



BATTLE'S CLOCK AND WATCHMAKERS

Early History

It has been claimed that Battle was a centre for clock and watch making. Was this the case or did Battle only have typical numbers of clock and watchmakers for a town of its size? A sample analysis of census records for 1851-1911 may provide some indication as to whether this assertion is based on fact.

The chart below compares numbers of clock and watchmakers recorded in Battle and Rye, similar Sussex towns, with those to be found in Prescott, a town in the North West known for its clock and watch manufacture in the nineteenth century, being home to the Lancashire Watch Company from 1889.

CENSUS YEAR	BATTLE, Sussex		RYE, Sussex		PRESCOT, Lancashire	
	Population	No of Clock/watch Makers	Population	No of Clock/watch makers	Population	No of Clock/watch makers
1851	6,310	3	6,701	3	12,762	173
1861	5,494	1	6,353	3	12,377	159
1871	5,729	0	6,456	0	13,197	2
1881	5,405	1	6,658	0	15,056	5
1891	6,791	3	6,225	4	19,698	72
1901	6,339	2	6,097	8	16,922	0
1911	7,935	1	6,421	2	24,817	0

Note: Population figures: www.populationspast.org

Numbers of clock/watch makers: Census records at www.findmypast.co.uk. Numbers reflect those found using search terms "clockmaker"; "Clock maker"; "watchmaker"; "watch maker".

Certainly census records do not show particularly large numbers of clock and watchmakers were present in Battle when compared to Rye – numbers in both towns seem roughly comparable, although it should be noted that the figures are dependant on search engine results, which may or may not be entirely accurate. Even taking into account differences in population, numbers of watch/clock makers in Battle seem dwarfed by those in Prescott in 1851 and 1861. These figures would seem to cast some doubt on the assertion that Battle was a clock/watch making centre. Nonetheless, E J Tyler suggests that from the sixteenth century Battle had more clock and watchmakers than would be expected in a town of its size, pointing out that this could indicate that it had been a centre of supply to a wide area. He also tells us that Battle clockmakers were unusual in that a good number showed



“originality” in their work. What is certain is that there were clock and watchmakers in Battle for at least three hundred years.

The earliest mention of a clock in Battle is 1512 when a clock in the *cubiculo* of the sacristy of the Abbey was repaired – this was likely to have been a monastic alarm. To put this into context, the earliest clockmakers in England were noted in 1368 and the earliest surviving clock dates from 1530, with domestic clocks dating from the early 1500s and the first watch being created in Germany in 1510, so this is relatively early in the history of English clock making. There is no record of the Abbey having its own large clock. The earliest mention of a Church clock comes in church accounts in 1630. The clock is likely to have been made in the sixteenth century and possibly donated by the Browne family, in the same way as they donated clocks to Midhurst, East Hoathly and Cowdray.

The church clock in Battle would have formed a central part of town life – most inhabitants would not have had their own time pieces so the church clock and, perhaps more importantly its chimes, would have been the means by which Battle’s inhabitants kept track of the time, giving order to their day. According to Tyler the church clock’s dial was moved to its current position as part of the extensive alterations to the church in 1869, when the former ringing chamber was destroyed and the clock face moved one floor higher. In Battle the church clock seems to have been repaired and maintained by men described both as clock and/or watchmakers, the terms here at least seeming synonymous. As time progressed watch/clock makers tended to no longer make their own parts from scratch but instead put together parts made elsewhere. The account which follows aims to tell a little about the various known clock and watchmakers in the town, including any connection they may have had with the church clock. In doing so, it relies heavily on the research of E J Tyler, an established authority on the history of clock and watchmaking, with some additions and updating. The list of clock and watchmakers is not definitive – there are others about whom little is known – for example in 1931 a watchmaker named John Clare, whom it is known had a child baptised in Battle and John B Mitchell who in 1930 was trading at 43 High Street. There may well be more yet to be identified.

Clock and watchmakers of Battle 1650-1945

Thomas Punnett of Cranbrook is recorded as supplying a new clock to the church in 1656. Although he may have made the parts for the clock in his workshop at Cranbrook, it is possible, Tyler suggests, that he may have used the local smithy’s forge to fashion parts locally as many would have been heavy to transport. Similar arrangements have been recorded for the making of Rye’s church clock in the previous century, and indeed in the early days of clock making blacksmiths are known to have asserted that the skills for making timepieces fell wholly within their trade, indeed early clockmakers belonged to the Blacksmiths’ Company. The Worshipful Company of Clockmakers only gained their charter in



1631, when clock making was officially recognised as a skill separate to that of a Blacksmith. The new Battle church clock's movement was protected by a case - Thomas Smith was paid for four pairs of hinges for the case and John Beale was paid for work on the case itself. Thomas Punnett repaired the clock in 1663 and 1664.

