



Where can I find out more about my clock and its maker?

The Clockmakers' Museum and Archive generally only hold manuscript material relating to its members, who, between the 17th and 19th centuries were primarily based in or near the City of London. This information may include the date of their apprenticeship (sometimes giving the name and address of the apprentice's father) and the date when apprentices became free (if applicable). If a freeman was promoted to the "livery" of the Company, that too was recorded. Unless a freeman went on to become a member of the Company's Court, or a Warden of the Company, or Master, it is rare for any further mention of him or her to be made. A list of the Company's apprentices from 1631 to 1931 was published privately for the Company by C.E. Atkins, a Past Master of the Company in 1931. This has now been digitised into a fully searchable pdf which can be found on the [Library and Archive](#) page of our website.

On occasion there may be no information for a London clockmaker as although in theory all London makers were obliged to become freemen of the Clockmakers' Company, many avoided doing so, because they did not wish to pay the associated fees.

The following link might also be helpful for genealogists seeking information about their ancestors [Family history at the London Metropolitan Archives](#)

Please visit the [Library and Archive](#) page of our website for details of our books, manuscripts and clockmaking records housed at the Guildhall Library.

The archival records of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers contain almost no references to provincial English makers, and even fewer references to makers working outside England. There are a number of publications which may be of help for finding out more about these clockmakers. The best general work is G.H. Baillie's "Watchmakers and Clockmakers of the World" first published by Methuen, London in 1929, but subsequently republished many times by the N.A.G. Press, London. Baillie's volume has been substantially augmented (but not superseded) by B.A. Loomes's "Watchmakers and Clockmakers of the World Volume II" (N.A.G. Press 1976).

The following bibliography features a selection of other publications which list British clockmakers by city and region. Most publications should be available to order from a public lending library.

Some books by city and region

Bath: Watch and Clock makers in the City of Bath, Ian White (Ticehurst, 1996)

Beaminster: Beaminster Clocks & Their Makers, David Beney (Beaminster, 1996)

Bedale: Bedale's Clockmakers, David Severs (Northallerton, 2010)

Bedfordshire: Bedfordshire Clock & Watchmakers 1352–1880, C. J. Pickford (Bedford, 1991)

Birmingham: Watch and Clockmakers of Birmingham, J. McKenna (Birmingham, 1986)

Bristol and Bath: The clockmakers of Bristol, A. J. Moore (1999)

Buckinghamshire: Clock and Watchmakers of Buckinghamshire, Edward Legg (Bradwell Abbey Field Centre, 1976)

Cardiff (and the Vale of Glamorgan): Cardiff Clocks, William Linnard (Cardiff, 1999)

Central England: Clockmakers of Central England, J. McKenna (Ashbourne, 1997)

Chepstow: Chepstow Clock and Watch Makers, Ivor Walters (Chepstow, 1980)

Chester: "Compendium of Chester Gold & Silver Marks 1570-1962", Maurice H. Ridgway & Philip T. Priestley (Antique Collectors Club Ltd, England, 2004)

Chester: Chester Clock and Clockmakers, Nicholas Moore (Chester Museum, 1976); The Gloverstone Clockmakers of Chester, S. & D. Thomas (2012)

Cheshire: Clockmakers of Cheshire, Keith Appleby (Boughton, 1999)

Chew Valley: Bilbie and the Chew Valley clockmakers, A.J. Moore, R.W. Rice, and E. Hucker (1995)

Clwyd: Clockmaking in the Vale of Clwyd, Paul Parker (Denbigh, 1993)

Colchester: Colchester Clockmakers, Bernard Mason (Country Life, 1969)

Cornwall: Cornish Clocks and Clockmakers, H. Miles-Brown (David & Charles, 1970)

Cumberland: The Clockmakers of Cumberland: J. Penfold (Ashford, 1977)

Derby: John Whitehurst of Derby, Maxwell Craven (Ashbourne, 1996)

Derbyshire: Clockmakers and Watchmakers of Derbyshire, R.G. Hughes and Maxwell Craven (Ashbourne, 1998)

Devonshire: Devonshire Clockmakers, J.K. Bellchambers (Torquay, 1962); Devon Clocks and Clockmakers, Clive Ponsford (David & Charles, 1985)

Dorset: Dorset Clocks and Clockmakers (including the Channel Islands) T. Tribe and P. Whatmoor (Oswestry, 1981)

Dunfermline: Dunfermline Clocks, Felix Hudson (Dunfermline, 1982)

Durham: Clockmakers of Northumberland and Durham, Keith Bates (Northumberland, 1980)

Essex: Essex clock & watchmakers, Clive Osborne (London, 1979)

Exeter: Time in Exeter, C. Ponsford (Exeter, 1978)

Gloucestershire: Gloucestershire Clock and Watch Makers, Graham Dowler (Phillimore, 1984)

