

Possible Joseph Gorgas

Tall Case Clock Located

by Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr

Certified Clockmaker

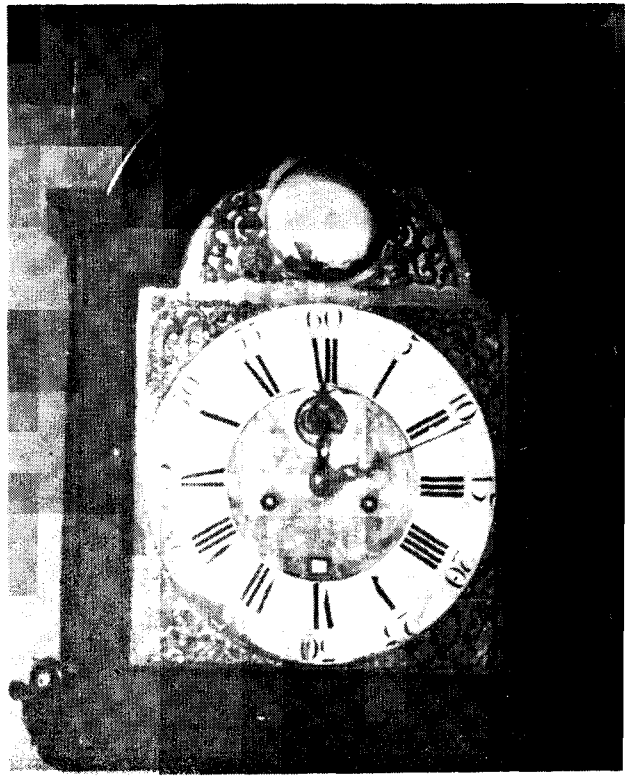
I was recently engaged by a local moving firm to prepare a "rare Grandfather's clock" for shipment to the West Coast. While making arrangements, I inquired as to the maker and was informed it was Joseph Gorgas. Joseph Gorgas (born 1770) was one of three sons of the famed early Lancaster County clockmaker, Jacob Gorgas (1728-1798). With his brother Solomon (1764-1838), whose clocks are also quite rare, he continued the father's business after the father's death. Knowing that both D. F. Magee¹ and George H. Eckhardt² had stated that no clocks bearing the name Joseph Gorgas had been found, my interest was greatly aroused.

When the day came to prepare the clock, I was able to study the dial and movement in detail. The painted dial did indeed have "Joseph Gorgas" lettered rather roughly on it; however, it did not carry the town name as did the father's clocks (e.g., "Near Ephrata"). I was unable to determine if the lettering was original or restored. The brass movement was an eight day with sweep second and sweep date hands and moon dial. The most obvious Gorgas design feature was the use of extended pillars that continue through the front plate and carry the "Wilson-Birm." false plate (one of the fanciest I have observed, the inner and outer edges being neatly scalloped). The next feature common to Gorgas clocks (and also early George Hoff clocks) was the high "L" shaped pendulum suspension cock—in this instance utilizing a suspension spring. Other design features of note were: the moon/date drive wheel located on a stud on the end of a cock; the use of lantern pinions (Jacob Gorgas clocks are believed to use only cut pinions)—open-ended third and fourth on both trains (another George Hoff feature); heavy ended rack hook; thick, tapered bell standard. The plates were rectangular.

Assuming that this is an authentic Joseph Gorgas clock, I be-



A tall case clock marked Jacob Gorgas 1771 (b. 1728 d. 1798) Ephrata. This clock now stands in the lobby of the Willson Building, home of the Lancaster County Historical Society. A close up view of the beautiful and ornate dial is shown below.



lieve that although previous research has failed to turn up any examples of the work of this clockmaker, others must exist, possibly still within Lancaster County.

NOTES

- ¹ Magee, D. F. "Grandfather's Clocks: Their Making and Their Makers in Lancaster County" Papers of the Lancaster County Historical Society Vol. XLIII, No. 5 (1939)
- ² Eckhardt, George H. *Pennsylvania Clocks and Clockmakers: An Epic of Early American Science, Industry and Craftmanship*, New York: Devin-Adair 1955.