John Gilmore I, 1660-1717, is the earliest clockmaker identified with Battle itself. He was the son of James Gilmore who is thought to have been descended from the Gilmore family who it is said were employed to demolish Battle Abbey in 1538. James Gilmore carried out various work for the parish Church in the seventeenth century. It is possible that John had been apprenticed to Thomas Punnett, mentioned above. A lantern clock inscribed *John Gilmore, Battle, fecit* (made by John Gilmore, Battle) has survived.

John Gilmore II, 1677-1726, was the son of John Gilmore I. In many trades craftsmen's families are linked by marriages, and clock and watch makers follow this custom. John Gilmore II was no different, marrying Mary Cray, sister of Elizabeth Cray, wife of clockmaker Abraham Weston of Lewes. It is possible that John Gilmore II may have been apprenticed to Abraham Weston. In addition to clock making Tyler asserts that Gilmore ran a powdermill in Battle, but there is no conclusive evidence of this.

John Gilmore III, 1701-1759, son of John Gilmore II, married Elizabeth Holland in Battle in 1727. A longcase clock made by him provides evidence that he followed his father and Grandfather into the clockmaking trade.

In addition to the Gilmores, another Battle family, the **Hammonds**, were also concerned with clockmaking at this period, as well as with gunpowder manufacture, leading to a certain amount of rivalry between the two, possibly stemming, Tyler asserts, from the fact that the families descended from the Gilmore who demolished the Abbey and the Hammond (John Hammond) who was the last Abbot. Records show that a family named "Gilmer" demolished the Abbey, which could well be a corruption of "Gilmore". Certainly as late as 1773 Lester Harvey, inheritor of the Gilmore powdermill, states in a letter to local newspapers that the Gilmores, not the Hammonds, were the originators of gunpowder manufacture in Battle, perpetuating the rivalry.

Samuel Hammond, 1668-1736, was the son of John Hammond who founded "Tills" ironmongers which traded in Battle to within living memory. It is not known who he was apprenticed to, but it may have been Thomas Punnett or a watch maker in Lewes. Tyler describes Samuel Hammond as "one of the most celebrated of Battle's clockmakers". In



1697 he was contracted to maintain Battle church clock and in 1718 he was paid for a large amount of unspecified work in two instalments, probably being to convert the clock to pendulum control and possibly minute hands on the dial. It is likely that the church clock had an exterior dial added in 1686, when John Hammond was paid for works which Tyler believes fit the profile for this type of work. Following this an increase in his retainer to look after the clock is noted, possibly reflecting the more complex work required. Hammond was also contracted to work on Rye clock, supplying new chimes and a new 30 hour clock whose lead weight bears the inscription "Sam Hammond, Battle". His surviving clocks are all 30 hour longcase with a single hand.

Accounts from Tills which show Hammond buying wooden gun stocks suggest that he, like other clockmakers of the time, combined his work with that of a gunsmith. Apprenticeship records reveal that in 1726 John Brook, son of Nicholas Brook, was apprenticed to Samuel Hammond, clockmaker of Battle.

Obadiah Body, 1702-1767, took over the task of looking after the Battle church clock from Samuel Hammond in 1737 and continued to service it until his death. In 1766 two new dial plates were installed by John Cornford, carpenter. Obadiah moved to Battle in 1730 from Cranbrook – records show that at that time Cranbrook parish undertook responsibility for his welfare should he become



Detail showing bird engravings on dial

destitute, as was the custom when moves were made between parishes. He had been apprenticed to George Thatcher of Cranbrook in 1716. He married Mary

Weston, daughter of Abraham Weston and niece of John Gilmore II. Tyler believes it is likely that Obadiah was a dissenter as the baptism of his children is not recorded in parish records at Battle. Obadiah married for a second time in 1745 following the death of his first wife in 1744. Several of his clocks survive, a distinguishing feature of his dials is the inclusion of engravings of birds. These can be seen on the dial of a long case clock in his name currently displayed in Battle Museum, on loan from Battle Town Council. Records show that "William Batchelor, of Linfield (sic)" was apprenticed to Body in 1731.



Longcase clock by Obadiah Body

Courtesy of Battle Museum of Local History

Abraham Body, dates unknown c1730-mid 1770s, was the son of Obadiah Body and Mary Weston. An advertisement in the *Sussex Weekly Advertiser* in 1763 shows that he was



selling watches in Battle – Tyler claims this as the earliest documentary evidence of that trade in Battle. The oldest Battle watch known bears his name and was noted as being sold in 1977. Abraham may have taken over the former Thatcher business in Cranbrook as there are records of him working on Cranbrook Church clock in 1776 and 1769.

