



National Watch and Clock Museum

Library and Research Center

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NAWCC, Inc. • 514 Poplar St. • Columbia PA 17512-2130

James Gibbs Collection, 1925-1989

Overview/Collection Description

- **Title:** James Gibbs Collection
- **Dates:** 1925-1989 [bulk 1960-1980]
- **Creator:** James Gibbs
- **Call Number:** MG 007
- **Language:** English
- **Extent:** 5 cubic feet of 5 boxes

Conditions of Access

- **Restrictions:** These records are open to researchers for personal or scholarly research. Most of the records in the collection are available for photocopy, depending on the preservation needs of the material as well as other variables not specified here. Researchers, however, are responsible for obtaining copyright permission to use materials and documents. These records are part of the permanent collection in the archives of the Library & Research Center of the National Watch and Clock Museum and researchers are required to comply with the Archive Rules when using the collection.

Administrative Information

- **Preferred Citation:** *James Gibbs Collection, 1925-1989*. Library & Research Center, National Watch & Clock Museum, NAWCC.
- **Processing Information:** This collection was processed and partially described before May 2016. During the summer of 2016, the collection was revisited and the archival description was expanded. It is unclear if the order of the collection present at the time

of the revision accurately reflected the original order. The order in which the collection was found in 2016 has been maintained as it is presented here.

- **Archivist and Date Processed.** Finding aid compiled by Kate Van Riper, Archivist at the Library and Research Center, National Watch and Clock Museum, Summer 2016.
Biography written by Mary Sue Deeg, March 2010

Subjects & Related Materials

- Dueber-Hampden Watch Company
- Pennsylvania Clocks and Watches
- Horological Tours
- Pennsylvania Dutch Country

Biographical Sketch

James Gibbs (1915-1990) worked for the Safetee Glass Company. In addition, he conducted research on topics including United States Clockmakers with a focus on Pennsylvania clockmakers, the Dueber Hampden Watch Company, bank time clocks, and calendar clocks.

James Gibbs was an early member of the NAWCC, Inc., and served in many leadership positions within the organization. In 1961 he became President of the NAWC, Inc., and from 1974 until his death he was Chairman of the Editorial Committee. He was also a trustee of the NAWCC Museum from its inception until 1986. Moreover, he was an author, writing many articles for the *NAWCC Bulletins*, as well as several *Bulletin Supplements*; and he also wrote several books, including *Pennsylvania Clocks and Watches*, *Buckeye Horology*, and *Dixie Clockmakers*.

Pennsylvania Clocks and Watches was published in 1984. This 286 page book tells the story of timepieces in PA from the time of William Penn to the past century. Arranged by county, information is provided about different watch and clockmakers in each geographic area, as well as about some of the businesses they founded; and he also makes a point of distinguishing clockmaking as being a highly skilled craft rather than just an occupation. Written descriptions are also given of various clockworks and many of these are illustrated in picture form in the book.

Buckeye Horology was published in 1971, and since the author was a native of Canton, OH, he had an inherent interest in Buckeye horology. In this book he tells the history of clockmaking in the various counties of OH, and he also includes many photographs of OH clocks and clockworks that were made there.

Dixie Clockmakers was written in 1979 and is a history of 18th and 19th century clockmaking in the South. Until the time that the author wrote this book, very little had been written on the subject of clockmaking and horological activity south of the Mason Dixon line; therefore, he decided to devote a chapter to each state—DE, MD, DC, VA, NC, and SC, and the final chapter contains the balance of the Southern states. Records seem to indicate that the most important clockmakers were in the geographic areas having the greatest wealth and cultural refinement, South Carolina being the most notable state when it comes to horological data. European immigration was responsible for providing the South with some of its earliest clockmakers and the Southern clockmakers were quite inventive, with some of their accomplishments including 26 horological patents, mathematical instruments, and fever thermometers.

Content & Structure

- **Scope & Content:** This collection consists of papers and photographs that Gibbs based his research on for several of his books. This includes research on Pennsylvania clockmakers broken down by county, Dueber Hampden Watch Company, Ohio clockmakers, Alabama clockmakers, Louisiana clockmakers, Virginia clockmakers, Tennessee clockmakers, and correspondences from different individuals.

