BATTLE’S CLOCK AND WATCHMAKERS

Early History

It has been claimed that Battle was a centre for clock and watch making. Was this the case or did Battle only have typical numbers of clock and watchmakers for a town of its size? A sample analysis of census records for 1851-1911 may provide some indication as to whether this assertion is based on fact.

The chart below compares numbers of clock and watchmakers recorded in Battle and Rye, similar Sussex towns, with those to be found in Prescot, a town in the North West known for its clock and watch manufacture in the nineteenth century, being home to the Lancashire Watch Company from 1889.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CENSUS YEAR</th>
<th>BATTLE, Sussex</th>
<th>RYE, Sussex</th>
<th>PRESCOT, Lancashire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>No of Clock/watch Makers</td>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>6,310</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>5,494</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>5,729</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>5,405</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>6,791</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>6,339</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>7,935</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6,421</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Population figures: [www.populationspast.org](http://www.populationspast.org)

Numbers of clock/watch makers: Census records at [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk). Numbers reflect those found using search terms “clockmaker”; “Clock maker”; “watchmaker”; “watch maker”.

Certainly census records do not show particularly large numbers of clock and watchmakers were present in Battle when compared to Rye – numbers in both towns seem roughly comparable, although it should be noted that the figures are dependant on search engine results, which may or may not be entirely accurate. Even taking into account differences in population, numbers of watch/clock makers in Battle seem dwarfed by those in Prescot in 1851 and 1861. These figures would seem to cast some doubt on the assertion that Battle was a clock/watch making centre. Nonetheless, E J Tyler suggests that from the sixteenth century Battle had more clock and watchmakers than would be expected in a town of its size, pointing out that this could indicate that it had been a centre of supply to a wide area. He also tells us that Battle clockmakers were unusual in that a good number showed
“originality” in their work. What is certain is that there were clock and watchmakers in Battle for at least three hundred years.

The earliest mention of a clock in Battle is 1512 when a clock in the cubicula of the sacristy of the Abbey was repaired – this was likely to have been a monastic alarm. To put this into context, the earliest clockmakers in England were noted in 1368 and the earliest surviving clock dates from 1530, with domestic clocks dating from the early 1500s and the first watch being created in Germany in 1510, so this is relatively early in the history of English clock making. There is no record of the Abbey having its own large clock. The earliest mention of a Church clock comes in church accounts in 1630. The clock is likely to have been made in the sixteenth century and possibly donated by the Browne family, in the same way as they donated clocks to Midhurst, East Hoathly and Cowdray.

The church clock in Battle would have formed a central part of town life – most inhabitants would not have had their own time pieces so the church clock and, perhaps more importantly its chimes, would have been the means by which Battle’s inhabitants kept track of the time, giving order to their day. According to Tyler the church clock’s dial was moved to its current position as part of the extensive alterations to the church in 1869, when the former ringing chamber was destroyed and the clock face moved one floor higher. In Battle the church clock seems to have been repaired and maintained by men described both as clock and/or watchmakers, the terms here at least seeming synonymous. As time progressed watch/clock makers tended to no longer make their own parts from scratch but instead put together parts made elsewhere. The account which follows aims to tell a little about the various known clock and watchmakers in the town, including any connection they may have had with the church clock. In doing so, it relies heavily on the research of E J Tyler, an established authority on the history of clock and watchmaking, with some additions and updating. The list of clock and watchmakers is not definitive – there are others about whom little is known – for example in 1931 a watchmaker named John Clare, whom it is known had a child baptised in Battle and John B Mitchell who in 1930 was trading at 43 High Street. There may well be more yet to be identified.

**Clock and watchmakers of Battle 1650-1945**

**Thomas Punnett** of Cranbrook is recorded as supplying a new clock to the church in 1656. Although he may have made the parts for the clock in his workshop at Cranbrook, it is possible, Tyler suggests, that he may have used the local smithy’s forge to fashion parts locally as many would have been heavy to transport. Similar arrangements have been recorded for the making of Rye’s church clock in the previous century, and indeed in the early days of clock making blacksmiths are known to have asserted that the skills for making timepieces fell wholly within their trade, indeed early clockmakers belonged to the Blacksmiths’ Company. The Worshipful Company of Clockmakers only gained their charter in
1631, when clock making was officially recognised as a skill separate to that of a Blacksmith. The new Battle church clock’s movement was protected by a case - Thomas Smith was paid for four pairs of hinges for the case and John Beale was paid for work on the case itself. Thomas Punnett repaired the clock in 1663 and 1664.