Henry Body, 1748-1818, was the son on Obadiah and his second wife, Susannah Blundell. He took over care of the church clock in 1768 after the death of his father and parish records show he continued to do this until 1816. In 1777 Sir Whistler Webster funded the erection of a new clock in the church, with the work carried out by Benjamin Reeves of Lamberhurst, but Body is recorded as carrying out some of the subsequent repairs. The new clock replaced that mentioned earlier, made by Thomas Punnett. Tyler reveals that Hastings Museum holds a 30 hour long case clock by Henry Body, unusual for its birdcage movement and rack striking, also seen in the work of Obadiah Body.

Obadiah Orange Lemmon c1785-? was in Battle by 1820 when he is recorded as repairing the Church clock. Tyler suggests that he took over Henry Body's business, having premises in Mount Street.

John Cheeseman was another Battle clockmaker operating in Battle at the same time as the Bodys. He had initially been apprenticed to William Reeves of Rye and married Mary Noakes (d1744) of Battle in 1737. In 1781 he started to operate from 66 High Street, formerly Blackman's fuel office, now Castle Estates.

Robert Apps c1754-1821 was working from Battle at the same time as Cheeseman, arriving in Battle in the 1780s. A "turnip" or basic pocket watch made by Apps is displayed in Battle Museum. Initially working from premises in Mount Street, Apps then moved to the property immediately to the left of the Abbey Hotel when viewed from the Abbey Green. More specimens of his work have survived than any other Battle clockmaker. His specialism was a 30 hour movement with



Watch by Robert Apps
courtesy of Battle
Museum of Local History



Longcase clock by Robert Apps
courtesy of Battle Town Council

His specialism was a 30 hour movement with



a two wheeled striking chain and worm driven fly. Tyler speculates that Apps may have continued the practice of making his own movements, in contrast to the by then regular practice of importing them pre-made in factories. Robert Apps had at least two apprentices – Tyler mentions Edward Hogbin, with him at the time of his death, and records show that Daniel Wood was apprenticed to Apps in 1791. A longcase clock by Apps is owned by Battle Town Council.



Detail from longcase clock

John Roberts purchased Apps' premises from his executor, with records suggesting he worked as a clockmaker in Battle during the 1820s. Church records show that Roberts supplied (he may not have been the maker) and installed a new Church clock in 1827, this being the one in place to this day. By about 1830 Tyler records that he moved to continue his business in Rye.

Daniel Ray, 1763-1809, born in Sudbury, Suffolk to a watchmaking family and possibly apprenticed in London like his brother William Redmore Ray, arrived in Battle in 1790 when he is noted as living with **Thomas Keeley**, watchmaker, in Keeley's will. Ray took over John Cheeseman's premises at 66 High Street in 1790. He held various civic offices in Battle including Overseer for the Poor in 1796 and Constable for the Hundred of Battle. His tombstone can be found in Battle churchyard. Tyler records that he worked for Sir Godfrey Webster of Battle Abbey between 1797 and 1800.

On his death his youngest son John inherited according to "Borough English" the system operating in Battle at the time and sold the business to his mother, Lydia.

Lydia Ray, 1765-1852, widow of Daniel Ray, continued the business as that of Silversmith and stationer, probably with a manager looking after the clockmaking/repairing aspects. By the 1851 census Lydia describes herself as a "retired silversmith", but her daughters, Sarah and Elizabeth, are both recorded as silversmiths. Elizabeth dies in 1851 and Sarah in 1863, at which time the business passed to **William Stevens Ray, son of William Ray**.

William Ray, Daniel's eldest son, was also a watchmaker and is recorded as signing bills for his mother, Lydia. He returned to Battle after his apprenticeship, which had possibly been at Newhaven, in 1825. He is recorded as having made some repairs to the church clock.

William moved to Brighton in 1841 and continued his business there.



William Stevens Ray inherited Daniel Ray's business in 1863, but having his own business based in Brighton he sold it to **Thomas Chettle** in 1867. Tyler notes that in 1868 a newspaper advert reveals that William Stevens Ray made a watch for Garibaldi, the famous Italian General.

Thomas Quaife 1806-1889, probably born at Mountfield, although the 1871 census records his place of birth as Whatlington, was trading in Battle by 1833, with a directory entry as a watchmaker in 1839. According to Tyler, by 1849 he was working from a site on Hastings Road almost opposite Loose Farm, where he ran what seems to have been a small factory – a directory of 1855 describing him as a watch manufacturer, rather than a watch maker. Although church records show that he was retained to look after the Church clock at 3 guineas a year until at least 1843, watches rather than clocks seem to have been his focus. In 1853 he patented a method of forming watch cases by use of pressure. He moved from Battle to Hawkhurst in 1857 when he sold his property to Samuel Carter, of Regent's Park. He subsequently exhibited a chiming clock of marble and gold with fifty changes at the Great Exhibition of 1862. While in Battle he was a member of the Mechanics Institute, part of a nationwide movement which gave working the men the opportunity to broaden their education.

