

# Rudy Stoner, 1728-1769

## Early Lancaster, Pennsylvania,

### Clockmaker

By Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr.

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*“In the mechanics’ arts, this Place also produces many ingenious workmen, some of which are deemed not inferior to any in the Province...”*

*Catalogue of the Juliana Library c 1765<sup>1</sup>*

The heritage of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, is vast. The rifle-makers, the silversmiths, the cabinetmakers, the artists, the inventors, the patriots—two hundred years ago these men worked to make it axiomatic that “without incurring the censure of Partiality, Lancaster stands foremost of all the other Inland Towns on the Continent of America.”<sup>2</sup> Not the least of the “mechanics’ arts,” and certainly one of the foremost for which the County is known nationally today, was that of the 18th and 19th Century Lancaster County clockmaker. The earliest of these artisans to appear in the Lancaster Borough records was Rudy Stoner. With the possible exception of Christian Forrer (c. 1737-1783), who came to Lampeter, Lancaster County, in October, 1754, and Abraham LeRoy (?-1763), whose arrival date is unknown, Stoner is probably the earliest County clockmaker.

Rudy Stoner was born on June 25, 1728. Unfortunately, records do not indicate his parentage or from whence he came. Neither he nor a possible forebear is included among the 36,000 names listed in C. H. Baillie’s *Watchmakers & Clockmakers of the World*.<sup>3</sup> We also do not know where or from whom he learned his trade. His name first appears in the County Commissioners’ Records in 1775. Tax records for Pequea Township in 1721-1723 list a Rudolffe Stoner who, though obviously not the clockmaker, may have been his father. Although Rudolffe Stoner does not appear in the list of the seventy who originally settled in the Pequea colony c. 1718, nor does he appear in the ship lists of the German and Swiss immigrants who came to Pennsylvania,<sup>4,5</sup> it is possible

that he arrived as a minor and thus went unreported until he reached taxable status c. 1721. No Rudolffe Stoner appears in the unpublished typescript concerning the descendants of Jacob Stoner who settled in Lancaster County.<sup>6</sup> The next mention of a Rudy Stoner is in the deed books wherein it is recorded that a Rudy Stoner purchased 250 acres in Earl Town Township by the Cocalico Creek in September, 1737.<sup>7</sup> This Rudy Stoner is carried in the Earl Township tax records through 1772. Records for 1750 show that he grew wheat and had horses, cows, and sheep. His will, written on September 1, 1770, identifies him as of "Earl Township" and, unfortunately, names only one child, a son, John, to whom he left £50, and states "as for my other children, they have received their full share in my lifetime."<sup>8</sup> His wife, Catherina, was appointed sole executrix. The will was proved on May 3, 1775, suggesting that his death came only shortly before. Available church records shed no information concerning this man and his wife, the possible parents of Rudy Stoner, clockmaker.

Rudy Stoner, clockmaker, first appears in the records of the Lancaster County Commissioners in an entry for January 8, 1755, when, at the age of twenty-seven, he was paid £4/4/8.<sup>9</sup> No known clockmaker appears in these records prior to this date. The date itself is significant for another entry of the same day is "By a collection of ye Borough of Lancaster towards ye clock, £25/0/0." The first of the County's court houses had been completed a few years prior to the Borough's incorporation in 1742. Until it burned in June, 1784, it stood in the center of what is now known as Penn Square, where Queen Street and King Street intersect. In both 1744 and 1748, a bell had been authorized for it. No entry, however, appears authorizing a clock or taking up of a subscription for one. The £25 continued to be carried on the books through 1758. This was probably not the first "public" clock in the Borough, however, as the congregation of the First Reformed Church on Orange Street purchased one in 1746.<sup>10</sup> Stoner was the recipient of further payments through 1756, and they total in excess of £32. In February, 1757, the name of Abraham LeRoy, another clockmaker, is substituted. Stoner does not reappear until 1765, when an entry appoints Stoner to care for the court house clock at £4 annually. Records indicate, however, that he was paid £5 each year until his death in 1769, when a final payment of £1/5/0 was made to his widow. It is impossible to know what role Stoner played in the manufacture and installation of this first court house clock with its two dials. Upon his death, George Hoff (1740-1816) took over as caretaker of the clock. He, in turn, was succeeded by John Eberman (1749-1835).

Rudy Stoner apparently spent his first years in the Borough as a boarder with the widow of the late Burgess and founding father, John DeHuff.<sup>11</sup> The location of Stoner's shop at that time is unknown. In February, 1760, he purchased a brick house on a lot in an ideal location for his business—just north of the Center Square and bordering on the market place.<sup>12</sup> The lot was purchased from Alexander Stedman, who

also owned the corner lot on Market Street immediately to the west. A few days later, that lot was bought by William Henry,<sup>13</sup> who was to become famous as a gunsmith and patriot. He was also, in Stoner's words, "a loving friend and neighbor."<sup>14</sup> The lot to the east of Stoner was owned by Charles Stedman in 1760. It was later bought by John Stone. Stoner was required to pay an annual ground rent of twenty-five shillings. He lived and, presumably, worked here until his death on April 5, 1769, at the age of forty.

Examples of Stoner's work are extremely rare. Only three clocks made by him have been located, all 30-hour tall clocks. Two are still in the Lancaster area (Figs. 1 and 2). As they were all made prior to 1769, they are most probably the oldest Lancaster clocks extant.

