



Celebrate horology with us by becoming a member! Click to join today



# NEWSLETTER

**December 2024**

As we approach the close of 2024, activity behind the scenes is ramping up at the Museum. These significant changes will become visible from late January on, and we plan to be ready for a grand reveal in June 2025—just in time for

the [NAWCC National Convention in York, PA](#).

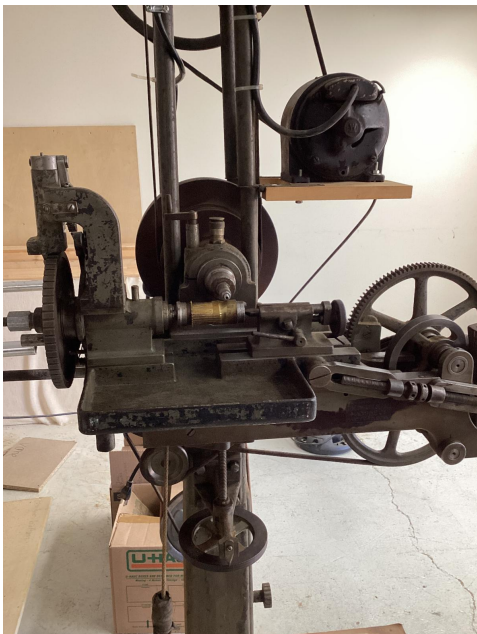
We are making headway with exciting new interactive displays to demonstrate some of the very cool technologies in the Public Time Gallery. We are also working on two major additions to that gallery as well as incorporating more contextual information and graphics on the walls.

In contrast to the beefy nature of the tower clock, a new display of wristwatches is being developed. Thanks to a generous benefactor, the Museum has commissioned a high-end showcase to display our wristwatch collection. In this space, we will chart the transition from the pocket to the wrist and the subsequent technological advances. This will be a great opportunity to highlight some of our best items, from watches set into jewelry to the potentially lifesaving tool watches, and consider the wristwatch as a reflection of 20th-century culture.

January's [Watch & Clock Bulletin](#) is being prepared for press and will feature some of the exciting changes that are afoot in the Museum, accompanied, as always, by in-depth articles and news from the NAWCC Chapters.

Please enjoy this latest issue of our newsletter, and be in touch with your thoughts and feedback.

—Rory McEvoy, Executive Director



We recently acquired a wheel-cutting engine for display in the Museum. It came from New York State and was used by member Paul Wadsworth to cut wheels. Originally from the Franklin Clock Co. of Philadelphia, PA, this machine has an interesting tale to tell that we are still researching.

A piece of brass (at the center of the first image) has cuts made into it. It is this part that cuts clock wheels out of brass round, sometimes called bar stock. The machine is really a type of hybrid: it probably started off as a belt-driven machine with a line shaft in the ceiling and was changed to operate with an electric motor (seen on the wooden shelf at the top right corner of the first image). Figure 2 shows the cuts into the brass stock. Figure 3 features the

complete machine with its various leather belts, gears, and cams.

There are two nameplates on the machine. One is on the base that reads "Machinery-The Garvin Machine-Co. N.Y. & Phila." The other is on the moving table where the cutting action takes place: "Manufactured By The Dwight Slate Machine Co. Hartford, Conn." There is also a number below this nameplate: "11566," which is probably a serial number.

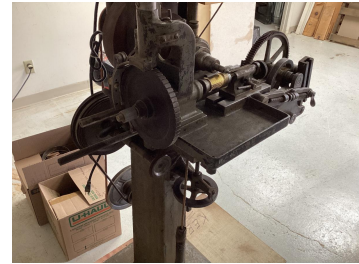


Figure 2

The machine is currently being restored at the School of Horology, but will soon be moved to the conservation area of the Museum. Mike Simon, a volunteer who restored two of the Hamilton watchmaking machines on display in the Museum, examined the device. As we were looking at it, he confidently said, "Let's plug it in and give it a try." Not being one to shy away from a test of courage, I immediately responded, "Why not?"

With a little coaxing from Mike, the machine started! The cutting head was turning, and with some adjustments, the cutting table moved back and forth and made the happiest "click-a-de-clack-a-de" noise. After that initial trial, Mike moved it outside to remove a top layer of sawdust and then brought it back inside for a close examination, cleaning, and lubrication.

Look for this piece in the Museum in the new year!

