



--Fall- 2023--

## Message from the Director

The next  
**50**  
years



**Let's Raise \$3,000,000 to Get \$15,000,000!**

Willard House and Clock Museum is about to enter the most ambitious capital campaign since the founding of the museum! Museum Trustee and esteemed Treasurer, Charles N. Grichar has made us a deal we simply can't refuse. With the unanimous approval of the Board of Trustees, we will begin the first steps towards the \$15 million prize this fall.

**So What's the Deal?** Over a five year period, Willard needs to raise its present endowment of approximately \$1.8 million to reach \$5 million. At this point, Mr. Grichar will contribute \$1 million to the endowment and preparations will be made for further steps including architectural renderings of a new building (within walking distance), featuring gallery and storage space, a small auditorium, a horological library, conservation workshops and classrooms for the study of horology.

A timed (sorry) schedule will release other funding as the project requires up to and through the build.

**What Will Fill This New Building?** Approximately 90 additional clocks representing some of the finest work of the Willards and their apprentices (better than doubling our current inventory), including the exceptional collection of E. Howard astronomical regulators known, bringing the Willard story into the 20th century. An additional 300 high-grade gold pocket watches, 125 of some of the most fashionable, complicated and expensive wrist watches known to the party-goers in Monte Carlo, will round out the benchmark-setting collection.

In short, this collection will dazzle the lovers of 18th century Willard material and show where this influence led horology through the 19th and into the 20th century.

## What Will Happen to Our Beloved Willard House and Collection?

### Practically Nothing!

Except, that which will improve our care and curation of the present collection. The Trustees of the Willard House and Clock Museum consider the present museum buildings and footprint to be sacred and are devoted to its place in horological landmarks. Tours, events and group visits will continue as usual.



### What's Next in the Fall of 2023 for the "Raise \$3 Million to get \$15"?

**Launching Another Record-Breaking Annual Appeal - Continuing *The Next 50 Years* Campaign. Goal is to Raise \$100,000 for 2024! We need your help, please.**

The first of several steps towards our long-term goal was the launch of 2023 Annual Appeal - *The Next 50 Years*. Through your generosity, we exceeded our \$75,000 fundraiser goal.

2024 will continue the work with a new objective of \$100,000. The money goes toward our operating budget so that we can keep the lights on, bring in new programming pay for our staff and ensure continued growth of the museum endowment to full-fill our obligation for the terms of the gift.

### The Endowment - The Lifeline For Non-Profits

As we explained last year, the balance of the expenses not covered by our Annual Appeal and any additional programming, special events or the unanticipated expenses like a crashed computer network, an oil burner or a water pump giving up at the worst possible time, are all paid for by the proceeds generated by our endowment account.

It goes without saying that limited use of endowment proceeds is the dependable life-line which powers most non-profits.

### Endowment Growth Challenges

Our endowment was established by the founders, Dr. and Mrs. Robinson nearly fifty years ago and it remains our engine for existence. So, what's the problem? The last few years have been treacherous to even the most conservatively invested endowments as a world-wide pandemic was followed up with the Russian invasion of Ukraine setting the stage for the first land war in Europe since WW II. One look at your 401K tells you exactly

what non-profits are experiencing all over the world, and recovery is slow at best.



## Supporting The Field of Horology

Willard's Board of Trustees, mandated with fiduciary responsibilities for the museum, are strongly committed to planning the financial future for *The Next 50-Years* and towards that end, want to triple the corpus (the money invested) of the current endowment over the next five years. To do this will require hard work, generosity and a demonstration of the importance of preserving the Willard homestead, workshop and acreage, as well as communicating the importance of teaching the forgotten science of horology and its solitary role in nearly every

scientific discovery ever made.

## The Strategic Need To Expand The Museum Endowment

As we move beyond the Annual Appeal to the phase, our emphasis will be the future, specifically, the endowment. Our endowment is the engine to supply income for special projects, events and education. Given the financial headwinds of the market, our focus on rebuilding our endowment becomes all the more crucial.

Future meetings of the Trustees and discussions among our membership will determine the growing final plan. I hope you will join us on this journey.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 't'.