Thomas Chettle 1820-1891 was the son of a watchmaker, William Chettle, being born in Cornwall. Prior to arriving in Battle in 1848 he had worked in Farnham. He may have originally worked for Thomas Quaife and possibly later for the Ray family, eventually taking over their business in 1867. A large clock in the form of a pocket watch bearing the name "T Chettle" on the dial is on display in Battle Museum. It was formerly part of the window display of the Post Office when it was situated at 20 High Street. Tyler tells us that the clock seems to have been made from an early eighteenth century longcase movement adapted for a short pendulum suggesting that it may originally have formed part of Thomas Chettle's own window display as the dates in the movement of 1867-8 fit with when he took over the Ray business. It was found unwanted behind 20 High Street after the Post Office had moved and was given to the Museum. Chettle died in Clapham Junction district in 1891, leaving his estate to his wife Leah.



Large window display clock
by T Chettle

Courtesy of Battle Museum
of Local History

John Noakes c1832-1895 was born in Burwash, the son of John Noakes, also a watchmaker, marrying Susannah Vigor in Brighton in 1857. Tyler notes that trade directories place him in Battle in 1855 at 76 High Street and in 1859 at 61 High Street, but by the 1861 census he



appears apart from his family living in Hastings. After a brief period in Brighton he seems to have set up business in Tonbridge by 1865, dying there in 1895. Tyler notes that a thirty hour long case clock exists bearing his name, with “a painted dial and plate movement”.

Henry Kemp 1817-? Kemp was born in Seaford and took over Noakes’ business at 61 High Street by 1860, having moved from Mayfield, his wife’s home town. A round wall clock, formerly located at the Methodist Church in Battle, is on display in Battle museum bearing the name “H Kemp”. According to Tyler, Hove museum houses a watch by him marked 1867. Kemp is noted in a trade directory of 1867 as trading from Battle High Street, but does not appear in Battle in the 1871 census, nor has he, up to this time, been located elsewhere, so his later life remains a mystery. His wife, Ruth, appears to be living in Tonbridge by 1871 working as a Lady’s Maid.



Clock by H Kemp

Courtesy of Battle Museum of Local History

Edwin Kemp 1846 – 1921. By 1871 the business appears to be in the hands of Henry’s son, Edwin, by then himself a master watchmaker, although the 1861 census shows he began working life as a pupil teacher in Mayfield. He was assisted by his brother Frederic. Interestingly, the 1871 census shows that the curate of Battle, Rev Edward R Currie, later Dean, was a lodger. Edwin married Mary Ann Rigley in Hastings in 1873, who, the 1871 census records, was a dressmaker, working in Hastings and assisted by Edwin’s sister Ann, presumably this is how the couple met. By 1881 the pair have three children and Edwin is still working as a watchmaker in Battle High Street. In 1891 he continues to trade at 61 High Street, but by 1901 he has set up business as a watchmaker in Woking, continuing to live and trade in Surrey until his death in 1921.

Joshua Mathis 1863 -1917 was born in Battle and is recorded in 1881 as an apprentice watchmaker, living in Upper Lake with his parents Frank (a cordwainer or shoemaker) and Grace and his sister Lucy. By 1891 his is still living with his parents at 16 Upper Lake and is recorded as a watchmaker. In 1890 Kelly’s directory shows Mathis was trading at 16 Upper Lake as a watchmaker, with his father Frank a bootmaker and parish clerk at 16 and a half. Tyler reports that in 1895 he was trading as a watchmaker and cycle agent and by 1897 he had taken a premises at 57 High Street, where trade directories show he continued to trade until at least 1911. From 1915 trade directories show Mathis trading at 12 High Street. In 1895 he married Emma Mary Gower, also of Battle, who Tyler says and trade directories



confirm, continued to run his business after his death in 1917. Church accounts for 1905-22 show that Mathis was paid 4 guineas a year to maintain the Church clock.

David Grant 1850-1902 was born in Ewhurst, marrying his wife Harriet Smith in Battle district in 1872. In 1871 David was listed as a watchmaker, living in Brightling, with his mother and three brothers. In 1881 David was practising as a watchmaker in Bexhill, in association with his brother Levi. By this time he had two children, William, born 1873 and David, born 1881. By 1890 Kelly's Directory lists him at 21 High Street, Battle, watchmaker. David died in 1902 and was eventually succeeded in the firm by his son William. Prior to this, however, his wife, Harriet is recorded by Kelly's directory in 1911 and 1915 as a watchmaker trading at 21 High Street – presumably keeping the business going as so many watchmaker widows seem to have done.