The inventory taken of his personal effects at the time of his death by his executors (his widow, Henry DeHuff, and William Henry), and printed in entirety at the end of this article, suggests that he was quite probably more than just an average clockmaker. Included are a number of unfinished watches that in themselves are not unusual, but, when considered with the wide scope of watchmaking equipment included, it is possible to imagine that within the past decade, Lancaster may have unknowingly let a bicentennial in watchmaking slip by unnoticed. Mass production of watches in Lancaster did not begin until the formation of the Adams & Perry Watch Manufacturing Company in 1874.<sup>15</sup> The significant items in the inventory are the "Cutting Engine for Watchwork" and the "Fuse Engine" (one of two listed). A fusee engine is a hand-powered machine used in the production of a conoidal spirally grooved pulley that equalized the pull of early and imperfect mainsprings in watches and clocks and thus provided for more accurate time keeping. Few watchmakers possessed such an expensive and sophisticated item, nor did they have a need, for normally they would import "roughed out" movements and finish them. A contemporary, Thomas Stretch (d. 1765) in Philadelphia, is believed to have manufactured watches using his own fusee engine. Of sixteen 18th Century Connecticut clock and watchmakers, inventories indicate that only one, the famous Thomas Harland (1735-1807) of Norwich, possessed a fusee engine. Few horologists will agree on who should have the honor of being called America's first major watchmaker; generally it boils down to either Luther Goddard, of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts (at work 1809-1817), or Henry Pitkins of Hartford, Connecticut (1811-?).<sup>17</sup> It is unfortunate that none of Stoner's watches are known to be extant.

Stoner would have made the entire movement and dial of his clocks. A comparison of the two dials pictured shows a striking similarity, and the spandrels (corners) of the third clock (not pictured) are identical. The dials are attached to extended pillars by four screws that also serve to hold the pewter chapter ring in place. Hands (which in later years would probably be imported, but here probably made by an apprentice) are also identical on all three, although one minute hand is reversed. The inventory lists hammers and frosting tools used in the