**John Gilmore I**, 1660-1717, is the earliest clockmaker identified with Battle itself. He was the son of James Gilmore who is thought to have been descended from the Gilmore family who it is said were employed to demolish Battle Abbey in 1538. James Gilmore carried out various work for the parish Church in the seventeenth century. It is possible that John had been apprenticed to Thomas Punnett, mentioned above. A lantern clock inscribed *John Gilmore, Battle, fecit* (made by John Gilmore, Battle) has survived.

**John Gilmore II**, 1677-1726, was the son of John Gilmore I. In many trades craftsmen’s families are linked by marriages, and clock and watch makers follow this custom. John Gilmore II was no different, marrying Mary Cray, sister of Elizabeth Cray, wife of clockmaker Abraham Weston of Lewes. It is possible that John Gilmore II may have been apprenticed to Abraham Weston. In addition to clock making Tyler asserts that Gilmore ran a powdermill in Battle, but there is no conclusive evidence of this.

**John Gilmore III**, 1701-1759, son of John Gilmore II, married Elizabeth Holland in Battle in 1727. A longcase clock made by him provides evidence that he followed his father and Grandfather into the clockmaking trade.

In addition to the Gilmores, another Battle family, the **Hammonds**, were also concerned with clockmaking at this period, as well as with gunpowder manufacture, leading to a certain amount of rivalry between the two, possibly stemming, Tyler asserts, from the fact that the families descended from the Gilmore who demolished the Abbey and the Hammond (John Hammond) who was the last Abbot. Records show that a family named “Gilmer” demolished the Abbey, which could well be a corruption of “Gilmore”. Certainly as late as 1773 Lester Harvey, inheritor of the Gilmore powdermill, states in a letter to local newspapers that the Gilmores, not the Hammonds, were the originators of gunpowder manufacture in Battle, perpetuating the rivalry.

**Samuel Hammond**, 1668-1736, was the son of John Hammond who founded “Tills” ironmongers which traded in Battle to within living memory. It is not known who he was apprenticed to, but it may have been Thomas Punnett or a watch maker in Lewes. Tyler describes Samuel Hammond as “one of the most celebrated of Battle’s clockmakers”. In
1697 he was contracted to maintain Battle church clock and in 1718 he was paid for a large amount of unspecified work in two instalments, probably being to convert the clock to pendulum control and possibly minute hands on the dial. It is likely that the church clock had an exterior dial added in 1686, when John Hammond was paid for works which Tyler believes fit the profile for this type of work. Following this an increase in his retainer to look after the clock is noted, possibly reflecting the more complex work required. Hammond was also contracted to work on Rye clock, supplying new chimes and a new 30 hour clock whose lead weight bears the inscription “Sam Hammond, Battle”. His surviving clocks are all 30 hour longcase with a single hand.

Accounts from Tills which show Hammond buying wooden gun stocks suggest that he, like other clockmakers of the time, combined his work with that of a gunsmith. Apprenticeship records reveal that in 1726 John Brook, son of Nicholas Brook, was apprenticed to Samuel Hammond, clockmaker of Battle.

Obadiah Body, 1702-1767, took over the task of looking after the Battle church clock from Samuel Hammond in 1737 and continued to service it until his death. In 1766 two new dial plates were installed by John Cornford, carpenter. Obadiah moved to Battle in 1730 from Cranbrook – records show that at that time Cranbrook parish undertook responsibility for his welfare should he become destitute, as was the custom when moves were made between parishes. He had been apprenticed to George Thatcher of Cranbrook in 1716. He married Mary Weston, daughter of Abraham Weston and niece of John Gilmore II. Tyler believes it is likely that Obadiah was a dissenter as the baptism of his children is not recorded in parish records at Battle. Obadiah married for a second time in 1745 following the death of his first wife in 1744. Several of his clocks survive, a distinguishing feature of his dials is the inclusion of engravings of birds. These can be seen on the dial of a long case clock in his name currently displayed in Battle Museum, on loan from Battle Town Council. Records show that “William Batchelor, of Linfield (sic)” was apprenticed to Body in 1731.

Abraham Body, dates unknown c1730-mid 1770s, was the son of Obadiah Body and Mary Weston. An advertisement in the Sussex Weekly Advertiser in 1763 shows that he was
selling watches in Battle – Tyler claims this as the earliest documentary evidence of that trade in Battle. The oldest Battle watch known bears his name and was noted as being sold in 1977. Abraham may have taken over the former Thatcher business in Cranbrook as there are records of him working on Cranbrook Church clock in 1776 and 1769.