[robert@willardhouse.org](mailto:robert@willardhouse.org)

**Make A Tax Deductible Donation Here**

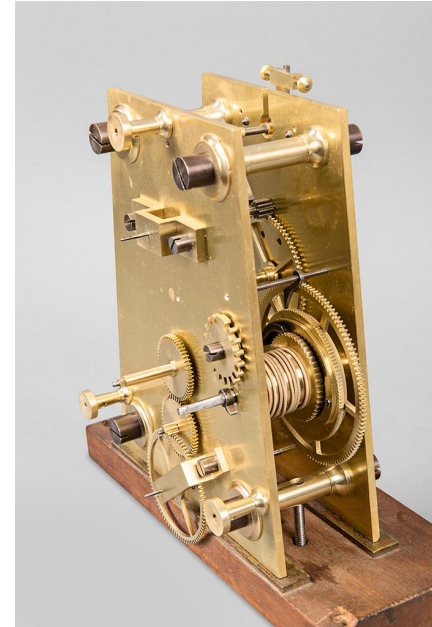


## 2nd Annual David G. Gow Memorial Scholarship Accepting Applications

An annual nationwide scholarship program  
dedicated to professional careers in clockmaking

As part of a long-term plan to support the field of horology (the study of time and timekeepers) and aid those working toward a professional career in clockmaking, the family of former Willard House & Clock Museum conservator, David G. Gow are accepting a new round of scholar candidate submissions.

“The professional career path of conservator-level clockmaking is not well defined”, says Robert C. Cheney, Willard’s Executive Director, “Unlike a century ago, formal apprenticeship programs are scarce and any funding difficult to obtain.”



The Gow family, following David’s profound wishes, along with the collaboration of the museum trustees and staff, established the memorial scholarship to help worthy students obtain this specialized training.

2023 scholarship recipient, Parker Boughton, explained that the scholarship enabled him to purchase the necessary clockmaking tools and reference books and provided funding for essential courses.

Below are the details of the scholarship:

- Any US-based student that has begun the journey into the profession of clockmaking qualifies.
- \$5,000 will be awarded and the money may be used to attend advanced courses provided by various clock and watch making schools across the country.

Application Deadline: November 4, 2023

Award Release: December 4, 2023

---

[Learn More About The Scholarship Here](#)

[Read About The 2022 Recipient](#)

---

"Willard Collector's Guild"

# Fund For Strategic Acquisitions

We are pleased to announce, that in the "nick of time," Willard has established the "*Willard Collector's Guild*" which will serve as a savings account used exclusively for the purchases of Willard material offered for sale by dealers, collectors, and auction houses. It has exceeded all expectations last September!

It is important to note that these funds are raised through donations made exclusively to the *Collector's Guild* and are not related to general membership or campaign funds raised to support the general fund. Members of the Guild want their donations used exclusively for additions to the collections.

The need for the *Willard Collector's Guild* and a rapid plea for donations to the fund came when an important Simon Willard timepiece caught my attention being offered for sale in September 2022 only days before the sale at Brunk's Auctions in Asheville, N. C..

8 — Antiques and The Arts Weekly — October 7, 2022



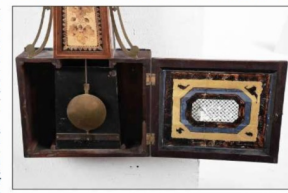
Simon Willard banjo clock, signed and dated John R. Penniman, Boston 1803. Photo courtesy Brunk Auctions.

## First Museum Acquisition In Decades—

### Willard House & Clock Museum Acquires Important Dated Simon Willard Banjo Clock

NORTH GRAFTON, MASS. — Clock expert and Willard House & Clock Museum trustee, Gary Sullivan, has alerted *Antiques and The Arts Weekly* that the museum acquired from Brunk Auctions' September 17 Premier Auction a rare Simon Willard banjo clock that features an eglomisé lower panel signed by John R. Penniman and dated 1803.

"It is an important document for us as it is the earliest dated Simon Willard patent timepiece (banjo clock) known and provides new and important information on the dating of Simon Willard's earliest patent timepieces. The lack of written record on the earliest Willard patent timepieces has hampered scholars' ability to date them. This clock helps us and now we know that by 1803, just a year after he was granted the patent, he was making a fully developed banjo clock," said Sullivan.