SOME RECENT SALES OF LANCASTER COUNTY TALL CASE CLOCKS

- Breneisen (Breneiser), George* (?b-?d) Adamstown, reportedly made in 1840; \$5,700 at auction in February, 1974.
- Gorgas, Jacob* (1728-1798) Ephrata, \$4,500 at auction in October, 1973.
- Gorgas, Solomon* (son of Jacob)—(1764-1838) Ephrata, 30-hour tall case—\$1,500 at private sale in November, 1973.
- Shreiner, Martin* (1769-1866) Lancaster, possible Bachman case—\$5,200 at auction in September, 1973.
- Shreiner, Martin and Philip* (sons of Martin, at work 1830-1838) Lancaster; \$3,000 at auction in October, 1973.
- Unidentified maker with "JG" on pendulum bob. \$3,250 at auction in December, 1973.
- Unidentified maker (early George Hoff type movement). \$4,000 at private sale in December, 1973.

CLOCK AND WATCH MAKERS OF LANCASTER COUNTY, 1750-1850

The next nine pages show an up-dated listing of clock and watch makers of Lancaster County from 1750 to 1850. An original list was published in the Journal in 1939 and compiled by Geo. H. Eckhardt, Carl Dreppard, J. Palmer, D. F. Magee and Dr. William F. Hartman. Since then it has been up-dated by the late Charles B. Grove and more recently by Samuel E. Dyke.

Dates shown are working dates of the clock makers as they appeared in tax records, unless otherwise noted.

CLOCK AND WATCH MAKERS OF LANCASTER COUNTY, 1750-1850

NAME	LOCATION	DATES	TRADE	SOURCE
A				
Amont, Henry	Strasburg	1824-1825	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Amont, Jacob	Strasburg	1825	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Andrews, Joseph	W. Donegal	1838	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Atkinson, Wilton	Lancaster Boro	1772-1773	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Atlee, John S.	Columbia Boro	1820	Cabinet (clocks)	Dr. Wm. Hartman
Ayars, Hamilton	New Holland Boro	1850	Watch	1850 Census
B				
Baldwin, Anthony W.	Lampeter, Earl, Conestoga	1807-1850	Clock, Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Baldwin, George	Sadburyville	1777-1844	Clock	Book of American Clocks
Baldwin, Harland	Sadburyville	1809	Cabinet	Book of American Clocks
Baldwin, John C., Sr.	Lancaster Boro	1850	Watch	1850 Census
Barninger, Daniel	Conestoga	1850	Clock	1850 Census
Belsner, Johann	Cocalico	1785	Clock	Ephrata Cloisters Acct. Bk.
Berryhill, Stephen	Donegal	1815	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Bishop, Rufus	Mount Joy	1850	Clock	Book of American Clocks
Bixler, Christian	Lancaster Boro	1753-1800	Clock	Dr. Wm. Hartman
Bowman, Edmond	Strasburg Boro	1845-1850	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Bowman, John	New Holland, Lampeter	1809	Clock	Dr. Wm. Hartman
Bowman, Joseph, Sr.	New Holland, Lampeter Twp.	1790-1820	Clock	Magee

Bowman, Joseph, Jr.	Strasburg Boro	1825-1850	Clock, Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Bradecamp, Lewis (also Bradycamp)	E. Donegal, Lancaster	1836-1860	Watch	1850 Census
Breneise, Daniel	W. Earl	1850	Watch	1850 Census
Breneiser, Samuel	Adamstown, Reamstown	1790-1810	Clock	Book of American Clocks
Breneiser, Samuel II	Reamstown	1830-1860	Clock	Book of American Clocks
Brooks, Thomas	Mount Joy Boro	1805-1806	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Brown, Albert	Columbia Boro	1850	Watch	1850 Census
Brown, John	Lancaster Boro	1821-1850	Watch, Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Bung, Jacob	Lancaster Boro	1815-1819	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Burrowes, Isaac	Strasburg	1796-1808	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Burrowes, Thomas	Strasburg	1796-1826	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register