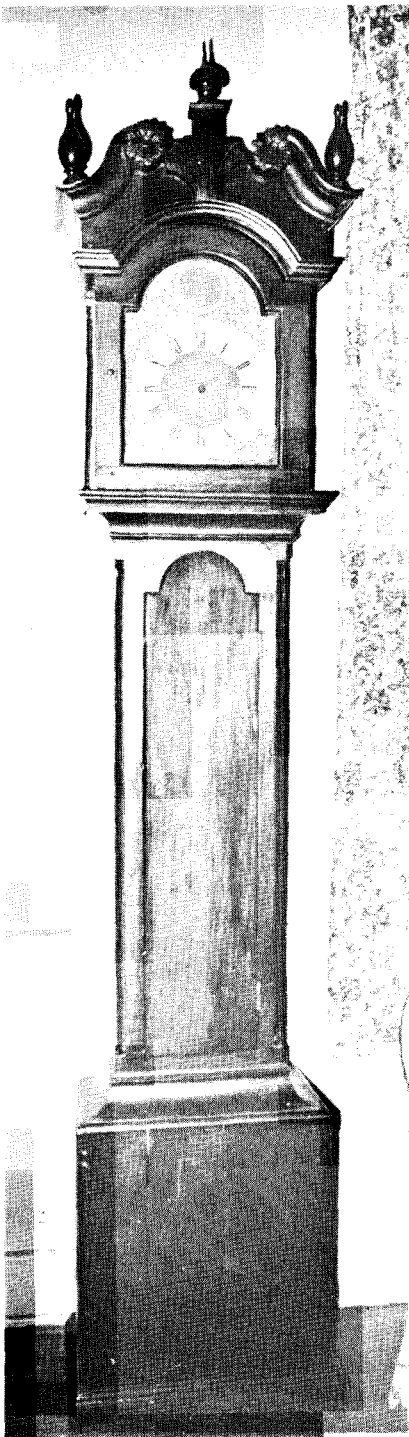


Fig. 1, Rudy Stoner  
30 Hour Tall Clock

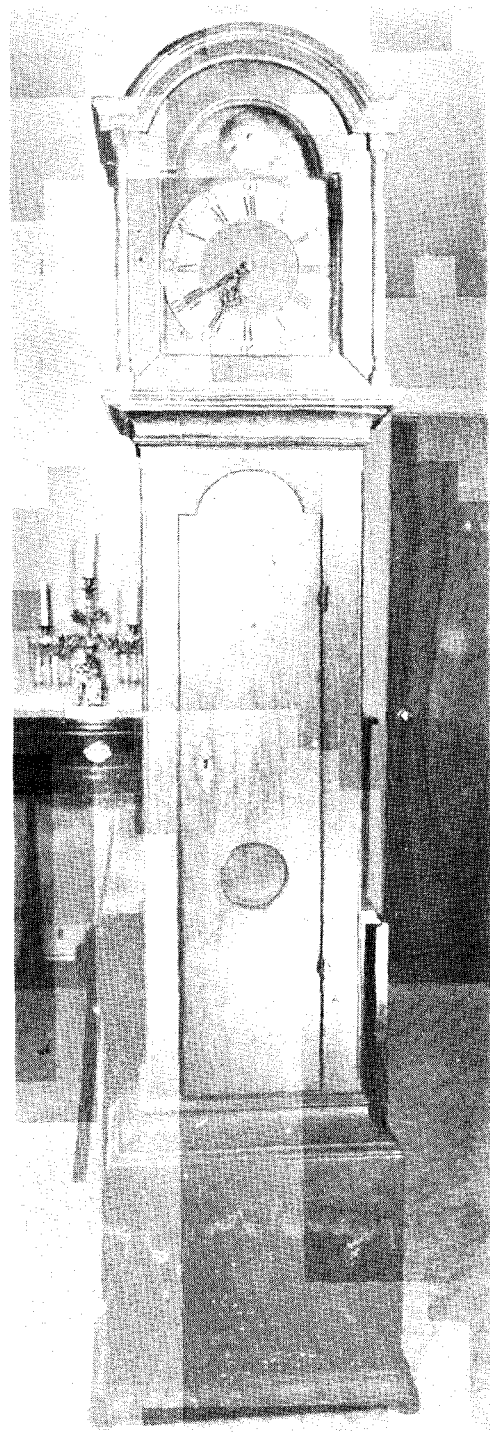


Fig. 2, Rudy Stoner  
30 Hour Tall Clock

manufacture of brass clock dials. Movements extant were made in the English tradition (possibly indicating English training), and can be differentiated from those of the German tradition found in early Hoff and Jacob Gorgas (1728-1798) clocks by their more gracefully shaped levers and plate separating pillars, type of pendulum suspension, and pinion construction (see Figs. 3 and 4). Note the use of rack and snail striking, instead of the countwheel that was more common to English-made 30-hour clocks. German tradition movements are also more likely to be constructed for use as a wag-on-the-wall, with casing optional. It should be pointed out that the mass importation of English movements by American "clockmakers" is not believed to have come until after the American Revolution. Also, the white (painted) dial was not invented until c. 1772.<sup>18</sup> A clockmaker in Stoner's time would have of necessity been required to make his movements and dials in entirety. Note should be taken of the second fusee engine listed: this one is specifically for clockwork. Once again this implies the use of springs as a power source, and this in turn implies that shelf clocks were also being made in Stoner's shop. Other items in the inventory indicate a capability for the complete manufacture of a clock movement. The "Led patrons" (lead patterns) were possibly of clock wheels and other parts. The "chimebell patrons" (chime patterns) speak for themselves; indeed, a "chime," probably an entire chime clock movement, appears early in the list.

Only one clock case ("Timepiece & Case") appears in the inventory. This is not unusual, since a clockmaker was just that: he was not normally, in addition, a cabinetmaker. The lack of sufficient wood-working tools in the inventory bears this out. After placing his order with Stoner, the 18th Century customer would then contract with one of the local joiners or cabinetmakers such as George Burkhart (1721-1783), Adam Foltz (at work 1760-1773), Michael Lind (1725-1807), Gabriel Machenheimer, John Mears (1737-1819), Gottlieb Sehner (1721-1779/80), or Philip Thomas (1733-1815), to make the case according to the buyer's desire and means.<sup>19</sup>

Like other clockmakers of the period, Rudy Stoner also made silver seals, buttons, plated buckles, gold studs, clock pins, and other similar items. It is recorded that in 1768 Lancaster's attorney, Jasper Yeates, bought a stone seal set in silver for six shillings, as well as a silver watch (marked No. 2993) for £6/7/6 from Stoner.<sup>20</sup> It is also through the Yeates Papers that it is established that Stoner had an apprentice (name unknown), as did most other clockmakers of the period, for Yeates paid Stoner, through the apprentice, the sum of seven shillings sixpence for cleaning his clock in April, 1766.<sup>21</sup>

In looking at Stoner's private life, we find that he was not only literate, but that he was also bilingual in German and English. Judging from the organizations to which he belonged and certain items in the inventory, he would have been considered by his fellow colonists to have been a cultured man. It is interesting to note that, besides two violins,