Detail of interior and reverse of eglomisé lower panel, which is inscribed "Painted by John R. Penniman" along the lower edge of the panel, and "Boston, 1803" along the right edge of the panel. Photo courtesy Brunk Auctions.

He went on to elaborate that while John Rito Penniman painted dials for tall case clocks, only a small number of them are signed, and only one other banjo clock with a Penniman signed glass is known to exist. The clock was consigned to Brunk from a private collec-

tion in Cincinnati, Ohio, but has been known to the museum's executive director and curator, Robert Cheney, for about 20 years.

"When Robert saw it was coming up for sale, he rallied the troops, lined up several donors and created a Collector's Guild, which helped fund its purchase. The museum has a very extensive collection, and until this came along, we haven't felt the need to buy anything. It's been decades since the Willard House & Clock Museum has purchased a clock for the collection. We're thrilled to have it," Sullivan said.

The clock will go on display at the museum but future plans for it "remain to be seen," Sullivan concluded.

The Willard House & Clock Museum is at 11 Willard Street. For more information, 508-838-3500, info@willardhouse.org or www.willardhouse.org.

Fortunately, I knew the clock from an appraisal that I conducted three decades earlier of a Cincinnati collection. This eliminated the need for a quick trip to North Carolina to examine the clock prior to bidding. A lightning-fast consult with generous Trustees and friends provided the necessary funds and the *Willard Collector's Guild* bought its first Willard clock within days of discovery.

The importance of the clock was the original signature on the back side of the box glass: "Painted by John R. Penniman/Boston/1803". This inscription made this clock the only documented patent timepiece made during the decade of the 1802 patent for this new Willard form, and only the second Penniman inscribed timepiece known (the other, from two decades later). It obviously documents glasses painted by Penniman, but also documents the early painted dial, brass side ornaments and case characteristics at the birth of the the 1802 Patent.

Donations to the *Willard Collector's Guild* can be made out to Willard House and Clock Museum with the Guild noted in the reference area. Questions about the Guild? contact: [robert@willardhouse.org](mailto:robert@willardhouse.org) (RCC)

## Founding Members of the *Willard Collector's Guild*

Wayne Andrews  
Robert C Cheney  
Ralph Fletcher  
Charles N Grichar  
Anna Keiter  
Gary Sullivan  
James L Telfer

## Summer Fun At The Museum

The museum hosted a wide variety of events over the summer. From stargazing, craft activities and music to antique cars, Willard had much to offer.



### **WHCM and the Grafton Public Library Partner with The Aldrich Astronomical Society for An Evening Presentation and Stargazing Party**

On July 26th, WHCM and the Grafton Public Library, hosted the *James Webb*

*Space Telescope + Stargazing Party*. The free event was generously supported by the Webster First Federal Credit Union.

NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador, M.J. Johnson presented a talk on the James Webb Space Telescope and a stargazing lawn party followed immediately afterward. The Aldrich Astronomical Society, one of the oldest amateur astronomy clubs in the U.S. deployed professional grade telescopes all over the museum grounds.



More than 160 attendees from Worcester County and the Boston metrowest area came out to see the presentation and take in the heavens on that night.



M.J. explained, "This presentation provided context for what we've begun learning from the JWST as it looks toward the very beginning of our universe. These images offer as much beauty to the public as they offer insight to scientists eager to pull back the veil on events in our cosmos to which we've never before had access."



### **Willard Hosted Kid-Centric Activities for August Adventures 2023, A Free Admission Day Sponsored by The Highland Street Foundation.**

On Thursday on August 10<sup>th</sup> the museum hosted a full day of kid-friendly activities and tours. More than 260 attendees from as far as Portsmouth, NH, Springfield, MA, parts of RI, CT and Worcester County visited the museum



for the first time.

“This was the first time Willard has been included in Highland Street Foundation’s state-wide outreach program and their support enabled us to bring a wide variety of community programming for the day,” said the museum’s Director of Development, Robert Gierschick.

