



# NAWCC NEWS

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Atlanta Chapter 24

November 2020 **ZOOM Meeting** Minutes

## DECEMBER ZOOM MEETING

Our next meeting will be Sunday

DECEMBER 6 starting at 10:30 AM

**WE will NOT be meeting at the Aquatic Center!**

The Program is TBD.

Please consider contributing to our Show and Tell.

Contact Us to find out how if you are not familiar with ZOOM

### NAWCC Atlanta Chapter 24 Officers and Directors

Dan Butt	President	edanbutt@yahoo.com	(678) 662-3848
Donald Jackson	Vice-President	treetop8@bellsouth.net	(404) 929-1559
Bob Geier	Secretary	bgeier73@gmail.com	(630) 220-9457
Charles Carrol	Treasurer	chas5269@aol.com	(770) 851-9785
Jae Martin	Past President	info@clockgalleryinc.com	(770) 813-8140
Mary Jones	Director 2020	maryisabeljones@comcast.net	(770) 939-8856
Bill Knaak	Director 2021	knaak@comcast.net	(678) 642-2418
Bob Brannon	Director 2022	rbrannen@uga.edu	

## Minutes of NAWCC Atlanta Chapter 24 November 2020 ZOOM Meeting

Our next meeting will be on December 6 at 10:30AM. An email message will be distributed at about one week ahead of the coming meeting with a call-in link and program details.

If you need assistance using Zoom, please contact either Mary Jones (maryisabeljones@comcast.net; 770-939-8856) or Bob Geier (bgeier73@gmail.com; 630-220-9457).

The November Meeting and its Program, Walter Durfee's Elliot Works Clocks be viewed at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/J5yJ97ViRkE>

Dan opened the meeting by thanking everyone for joining the call. There were twenty three members present.

Dan motioned to accept the previous session minutes and then reviewed the Treasurer's Report submitted by Charles Carroll which can be found at the conclusion of these minutes.

### Old Business:

Randy Grunwell discussed the Woodstock City Park's four-sided "Centennial" street clock restoration project and the decision process to replace the clock.

Dan discussed the proposed bylaws change prepared by Gary Walton. These were included in the October Meeting minutes. Although nominations are being accepted for the next terms' President and Vice President for an election in December, this one time change allows the current officers to serve for another year if no other members wish to run. Mary Jones offered to perform the Vice President role for the one year interim term.

While discussing the Treasurer's Report (included at the conclusion of this report), Dan stated that we received another credit for not using the the Aquatic Center. Although Gwinett county is now allowing Chapter 24 to use the facility with a condition that social distancing is practiced, after members commented on the interest in meeting next month, it was decided to take another wait and see until February. A "hybrid" approach was discussed for upcoming meetings, a simultaneous face-to-face and virtual meeting to potentially accommodate everyone was discussed. Dan agreed to discuss the Aquatic Center's wi-fi availability to perform this.

### New Business:

Dan received a Thank You from National for the donations made by the Chapter in the names of Bernie and Carroll Tekippe.



Virtual Donuts



## NOVEMBER 2020 ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

### New Business continued:

Main Street Storage informed Bob Geier that the cost of the storage cube is increasing by \$19/month. The Mid South Chapters have pre-paid for the year until the next Labor Day weekend convention. Bob will contact MSS and determine the immediate impact and communicate with the Chapter Presidents.

### Program

Pete Schreiner presented a program on Walter Durfee (1857-1939) and his Elliott Works Clocks.

### Introduction

Pete began by describing a clock that he, with help from Randy Jaye, Daytona Beach Chapter 154 President, relocated from an estate in Cocoa Beach to the Holden House Museum in Bunnell Florida in 2016. Pete worked to restore it through 2017 with help from Randy to refinish the case. The clock is a "Pattern 11" Walter Durfee tall case clock featuring nine nickel plated Harrington tubular bells signed by Walter Durfee in an oak tall case. The English three weight movement is by J.J. Elliott. The moon dial is signed on the reverse side "Walter Durfee Providence R.I.". The claw feet and pediment were removed at some point to allow the clock to be set-up in under an eight foot ceiling and these components have been lost over time. The case origin is American. It features very elaborate carving of angels to either side of the dial. The dial is signed by a prominent New York Jeweler (Theodore Starr & Co) who sold the clock as an agent for Durfee. It also features an unusual single jar mercury pendulum.



### Durfee's Enterprise

Durfee was an architect by education but pursued trade in antiques at an early age. He started by importing antique English tall case clocks as he could find them and new English bracket clocks with nested bell chimes out of a shop in Providence Rhode Island in the 1880's. Production of English tall case clocks had fallen out of style in the 1820's as Connecticut clocks had dominated markets. During the American Centennial in the 1870's, there was renewed interest in eighteenth century "antiques" including tall case clocks (now called "Grandfather" clocks in the United States). Durfee seized the opportunity.