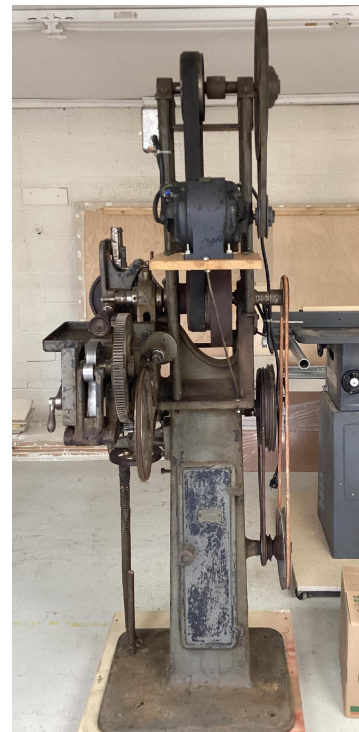


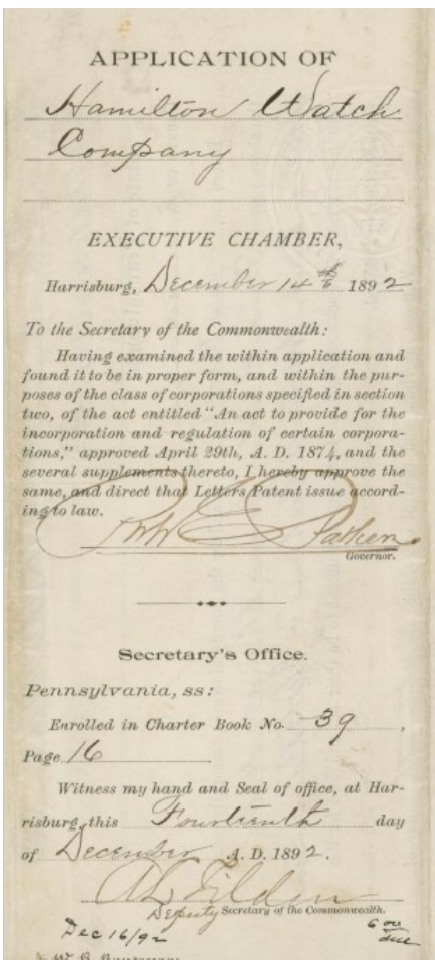
Figure 3



**New Year's @ Noon**  
**Tuesday, December 31 – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
**National Watch & Clock Museum**

- Dance party and Minute-to-Win-It games
- Face painting, food trucks, crafts, and story time with reading therapy dogs
  - HUGE balloon drop at noon!

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)



**This Month in Horological History**  
*with Thomas Stocker, Librarian & Archivist*

December 14, 1892

On this day, the Hamilton Watch Co. received its official charter from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The charter granted the new company the right to exist “perpetually” in the City of Lancaster. Of the seventeen subscribers to the original charter, only one did not live in either Lancaster or Columbia, PA. Similarly, only one of the original five directors did not live in Lancaster, PA.

Hamilton became one of the largest American watch companies and made several advances in the field of horology, including the first commercially viable electric watch (Hamilton 500) and the first digital watch (Hamilton Pulsar).

While the company did eventually cease production in the United States in 1969, and is now owned by the Swatch Group, the legacy of this great American company lives on. Recently, Hamilton opened its first US store in the former Bowman Technical School building in the heart of Lancaster, PA.

Form A—No. 2.

To the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

SIR:

In compliance with the requirements of an act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled "An act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations," approved the 29th day of April, A. D. 1874, and the several supplements thereto, the undersigned, *three* of whom are citizens of Pennsylvania, having associated themselves together for the purpose hereinafter specified, and desiring that they may be incorporated, and that letters patent may issue to them and their successors according to law, do hereby certify:

1st. The name of the proposed corporation is *Hamilton Watch Company.*

2d. Said corporation is formed for the purpose of *the manufacture and sale of watches and watch movements and materials and everything pertaining to watches from steel, brass, nickel and other metals.*

3d. The business of said corporation is to be transacted in *the city of Lancaster.*

4th. Said corporation is to exist for the term of *perpetually.*

5th. The names and residences of the subscribers and the number of shares subscribed by each, are as follows:

Name.	Residence.	No. of Shares.
<i>Charles D. Rood</i>	<i>Springfield, Mass.</i>	<i>Fifty</i>
<i>Henry J. Cain</i>	<i>Lancaster, Penna.</i>	<i>Fifty</i>
<i>H. M. North</i>	<i>Columbia, Penna.</i>	<i>Fifty</i>
<i>William J. Sener</i>	<i>Lancaster, Penna.</i>	<i>Fifty</i>
<i>George W. Franklin</i>		<i>Fifty</i>
<i>C. U. Tordarumith</i>		<i>Fifty</i>
<i>John F. Brimmer</i>		<i>Fifty</i>
<i>Frank P. Coker</i>		<i>Fifty</i>



(left and above) Pages from the charter and (right) Hamilton serial no. 1., ca. 1896, Museum catalog no. 79.29.41.



It's About Time

## It's About Time

TV journalist Brad Nau recently filmed a YouTube video featuring the Museum and narrated by Executive Director Rory McEvoy. Click the image to watch this brief exploration of time and how it affects our lives.

## Time to Learn

[Register online](#) for an NAWCC education class:

### School of Horology (Columbia, PA)

December 14, 2024: Craft-A-Clock Workshop

January 25-26, 2025: Introduction to Antique Clocks

February 7-9, 2025: American-Style Time/Strike Movement Workshop

March 14-16, 2025: Rack-and-Snail Striking and an Introduction to the Tall Case Clock

March 22-23, 2025: WS-117 Using the Micro-Lathe for the Beginner

April 28-May 2, 2025: Watchmaker Master Class with Philippe Narbel

### Traveling Workshop F101 (Shalimar, FL)



## Craft-A-Clock Workshop



Looking for the perfect gift?  
Make a clock!

Discover what's behind the dial of a time-only movement and learn how to assemble a clock. All tools and materials will be provided, including new Hermle Lakin clocks in red, gold, or blue.

**Saturday, December 14**

9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

NAWCC School of Horology  
454 Poplar St., Columbia, PA  
[nawcc.org/education](http://nawcc.org/education)

Craft-A-Clock Registration

## New Items Added + Free Shipping at the Online Store

*Nov. 28 — Dec. 14*

[shop.nawcc.org](http://shop.nawcc.org)

NAWCC & Museum Store

Shop All

*Minimum order of \$20; excludes international*



Each purchase supports our mission to preserve and promote the craft of timekeeping. *Thank you!*

Each month, you will receive more updates and the inside scoop on the latest events, exhibits, classes, and more.

Warmly,

National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors

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Do you love watches and clocks as much as we do?

*Click to become a member!*

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**NAWCC | 717-684-8261 | [www.nawcc.org](http://www.nawcc.org)**



National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors | 514 Poplar Street | Columbia, PA 17512-2130 US

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