**Henry Body**, 1748-1818, was the son on Obadiah and his second wife, Susannah Blundell. He took over care of the church clock in 1768 after the death of his father and parish records show he continued to do this until 1816. In 1777 Sir Whistler Webster funded the erection of a new clock in the church, with the work carried out by Benjamin Reeves of Lamberhurst, but Body is recorded as carrying out some of the subsequent repairs. The new clock replaced that mentioned earlier, made by Thomas Punnett. Tyler reveals that Hastings Museum holds a 30 hour long case clock by Henry Body, unusual for its birdcage movement and rack striking, also seen in the work of Obadiah Body.

**Obadiah Orange Lemmon** c1785-? was in Battle by 1820 when he is recorded as repairing the Church clock. Tyler suggests that he took over Henry Body's business, having premises in Mount Street.

**John Cheeseman** was another Battle clockmaker operating in Battle at the same time as the Bodys. He had initially been apprenticed to William Reeves of Rye and married Mary Noakes (d1744) of Battle in 1737. In 1781 he started to operate from 66 High Street, formerly Blackman’s fuel office, now Castle Estates.

**Robert Apps** c1754-1821 was working from Battle at the same time as Cheeseman, arriving in Battle in the 1780s. A “turnip” or basic pocket watch made by Apps is displayed in Battle Museum. Initially working from premises in Mount Street, Apps then moved to the property immediately to the left of the Abbey Hotel when viewed from the Abbey Green. More specimens of his work have survived than any other Battle clockmaker. His specialism was a 30 hour movement with
a two wheeled striking chain and worm driven fly. Tyler speculates that Apps may have continued the practice of making his own movements, in contrast to the by then regular practice of importing them pre-made in factories. Robert Apps had at least two apprentices – Tyler mentions Edward Hogbin, with him at the time of his death, and records show that Daniel Wood was apprenticed to Apps in 1791. A longcase clock by Apps is owned by Battle Town Council.

**John Roberts** purchased Apps’ premises from his executor, with records suggesting he worked as a clockmaker in Battle during the 1820s. Church records show that Roberts supplied (he may not have been the maker) and installed a new Church clock in 1827, this being the one in place to this day. By about 1830 Tyler records that he moved to continue his business in Rye.

**Daniel Ray, 1763-1809**, born in Sudbury, Suffolk to a watchmaking family and possibly apprenticed in London like his brother William Redmore Ray, arrived in Battle in 1790 when he is noted as living with **Thomas Keeley**, watchmaker, in Keeley’s will. Ray took over John Cheeseman’s premises at 66 High Street in 1790. He held various civic offices in Battle including Overseer for the Poor in 1796 and Constable for the Hundred of Battle. His tombstone can be found in Battle churchyard. Tyler records that he worked for Sir Godfrey Webster of Battle Abbey between 1797 and 1800.

On his death his youngest son John inherited according to “Borough English” the system operating in Battle at the time and sold the business to his mother, Lydia.

**Lydia Ray, 1765-1852**, widow of Daniel Ray, continued the business as that of Silversmith and stationer, probably with a manager looking after the clockmaking/repairing aspects. By the 1851 census Lydia describes herself as a “retired silversmith”, but her daughters, Sarah and Elizabeth, are both recorded as silversmiths. Elizabeth dies in 1851 and Sarah in 1863, at which time the business passed to **William Stevens Ray, son of William Ray**.

**William Ray**, Daniel’s eldest son, was also a watchmaker and is recorded as signing bills for his mother, Lydia. He returned to Battle after his apprenticeship, which had possibly been at Newhaven, in 1825. He is recorded as having made some repairs to the church clock.

William moved to Brighton in 1841 and continued his business there.
William Stevens Ray inherited Daniel Ray’s business in 1863, but having his own business based in Brighton he sold it to Thomas Chettle in 1867. Tyler notes that in 1868 a newspaper advert reveals that William Stevens Ray made a watch for Garibaldi, the famous Italian General.