Grantham: Keeping Time, Hugh F. Watson (Grantham, 2008)

Hamilton: Marking Time in Hamilton, W. Wallace (Hamilton, 1981)

Hampshire: Directory of Hampshire clockmakers, Martin Norgate (Hampshire, 1993)

Herefordshire: Herefordshire Clockmakers and Watchmakers, Tony Branston and John C. Eisel (Ashbourne, 2005)

Hertfordshire: The Clockmakers of Hertfordshire, E.J. Tyler (Ticehurst, 1997)

Hull & East Riding: Hull and East Riding Clocks, J.E.S. Walker (Hornsea Museum, 1982)

Kent: Kent Clocks and Clockmakers, Michael Pearson (Ashbourne, 1997)

Lancashire: Lancashire Clocks and Clockmakers, Brian Loomes (David and Charles, 1975); Biographical List of Clockmakers: North Lancashire and South Westmorland 1680–1900, Susan Stuart (Lancashire, 1996, addendum 1999)

Leeds: Potts of Leeds, Michael S. Potts (Ashbourne, 2006)

Leicestershire: Leicestershire Clockmakers, J. Daniel (Leicestershire Museums, 1975); The Deacon Family of Leicestershire Clockmakers, P.A. Hewitt and W. John Thornton (Ticehurst, 2008)

Lincolnshire: Lincolnshire Clockmakers, J.E.S. Walker (Lincolnshire Libraries, 1995); Lincolnshire clock, watch and barometer makers, A.S.H. Wilbourn (Lincoln, 2001)

Llangollen: Watchmaking in Llangollen by Robert Hughes, D.H. Bacon (Ticehurst, 2000)

Llancarfan: Henry Williams Lincarvan "A clock and watchmaker and a great farmer", E.W. Cloutman & William Linnard (Tathan Books 2003)

Llanrwst: The Clockmakers of Llanrwst, Colin Brown (1993)

Manchester: Greater Manchester Clocks and Clockmakers, Edmund Davies (Ashbourne, 2007)

Nantwich: Nantwich Clockmakers, A.A. Treherne (Nantwich Museum, 1986)

Newcastle: Timepieces of Newcastle, Brenda Whitelock (Whitley Bay, 1992)

Norfolk and Norwich: Norfolk and Norwich Clockmakers, C. and Y. Bird (Ticehurst, 1996)

Northallerton: A Concise Guide to the Clockmakers of Northallerton and their Clocks, David Severs (Northallerton, 2008)

Northern England: Clockmakers of Northern England, Brian Loomes (Ashbourne, 1997)

Northumberland and Durham: Clockmakers of Northumberland and Durham, Keith Bates (Northumberland, 1980)

Nottinghamshire: Clock and watch makers of Nottinghamshire, H. Mather (Nottingham, 1979)

Odiham: The Clockmakers of Odiham, Mark Forrester (2007)

Ormskirk: Ormskirk Clockmakers and Watchmakers, Anthony Daly (Ashbourne, 2006)

Oxfordshire: Clockmaking in Oxfordshire 1400–1850, Dr. C.F.C. Beeson (Museum of the History of Science, Oxford, 1989); The Quaker Clockmakers of North Oxfordshire, Tim Marshall (Ashbourne, 2013)

Pontypool: Charles Vaughan of Pontypool, William Linnard (Cardiff, 2005)

Ripon: Ripon's Clockmakers, David Severs (Northallerton, 2013)

Rutland: Time in Rutland, Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath (Oakham, 2002)

Salisbury: Clocks and Clockmakers of Salisbury, Michael Snell (Salisbury, 1986)

Scotland: Old Scottish Clockmakers from 1453 to 1850, J. Smith (1903, 1921, Republished Wakefield, 1975); Clockmakers & Watchmakers of Scotland, Donald Whyte (Ashbourne, 2005)

Shropshire: Shropshire Clock and Watchmakers, D. Elliott (Phillimore, 1979)

Somerset: Somerset Clockmakers, J.K. Bellchambers (Torquay, 1969); The Clockmakers of Somerset, 1650–1900, A. J. Moore (1998); The Thistle Clockmakers of Somerset, 1765–1899, including James Cole of Stowey, John Millard of Stogursey ..., N. & D. Woodford (2012)

Stamford: Stamford Clocks and Watches, L. Tebbutt (Stamford, 1975)

Stirling: Old Stirling Clockmakers, C Allan (Stirling, 1990)

Stokesley: Stokesley's Clockmakers, David Severs (Northallerton, 2008)

Swansea and district: Swansea clocks, Joanna Greenlaw (1997)

Suffolk: Suffolk Clocks and Clockmakers, A.L. Haggard, L.F. Miller (Ticehurst, 1974; supplement 1979)