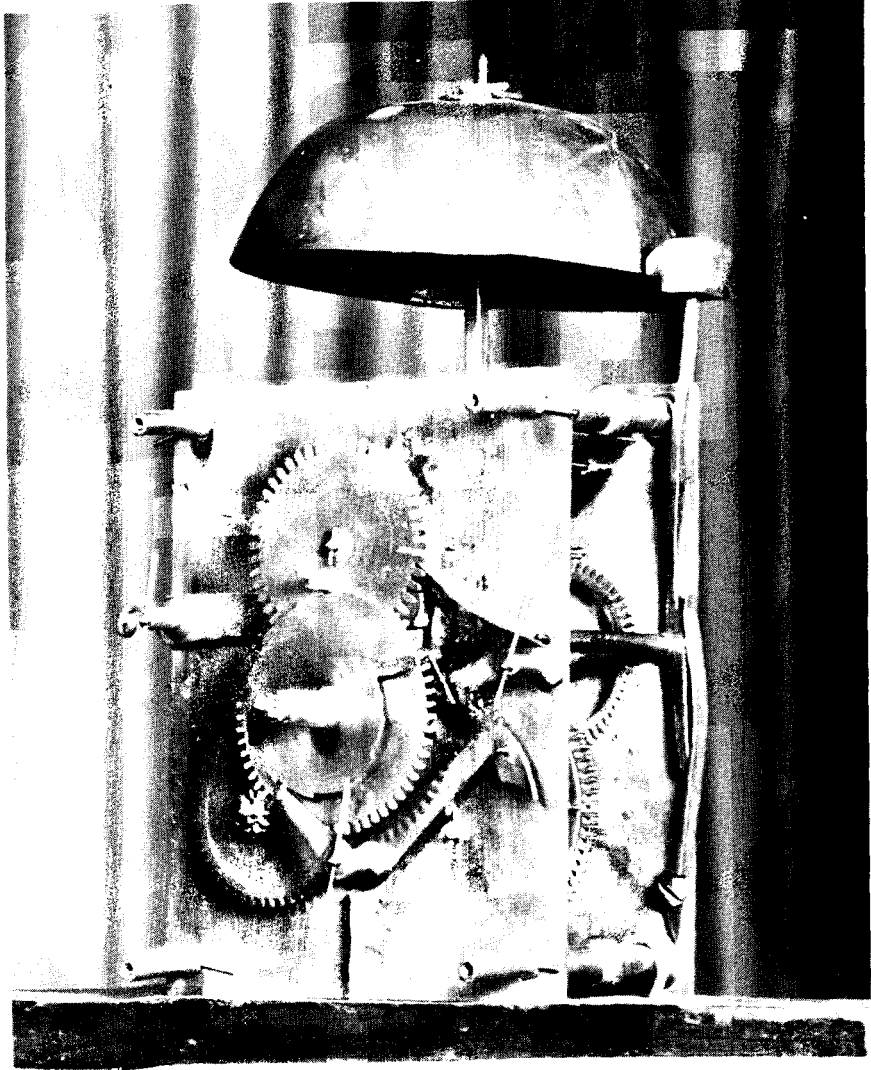


Fig. 3, Movement of clock shown in Fig. 2, Front quarter view

there is a clavichord listed among his effects (and there is nothing to suggest that he also ran a music shop!).

The best description of his house is to be found in the U. S. Direct Tax List of 1798 (a "glass Tax"). Three brick structures are listed. The house was two stories and measured 17' X 24'. The way the windows are recorded suggests that there were five eighteen-pane windows in

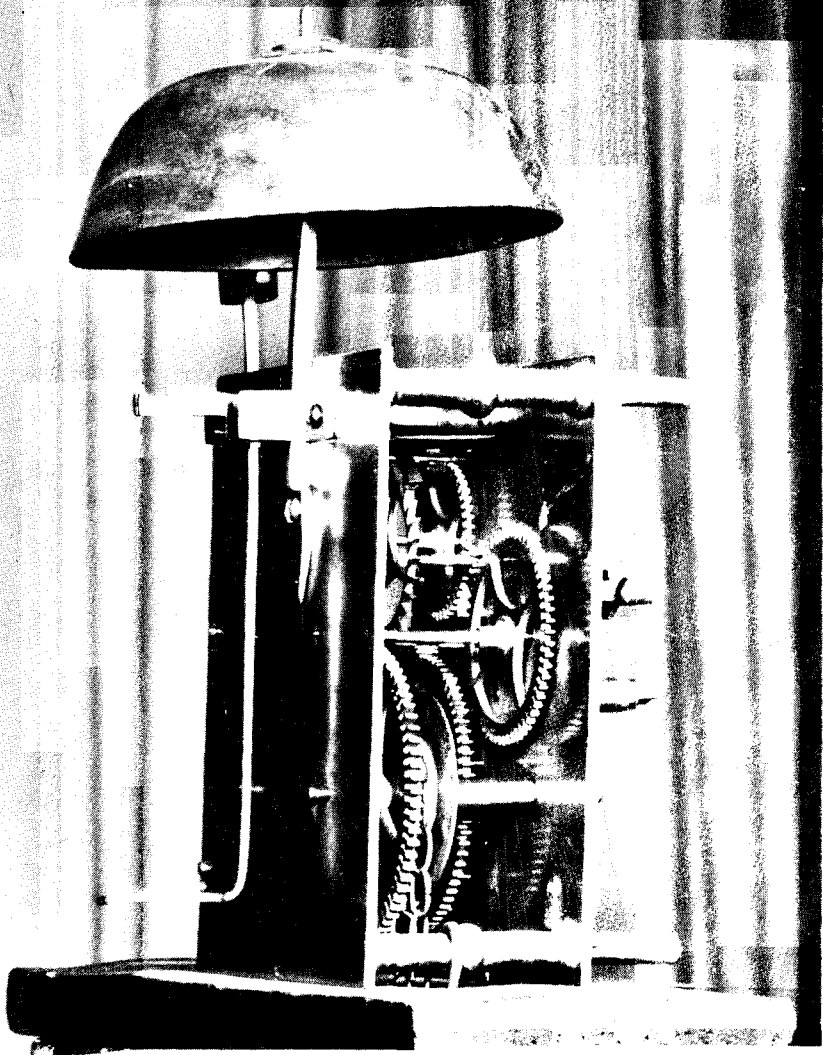


Fig. 4. Movement of clock shown in Fig. 2, Rear quarter view

the front, a single twelve-pane window on each side, and a twenty-four-pane window in the rear. The width of the house was identical to that of the lot. There was a 10' X 18' two-story kitchen, and a single-story stable where the cow was kept. In 1814 the house was referred to as a "certain two story Tavern House with appurtenances."<sup>22</sup> If the reader will use his imagination when studying the inventory, he can visualize the possible layout of the house. The front room probably served as his

shop and place of business. The room to the rear would have served as the common room where meals were served and family activities took place. On the second floor, the front room would have been the adults' bedroom. The five children would have shared the three beds in the back room.