Thomas Quaife 1806-1889, probably born at Mountfield, although the 1871 census records his place of birth as Whatlington, was trading in Battle by 1833, with a directory entry as a watchmaker in 1839. According to Tyler, by 1849 he was working from a site on Hastings Road almost opposite Loose Farm, where he ran what seems to have been a small factory – a directory of 1855 describing him as a watch manufacturer, rather than a watch maker. Although church records show that he was retained to look after the Church clock at 3 guineas a year until at least 1843, watches rather than clocks seem to have been his focus. In 1853 he patented a method of forming watch cases by use of pressure. He moved from Battle to Hawkhurst in 1857 when he sold his property to Samuel Carter, of Regent’s Park. He subsequently exhibited a chiming clock of marble and gold with fifty changes at the Great Exhibition of 1862. While in Battle he was a member of the Mechanics Institute, part of a nationwide movement which gave working men the opportunity to broaden their education.

Thomas Chettle 1820-1891 was the son of a watchmaker, William Chettle, being born in Cornwall. Prior to arriving in Battle in 1848 he had worked in Farnham. He may have originally worked for Thomas Quaife and possibly later for the Ray family, eventually taking over their business in 1867. A large clock in the form of a pocket watch bearing the name “T Chettle” on the dial is on display in Battle Museum. It was formerly part of the window display of the Post Office when it was situated at 20 High Street. Tyler tells us that the clocks seems to have been made from an early eighteenth century longcase movement adapted for a short pendulum suggesting that it may originally have formed part of Thomas Chettle’s own window display as the dates in the movement of 1867-8 fit with when he took over the Ray business. It was found unwanted behind 20 High Street after the Post Office had moved and was given to the Museum. Chettle died in Clapham Junction district in 1891, leaving his estate to his wife Leah.

John Noakes c1832-1895 was born in Burwash, the son of John Noakes, also a watchmaker, marrying Susannah Vigor in Brighton in 1857. Tyler notes that trade directories place him in Battle in 1855 at 76 High Street and in 1859 at 61 High Street, but by the 1861 census he
appears apart from his family living in Hastings. After a brief period in Brighton he seems to have set up business in Tonbridge by 1865, dying there in 1895. Tyler notes that a thirty hour long case clock exists bearing his name, with “a painted dial and plate movement”.

**Henry Kemp 1817-?** Kemp was born in Seaford and took over Noakes’ business at 61 High Street by 1860, having moved from Mayfield, his wife’s home town. A round wall clock, formerly located at the Methodist Church in Battle, is on display in Battle museum bearing the name “H Kemp”. According to Tyler, Hove museum houses a watch by him marked 1867. Kemp is noted in a trade directory of 1867 as trading from Battle High Street, but does not appear in Battle in the 1871 census, nor has he, up to this time, been located elsewhere, so his later life remains a mystery. His wife, Ruth, appears to be living in Tonbridge by 1871 working as a Lady’s Maid.

**Edwin Kemp 1846 – 1921.** By 1871 the business appears to be in the hands of Henry’s son, Edwin, by then himself a master watchmaker, although the 1861 census shows he began working life as a pupil teacher in Mayfield. He was assisted by his brother Frederic. Interestingly, the 1871 census shows that the curate of Battle, Rev Edward R Currie, later Dean, was a lodger. Edwin married Mary Ann Rigley in Hastings in 1873, who, the 1871 census records, was a dressmaker, working in Hastings and assisted by Edwin’s sister Ann, presumably this is how the couple met. By 1881 the pair have three children and Edwin is still working as a watchmaker in Battle High Street. In 1891 he continues to trade at 61 High Street, but by 1901 he has set up business as a watchmaker in Woking, continuing to live and trade in Surrey until his death in 1921.

**Joshua Mathis 1863 -1917** was born in Battle and is recorded in 1881 as an apprentice watchmaker, living in Upper Lake with his parents Frank (a cordwainer or shoemaker) and Grace and his sister Lucy. By 1891 his is still living with his parents at 16 Upper Lake and is recorded as a watchmaker. In 1890 Kelly’s directory shows Mathis was trading at 16 Upper Lake as a watchmaker, with his father Frank a bootmaker and parish clerk at 16 and a half. Tyler reports that in 1895 he was trading as a watchmaker and cycle agent and by 1897 he had taken a premises at 57 High Street, where trade directories show he continued to trade until at least 1911. From 1915 trade directories show Mathis trading at 12 High Street. In 1895 he married Emma Mary Gower, also of Battle, who Tyler says and trade directories
confirm, continued to run his business after his death in 1917. Church accounts for 1905-22 show that Mathis was paid 4 guineas a year to maintain the Church clock.

