removing the movement and assessing its problems in detail before disassemble and cleaning. I photographed it as I progressed and kept shop notes. I will detail the documentation of the work on this clock in my shop notes since I may have to do it bit by bit over an extended period of time.

The movement removed nicely from case. Examining the removed movement I found the arbor of the chime silencer had been sheared off where the square shank protrudes through the dial. See photo. The chime



mechanism will have to be disassembled to remove the plates for cleaning. This will be marked and photographed so it can be restored to original operating condition. The three springs are housed in what can be described as cups rather than barrels.

The cups are attached to the front plate with screws. The cups do not have cover plates like standard barrels nor is the spring drive wheel part of the barrel. The



front plate for the movement is made of two pieces of brass overlapping and secured by screws. There are 6 posts separating the plates. Four of them are supporting the top portion of the front plate. The bottom portion of

the front plate is supported by attaching to the upper plate at the mid section and using the other two posts to support the bottom portion of the plate. Since all these posts are made of equal heights one must account for the two spacer washers used on the two bottom posts to make the bottom portion of the plate set level. The two piece plate allow you to let down the three springs and remove the bottom portion of the front plate with the spring cups and springs still in place. When I did this I observed the Chime spring cup had a split in the case



cup case. The manufacturing process to make the cups involved forming the cup from a sheet of brass by stamping. This technique can set up significant stresses in the brass and on this cup not only had the hole for the spring anchor been made in the case but a portion of the lip of the cup had been removed for clearance of one of the neighboring wheels in the time train making this area vulnerable to such problems as the splitting. I found no replacement cups available. Fortunately, the spring anchor pin still seemed to be secure in its setting, but to avoid future problems I felt we should reinforce it by soldering a



reinforcing piece of brass over this area. Since I would be heating and I wanted to examine the health of the spring itself, I removed the spring from the cup prior to the cup repair. The end result is as shown here.

Back to the broken arbor. After removing the lower front panel, I had free access to the arbor used for the chime silencer. Information in the literature had indicated it was not uncommon for this arbor to be broken. The arbor is designed with the end protruding through the front dial as rectangular for a good fraction of an inch to allow the small end of the winding key to fit over it so the arbor may be used to rotate the hammer silencing lever. The problem occurs where the flat surfaces of the arbor transition abruptly to the round surface of the arbor creating a stress point. The arbor is easily sheared off there. When I made a new arbor, I used a diamond coated rotary drum and ground four flat sides on the end of the arbor for the key to fit over. The diameter of the rotary drum provided a gentle transition from the flat surfaces to the round surface of the arbor (shown at the arrow) and should reduce this sort of problem in the future. (to be continued)



Al Bush 2015-01

WEB SITE NEWS BIT

from your webmaster, Alex Snouffer



I hope everyone is enjoying this time of year as much I am. I have not received any more requests for the website, and I greatly appreciate the ones that I did receive. However, I am currently working up some drafts for changes that can be made to our website to make it more user - friendly, while also making it more powerful and useful to our chapter. If anyone has any recommendations that they would like to propose for drafts that I can share at the next meeting, please let me know.

Alex, arsnouffer@gmail.com

Personal Postings For Chapter 141 Members

INTRODUCTION: This section is for Chapter 141 members to post horological questions, ads, or notices at no charge. The Newsletter Advertising Policy is repeated here for your convenience. It has been defined and will be on file with the Chapter 141 records for viewing. Updates will be posted from time to time as needed.

Members submitting information for posting will need to provide the information in a form that can easily be conveyed to NAWCC Headquarters for editing, printing, and distribution. It is not intended that any editing will be required for information you submit. The information should be submitted in Microsoft WORD file format as a .doc or .docx file by email to albushWLIVE@hotmail.com. This email address will be checked for input when the newsletter is prepared to send to press. If you do not have access to a computer, I suggest you contact a friend and seek their help to prepare and email the posting for you. Sample postings to give you an idea of what can be posted in a 2x3½" space were given in the June-July issue of this newsletter. Effort will be made to maintain your posting, wording and presentation as you have submitted it.

PERSONAL POSTINGS

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING? HAVE SOMETHING SOMEONE ELSE NEEDS?

POST IT HERE!

NOTE TIME & LOCATION for our NEXT MEETING on THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015 at the MOUNTAIN GATE FAMILY RESTAURANT in Thurmont, MD 21788, 301-271-4373.

Hope to see you all there!