In the blossoming borough of some 600 houses and 3,000 inhabitants,<sup>23</sup> Stoner certainly did not live unnoticed. It is quite probable that his sojourn at the home of the Widow DeHuff, and the strong bond that developed between him and her son, Henry, did him no harm. We find that he was a member of the Union Fire Company, one of the Borough's three: in 1765 he and eighteen other members, including such other Lancaster notables as Edward Shippen, Henry DeHuff, John Eberman, and Adam Simon Kuhn, affixed their names to a petition to the lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania, John Penn, and the Representatives of the Province, asking favorable action on a bill to permit taxing the inhabitants of the Borough so that water storage areas could be set up in "the most public parts of the Borough" for use in the event of fire.<sup>24</sup> His name also appears among the charter members of the Province's third subscription library, the Juliana Library Company.<sup>25</sup> Chartered in 1763, the library was named for the wife of its patron, John Penn, son of William. Other charter members were some of the foremost Lancaster citizens, and included George Ross, later to be a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and Robert Fulton, the father of Robert of steamboat fame. A check of the catalogue of books belonging to the library does not list Stoner as a donor of any of the volumes.<sup>26</sup> In his will, the library share was bequeathed to his older son, George.<sup>27</sup>

In a short life time, Stoner managed to become a man of fairly substantial means. His estate was valued at over £600. Of a sample of eighteen other inventories taken in the same year of his death, only two exceed the value of the clockmaker's estate. All others fall in the £5 - £400 range. In addition to his house and lot next to the market, he also owned a lot in the southeast area of the present city of Lancaster that in his day was known as Henry Musser's Town.<sup>28</sup> The lot, number 27, was fourth up from Strawberry Street on the south side of North Street. It remains unimproved as it was in Stoner's time.

Besides son George (b. ? - d. ?), there were at least five,<sup>29</sup> and possibly six, children born to Rudy and Catharina Stoner: Augustine (b. ? - d. ?), Christina (b. ? - d. ?), Elizabeth (b. ? - d. ?), Sally (?) (b. 8/16/57 - d. 6/30/61), Catharina (b. 8/3/60 - d. ?), and Sara (b. 9/18/67 - d. 12/19/68). What happened to these children has not been determined, in part due to the large number of Stoners in the County and the common use of their Christian names at the time. It is also apparent, however, that although his will requested his executors to "bind out" the boys to "some good man to learn trades," neither of them continued in the clockmaking trade as did the sons (and daughter) of such other famous County clockmakers as Gorgas, LeRoy, Hoff,



Eberman, and Eby.

Stoner's will forbade his widow to sell anything of the estate without the advice and consent of the other two executors, Henry DeHuff and William Henry. If the house near the market was to be sold, it was stipulated that one-third of the money realized was to be invested with "some sure hand on interest," and that his widow was to receive the interest. The remaining two-thirds was to be given to the surviving children. The house, which had originally cost him £280,<sup>31</sup> was sold in 1779 for £1700,<sup>32</sup> and most of the money was invested in Loan Office Certificates. In December, 1781, an audit was taken following the remarriage of Widow Stoner to a Peter Shitz, and the certificates were valued at £1600.<sup>33</sup> Catharina Stoner Shitz and her children moved away from Lancaster to her new husband's farm in Heidelberg Township (now Lebanon County). In February, 1789, she and her husband separated.<sup>34</sup> The terms of the separation permitted her to remain in that house until her death.

There is an interesting development in the life of Widow Stoner prior to her remarriage. Following Stoner's death, she had appeared in the Borough tax records through 1780. In 1773 her taxes had jumped significantly from five shillings to £11. A possible explanation appears in an entry of the March 17, 1773 issue of *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, wherein it was reported that "the managers of the contributions for promoting the culture of silk" in the Province had awarded a first prize of £15 to a Widow Stoner of Lancaster County for her raising of nearly 73,000 silkworm cocoons.

Rudy Stoner had apparently joined the church of his friend, Henry DeHuff—the Moravian Church, c. 1760, for the birth of his daughter Catharina was recorded in the church records, and no previous entries concerning Rudy and his family are to be found. In 1769 his death and burial two days later in the old Moravian Cemetery on North Prince Street below Chestnut was recorded. Within the church he had been known by the German form of his name, Rudolf Steiner (other variations in the spelling of his name seem to be due to the interpretations of various county clerks, or to missreading the German script. He was not to be left in peace, for in 1917 the church sold the land to the Federal Government, and the remains were taken to a section of the Geewood Cemetery on South Queen Street, overlooking the Conestoga Creek. With few exceptions, individual headstones were not relocated. Stoner's was not among them. The main city post office now occupies the site of the old Moravian cemetery. Thus Rudy Stoner, one of the first of some two dozen Lancaster County clockmakers who were to make clocks that would become highly prized throughout the nation, and exhibited in the nation's foremost museums, lies forgotten. It is time that Rudy Stoner received the recognition that he deserves.



Fig. 6, Medallion of clock shown in Fig. 2.

September 15 1759  
Received of Peter wolfe of sum of Six Pounds in full for a  
Clock by mee  
Rudy Stoner

Fig. 5, Receipt bearing signature of Rudy Stoner

What follows is the complete inventory of Rudy Stoner's estate taken on July 19, 1769. None of the items are known to still exist. The original bears the signatures of executors William Henry and Henry DeHuff, and the mark of Stoner's widow. The spelling is as it appears. Items are valued in the currency of that period: Pounds, Shillings, and Pence.