David Grant 1850-1902 was born in Ewhurst, marrying his wife Harriet Smith in Battle district in 1872. In 1871 David was listed as a watchmaker, living in Brightling, with his mother and three brothers. In 1881 David was practising as a watchmaker in Bexhill, in association with his brother Levi. By this time he had two children, William, born 1873 and David, born 1881. By 1890 Kelly’s Directory lists him at 21 High Street, Battle, watchmaker. David died in 1902 and was eventually succeeded in the firm by his son William. Prior to this, however, his wife, Harriet is recorded by Kelly’s directory in 1911 and 1915 as a watchmaker trading at 21 High Street – presumably keeping the business going as so many watchmaker widows seem to have done.

William Grant 1873 – 1962 was the son of David Grant, born in Brightling. In 1911, William is trading at 21 High Street, Battle, living with his mother and sister. Tyler, who mistakenly identifies William as David’s brother, reports that “notes of repairs by William appear on many Battle clocks. Some of his early repairs appear as “WG for D Grant”. He is still trading at the same address in 1939, recorded in the 1939 register. According to Tyler, he continued to work until 1946, when the business was taken over by George Aylesbury.

Notable amateur clockmakers of Battle

Frederic Gorham Ticehurst 1849-1922, a well-respected Battle resident, counted engineering among his hobbies, including clock making. The Hastings and St Leonards Observer 28 January 1922 reports in his obituary that he “constructed many ingenious timepieces”, citing the example of one which not only told the time, but also the precise date (down to day of the week) and the times of the tides.

The First Electric Clock

A major innovation in the field of horology, perhaps surprisingly, seems to be connected to the town of Battle and an amateur in the field. Charles K Aked argues that the very first electric clock was the Galvanic Clock invented by Sir Francis Ronalds (1788 – 1873), resident of Battle for his later years and a scientist and inventor. He began his research into the use of electricity for clocks with the Aerial Electroscope design by J.A. De Luc. While considering the effect of weather on the apparatus he arrived at the idea of a steadily oscillating pendulum regulated by electrical charge, which could be used to measure time. By 1814 Ronalds was considering the practicalities of making an electric clock and his first effort was produced in early 1815. Ronalds went on to endeavour to correct defects in his clock which made it vulnerable to temperature and humidity, making it a “reasonable
timekeeper”. Ronalds work on timekeeping was soon forgotten and had little connection to later development of electric clocks, which used electro-dynamic electricity rather than electro static. However, as Aked writes,

“Ronalds’ achievement...was to prove that timekeeping using electricity as a motive power could be achieved practically, in this he was in a similar position to John Harrison who proved that it was possible to construct a timekeeper for use at sea, even though his method was obsolete before his famous watch was completed”

If, as Aked proposes, Ronalds’ clock was indeed the very first electric clock this surely constitutes a very major innovation in the field of horology for a Battle “clockmaker” and is a further example of the “originality” of Battle clockmakers identified by Tyler in “The Clockmakers of Battle”.

Georgina Doherty
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Thanks to Battle Town Council and Battle Museum of Local History for permission to photograph their timepieces.

Thanks also to Peter Greene for taking the photos.

For further information on Ronalds see also Collectanea K 2.1 – Sir Francis Ronalds at: http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site15733/Web%20K/K%202017RONALDSv2.pdf

For further information on Frederic Ticehurst see also Collectanea S 1.1 – The Ticehursts at: http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site15733/Web%20S/S1.1%20TICEHURSTv2.pdf

References

BDHS Archive file HS I


Census records: www.ancestry.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk

Birth, marriage and death records as above

1939 register as above
Hastings and St Leonards Observer available via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

Register of duties paid for apprentices indentures available at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

A timeline of watchmaking found at: [http://www.historyofwatch.com/clock-history/clock-timeline/](http://www.historyofwatch.com/clock-history/clock-timeline/)


Information on early electric clocks: [http://www.electric-clocks.nl/clocks/en/page03.htm](http://www.electric-clocks.nl/clocks/en/page03.htm)

Prescot clock and watch making: [www.ancashirewatchcompany.co.uk/](http://www.ancashirewatchcompany.co.uk/)
Appendix - Battle Parish Accounts relating to Church Clock

BATTLE CHURCHWARDENS’ ACCOUNTS
Extracts relating to the church clock(s)
The accounts also contain many references to glazing, tiles, lime, bell repairs etc.

1630/1 Item paid to John Farncomb for his whole years wages and for keeping the clock and for washing the surples and communion cloths £5.5s.

