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Josephine Del Deo
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Dear Josephine,

Well, it was a pleasure meeting you and ^{seeing} what is a reflection of your energy and efforts, The Provincetown Historical Museum. I have gotten together some information that may be helpful about the old town hall clock.

The clock was made by George M. Stevens & Co., Boston. As you know, it was the gift of Joseph P. Johnson, Provincetown, in 1885. Town records show a G.M. Stevens billing for \$102.71 on 7/30/86. This was probably the gear of installation and covered added costs for clock installation, bell hammer and weights. Examination of the Town Hall Tower show a later bell hammer and a fully electrified mechanism for time and strike. The dials are probably original, but the hands look new to me and too big for the dial. The old bell remains, dated 1886, made by William Blake & Co, Boston who was successor to Hooper who was successor to Revere and Son.

As the accompanying material shows, Geo. Stevens was first employed as a clerk by his father Collins Stevens, who was a principal in the Turret & Marine Clock Company, founded in 1858. This company was in business 4 years and operated under license to make tower clocks based on the patent of Aaron Crane, a horological genius who, among other things, invented the torsion pendulum still used today in the Atmos Clock and in 400 day mantle or Anniversary mantle clocks made in the millions. Crane's tower clock was of revolutionary design and over 60 were made and sold by the T&MCC. There was a falling out of the partners of this company and Stevens father and son started their own company, using as many of Crane's new ideas as possible without patent infringement. Two of these mechanical innovations are included in what remains as parts in your collection. One is the strike mechanism which is complete but requiring restoration. The other is the unique bell hammer arrangement I call the ~~hick~~ Crane "floating hammer" as the weight of the hammer is supported pendulum-like from the top. It requires less power (weights) to create more sound from the bell. All other Tower clocks are attached to the hammer with a cord or cable, which simply raises the hammer and lets it fall by gravity on the bell. The Crane strike system has a ratchet wheel acting on two arms that operate through a solid pipe

pulling the hammer back and pushing it against the bell. Working with the Floating Hammer it is a very efficient arrangement. A Stevens clock like yours with the floating hammer is still hand wound and working well in the Seniors' Center (formerly a church) in Morrisville VT (a long walk from Commerce St.) I have seen at least 4 others, including its use on fog bell alarms illustrated in the attached material. The top end of one of your floating hammer standards is broken off but most of the broken end is there and could be repaired. The hammer head itself is missing. ✖

So you have the clock flatbed frame and 4 legs, a complete strike system with all levers, most of the floating hammer. The two A-frame ~~time~~ plates that support the time train are there, but one requires welding at the top. All of these parts require restoration: ie, repair, sandblasting to remove rust, repainting etc. I have no idea what it would cost; my interest is in locating these fine old mechanisms and creating an interest in saving them. A man with whom I have no connection other than confidence in his ability and sincere interest in saving these clocks is Bruce Cheney, his card enclosed.

Your major problem is with the time train. The escapement, all gears, pivots and the winding barrel are missing. I suspect they may have been sold for their value as brass as what is left is of cast iron. The enclosed pictures of a clock like yours now on exhibit at Sturbridge Village will give you an idea of the extent and probable high cost of restoring these items.

Again, it was a treat meeting you. I hope my input has been helpful.

Best wishes,

Fred Shelton

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✖ Also missing is the clock mechanism pendulum.