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| To his wearing Apparel                       | £ 5/ 0/ 0 |
| 1 Watch                                      | 6/ 0/ 0   |
| 1 Saddle & 1 Side Saddle                     | 5/ 0/ 0   |
| 1 Timepiece & Case <sup>ss</sup>             | 15/ 0/ 0  |
| 1 New Eight day Clock                        | 12/ 0/ 0  |
| 1 Small timepiece with alarm                 | 2/10/ 0   |
| 1 Chime                                      | 12/ 0/ 0  |
| 1 Horisontal Watch unfinished <sup>ss</sup>  | 2/10/ 0   |
| 1 Alarm Watch unfinished                     | 4/ 0/ 0   |
| 5 other Watches unfinished                   | 2/10/ 0   |
| 1 oz old Silver                              | 0/ 8/ 0   |
| 1 Watch unfinished                           | 1/ 0/ 0   |
| 8 pieces of tharm <sup>st</sup>              | 0/10/ 0   |
| 1 pair Gold Studs                            | 1/ 0/ 0   |
| 6 pendants                                   | 0/ 9/ 0   |
| 11 Springs warrented                         | 2/15/ 0   |
| 6 Ditto                                      | 1/ 4/ 0   |
| 2 Clock faces                                | 0/ 7/ 6   |
| 1 Bottle of Lacker                           | 0/ 2/ 6   |
| 7 doz: & 4 Watch Christials                  | 0/14/ 0   |
| 2 pair of plated Buckles                     | 0/12/ 0   |
| 1 & ½ Book Gold leef                         | 0/ 7/ 0   |
| - Mettal Leef four Quiro                     | 1/ 0/ 0   |
| 2 Oz & ¼ old Silver 8/                       | 1/ 0/ 0   |
| 9 Hour hands                                 | 0/ 8/ 0   |
| 3 Chenea Watch faces                         | 0/ 7/ 6   |
| 2 Ditto                                      | 0/ 5/ 0   |
| 5 Setts of Hands for Watches                 | 0/10/ 0   |
| 5 Silver Seals & 2 pair of Buttons           | 0/16/ 0   |
| 9 Pinchback Seals & two Chains <sup>ss</sup> | 0/14/ 0   |
| 4 Toys for Watches                           | 0/ 2/ 0   |
| 1 pair of Cloke pins                         | 0/ 2/ 0   |
| - prepared Silver                            | 0/ 2/ 6   |
| 7 Watch Chains                               | 0/ 5/ 0   |
| 2 Magnifying Glasses                         | 0/ 2/ 6   |
| 1 Cutting Engine for Watch work              | 12/ 0/ 0  |
| 2 Bench Vices                                | 2/ 0/ 0   |
| 1 Fuse Engine                                | 1/ 5/ 0   |
| 1 polishing Engine                           | 0/15/ 0   |
| 1 prass Lathe                                | 0/10/ 0   |
| 1 Adjusting Tool                             | 2/ 0/ 0   |

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| 2 Stakes 1 Hamer for WatcheCases ;        | 0/12/ 0  |
| 1 Beckhorn & 3 Screw plates               | 1/ 0/ 0  |
| 4 pair of cutting Nippers                 | 0/ 4/ 0  |
| 5 pair of plyers                          | 0/11/ 6  |
| 3 pair of Hanvices                        | 0/ 6/ 0  |
| 2 pair of Stidlongs & 1 pinvice           | 0/ 8/ 0  |
| 3 pair of Dividers                        | 0/10/ 6  |
| 1 Large clockmakers Lathe                 | 0/15/ 0  |
| 1 Smaller do. <sup>39</sup>               | 0/15/ 0  |
| 2 Ditto                                   | 0/12/ 6  |
| 3 Saw frames                              | 0/15/ 6  |
| 1 Magnet Artificial                       | 0/15/ 0  |
| 1 Fusee Engine for Clock work             | 0/10/ 0  |
| 1 Barrel Tool                             | 0/ 4/ 0  |
| 1 Cutting Engine for Clock work           | 8/ 0/ 0  |
| 1 Machine for making Clock Chains         | 0/ 3/ 0  |
| 1 Stock vice                              | 1/ 5/ 0  |
| 1 Do.                                     | 0/15/ 0  |
| 1 Adjusting Bob 1 Spring Blewer 1 Caleper | 0/14/ 0  |
| 1 Oyle Stone                              | 0/13/ 0  |
| 4 Hammers & frosting tools                | 0/12/ 0  |
| 1 Clock Head                              | 0/ 5/ 0  |
| 1 pair of Small Scales                    | 0/ 1/ 6  |
| 1 pair of Bellasses                       | 3/ 0/ 0  |
| 1 Anveal                                  | 3/ 0/ 0  |
| 1 Small Do. 3 pair Tongs & 2 Hammers      | 1/ 6/ 0  |
| 3 pair of Iron flasks                     | 0/12/ 0  |
| - Led Patrons                             | 0/ 4/ 0  |
| 2 Small 6 plate Stoves                    | 4/ 0/ 0  |
| 3 Beds Bedsteads & furniture              | 30/ 0/ 0 |
| 1 Ovil                                    | 0/15/ 0  |
| 1 Leather bottomd Arm Chear               | 0/10/ 0  |
| 1 Looking Glass                           | 0/15/ 0  |
| 1 Chest                                   | 0/ 5/ 0  |
| 1 Bed Bedstead & furniture                | 2/ 0/ 0  |
| 1 Couth leather Bottom'd                  | 1/15/ 0  |
| 1 Closestool                              | 0/ 5/ 0  |
| 150 lb of Hemp                            | 2/10/ 0  |
| 1 Dinneing Table                          | 2/ 0/ 0  |
| 1 Desk                                    | 2/10/ 0  |
| 1 small looking Glass                     | 0/ 3/ 0  |
| 8 Rush Bottom'd Chears                    | 1/12/ 0  |
| 1 Ring Case                               | 0/ 4/ 0  |
| 1 Tea Table                               | 1/ 2/ 6  |
| 1 pair of fire Buckets Bagg & Casket      | 1/ 5/ 0  |
| 1 Bird Cage                               | 0/ 5/ 0  |
| 1 Lanthorn                                | 0/ 4/ 0  |
| 1 Square Walnut Table                     | 0/15/ 0  |