1632 Item paid to Thomas Smyth for work about the clock
John Farncomb for his whole years wages and for keeping the clock £5.4s.
Item paid to Thomas Sharp(e) for oyle and nayles and timber and for a rope for the plummett of the clock as appeareth by his bill of the particulars of the rope £3.1s.

1633 Item paid for oyle and for wax 2d.
Item paid to Thomas Sharpe for a rope for the church clocke 1s.4d.
Item paid for oyle 8d.
Item paid to John Farncombe for black wages and keeping the clock £10.4s.
Item paid for oyle 9d.

1634 Item paid to the smith for mending the clock 2s.6d.
Item paid to John Farncomb for keeping the clock one year 4s.

1635 Item to John Farncomb for keeping the clock 4s.
It paid John Smith for mending the clock and work about the bells and a hatch to the church gate 6s.
paid to John Smith about the clock 6s.3d.

1636 Blank

1637 for a cord for the clock 14d.
To Tho Smythe for mending the Clocke 14d.
John Farncomb for his years wages 5s.
paid to him for keeping the clock 13s.4d.
(The sums of money mentioned above were expressed in Roman figures. Entries in arabic figures begin here.)
for mending the clock 3s.
for a puller for the clock hammer 2d.
to John Smith for cleaning the clock 1s.6d.
3 iron dogs for the clock penthouse 6
more to him for 2 iron hooks 5
for a post of oyle for ye clock and bells 4

1639 item for a line for the clock 9

1640 item paid for 8 hand ropes and one rope for the clock 6-0
It paid John Knowles his years wages (presumably clerk or sexton. Keeping clock may be included) 5-0

1641 pd John Knowles for one year for ringing curfew and for ye clocke 6-0-0
More paid to Giles Burton for this two years allowance 1-1-8
more allowed him his scott (? being 2s.9d. for and towards a sun day all the rest he gives 2-9

1643 Imprimis paid John Knowles his wages and keeping the clock 3-0-0

1645 more for a rope for the clocke 3-0
paid to John Knowles towards his hole years wages keeping the clock and ringing the clarks bell 5-10-0

1647 no wages
1649
1650 no entries
1651
1652 no expenses
1653

1654 it payed for mendinge the clocke 1-10-0
it payed the clocke line 1-4
Lemuell Warren his wages 5-0-0
It payed John Barnes for wyer 1-6

1656 Lemuell Warren for two yeres wages 10-0-0
paid for an houre glasse 8
paid to Edward Smith as appeareth by his bill 1-3-2
It paid to Pumnett for the clock 10-0-0
(The inventory 1657 includes “one old clocke”)

1657 paid Thomas Smith for foure pair of points for the clock case 2s
the clare for his years wages 5-0-0
paid John Beale for work about the clock case 1-4-0

1659 The clere for his years wages 6-0-0
1661 no exs
1662 no exs

1663 it pd Thomas Pumnett for mending the clocke 2-6

1664 pd for keeping the clocke 1-10-0
pd for mendinge the clocke 15-0
Lemuell Warren his wages 5-10-0

1665 1 pd Godheard Warren for lookinge to the clocke half a yeare 10-0
2 paid Goody Warren (his wife?) for making the linnen and scorwing the pewer 6-8
pd her for her sheats 6-0
3 Lemuell Warren his yeares wages 5-10-0

1667 Lemuell Warren his wages 5-10-0
pd for keeping the clocke 1-0-0
pd John Barnes for a wyer for the clocke 3-4

1669 Lemuell Warren for his wages 5-10-0
item paid for keeping the clock 1-0-0
1670 It paid for keeping the clock 1-0

1671 Lem Warren years wages 5-0-0
Godheard Warren for keeping the clocke 1-0-0
pd Edward Smith for work about the church clock 7-4

