

The Etna Library clock was made by the Waterbury Clock Co. one of the many Connecticut clock manufacturers that started in the mid 19th century. First started by Deacon Aaron Benedict and a Mr. Burnham of New York, it was first known as the Benedict & Burnham Co. of Waterbury Connecticut. The production of clocks started in 1850.

Benedict and Burnham induced the famous movement maker Chauncy Jerome to join in the endeavor. When the Benedict & Burnham company went belly up in 1855, Chauncy lost everything he had.

The company then became the Waterbury Clock Co. Benedict and Burnham were still the operators of the business with Noble Jerome now in charge of clock movements and Ed Church making the clock cases along with Arrad W. Welton. The company grew and continued to make clocks into the first Quarter of the 20th century.

The Etna Library clock, a Waterbury model 67 regulator, was first made in 1912. It is a unique time piece in the fact that it uses 2 balanced weights to run a single time gear train. The clock has no strike train. Each weight is wound up by it's own winding arbor. This was considered a simple form of maintaining power, a new innovation at the time. The reason is that while the one weight is being wound up the clock won't miss a beat because the other weight is driving the movement during the winding.

The clock looked as though it had only been serviced once since the time it had been purchased. A repairmen's note on the dial back of the clock listed a date of service as 1919. The movement was possibly cleaned at that time. I suspect it was the last time the clock was ever serviced.

When the clock came into the shop I found that the escapement bushings as well as some others were worn out of round and needed work. The wheel pivots also needed polishing and the pallet surfaces as well. The parts of the clock were then degreased and ultrasonically cleaned. The clock plates still maintained a high polish after all these years.

After ultrasonic cleaning, the movement was reassembled and lubricated with Nye synthetic oil. Weight cord was used instead of brass cable as there is less wear on the winding drums and pulleys. Minimizing wear on antique time pieces is important. In this age of Quartz clocks that never need winding, and very little maintenance, the Phrase "getting ones clock cleaned", has come to mean something different from what it once meant. However, we should not forget

that mechanical clock movements need to be cleaned and freshly lubricated every five years. Dust particles in the old clock oil, around the moving parts, form a micro fine cutting fluid that over the years can wear out bushings and wheel pivots.

Ref. American Shelf and Wall Clocks, Robert W. D. Ball, Schiffer Pub. Co.,1992,