

Chester clocks with painted arches. Who painted them? Does anyone know of any others on silvered dial clocks?



Arch dial of longcase clock with silvered dial by **Joseph Thomas**, c. 1780

Old Father Time holding his scythe seated on a rock beside a carved wooden clock dial. He is looking intently at a gold coloured sphere of unknown significance. Joseph Thomas lived and worked in Gloverstone.

The arch right is on a clock by Joseph's older brother, James.



Arch dial of longcase clock with silvered dial by **James Thomas**, c. 1780

Stone masons working at a site overlooking the River Dee, with what may be Moel Famau in the distance. The building on the left may be the old Exchange Building, Northgate Street, Chester.

James Thomas' workshop was nearby, in the same street.



Arch dial of longcase clock with silvered dial by **Thomas Denman**, c. 1780

A peacock displays his fabulous tail to peahens nearby. A cockerel is calling whilst a hen is so interested in that fabulous tail, she is about to fall off the fence.

Little is recorded about Thomas Denman. He may have lived and worked in Gloverstone, but if he did, he had no children christened at the parish church, nor did he marry there or was buried there.

Chester clocks with painted arches. Conservation.

Top: The arch before conservation

Below: After

We took the arch to **Diane Storrey** who undertook the conservation. Many layers of discoloured varnish had to be carefully removed to reveal the detail which was largely hidden. Missing paint could then be replaced.

Diane also conserved the Old Father Time arch on the page above.

To read more about Diane's skills there is a link to the **Britton and Storey** website on our Links page.



Three clocks by members of the Thomas family. Left, by the father Lewis, centre by son Joseph, right by son James.



The cases of Lewis Thomas' clock and the one by Joseph (centre) have many similarities, but that by James, right is believed to be a replacement. This is very much of the style of the Glasgow casemakers of the period c.1780. A shorter case may have been made because of low ceiling height. It is beautifully made and is in excellent condition.