William Grant 1873 – 1962 was the son of David Grant, born in Brightling. In 1911, William is trading at 21 High Street, Battle, living with his mother and sister. Tyler, who mistakenly identifies William as David's brother, reports that "notes of repairs by William appear on many Battle clocks. Some of his early repairs appear as "WG for D Grant". He is still trading at the same address in 1939, recorded in the 1939 register. According to Tyler, he continued to work until 1946, when the business was taken over by George Aylesbury.

Notable amateur clockmakers of Battle

Frederic Gorham Ticehurst 1849-1922, a well-respected Battle resident, counted engineering among his hobbies, including clock making. The Hastings and St Leonards Observer 28 January 1922 reports in his obituary that he "constructed many ingenious timepieces", citing the example of one which not only told the time, but also the precise date (down to day of the week) and the times of the tides.

The First Electric Clock

A major innovation in the field of horology, perhaps surprisingly, seems to be connected to the town of Battle and an amateur in the field. Charles K Aked argues that the very first electric clock was the Galvanic Clock invented by **Sir Francis Ronalds** (1788 – 1873), resident of Battle for his later years and a scientist and inventor. He began his research into the use of electricity for clocks with the Aerial Electroscope designed by J.A. De Luc. While considering the effect of weather on the apparatus he arrived at the idea of a steadily oscillating pendulum regulated by electrical charge, which could be used to measure time. By 1814 Ronalds was considering the practicalities of making an electric clock and his first effort was produced in early 1815. Ronalds went on to endeavour to correct defects in his clock which made it vulnerable to temperature and humidity, making it a "reasonable



timekeeper". Ronalds work on timekeeping was soon forgotten and had little connection to later development of electric clocks, which used electro-dynamic electricity rather than electro static. However, as Aked writes,

"Ronalds' achievement...was to prove that timekeeping using electricity as a motive power could be achieved practically, in this he was in a similar position to John Harrison who proved that it was possible to construct a timekeeper for use at sea, even though his method was obsolete before his famous watch was completed"

If, as Aked proposes, Ronalds' clock was indeed the very first electric clock this surely constitutes a very major innovation in the field of horology for a Battle "clockmaker" and is a further example of the "originality" of Battle clockmakers identified by Tyler in "The Clockmakers of Battle".

Georgina Doherty

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Thanks to Battle Town Council and Battle Museum of Local History for permission to photograph their timepieces.

Thanks also to Peter Greene for taking the photos.

For further information on Ronalds see also **Collectanea K 2.1 – Sir Francis Ronalds** at:

<http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site15733/Web%20K/K%202017RONALDSv2.pdf>

For further information on Frederic Ticehurst see also **Collectanea S 1.1 – The Ticehursts** at:

<http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site15733/Web%20S/S1.1%20TICEHURSTv2.pdf>

References

BDHS Archive file HS I

E J Tyler "The Clockmakers of Battle" (1978) published in *Antiquarian Horology*, Autumn 1978

E J Tyler "Battle Church Clock" (1989) published in *Antiquarian Horology*, Autumn 1989

Charles K Aked "The First Electric Clock" (1973) published in *Antiquarian Horology* June 1973

Census records: www.ancestry.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk

Birth, marriage and death records as above

1939 register as above



Hastings and St Leonards Observer available via www.findmypast.co.uk

Register of duties paid for apprentices indentures available at www.ancestry.co.uk

A timeline of watchmaking found at:

<http://www.historyofwatch.com/clock-history/clock-timeline/>

Information on early clockmaking found on The Worshipful Company of Clockmakers' website at:

<http://www.clockmakers.org/history-customs/origins-of-the-clockmakers-company/>

Information on early electric clocks:

<http://www.electric-clocks.nl/clocks/en/page03.htm>

Prescot clock and watch making:

www.ancashirewatchcompany.co.uk/



Appendix - Battle Parish Accounts relating to Church Clock

BATTLE CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS			
Extracts relating to the church clock(s)			
The accounts also contain many references to glazing, tiles, lime, bell repairs etc.			
1630/1	Item paid to John Farncom for his whole yeares wages and for keeping the clock and for washing the surples and communion cloths	£5.5s.	
1632	Item paid to Thomas Smyth for work about the clock	2s.	
	John Farncomb for his whole years wages and for keeping the clock	£5.4s.	
	Item paid to Thomas Sharp(e) for oyle and nayles and tymber and for a rope for the plummett of the clock as appeareth by his bill of the particulars thereof	£3.1s.	
1633	Item paid for oyle and for wax	2d.	
	Item paid to Thomas Sharpe for a rope for the church clocke	1s.4d.	
	item paid for oyle	8d.	
	Item paid to John Farncombe for clark wages and keeping the clocke	£10.4s.	
	item paid for oyle	9d.	
1634	item paid to the smith for mending the clock	2s.6d.	
	item paid to John Farncom for keeping the clocke one yeare	4s.	
1635	item to John Farncom for keeping the clock	4s.	
	It paid John Smith for mending the clock and work about the bells and a latch to the church gate	6s.	
	paid to John Smith about the clock	6s.3d.	
1636	Blank		
1637	for a cord for the clock	14d.	
	To Tho Smythe for mending the Clocke	14d.	
	John Farncom for his years wages	5 li	
	paid to him for keeping the clock	13s.4d.	
	(The sums of money mentioned above were expressed in Roman figures. Entries in arabic figures begin here.)		
	for mending the clock	3s.	
	for a puller for the clock hammer	2d.	
	to John Smith for cleaning the clock	1s.6d.	
	3 yron doggs for the clock penthouse	6	
	more to him for 2 iron hooks	5	
	for a pott of oyle for ye clock and bells	4	
1639	item for a line for the clock	9	
1640	item paid for 8 hand ropes and one rope for the clocke	6-0	
	It paid John Knowles his years wages	5-0-0	
	(presumably clerk or sexton. Keeping clock may be included)		
1641	pd John Knowles for one year for ringing curfew and for ye clocke	6-0-0	
	More paid to Giles Burton for his two years allowance	1-1-8	
	more allowed him his scott (?) being 2s.9d. for and towards a sun dyall the rest he gives	2-9	
1643	Imprimis paid John Knowles his wages and keeping the clock	3-0-0	
1645	more for a rope for the clocke	3-0	
	paid to John Knowles towards his hole years wages keepinge the clock and ringing the clarks bell	5-10-0	
1647	no wages		
1649			
1650	no entries		
1651			
1652	no expenses		
1653			
1654	it payed for mendinge the clocke	1-10-0	
	it payed the clocke line	14	
	Lemuell Warren his wages	5-0-0	
	It payed John Barnes for wyer	16	
1656	Lemuell Warren for two yeres wages	10-0-0	
	paid for an houre glasse	8	
	paid to Edward Smith as appeareth by his bill	1-3-2	
	It paid to Punnett for the clock	10-0-0	
	(The inventory 1657 includes "one old clocke")		
1657	paid Thomas Smith for foure paire of points for the clock case	28	
	the clarke for his years wages	5-0-0	
	paid John Beale for work about the clock case	1-4-0	
1659	The clerke for his years wages	6-0-0	
1661	no exs		
1662	no exs		
1663	it pd Thomas Punnett for mending the clocke	2-6	
1664	pd for keping the clocke	1-10-0	
	pd for mendinge the clocke	15-0	
	Lemuel Warren his wages	5-10-0	
1665	1 pd Godheard Warren for lookinge to the clocke half a yeare	10-0	
	2 paid Goody Warren (his wife?) for making the linnen and scowering the pewter	6-8	
	pd her for her sheats	6-0	
	3 Lemuell Warren his yeares wages	5-10-0	
1667	Lemuell Warren his wages	5-10-0	
	pd for keeping the clocke	1-0-0	
	pd John Barnes for a wyer for the clocke	3-4	
1669	Lemuell Warren for his wages	5-10-0	
	item paid for keeping the clock	1-0-0	
1670	It paid for keeping the clock	1-0	
1671	Lem Warren years wages	5-0-0	
	Godheard Warren for keeping the clocke	1-0-0	
	pd Edward Smith for work about the church clock	7-4	
1672	for keeping the clock	1-0-0	
	It for drawing the dioll in the churche	1-0-0	
	Lemuell Warren wages	5-0-0	
	keeping the clocke	1-0-0	