|    |   |         |
|----|---|---------|
| 1  | Kitchoon Dresser with Glass doors                   | 3/ 0/ 0 |
| 1  | plain Do.   | 0/ 7/ 6 |
| 1  | Copper Kettle                                       | 3/ 0/ 0 |
| 13 | pewter plates 4 Dishes & 4 Basons                   | 1/10/ 0 |
| 1  | pewter quart 1 pint 2 teapots 1 Saltseller          | 0/10/ 0 |
| 4  | Tinn Cannesters 2 Coffee pots 1 funnel & half Gall: | 0/10/ 0 |
| 1  | Stone pickling pot                                  | 0/ 3/ 9 |
| 2  | Tea Kittles   | 0/15/ 0 |
| 2  | Brass Candle Sticks & Coffee mill                   | 0/15/ 0 |
|    | fire Shovel & Tongs                                 | 0/ 5/ 0 |
| 3  | flat Irons & Box Iron                               | 0/10/ 0 |
| 1  | frying pan  | 0/ 4/ 0 |
| 1  | Brace 1 Square & Scriping Tool                      | 0/12/ 6 |
| 2  | Screw plates 1 Countersink 1 small finning Lathe    | 0/ 7/ 6 |
| 12 | Arbers with brass Collects 9 do. with wood          | 0/ 5/ 3 |
| 1  | Barrel arbor for Clock Work 1 do. for Watch work    | 0/ 8/ 0 |
| 12 | turning tools                                       | 0/ 2/ 6 |
| 8  | Ingravers   | 0/ 2/ 8 |
| 5  | Opners & 1 Burnishers                               | 0/ 1/ 0 |
| 6  | Turning Tools                                       | 0/ 2/ 0 |
| 4  | Brass Scrapers 1 Reemer 2 Stakes                    | 0/ 2/ 6 |
| 5  | Doz: watch makers files with Handles                | 1/10/ 0 |
| 1  | Doz: & 8 do.  | 0/ 8/ 4 |
| 2  | Doz: & 2 do. new                                    | 0/18/ 0 |
| 25 | Burnishers Opners Sliting files & Turning Tools     | 0/12/ 6 |
| 7  | Doz: Collects                                       | 0/ 2/ 4 |
| 26 | Drills & Opners                                     | 0/ 4/ 2 |
| 2  | blowpipes 2 spring Pliers                           | 0/ 6/ 0 |
| 1  | foot & 1/12 pinnion wire                            | 0/ 3/ 0 |
| 2  | Counter Sinkes 2 Riveting Tools 1 Gage              | 0/ 2/ 6 |
| 4  | Dozen & 10  | 0/ 4/ 6 |
| 4  | Watch Makers files                                  | 0/ 5/ 0 |
| 2  | pair Callipers 2 pair Compasses 1 pair of Dividers  | 0/ 3/ 6 |
| 5  | Dozen & Eight Clock makers files                    | 1/ 5/ 0 |
| 1  | Rubber 1 pair of Compasses & 1 pair hand Shears     | 0/ 3/ 0 |
| 6  | Clock Bells   | 0/18/ 0 |
| 1  | Set Chimnebell patrons                              | 0/ 2/ 6 |
| 51 | lb of old Brass                                     | 4/ 3/ 4 |
| 1  | Spinthel & Wheel lathe                              | 0/15/ 0 |
| 1  | Large pair of Shares                                | 0/ 5/ 0 |
| 1  | Small Stone Collerd Case                            | 0/15/ 0 |
| 1  | Blew Do.  | 0/ 7/ 6 |

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 Bird Organ <sup>40</sup>            | 0/10/ 0   |
| 8 lb Pewter pattrons                  | 0/ 8/ 0   |
| 1 Case of Tool Drawers                | 1/ 0/ 0   |
| 3 lb Spelter                          | 0/ 6/ 0   |
| 1 Case of Bench drawers               | 0/ 7/ 6   |
| 1 Glais'd Casase for holding watches  | 0/ 3/ 0   |
| 1 Clavecord                           | 3/ 0/ 0   |
| 1 dozen Spoons small Brass lettles    | 0/19/ 0   |
| 2 Iron pots                           | 0/ 9/ 0   |
| 1 Iron pan                            | 0/ 2/ 6   |
| 1 falling Ax                          | 0/ 2/ 6   |
| 2 large Tubs                          | 0/ 6/ 0   |
| 1 Grind Stone                         | 0/ 6/ 0   |
| 1 pewter Stand 2 pails 1 Ovel Do.     | 0/10/ 0   |
| 1 Charcole                            | 0/ 3/ 6   |
| 1 Cow                                 | 2/ 0/ 0   |
| 1 Basket & pair of Scails             | 0/ 5/ 0   |
| 1 Brass Morter & Pistol               | 0/ 6/ 0   |
| 2 Chene plates                        | 0/ 5/ 0   |
| - Sundry Books in the German Language | 0/12/ 0   |
| 1 Barrel & 2 half barrels             | 0/ 5/ 0   |
| 1 Lot of Ground in Henry MussersTown  | 10/ 0/ 0  |
| 1 Fucee Gun                           | 2/15/ 0   |
| 2 Violins                             | 1/10/ 0   |
| The Manton House & Lot                | 300/ 0/ 0 |
| Book Debts                            | 44/11/10  |
| Cash                                  | 25/ 0/ 0  |
|                                       | <hr/>     |
|                                       | 604/19/ 2 |

## NOTES

1 Landis, Charles I. "The Juliana Library Company in Lancaster," *Lancaster County Historical Society Papers* 33 (1929): p. 211. Remark attributed to Rev. Thomas Barton.