Restored Dial and adjacent  
Carved Angels

## NOVEMBER 2020 ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

### Program Continued

Durfee orchestrated the assembly of his tall case clocks in Rhode Island importing tubular bells and movement from English suppliers. He entered into agreements with Thomas Harrington to manufacture tubular bells and had exclusive rights to import tubular chimes in the United States. The original English patent was dated November 8, 1887. Three additional patents for improvements through 1896 were issued extending the term of protection. Durfee also entered into agreements with J.J. Elliott to manufacture very high quality movements in London, England. His very ornate oak and mahogany cases were for the most part supplied by cabinet makers in Providence. The final very “high-end” product was priced at around \$500. By comparison at that time, an E. Howard #5 banjo clocks was priced at \$20.

Acting as agents, several “top-end” jewelers across the United States sold Durfee clocks and engraved their names on the dial. These jewelers included Tiffany and Theodore Starr (subject clock) of New York, Jas. E. Caldwell and Bailey, Banks & Biddle of Philadelphia, Spalding & Co-Chicago, J.J. Freeman & Co. – Toledo, Mermod Jaccard-St Louis, and several others.



In October of 1902 the patents protecting Durfee were challenged in Court and protection overturned. Domestic competitors swooped-in offering cheaper components and the production of Durfee’s clocks curtailed.

### Overhaul of the Holden House Durfee Clock

When the clock was first examined, it was thought that it might be a Hershede. Hershede’s catalogs identified Durfee’s pattern numbers and essentially copied their designs. Closer examination of the components such as the tubes and moon dial supported the conclusion as it was disassembled that this is a genuine example of a Durfee.

The previous owner was a heavy smoker and as a result the case required extensive cleaning. Pete described the products and process employed. Pete also displayed a slide showing the disassembly and restoration of the dial components. After the chapter ring was resilvered and many (140) brass pieces ultrasonically cleaned and assembled, close-up comparison shots of the results were stunning (see bottom of page 5).





## NOVEMBER 2020 ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

### Program Continued

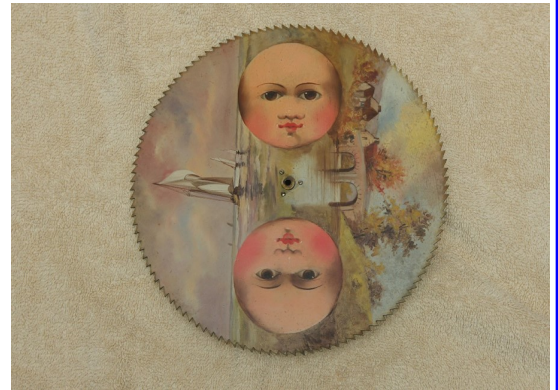
The painted moon dial was also cleaned and revealed undamaged, brightly colored and like new images.

The movement also required extensive cleaning and restoration. Several of the steel pieces and levers on the movement were found pitted. Pete postulated that this was due to years of exposure to gas lighting fumes. These pieces were polished and the steel hands were blued. Pete stated that the plates weighed-in at 11-1/2 pounds. The position of the fly vanes were found to be adjustable.

The unusual mercurial pendulum jar contained 12 1/2 pounds of liquid. An additional 1/2 inch (1 1/2 pounds) was required to raise the level sufficiently to correctly set the pendulum period. A new felt seal was installed to minimize mercury loss/evaporation.

As the weights were removed from their shells for cleaning, one weight was found wrapped in a page from the Cambridge Chronicle paper dated January 8, 1898. The weights were measured to be 37#-12 oz, 13#-6 oz and 17#-12 oz. Due to the heavy weights and a relatively short crank, this clock is not easy to wind.

Following reassembly, the clock stalled as the chimes cycled. At a loss, Pete contacted Bernie Tekippe for advice. Bernie stated that the fly vanes must be parallel. Following this adjustment and balance, the issue was resolved.



Dial As Found and After Resilver of Chapter Ring and Brass Cleaning



Parallel Fan Vanes

## NOVEMBER 2020 ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

### Program Continued

Pete also forwarded references to additional articles on Walter Durfee's clocks including part 3 of a four part article published in the NAWCC Bulletin by Owen H. and Jo Burt. Figure 30 of this article illustrates an original pattern 11 with claw feet and complete pediment.

Also, an article on this specific clock by Randy Jaye appeared in the March/April NAWCC bulletin.

### Show and Tell

Warren Brooks presented his recently acquired German made Symphonion dual comb 12" disc player, circa 1885. At that time, this was the state of the art music player for the home.

He played a few minutes of one of eleven discs that he acquired with the player. Even through the microphone on his phone, the sound quality of the player was evident. It can be heard by accessing the link on page 2 of this newsletter.



**Tuesday Night Clock Group:** **CURRENTLY NOT MEETING**

### Treasurers Report *By Charles Carroll*

With no expenses for the period, we have a beginning and ending balance of \$17,164. This does not include another credit (\$880) from Gwinnett County for not using the Aquatic Center.

### GROANERS (ENCORE!) *By George Waterhouse*

Since we've "fallen back" this morning from Daylight Savings Time, we have added an additional hour to the day. In Seattle, that means an additional hour of rain.