Showcasing 31 events for 31 days, Highland Street Foundation, makes all of it 100% free. “We are thrilled to partner with such wide array of institutions, all of which add to the incredibly rich cultural fabric of our Commonwealth,” said Highland Street’s Executive Director Blake Jordan. “Increasing access to these wonderful places is a shared goal of all of us and we hope to welcome new and diverse audiences through their doors during August Adventures.”

In addition to museum tours Willard featured a morning tots Story Time with the Grafton Public Library, Theater Games by Apple Tree Arts, an outdoor clock art activity and finished off with special time-themed concert with the Blackstone Valley Quartet.

---

## **Willard Featured Major August Car Lawn Event**

### **5 Car Clubs, 42 Cars, Great Food and Craft Beer**

On August 19th, more than 150 visitors came to Willard to enjoy antique cars, food and craft beer. **UniBank** made free admission possible that day.



### **A Lawn Full of Beautiful, Historic Cars**

More than 40 beautifully curated and restored Ford Model T’s and Model A’s were displayed on the museum grounds. A wide variety of Fords, from roadsters to compact limos were featured that day.

We expect to hold another car event in 2024.

### **Participating Car Clubs:**

Minuteman Model A Ford Club  
Worcester County Model A Club  
Blackstone Valley Model A Ford Club  
Yankee IngenuiT's  
Central Mass Model T Ford Club

---

**Upcoming Fall Event**



Time to learn. Join us for our Fall Bat Walk!  
Time to have fun.

Discover Bats At  
Willard House & Clock Museum

A Family Evening Bat Walk  
Co-Hosted By Mass Audubon

Saturday, September 29th  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Event is FREE, courtesy of



countrybank  
Made to make a difference.

Visitors of all ages can join experts from Mass Audubon to walk the property using bat detectors and in real-time, listen to and identify the bats flying overhead.

Enjoy a live bat encounter with a certified bat handler and a guest bat.

**“Bats are the most interesting, flying mammals known and the Willard House property is an ideally suited bat habitat,”**

Mass Audubon Education Manager and Conservation Coordinator, Martha Gach.

According to Mass Audubon, there are nine bat species specific to Massachusetts and four species live on the museum property.

We hope we will get to listen to the ultrasonic calls of an Eastern Red, Hoary, Big Brown or Little Brown bat.





Attendees are encouraged to bring their iPhones or iPads as they can have the chance to download a free bat detector app and go home with a bat recording from the evening.

**Download the free Echo Meter Touch App for your iPhone or iPad.**



## Plan Your Visit

### Museum Summer Hours:

Open Thursday- Saturday

Tours: 10:30am and 2:00pm

Large groups by appointment only

Sunday - Wednesday and  
all national holidays: Closed

### Museum Fees:

Members FREE

Adults \$10

Seniors 60+ \$9

Kids 13 plus: \$6

Kids 12 and under: FREE

Veterans and First Responders: FREE

[Sign Up For A Tour](#)

## Thank You Sponsors and Donors

The Willard House and Clock Museum is very grateful for the generous support of the following corporate and personal donors. At Willard, we try very hard to maintain a high level of programming throughout the year and without outside

support, this would not be possible.

If you or your business wishes to support the programs, donations of any size are welcomed and go to continued and new events here at Willard.

[Please Donate](#)

If you would like to learn more about special events or customized corporate or foundation programming, please contact: [Robert@willardhouse.org](mailto:Robert@willardhouse.org) Thank you.

## Corporate Sponsors

Annie's Garden  
Bob Arnold Photography  
Fuller Foundation  
Country Bank  
Gaudette Insurance Agency  
Millbury National Bank  
Post Road Art Center  
Savers Bank  
Sandra Liotus Lighting Design, LLC  
Schmitt Horan & Co  
Thomas J. Woods Insurance Agency  
Wegmans  
Worcester Sound and Lights  
United Airlines

## Partners

Dietrich American Foundation  
Horological Society Of New York

## Corporate Donors

Clock Folks of New England  
Country Bank  
Fuller Foundation  
Gaudette Insurance Agency  
Homeland Bank  
Savers Bank  
Sandra Liotus Lighting Design, LLC  
Schmitt Horan & Company  
UniBank  
Thomas J. Woods Insurance Agency  
Wellfleet Osprey Photography  
Worcester Sound & Lights

