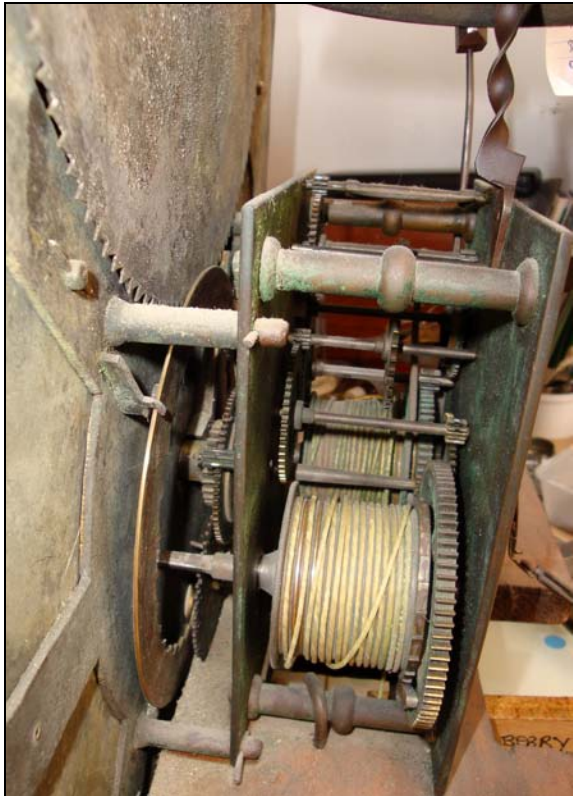


**Peter Clare** is one of Manchester's best known clock makers; he was born into a Quaker family in 1729 (died 1799). He married Mary Whitall on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1772 when his shop was at 119 Deansgate, where he traded as clockmaker, patented smoke jack maker, liquor merchant and scientific lecturer on his interest in the new science of electricity, he must have been a great character and a number of his well made clocks still survive today. His son, also Peter, was born in 1781 and carried on his fathers business and diverse scientific interests; he was a very close friend of Dr John Dalton the father of atomic theory and famous son of Manchester.

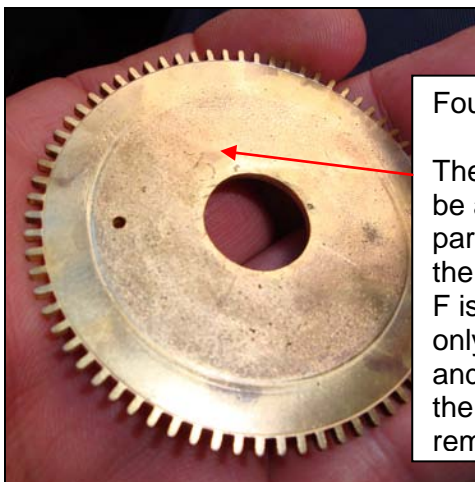
I purchased this 8 day brass dial longcase clock made by Peter Clare senior earlier this year, it had not run for many years and was in a very tired and sleepy condition, but it is such a wonderful piece of Manchester social history. The movement has been a straight forward restoration and I am currently waiting on the repair and restoration of the case. The case is of typical Manchester / northern style of oak and mahogany and has, unusually for the 1770 period, some banding in walnut.

Here is the moon phase dial of the clock in pre restored condition. The art work of the moon is typical of Manchester work but it does have some unusual features.



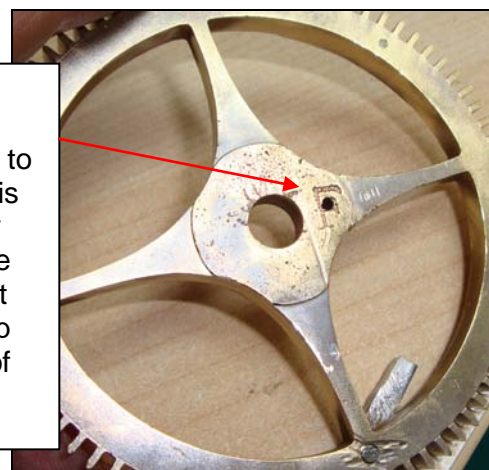


The movement having a count wheel strike was in a very dirty but original condition with verdi-grise being a problem in several places. There were no bushes in the movement, very rare after over 200 years, and no sign of any work other than an old, repair to the pendulum crutch which needed some attention. The pallet faces and pinions on the second and escape wheel arbors were badly worn & repaired with the aid of micro welding, I am afraid that some pivot damage resulted in the clocks first bushes being fitted. Notice the bell stand made from a twisted blade spring blank, this looks to be original. Interestingly several foundry casting marks were found, see below. It is possible that this is E F which could be the Etna Foundry in Water Street owned by Wilson & Bateman the ironmonger, they also had a shop on Deansgate and possibly did other work for Peter Clare on his chimney smoke jacks.



Foundry marks

The left one looks to be a 3. The right is partly removed by the centre hole the F is quite clear but only part of the top and bottom serif of the first letter still remains



As already mentioned, the moon phase dial is unusual in a number of ways, firstly the night or dusk scene is quite rare, the standard being just a dark sky with stars. The edge of the disc and numerals are painted in white rather than the normal engraved and silvered method. Also note the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  rather than the normal  $29\frac{1}{2}$  for the full lunation period. Here are two photos of the dial before and after restoration work. My thanks to Francis Tennant for her work on this dial.





Here is the clock movement after the restoration





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