C

Carman, Martin	Conestoga	1847-1850	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Cope, John	Lancaster Boro	1785-1789	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register

D

Davis, John	Earl	1796-1805	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Dickey, Thomas	Donegal	1816-1821	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register

E

Eby, Christian	Rapho (Manheimtown)	1797-1831	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Eby, Jacob	Rapho	1820-1825	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register

NAME	LOCATION	DATES	TRADE	SOURCE
Ebey, George (also Eby)	Rapho	1825-1843	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Esterly, John	Donegal	1815-1817	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Evans, John	Warwick	1846	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Erb, John Street	Lampeter	1841	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Erb, John	Conestoga	1847-1850	Clock, Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Eberman, George D.	Lancaster Boro	1839-1850	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Eberman, Godlip (also Gottlieb)	Lancaster Boro	1782-1801	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Eberman, Henry F.	Lancaster Boro	1848	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Eberman, Jacob	Lancaster Boro	1813	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Eberman, John	Lancaster Boro	1772-1807	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Eberman, Joseph	Lancaster Boro	1810-1850	Clock, Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Eberman, Peter G.	Lancaster Boro	1850	Watch	1850 Census

F

Fail, Philip	Lancaster Boro	1830	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Farra, Daniel (also Farrar)	Strasburg	1819	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Farree, Christian	Lampeter	1763-1772	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Fazier, William	Elizabeth Twp.	1850	Clock	1850 Census
Feddersen, H. F. W. (Herman)	Lancaster Boro	1843-1850	Watch	1850 Census
Feliz, John (also Felise)	Columbia Boro	1847-1850	Watch	1850 Census
Fisher, George	Drumore	1808	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register

Ford, George	Lancaster Boro	1799-1848	Clock, Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Fraser, William (also Freazer)	Elizabeth Twp.	1835-1850	Watch, Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Free, Mathew	Elizabeth Twp.	1825	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Free, Mathias	Elizabeth Twp.	1823	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Frohn, Sebastian	Lancaster Boro	1830	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register

G

Gaillard, Peter	Lancaster	1811-1814	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Getz, Peter	Lancaster	1789	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Gibble, Lewis (also Gipple)	Rapho, Warwick (Manheim)	1832-1850	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Gorgas, Jacob (also Gorgus)	Ephrata	b. 1728, d. 1798		
Gorgas, Jacob	Earl	1796-1814	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Gorgas, Joseph	Mount Joy (Elizabethtown)	1811-1828	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Graff, John	Lebanon Twp.	1779-1781	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Graham, James	Strasburg	1825	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Grosh, Samuel S. (also Grosch)	Donegal	1830-1840	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Grove, Jacob (also Grofel, Groff)	Lebanon	1759-1782	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register

H

Hall, Christian	Warwick	1834-1846	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Hall, William	Warwick	1832-1835	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Hanebarger, Peter	Rapho	1807	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Hav, Samuel	Lancaster Boro	1789	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register

NAME	LOCATION	DATES	TRADE	SOURCE
Hoff, George	Lancaster Boro	1770-1822	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Hoff, George, Jr.	Lancaster Boro	1811-1816	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Hoff, Jacob	Lancaster Boro	1807-1817	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Hoff, John	Lancaster Boro	1799-1809	Watch, Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Houston, James	Lancaster Boro	1809	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Huntzecker, Jacob	E. Donegal, Marietta	1842-1850	Clock, Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Hunchbuger, Isaac	W. Earl	1849-1850	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Huply, Frederick	Lancaster Boro	1797	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
K				
Kapp, Phillip	Warwick, Penn	1840-1850	Clock, Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
King, Abraham	Lancaster Boro	1759	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
L				
Lachey, Henry	Leacock	1848	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Landis, Isaac	Salisbury	1845	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Laroy, Abrum	Lancaster Boro	1757	Clock	George Steinman Papers
Leinbach, John	Earl	1800	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Leinbay, Elias	Earl	1805-1817	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Lemmerman, Leonard	Earl	1806	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Lennet, Francis (also Lehnert)	Warwick	1833-1846	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Leroy, Abraham	Lancaster Boro	1760's	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Linebach, Elias (also Leinbach)	Brecknock	1846-1850	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register

