

John Melling, clockmaker of Gloverstone, Chester.



On John Melling's arrival in Chester in March 1718/19 he petitioned the Assembly (as the Council was then known) to be admitted a freeman of the city, offering to make a new clock and chimes to the value of thirty pounds for St Peter's Church and to keep the same in good repair during his life.

On the same day, the Assembly received 'several petitions from the Master, Wardens and Company of Goldsmiths and Clockmakers opposing the petition from John Melling' as there were already sufficient clockmakers in the city. Not an auspicious start. The Assembly clerk noted that the latter petition was read, but it was over-ruled and John Melling's freedom was granted two days later. Nothing further came of the church clock.



John Melling

G/S 11 courtesy of Northern Clocks

John Melling

John Melling and his wife Letitia settled in Gloverstone. Their presence there was recorded in the parish register when three children were baptised. These were Jonathan (2 October 1720), Ann (14 February 1722) and Elizabeth (3 May 1724). In each case Melling's residence was stated as 'Gloverstone' and his occupation, 'watchmaker'.

Records of Melling's apprenticeship have not been traced. He did however, have his own apprentices in Chester:

John Jones(1)

John Eccles

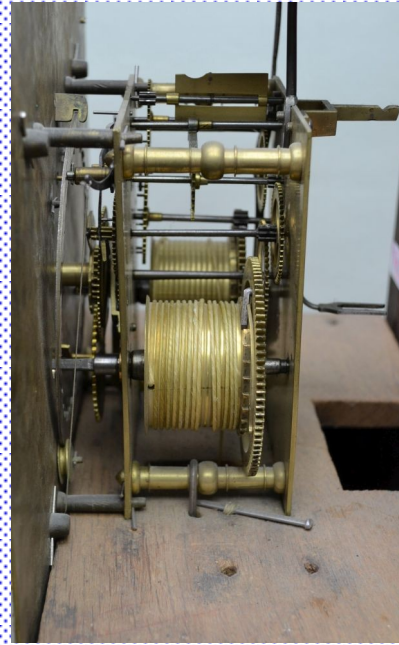
Robert Swarbreck



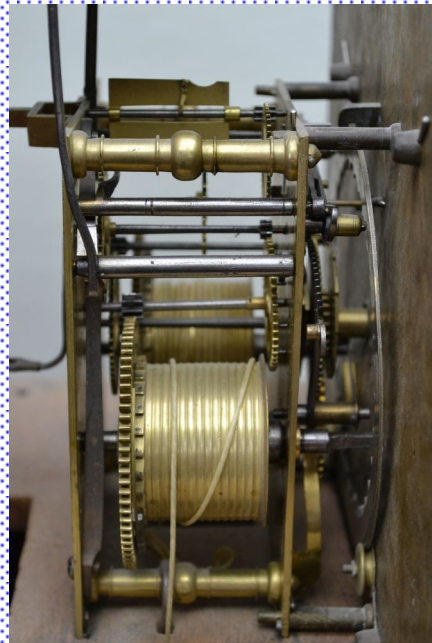
1720s oak longcase
by John Melling.



John Melling

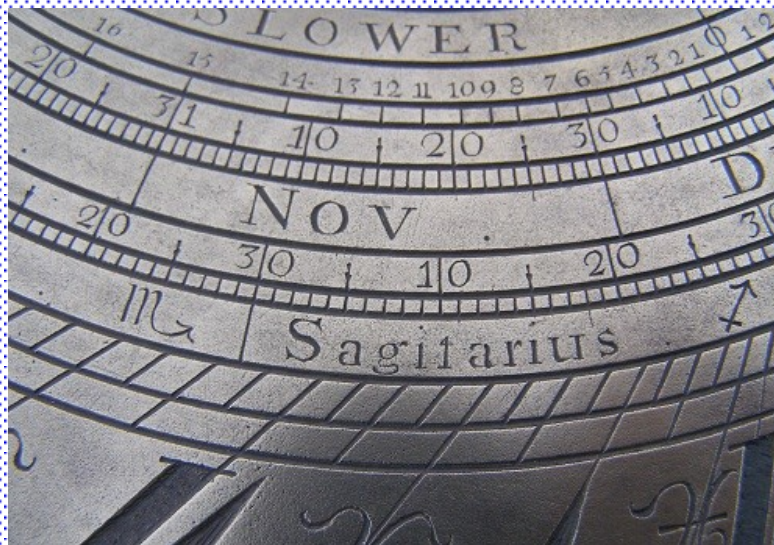


1720s oak longcase by John Melling.



John Melling

John Melling became a member of the Company of Goldsmiths and Watchmakers on 7 November 1723. He held the post of warden from 1727 to 1733. He was voted in as warden for the last time in July 1733, but by the 22nd September that year, the company minute book starkly noted that Benjamin Pemberton had been elected warden for the remainder of the year. There was no mention of a death. Melling left no will, but letters of administration were granted to his widow, and to Thomas and Robert Holland, barber and draper, both of the city of Chester. The absence of a will suggests a sudden death.



These photos are from:

www.clockswatches.co.uk/showpage.php?em=34128pg=p

We would very much like the dial's owner to contact us.