1672 for keeping the clock 1-0-0
It for drawing the dioll in the churche 1-0-0
Lemuell Warren wages 5-0-0
keeping the clocke 1-0-0
1673, pd Godheard Warren for looking to the
clock 10-0
pd Will Dunning for mending the
clock for two new ropes 1-6
keeping the clock 1-0-0
1674, to Will Dunning for looking to the
clock 1-0-0
1676, looking to the clock 1-0-0
for keeping the clock and ringing the
corfelel 1-10-0
1677, item paid for the chimes 10-0-0
it paid for altering the hand in the
church 1-10-0
it paid for mending and cleaning the
clock 10-0
it paid for wyer 1-0
1680, paid to Godheard Warren for keeping the
clock and chimes and ringing the
curful for two years 2-6-4½
1682, it paid for mending the chimes 8
Tho Warren 2 years wages keeping the
clock and chimes and washing 14-13-4
1683, paid him (Tho Warren) his years wages
for keeping the clock and chimes 7-0-0
1684, pd Thos Warren pt of his two years wages
and for keeping the clock and chimes 12-6-0
it paid for a chime rope 9-0
1685, paid help for rearing a ladder to fix up
Jun 20 ye watch 1-6
for wier for repairing ye chimes 10
for a pully for ye clock and iron worke 1-2
Au 6, for my man (i.e. John Hammond’s man.
J. H. was then churchwarden) half a
day to help Cornish about ye clocke
and chimes (Robert Cornish of East
Grinstead) 1-0
Se 18, to Tho Medhurst for plastering ye edge of
ye dail 6
paid help for taking down ye ladder and
carrying it home 1-0
To Will Dunning for amending ye
clocke and a locoke 2-10
1686/7
Ja 18, For 12 lbs of lead to add to ye clocke weight
and iron worke 2-8
Fe 1, for a line to winding ye chimes 4-8
paid to Robert Cornish as by his bill
may appear 1-10-0
to Godward Warren as by his bill
appeared 11-13-4
1687, for a line for the chimes 4-8
for a chime rope weighing 24lbs. 12-0
John Hammond’s bill in particular for
repairing the clocke and chimes 1-6
there remained due to the clerk at the
making up of this account for one years
looking after the clock and
chimes and ringing ye curfew 40s.
1689, pd Sam Hammond 3-0
1692, pd for 2 yeares oyle for the bells and chimes
per fall 5-10
1695, pd to Sam Hammond as by bill 3-16-0
item paid Samuel Hammond for
looking after the clock and chimes 4-0
Memorand it is agreed by and between
ye inhabitants and Samuel Hammond of
Battel aforesaid clocksmith there
said Samuel is to keep in good repair ye
clocke and chimes of the said Parish
church for four shillings a yeare
beginning at Easter last (ye timbes
worke and wyers and lines excepted for
twenty years witness my hand
Sam Hammond
1697, paid Samuel Hammond as appeareth by
bill 4-0
1699, pd Sam Hammond as appeareth by bill 12-6
pd Samuel Hammond by bill 14-6
1701, Sam Hammond as by bill appeareth 9-4
1702, to Rich Eldridge and clarks wages li 5 and to
looking after the clocke and chimes and
ringing ye 8 0 clock bell li 2 washing ye
serpuss 6s. 6d. all in one of Easter
1702 7-6-8
1703, Sam Hammond looking after ye church clock
two years the other works as by bill
appears 11-10
Rich Eldridge clarks wages li 5 and for
looking after clock and chimes and
ringing ye clocke bell 7-6-8
1704, ” ” ” 7-6-8
1705, ” ” ” 7-6-8
Jn 5, pd Sam Hammond his bill 10-4
1706/7
May 19 Sam Hammond as by bill appears 4-0
1707, 28 Oct Spent or help for taking downe the clocke
and carrying it up to Hammonds and
bringit downe again 1-6
1708, Sam Hammond as by his bill appears 5-6
1709, Rich Eldridge 7-6-8
Sam Hammond as by his bill appears 4-0
1710, paid at setting up of the dail 4-0
Nov 3
Feb 13 to Sam Hammond as by his bill appears 6-0
1711, paid Sam Hammond a bill 4-0
1713, pd Sam Hammond as appears by his
bill 1-3-2
1714, pd Sam Hammond as appears by bill 4-0
1715, ” ” ” 4-0
1716, ” ” ” 4-0
1717, ” ” ” 4-0
1718, pd Sam Hammond as per in p of 9-8-5 5-11-0
” ” in tail of his bill 9-8-5 3-17-5
1719, Ja 8 Then an agreement was made by the
Dean and Churchwardens to and with
Samuel Hammond to allow him five
shillings a year from Easter last for
twelve years to come to look after the
church clock and keep it in good repair in case ye said Samuel Hammond lose, the said Churchwardens to find rope, wire and timber ye said Samuel Hammond to find all other materials ye said termes and we hereby [ ] this agreement to be true.

witnesses our hands

2 signatures  Samuel Hammond

1720 Samuel Hammond as per bill appears 5/0
   Ed Samuel Hammond as per 5/0
   The clerk his wages and for ringing the and looking after the clock and chimes as per bill appears. 7-16-0
   Samuel Hammond as per act. clerk 13-6
   8-3-8