Londrefmith, Alex (also Landrew Smith, Alexander Andry Smith)	Strasburg	1796-1826	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Long, George	Rapho	1824-1825	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register

M

McFerson, Robert	Salisbury	1829-1835	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Market, George	Leacock	1848-1849	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Mentzer, Henry	Leacock	1842-1843	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
M'Gilagan, George	Leacock	1844-1845	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Miller, George	Lancaster Boro	1800-1811	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Miller, Marten	Strasburg	1831	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Mily, Samuel (also Maily)	Lebanon	1769-1783	Clock, Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Montandon, Henry Lewis	Lancaster Boro	1797-1802	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Murr, George	Leacock	1844-1846	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Myers, Benjamin D.	E. Lampeter	1850	Watch	1850 Census

O

Ober, Henry	Mount Joy, W. Donegal, Elizabethtown	1828-1843	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
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P

Pannebecker, John	Elizabeth Twp.	1837-1844	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
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Q

Quest, Samuel	Donegal	1818-1820	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
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NAME	LOCATION	DATES	TRADE	SOURCE
R				
Rantzinger, Mathias	Mount Joy	1850	Watch	1850 Census
Reichwine, Isaac	Paradise	1850	Clock	1850 Census
Richwine, Samuel (also Rejwhine, Rechwine)	Salisbury Blue Ball Town	1824-1850	Watch	1850 Census
Ruth, Jacob	Mount Joy (Elizabethtown)	1825-1826	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
S				
Sanders, Hugh	Columbia	1847-1849	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Schaffer, Benjamin	Mount Joy	1850	Watch	1850 Census
Schreiner, Martin, Jr.	Lancaster Boro	1829-1850	Clock, Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Sennert, Francis L.	Warwick	1850	Watch	1850 Census
Shreiner, Philip (also Shriner)	Columbia Boro	1847-1850	Watch	1850 Census
Shriner, Martin (also Schreiner, Shreiner)	Lancaster Boro	1792-1848	Clock, Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Shreiner, Philip	Lancaster Boro	1838	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Shultz, Martin	Strasburg	1825	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Shultz, Marten	Strasburg	1831	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Smith, Daniel	Lancaster Boro	1821-1822	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Smith, George Henry	Lancaster Boro	1844-1850	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Smith, George	Strasburg	1814-1827	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Smith, John	Lancaster Boro	1817-1829	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register

Smith, Joseph	Earl	1822	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Steman, Henry	Lancaster Boro	1829-1830	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Stertz, Martin (also Stortz)	Rapho (Manheim)	1842-1846	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Stoener, Ravey (also Rudy Stoner, Steiner)	Lancaster Boro	1759	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Stoy, Gustavus	Lancaster Boro	1810-1816	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register

T

Thomas, William	Lancaster Boro	1838-1840	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
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U

Ulrich, Jacob	E. Donegal	1842	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
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W

Wallig, Frederick	Warwick	1805	Clock	Lanco. Tax Register
Warner, John	Salisbury	1826	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Wiley, Henry	Lancaster Boro	1850	Watch	1850 Census

Y

Yost, Samuel M. (also Yoast)	Mount Joy, Donegal	1834-1839	Clock, Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
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NAME	LOCATION	DATES	TRADE	SOURCE
Z				
Zahm, Edward	Lancaster Boro	1850	Watch	1850 Census
Zahm, Gotfried	Lancaster Boro	1839-1847	Watch	Lanco. Tax Register
Zahm, Henry	Lancaster Boro	1850	Watch	1850 Census
Zahm, Michael	Lancaster Boro	1843	Watch	Bryson's Dir., 1843
Zuber, John	Lancaster Boro	1838-1843	Watch	Bryson's Dir., 1843