Container List

Box	Folder	
1	1	Glass, 1963-1989
	2	Philadelphia News Articles, 1958
	3	Clock Research, 1972-1978
	4	Banneker Correspondence, 1960-1968
	5	Ohio Clockmakers, 1952-1966
	6	Ohio Clockmakers, 1952-1966
	7	Membership Letter, not dated
	8	St. Michael's Church Correspondence, 1970
	9	Eagle/Cosh Correspondence, 1969-1972
	10	Dighton Visited, 1970
	11	Alabama State Archives, 1973
	12	Photographs, not dated
	13	Clockmaker Names, not dated
	14	Farnham and Eford Article, not dated
	15	Louisiana State Museum, not dated
	16	Maryland Clockmakers, 1971-1972

	17	Photograph, not dated
Box	Folder	
1	18	Old Salem Clocks, 1970-1973
	19	Patrick Mogann, 1946-1970
	20	Negatives, not dated
	21	Tennessee Clockmakers, 1971-1975
	22	Virginia Clocks, 1971-1973
	23	Daniel Drawbaugh, 1938-1955
	24	Photographs, not dated
	25	Photographs, 1958-1966
	26	Dueber-Hampden Watches, 1930-1954
	27	Dueber-Hampden, 1954-1984
	28	Manuscript DH Watches, 1984
	29	Paste-up of Springfield to Moscow, 1986
	30	History of J.H. Winn Inc, not dated
	31	Reeves, Joseph, 1961
	32	Mennonite Clockmakers, 1966-1971
	33	Hollow Column Clock, 1973-1975
	34	Daniel Pratt Jr., 1963
Box	Folder	
2	1	DH Story Revised, 1952-1984
	2	Negatives, 1983
	3	Photographs, not dated
	4	Photographs and Negatives, not dated
	5	Negatives of Springfield to..., 1986
	6	Photographs, not dated
	7	Rhode Island Clockmakers, 1966-1967
	8	Grafton Willard Clocks, 1961-1963
	9	Horological Tours, 1968-1983
	10	Photograph Horological Tour, 1968
	11	Engineers and Inventors, 1937-1966
	12	Illinois Clockmakers, 1966
	13	Vermont Clockmakers, 1961-1977
	14	Photocopies, not dated
	15	Bank Time Clocks, 1956-1964
	16	Calendar Clocks, 1958-1962
	17	Ben Meek, 1950-1963
	18	Photographs, not dated
	19	Ithaca Clock Company, 1959
	20	No Horological Activity, 1973-1974
	21	Photographs, not dated

	22	Photographs, not dated
Box	Folder	
2	23	Bibliography, 1983
Box	Folder	
3	1	Pendulum Clocks, not dated
	2	Franklin Clock Company, 1978-1979
	3	Tall Case Clock, 1925-1984
	4	Philadelphia County Clock, not dated
	5	Photographs, not dated
	6	Photographs, not dated
	7	David Rittenhouse, 1956-1969
	8	Chester County, 1966-1982
	9	Chester County Photographs, not dated
	10	Bucks County, 1973-1979
	11	Solliday Clockmakers, 1974-1975
	12	Ellicott, 1968-1976
	13	Montgomery County, 1968-1974
	14	Montgomery County Photographs, not dated
	15	Pennsylvania Dutch Country, not dated
	16	Berks Couty, 1973-1982
	17	Bucks County, not dated
	18	Somerset County, 1976-1978
	19	Warren County, 1972-1982
	20	Westmoreland County, 1978-1981
	21	Delaware Valley Tall Case, 1979
	22	PA Arts and Crafts Excerpts, not dated
	23	Manuscript Notes, 1974-1984
Box	Folder	
4	1	Lancaster County, 1947-1975
	2	Lancaster County, 1947-1975
	3	Lancaster County Photographs, not dated
	4	Lebanon County, 1974-1982
	5	Lebanon County Photographs, not dated
	6	Lehigh County, 1973-1985
	7	Lehigh County Photographs, not dated
	8	Northampton County, 1973-1974
	9	Northampton County Photographs, not dated
	10	Adams County, 1973-1981
	11	Bedford County, 1974
	12	Patents, not dated

	13	York County, 1973-1976
Box	Folder	
4	14	York County Photographs, not dated
	15	Cumberland County, 1972-1974
	16	Dauphin County, 1974-1980
	17	Franklin County, 1973-1974
	18	Juniata County, 1973-1974
	19	Montour County, 1979
	20	Snyder County, 1973-1974
	21	Columbia County, 1973-1974
	22	Luzerne County, not dated
	23	Pike County, 1974-1979
	24	Schuylkill County, 1979-1982
	25	Allegheny County, 1973-1975
	26	Armstrong County, 1973-1975
	27	Assorted Counties, 1973-1979
	28	Beaver County, 1974-1976
	29	Patents and Photographs, not dated
	30	Advertising, 1985
	31	Photographs, not dated
	32	Correspondence & Thank You Notes, 1984-1985
Box	Folder	
5	1	Photocopies, 1965
	2	Lancaster County Not Used, not dated
	3	Lancaster County, 1971-1976
	4	Shaker Clocks, 1970-1974
	5	Photographs, 1971
	6	Pennsylvania Antique Clocks, 1984
	7	Release Letters, 1973-1983