2 *Ibid.*

3 Baillie, G. H. *Watchmakers & Clockmakers of the World*. 3rd Edition. London: N.A.G. Press, 1969.

4 Rupp, I. Daniel. *A Collection of Upwards of 30,000 Names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French and Other Immigrants in Pennsylvania From 1727 to 1776*. Philadelphia: Leary, Stuart & Co., 1898.

5 Strassburger, Ralph B. *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*, Norristown: Pennsylvania German Society, 1934.

6 Steiner, Lewis H. & Steiner, Bernard C. *History of the Steiner - Stoner Families in Germany and America - Especially of the Descendants of Jacob Steiner*. unpublished and undated typescript, Mennonite Historical Associates Archives, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

7 Lancaster County deed L-305. All deeds and wills cited are located at the Lancaster County Court House, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

- 8 Will C-1-388.
- 9 Lancaster County Historical Society Archives, *Minutes of the County Commissioners - 1755*.
- 10 Records of the First Reformed Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Purchased with bell for 60. Tradition has it that it originally belonged to the Ephrata Cloisters, but was sold as "Babylonish trash." With the construction of a new church in 1753, the clock was again sold: this time for 32. See D. F. Magee, "Grandfather Clocks: Their Making and Their Makers in Lancaster County" in the *Lancaster County Historical Society Papers* Vol. XLIII No. 5 (1939). This is the only detailed such study to date.
- 11 Lancaster County Historical Society Archives, *Tax Assessors' Records, Lancaster Borough - 1759*.
- 12 Deed Q-448.
- 13 Deed 11-575.
- 14 Will X-2-563.
- 15 Gibbs, James W. "Centennial of Watchmaking in Lancaster, Pa." *Bulletin of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc.* Vol. XVI, No. 7 (1974).
- 16 Hoopes, Penrose R. *Connecticut Clockmakers of the Eighteenth Century*, 2nd Edition. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1974.
- 17 Thomson, Richard. *Antique American Clocks and Watches*, New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 1968 pp. 171-173.
- 18 Loomes, Brian. *The White Dial Clock*. Newton Abbot: David & Charles, 1974 p. 28.
- 19 For further information on Lancaster joiners and cabinetmakers, see John J. Snyder, Jr. "Carved Chippendale case furniture from Lancaster, Pennsylvania," *Antiques*, May 1975 pp. 964-975.
- 20 Yeates Papers, Business Bills, Receipts in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 21 *Jasper Yeates Papers*, Lancaster County Historical Society Archives.
- 22 Deed 10-529. There is no further evidence indicating that the house served as a tavern. The five owners of the property after Stoner's wife were Alexander Hamilton (Mar 1779 - Jun 1779), John Witmer, Jr. (Jun 1779 - Jul 1779), Jonas Metzgar, stone-cutter (Jul 1779 - Apr 1814), Michael Metzgar (Apr 1814), and John Wolff (Apr 1814 - 1854). Wolff's heirs sold it to the City of Lancaster in 1854, at which time the house was pulled down to allow for the enlarging of the Central Market.
- 23 Landis, p. 211.
- 24 Worner, William Frederick. "Petition of the Inhabitants of Lancaster." *Lancaster County Historical Society Papers* 35 (1931), p. 70.
- 25 Deed H-185.
- 26 Landis, pp. 216-234.
- 27 Will X-2-563.
- 28 *Ibid*.
- 29 *Ibid*.
- 30 *Burial Book of the Moravian Church, Lancaster 1744-1821*. Lancaster, Wickersham Press, 1928.
- 31 Deed Q-448.
- 32 Deed Q-449.
- 33 Lancaster County Records, Miscellaneous Book 1776-1782, p. 326.
- 34 Deed II-95.
- 35 Timepiece & case: non-striking, probably Stoner's shop regulator.
- 36 Horizontal watch: watch with a cylinder, vice verge, escapement.
- 37 tharm: gut.
- 38 pinchback: pinchbeck - an alloy of copper and zinc used to imitate gold.
- 39 do.: "ditto".
- 40 bird organ: horologically, a mechanical singing bird.

# Kundmachung.



Ich der Unterschriebene mache hiermit bekant, daß meine böse Frau, Catherina, von mir gelaufen ist, als ich nicht zu Hause war, und eine Mähre mit Sattel und Zaum mitgenommen hat, so wird hiermit jederman gewarnet, ihr nichts auf meinen Namen zu leihen oder zu borgen, weilen ich nichts mehr für sie bezahlen will, von diesem Datß an.

Peter Schitz.

Zeidelberg Taunship, Lancaster

County, den 5ten November.

1786

Lancaster Zeitung

28 Nov. 1787

Notice that

Catherina Stoner Schitz has left her husband Peter Schitz and he is not responsible for her bills.

## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTOR

Stacy Wood first developed an interest in antique clocks while a career naval officer stationed in Europe. Following his release from active duty, he and his family moved to Lancaster, where he completed the clockmaker course at the Bowman Technical School. He holds the title of Certified Clockmaker. He is a graduate of Westtown School and The American University, and attended Haverford College. In settling in Lancaster, he returns to the home of some of his forebears, for he is a direct descendant of the Burgesses John and Henry DeHuff mentioned in the above article. He is also an Eberman descendant. A monograph on a Joseph Gorgas clock appeared in a recent Journal, and he also wrote the text of the Society's first poster series, "200 Years of Time." He is currently researching Borough clockmaker Abraham LeRoy.