1673	pd Godheard Warren for looking to the clocke	10-0	1695	pd to Saml Hamond as by bill	3-16-0
	pd Will Dunnings for mendinge the clocke for two new ropes	1-6		item paid Samuel Hammond for looking after the clock and chimes	4-0
	keeping the clock	1-0-0		Memorand it is agreed by and between ye inhabitats and Samuel Hammond of Battel aforesaid clocksmith that the said Samuel is to keep in good repair ye clocke and chimes of the said pish church for four shillings a yeare beginning at Easter last (ye timbes worke and wyers and lines excepted for twenty yeares witness my hand Sam Hammond	
1674	to Will Dunnings for looking to the clocke	1-0-0	1697	paid Samuel Hammond as appeareth by bill	4-0
1676	looking to the clock	1-0-0	1699	pd Sam: Hammond as appeares by bill	12-6
	for keeping the clock and ringing the corfell	1-10-0		pd Samuel Hamond by bill	14-6
1677/8	item paid for the chimes	10-0-0	1701	Sam Hammond as by bill appeareth	9-4
	It paid for altering the hand in the church	1-10-0	1702	to Rich Edridge ayd clarks wages li 5 and to looking after the clocke and chimes and ringing ye 8 o clock bell li 2 washing ye serpluss 6s.8d. all in done of Easter 1702	7-6-8
	it paid for mending and cleaning the clock	10-0	1703	Sam Hamond looking after ye church clock two yeares the other works as by bill apr.	11-10
	it paid for wyr	1-6		Rich Eldridge clarks wages li 5 and for looking after clock and chimes and ringing ye clocke bell	7-6-8
1680	paid to Godheard Warrren for keeping the clock and chimes and ringing the curfful for 2 yeares	2-6-4½	1704	" " "	7-6-8
1682	it paid for mending the chimes	8	1705	" " "	7-6-8
	Tho Warren 2 yeares wages keeping the clock and chimes and washing	14-13-4	Jn 5	pd Sam Hammond his bill	10-4
1683	paid him (Thos Warren) his yeares wages for keeping the clock and chimes	7-0-0	1706/7		
1684	pd Thos Warren pt of his two yeares wages and for keeping the clock and chimes	12-6-0	May 19	Sam Hammond as by bill appeares	4-0
	it paid for a chime rope	9-0	1707		
1686	paid help for rearing a ladder to fix up ye watch	1-6	28 Oct	Spent on help for taking downe the clocke and carrying of it up to Hammonds and bringing it downe again	1-6
Jun 20	for wier for repairing ye chimes	10	1708	Sam Hammon as by his bill appeares	5-6
	for a pully for ye clock and iron worke	1-2	1709	Rich Eldridge	7-6-8
Au 6	for my man (i.e. John Hammond's man. J. H. was then churchwarden) half a day to help Cornish about ye clocke and chimes (Robert Cornish of East Grinstead)	1-0		Sam Hammond as by his bill appeares	4-0
Se 18	to Tho Medhurst for plaistering ye edge of ye diall	6	1710	paid at setting up of the diall Nov 5	4-0
	paid help for taking down ye ladder and carrying it home	1-0	Feb 13	to Sam Hammon as by his bill appeares	6-0
	To Will Dunning for amending ye clocke and a locke	2-10	1711	paid Sam Hammon a bill	4-0
1686/7			1713	pd Sam Hammond as appeares by his bill	1-3-2
Ja 18	For 12 lbs of lead to add to ye clocke weight and iron worke	2-8	1714	pd Sam Hammon as appeares by bill	4-0
Fe 1	for a line to winding ye chimes	4-8	1715	" " "	4-0
	paid to Robert Cornish as by his bill may appeare	1-10-0	1716	" " "	4-0
	to Goddard Warren as by his bill appeard	11-13-4	1717	" " "	4-0
1687	for a line for the chimes	4-8	1718	pd Sam Hammon as per in p of 9-8-5	5-11-0
	for a chime rope weighing 24lbs.	12-0		" " in full of his bill 9-8-5	3-17-5
	John Hammonds bill in particular for repairing the clocke and chimes	1-6	1719	Ja 8 Then an agreement was made by the Dean and Churchwardens to and with Samuel Hammond to allow him five shillings a yeare from Easter last for twelve yeares to come to look after the	
	there remained due to the clerk at the making up of this account for one yeares looking after the clock and chimes and ringing ye curfew	40s			
1689	pd Sam Hamond	3-6			
1692	pd for 2 yeares oyle for the bells and chimes per bill	5-10			



church clock and keep it in good repair in case ye said Samuel Hammond soo long live the said Churchwardens to find ropes wire and timber ye said Samuel Hammond to find all other materials during ye said terme and we hereby [] this agreement to be true