## Wegmans

### Exhibition Donors: Musical Clocks

David Croll

James & Marylou Hawkes

Edward W. Kane & Martha Wallace

John & Marjorie McGraw

Scott R. Talkington

### NAWCC Chapter Donors: \$500

Chapter 3 Chicagoland

Chapter 8 New England

Chapter 28 Lake Erie

Chapter 83 Peace Pipe

Chapter 133 Western Electric

## Donors

### Life Members \$500 +

Robert Ain	William Kerr
Wayne & Susan Andrews	Matthew Koskinen
William Anderson	Sandra Liotus
Mildred Bean **	Albert & Barbara MacDonald
Gordon Bethune	Stephanie Maurer
Marie Bender	John & Marjorie McGraw
Wendy Brown	William Miller
Larry** & Betty Chelmow	Mike Morison
Denise & Robert C. Cheney	Robert Nanovic
Fred Clough	Richard Newman
Raymond Cobb	David Newsom **
David Croll	Bernice Norton **
Dana Cranmer	Albert & Barbara MacDonald
Mark & Dianne Davidson	Sean & Anne Margaret Padgett
Dana Davignon Jr.	Natalia Pavlova
David DeGhetto	Diana Pearson
Nancy Druckman	Rosemary Picard
Jeremy Dubois	Ralph Pokluda
James Dutton	Mark Purdy
Karen Eisenhauer	Arthur Richmond
Kenneth & Patricia Elovitz	Doug Rinearson
Kathy Fitzgibbon	David & Susan Roberts
Ralph & Leeda Fletcher	Lee & Jane Robinson
William & Joyce Fletcher	Dr. Roger & Imogene Robinson **
Paul J. Foley	Ralph Robinson
Bruce Forman	William & Karen Robinson
Michael Friedman	Ann Sargent
Robert Frishman & Jeanne Schinto	Richard Saul
Lee Gaudette	Bradford Schlapak
Jodie Gerulaitis	Terry Seaks

George Goolsby  
David\*\* & Barbara Gow  
Charles N. Grichar  
Claire & Jay Haggerty  
Thomas Hansen  
Donald Hare  
James & Marylou Hawkes  
Robert Hendrickson  
Beaton Hogwood  
Ken Hogwood  
Dr. Wayne Hooper  
Howard Hyle\*\*  
Richard Irwin  
Randi Isaacson  
Edward W. Kane & Martha Wallace  
Judith King  
Matthew & Anna Keiter

Janet Spanknebel  
Joseph Seremeth  
John Stephens  
Gary Sullivan  
Marie Bender  
Scott Talkington  
Dr. James L. Telfer  
Gerald Tiemens  
Sumner Tilton  
Gilbert Tyler  
Greg Wilde  
David Willard  
Peter & Shirley Williams  
George Whitman  
John Wood  
Jack Woods  
Peter Wunch  
Dean Ziegenbien

\*\*Deceased

## **Clocks For Kids Program Donors**

David Hagberg

Richard Saul

Steven Sandborn

Granite State Timekeepers, Chapter 189, NAWCC

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Museum Staff**

Robert C. Cheney - Executive Director and Curator

Robert Gierschick - Development Director

Beverly Snow - Program Coordinator

Anna Keiter - Finance Manager

Sarah Mullen - Administrative Assistant

Natalia Pavlova - Registrar

## **Board of Trustees**

Dr. Wayne Andrews - President

Sumner Tilton, Jr. - Vice-President

Charles N. Grichar - Treasurer

Robert C. Cheney

Ralph Fletcher

Paul J. Foley

Katherine F. Grant  
Jane Robinson  
Lee Robinson  
Gary Sullivan  
Dr. James L. Telfer

## **Trustees Emeritus**

Larry Chelmow\*\*  
Richard Currier\*\*  
Arthur Richmond  
John Losch

## **Advisory Board**

Susan Bastian  
Robert C. Cheney  
Louis F. Genatossio  
Robert Gierschick  
Tim Kness  
Dave Myers

\*\*Deceased

---

Please support the historically important  
Willard House & Clock Museum

-The Center of Early American Clockmaking-

WHCM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit museum