Sussex: The Clockmakers of Sussex, E.J. Tyler (Ashford, 1986)

Tiverton: Clocks and Clockmakers of Tiverton, Clive N. Ponsford, J.G.M. Scott and W.P. Authers (Tiverton, 1977)

Wales: Wales: Clocks and Clockmakers, William Linnard (Ashbourne, 2003)

Warminster: The Astronomical Clockmaker Edward Cockey and other Warminster Horologists, David Pollard (Warminster, 1998)

Warwick and Leamington: Clockmakers of Warwick and Leamington, W.A. Seaby (Warwick Museum, 1981)

Warwickshire: Watch and Clockmakers of Warwickshire, J. McKenna (Birmingham, 1985)

Westmorland: Westmorland Clocks and Clockmakers, Brian Loomes (David and Charles, 1974)

Whitchurch: Clockmakers and Watchmakers of Whitchurch, Richard Hughes (Whitchurch, 1987)

Wigan: The Clockmakers and Watchmakers of Wigan 1650–1850, A.J. Hawkes (Wigan, 1950)

Wiltshire: Wiltshire Watch and Clockmakers, John Young (3 vols, Trowbridge, 2004, 2006, 2012)

Yorkshire: Yorkshire Clockmakers, Brian Loomes (Littleborough, 1985)

British Clock and Watchmaking, General

Some books on the subject of clocks and watches

Apprentices: British Clockmakers & Watchmakers Apprentice Records 1710–1810, Dennis Moore (Ashbourne, 2003)

Bracket clocks: The Georgian Bracket Clock 1714–1830, Richard C.R. Barder (Woodbridge, 1993)

Brass dial clocks: Brass Dial Clocks, Brian Loomes (Woodbridge, 1998)

Carriage clocks: Carriage Clocks, Charles Allix & Peter Bonnert (Woodbridge, 1974)

Chatelaines: Chatelaines, G.E. Cummins, N.D. Taunton (Woodbridge, 1994)

Clocks (thirty hour): English 30 Hour Clocks, Jeff Darken & J. Hooper (Woking, 1997)

Dial (wall) clocks: English Dial Clocks, R. E. Rose (Woodbridge, 1999)

Early clocks: Early English Clocks, Percy G. Dawson, C.B. Drover and D.W. Parkes (Woodbridge, 1982)

Early clockmakers: The Early Clockmakers of Great Britain, Brian Loomes (London, 1982)

Eastern markets: English Clocks for the Eastern Markets (China & the Ottoman Empire 1580-1815), Ian White (Ticehurst, 2012)

Harrison: Harrison, Jonathan Betts, NMM, 1993 (new edition 2011)

Lantern clocks: English Lantern Clocks, George White (Woodbridge, 1989); Lantern Clocks and their Makers, Brian Loomes (Ashbourne, 2008)

Longcase or Tall case clocks: The Longcase Clock, T. Robinson (Woodbridge, 1995); British Longcase Clocks, Derek Roberts (Schiffer, 1990); The Longcase Clock Reference Book, John Robey (Ashbourne, 2001, revised edn 2013)

Musical clocks: English and Scottish Musical Clocks, E.W. Cloutman (Ticehurst, 2000); The Musical Clock, A.W.J.G. Ord-Hume (Ashbourne, 1995)

Painted dial clocks: Painted Dial Clocks, 1770–1870, Brian Loomes (Woodbridge, 1994); The Art of the Painted Clock Dial, M.F. Tennant (Ashbourne, 2009)

Precision clocks: English Precision Pendulum Clocks, Derek Roberts (Schiffer, 2003)

Railway clocks: Railway Clocks, Ian P. Lyman (Ashbourne, 2004)

Royal clocks: Royal Clocks, C. Jagger (London, 1983)

Skeleton clocks: British Skeleton Clocks, Derek Roberts (Woodbridge, 1987, reprinted 1996 as Skeleton Clocks, Britain 1800–1914)

Tavern clocks: The Tavern Clock, Martin Gatto (Bath, 2010)

Watches: The Watch, C. Cardinal (Thornbury, 1989); Watches, C. Clutton & G. Daniels (London 1971); The Artistry of the English Watch, C. Jagger (Newton Abbot, 1988); Antique Watches, T.P. Camerer Cuss (Woodbridge, 1976); The English Watch 1585–1970, T.P. Camerer Cuss (Woodbridge, 2009); Watchmaking: George Daniels (London, 1981, 2011)

Watch cases: Early Watch Case Makers of England 1631–1720, Philip T. Priestley (NAWCC, Columbia, PA, 2000); Watch Case Makers of England: 1720–1920, Philip T. Priestley (NAWCC, Columbia, PA, 1994); Aaron Lufkin Dennison; An Industrial Pioneer and His Legacy, Philip T. Priestley (NAWCC, Columbia, PA, 2010)