

# NAWCC Tower & Street Clock Chapter #134

## The Ansonia Street Clock “Quincy” Project

### 131 Year History of Quincy – Timeline

#### 1. Quincy Illinois - 1884

In 1884, Oscar Heinze and Joseph Rosenthal opened the Heinze and Rosenthal Jewelry store at 500 Maine Street in Quincy, IL (southeast corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Maine). They purchased a 2 dial street clock from the Ansonia Clock Company and installed it in front of their store.



#### 2. Quincy Illinois - between 1887 and 1888

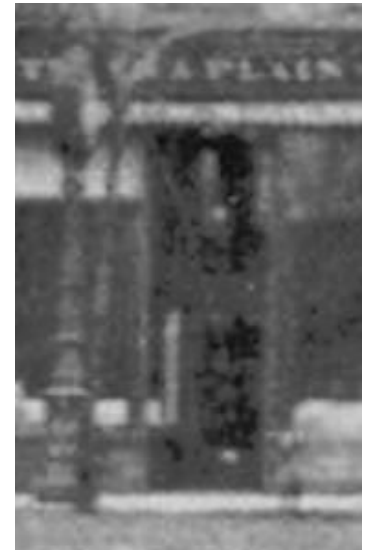
Between 1887 and 1888, Mathias Huffman, a long-established Quincy jeweler, moved his store from 17 Nth 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 118 North 5th Street. It is during this period that Huffman acquired the Ansonia Street Clock from Heinze and Rosenthal Jewelers.



### 3. Quincy, Illinois – between 1896 and 1908

In 1896, M. Huffman Jewelers is no longer listed in the Quincy, Illinois City Directory. Trask and Plain Jewelers is now shown at the 118 North 5th Street location. Presumably Trask and Plain bought out M. Huffman Jewelers and assumed possession of the clock.

The photo below is dated April, 1908. The Ansonia Street Clock can be seen in front of Trask and Plain Jewelers.



### 4. Quincy, Illinois – between 1908 and 1918

In 1908, Arthur F Odell bought out Trask and Plain Jewelers and established Odell Jewelers at 118 North 5th Street.

Odell's can be seen at the top of the building – the Ansonia Street Clock remained in place at 118 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Quincy, Illinois for another ten years.



## 5. Memphis, Missouri – between 1920 and 1969

In 1920, the clock is purchased by W. B. McLane and is installed on the south side of the square in front of the McLane Jewelry Store, Memphis, MO. Later, the clock and store changed hands and became the Laird Jewelry Store. The clock remained in downtown Memphis, MO until the late 1960's when it was struck by a city snowplow causing the clock to fall. The head was damaged as was the column. The clock was put up for sale.



## 6. Los Alamos, New Mexico – between 1969 and 1984

In 1969, Charles Bottom, a private collector from Los Alamos, NM, purchased the damaged clock and transported it to Los Alamos, NM where it was restored and set up in his back yard.





## 7. Tampa, Florida – between 1984 and 2013

In 1984, Stan Good purchased the Ansonia Street Clock and installed it in front of his clock repair business in Tampa, FL.



Stan had difficulty keeping the Ansonia Street Clock running in Tampa's humidity and as a result he nicknamed the clock "Cantankerous Quincy".



## 8. NAWCC Museum, Columbia PA – 2014

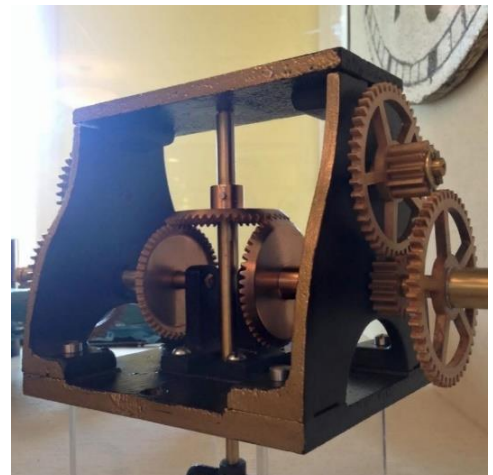
Upon Stan's death in October 2013, Quincy was sold to the NAWCC. Chuck Roeser and Bob Desrochers disassembled the clock and transported it to NAWCC headquarters - Columbia, PA in January 2014. Jim Coulson was on hand to photograph the process.

Jim shortened the nickname of "Cantankerous Quincy" to simply "Quincy" – the name that we use today to reference the clock.



## 9. Progress on Quincy from 2014 through 2018

Over the next few years, under the direction of then NAWCC Museum Curator Noel Poirier, important work was completed. Chuck Roeser restored the Ansonia movement and distribution gearing.



Frank Del Greco built a stand to display the movement.



Bob Desrochers had the case soda blasted and worked with Lee Davis to get some of the case parts and ornamentation gold leafed.



Financial support was also provided by members of the Tower and Street Chapter.

## **10. Project stalled after 2019**

Discussions began as to where to display Quincy. Placing Quincy in the Museum rotunda was recommended but the NAWCC Board was not in favor of that idea. Some of the Board members suggested that Quincy be displayed outside – definitely not a good idea as Quincy's dials are unprotected and the clock would have been damaged and subject to frequent maintenance. With no clear guidance, the project languished for some years.



## 11. Project Interest Renewed in 2022

With the NAWCC's 2022 hiring of Rory McEvoy as the Executive Director, interest in completing Quincy and getting it on permanent display has been renewed. Rory has been an enthusiastic supporter of the project! Frank Del Greco had the vision of a Public Time Gallery and put much effort into making it a reality. Under Rory's leadership, work on the Public Time Gallery has continued, and the plan now is to expand the area and to have Quincy on display as an extension of the Gallery. (Below are a few panoramic photos of the Public Time Gallery as it now exists.)



If you have not visited the Public Time Gallery, do so at your first opportunity. You won't be disappointed!