winesse our hands

witness hereto 3 signatures and
2 signatures Samuel Hammond

1720	Samuel Hammond as per bill appeareth	5-0
	pd Samuel Hammond as per	5-0
	The clark his wages and for ringing the and looking after the clock and chimes as per bill appears	7-16-0
	Samuel Hammond as per act.	13-6
	clerk	8-3-8
1724	S. Hammond	5-0
	also 1725, 26, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35	5-0
1735	Mr Hammond as per bill	14-1½
1736	23 April paid Samuel Hammond a bill	5 6
	18 March paid Mr. Hammond	3 0
1737	25 July pd Obadiah Body	4 0 6
1739	Reed for the iron of the old bells	3 1 0
1740	April 6 to Mr Body	1 6 0
	Dec 17 Pd Ob. Body	2 6
1743	Feb 27 To Obed Body	7 6
1748/9	Paid Obadiah Body as per receipt	10 0
1751	Paid Obadiah Body p rec.	2 0
1753	Pd Obadiah Body as per rect	10 0
1756	1 Nov To Obadiah Body per rect	2 6
1757	Apl 12 Mr Body as rept	1 1 0
1758	Jan 13 Mr Body as per bill	7 6
1763	23 Nov Paid Obadiah Body as per ret	2 7 6
1767	Oct 17 Paid John Cornford (see vestry minutes)	10 0 0
1768	23 Feb To Henry Body as per Rct	16 6
1769	20 Jan to Henry Body as per receipt	1 8
1773	9 Mar Do to Henry Body	7 0
1774	To Henry Body	1 12 6
1775	Ben Reeve for mending and putting the clock up	11 3 0
1777	To Henry Body as per bill	1 7 2
1778	To Hen Body	1s.0d.
1779	Do Hen Body as p do	2 9
1780	Mr Hen Body	1s.3d.
1787	Mrs Body overcharged	7½
1792	To James Jenner for repairing the church clock	1 1 0
1793	Mrs Body bill	12 6
1797	21 Feb Henry Body per bill	2 10 6
1798	Mrs. S. Body	7 6
1804	April 8 Mrs. S. Body as p bill	1 3 6
1805	Henry Body p do	12 3
1806	Henry Body bill	3 6
1809	20 Mar Henry Body bill	1 5 0
	Aug 12 Henry Body bill	9 3
1811	May Henry Body bill	16 0
1813	July Henry Body bill	17 9
1816	Oct 29 Henry Body bill	9 6
1820	Feb 15 Orange Lemmon bill	1 1 0
1823	May 3 John Roberts as per bill repairing clock	2 3 6

1824	Feb 2 John Roberts bill for repairing clock	1 7 6
1825	John Roberts per do	1 5 0
1827	John Roberts as per bill for clock	34 10 0
1829	Jul 24 John Roberts attending the church clock	2 12 0
1830	Aug 21 William Ray to bill	1 14 0
1831	May 14 William Ray as per bill	4 2 0
1832	Apl 11 William Ray per bill	1 16 6
1833	Oct 8 William Ray per bill church clock	5 0 6
	Dec 7 Oil for the clock	6
1834	Jun 9 William Ray per bill	1 10 0
1835	Thomas Quaife for repairing the church clock	14 13 0
1837	Mar 25 Samuel Quaife for winding up and looking after church clock p bill	3 18 0
1838	Thomas Quaife looking after the church clock one year	3 3 0
1839	Jun 7 Tho Quaife per bill	3 3 0
1840	Tho Quaife as per bill for repairing church clock	3 3 0
1841	Jun 15 Thomas Quaife clockmaker as per bill	4 8 0
1842	Mar 25 Thomas Quaife repairing clock as per bill for one year	3 3 0
1843	May 9 Thomas Quaife as per bill	3 3 0
	Sep 29 Thomas Quaife as per bill	1 11 6

BATTLE CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS

1904-1924

1 April	1905	J. Mathis	4 4 0
11 April	06	" for winding clock	4 4 0
4 Oct	06	" clock repairs	2 10 0
		Newbury H " "	10 10 0
30 Mar	07	J. Mathis clock	4 4 0
31 Mar	08	"	4 4 0
4 Jan	09	"	1 0 0
31 Mar	09	"	4 4 0
29 Mar	10	"	4 4 0
7 Apl	11	"	4 4 0
6 Apl	12	"	4 9 0
25 Mar	13	"	4 13 0
28 Mar	14	"	4 4 0
7 Apl	15	"	4 4 0
5 Apl 1	16	"	4 4 0
28 Mar	17	"	4 4 0
3 Apl	18	"	4 4 0
14 Apl	19	"	4 4 0
3 Apl	20	"	4 4 0
5 Jan 21		E. Mathis (accts for 9 months only)	3 7 0
		(widow of J. Mathis)	
31 Dec		21 Mathis clock	4 12 0
23 Sep		22 T. Vidler repairs clock, vane etc.	12 17 6
Dec		Mathis. clock winding and repairs	6 14 0
27 Dec		22 Sargent and Corke clock	3 18 0
10 Jan	24	" " Mathis clock winding etc.	19 0
			5 4 0

"continued in more businesslike way in new book.

A. E. Kemp"