

**What a challenge!!** I have just bought an early white dial 8 day long case clock by Samuel Collier of Eccles, as a long term restoration project. The clock is in poor condition and was found on a local rubbish tip!



The clock was made in about 1780 and has three trains, the third being ting tang qtr bells. Three trains are unusual on a white dial, the going train winds through the centre of the calendar hand, now missing. The dial of 14 inches is a nice 'four seasons' and is typical of Manchester made ones, it has the usual problem of paint cracking caused by the bitumen based undercoat over the wrought iron.

The movement has fared better as it was heavily coated in oil, this protected it from the elements while on the tip. The moon dial is beyond rescuing as it is suffering from severe brass rot. So, lots of work to do, but this clock will rise again, and I will report on progress as the restoration progresses. The wheel work is of good quality with very light crossings, the last scratchings on the plates indicates the last service may have been in 1933!



### **Some Brief Notes, the Collier's, a family of clockmakers from Gatley, Cheshire**

Gatley is a suburb of Stockport. The family started with a clockmaker called David Collier. Who according to the Cheadle baptismal records was making clocks in Stockport Etchells from at least 1745 and then in Gatley from around 1756.

David Collier Snr. was born in about 1721 and became a well known clockmaker, being mentioned in the standard works on horology. He had a workshop on Gatley Green as this is often stated on his clock dials. Exactly where on Gatley Green cannot be found. The Etchells LTA's of 1780-92 show him to be living in a cottage

valued for tax at two shillings, although Brian Loomes states that he moved to Eccles some time before 1780 and continued to work there until his death. The LTA's show that after his death in 1792, Thomas Collier, possibly his son, owned the cottage and lived there. David Collier Snr was married twice, his first wife was called Mary (unknown surname) and his second marriage was to Mary Bailey at St. Mary's Church, Stockport. He had 4 daughters and 3 sons, Thomas in 1745, Samuel in 1750 and John in 1762, all were baptised in St. Mary's Church, Cheadle. David Collier Snr died aged approximately 71 in 1792. His widow obtained Letters of Administration; these are filed at the CRO. According to these he had been killed, no one knew how.

Samuel Collier, the second son of David Snr became a clockmaker in Eccles, Lancashire. Born in 1750, he died 14th June 1806 and is thought to have carried on the family business with his brother John who died in 1816 after the death of David snr.. Samuel is listed as having taken an apprentice clockmaker, John Seddon on 17 March 1778 for the fee of £6-16-6d for 7 years.

David Collier Jr. He was baptised at St. Mary's, Cheadle on 21st October 1787, he was the grandson of David Collier Snr. His father was John Collier, and he also made Longcase clocks in Cheadle with both painted and brass dials. David married a Mary Leigh at Stockport on 14th June 1819. He was a clockmaker in Gatley in the early 1800's. He had 4 children who all died in infancy. He died in 1840 and this brought to an end the Gatley clock making family of Colliers.