1724 S. Hammond 5/0
   also 1725, 26, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 5/0

1735 Mr Hammond as per bill 14-1/4

1736 23 Apr paid Samuel Hammond a bill 5 6
   18 March paid Mr. Hammond 3 0

1737 25 July paid Obadiah Body 4 0
   Recd for the iron of the old bells 3 1

1740 April 6 to Mr Body 1 6
   Dec 17 Pd Ob. Body 2 6

1743 Feb 7 To Obadiah Body 7 6

1748 Paid Obadiah Body as per receipt 10 0
   Paid Obadiah Body as per 10 0
   Paid Obadiah Body as per Pre 10 0
   Paid Obadiah Body as per receipt 10 0

1757 Apr 12 Mr Body as per receipt 1 1
   Jan 13 Mr Body as per bill 7 6
   23 Nov Paid Obadiah Body as per receipt 7 6
   17 Oct Paid John Comford (see vestry minutes) 10 0

1768 23 Feb To Henry Body as per receipt 16 6
   20 Jan To Henry Body as per receipt 1 8

1773 9 Mar To John Henry Body 7 0

1774 To Henry Body 1 12 6

1775 Ben Reeve for mending and putting the clock up 11 3 0
   To Henry Body as per bill 1 7 2
   To Henry Body 15.6d.
   To Hen Body 2 9
   To Hen Body as per 15 3 6c.
   To James Jenner for repairing the church clock 1 1 0
   Mrs Body overcharged 7/6

1872 To James Jenner for repairing the church clock 1 1 0

1793 Mrs Body bill 12 6
   21 Feb Henry Body per bill 2 10 6
   Mrs. S. Body 7 6
   April 8 Mrs. S. Body as per bill 1 3 6
   Henry Body p do 12 3
   Henry Body bill 3 6
   20 Mar Meany Body bill 1 5 0
   15 May Henry Body bill 9 3
   15 July Henry Body bill 10 0
   Oct 29 Henry Body bill 9 6
   Feb 15 Orange Lemmon bill 1 1 0
   May 3 John Roberts as per bill 2 3 6
   March 3 John Roberts bill for repairing clock 1 7 6
   1825 John Roberts p do 1 5 0
   1827 John Roberts as per bill for clock 34 10 0
   1829 Jul 24 John Roberts attending the church clock 2 12 0
   1830 Aug 21 William Ray to bill 1 14 0
   1831 May 14 William Ray as per bill 4 2 0
   1832 Apr 11 William Ray per bill 1 16 6
   1833 Oct 8 William Ray per bill church clock 5 0 6
   Dec 7 Oil for the clock 5 0
   1834 Jan 9 William Ray per bill 1 10 0
   1835 Thomas Quaye for repairing the church clock 14 13 0
   1837 Mar 25 Thomas Quaye for winding up and looking after church clock p bill 3 18 0
   1838 Thomas Quaye looking after the church clock one year 3 3 0
   1839 Jun 7 Tho Quaye per bill 3 3 0
   1840 Tho Quaye as per bill for repairing church clock 3 3 0
   1841 Jun 15 Thomas Quaye clockmaker as per bill 4 8 0
   1842 Mar 25 Thomas Quaye repairing clock as per bill for one year 3 3 0
   1843 May 6 Thomas Quaye asper bill 3 3 0
   Sep 29 Thomas Quaye asper bill 1 11 6

**BATTLE CHURCHWARDENS’ ACCOUNTS**

1804-1824

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Apr 1805</td>
<td>J. Mathis</td>
<td>4 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Oct 1806</td>
<td>For winding clock</td>
<td>2 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Mar 1807</td>
<td>Newbury H</td>
<td>10 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Mar 1807</td>
<td>Water clock</td>
<td>3 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Jan 1807</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Mar 1807</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Apr 1807</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 May 1807</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 3 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 May 1807</td>
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<td>28 Mar 1807</td>
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<td>17 Apr 1807</td>
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<td>19 Apr 1807</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Apr 1807</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 E. Mathis (accts for 9 months only)</td>
<td>3 7 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Dec 1812</td>
<td>2I Mathis clock</td>
<td>4 12 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Dec 1812</td>
<td>22T. Walter repairs clock, vane etc.</td>
<td>12 17 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Dec 1812</td>
<td>Mathis clock winding and repairs</td>
<td>6 14 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Dec 1812</td>
<td>Mathis clock winding etc.</td>
<td>5 4 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*continued in more businesslike way in new book.*

A. E. Kemp