

Description of a long case clock made by James Shreeve Woolmer (1789-1879)



A delightful early 19th Century English antique oak long case clock, the painted dial bearing the name of "J S Woolmer, Reepham".

The case comprises an arched hood over three-quarter columns to a moulded throat and long arched trunk door supported on a plinth base. The front is beautifully inlaid throughout with floral marquetry, green man and neoclassical urn.



Courtesy of Holt Antique Furniture

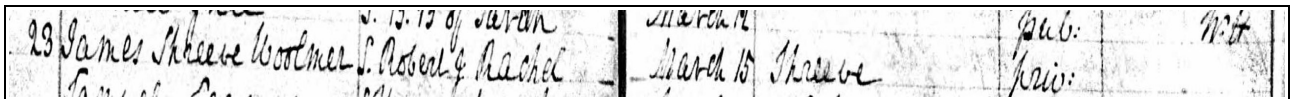
The 12" dial is decorated with swans to the arch with cornucopia spandrels, arabic numerals, subsidiary seconds and date aperture.

The original four pillar 8-day movement has an hourly strike on a bell.

James Shreeve Woolmer was a clockmaker and auctioneer who spent most of his life in Reepham, Norfolk. He was born in Yarmouth in 1789, married Marianne Hunt, fathered 9 children, and passed away on 17th November 1879. He is recorded as a "watchmaker and auctioneer" in William White's Directory of 1854 entitled "White's History, Gazetteer and Directory of Norfolk and the City of Norwich."

Biographical Details of the Woolmer family

1789 Birth & Baptism in Great Yarmouth : son of Robert Woolmer & Rachel Shreeve

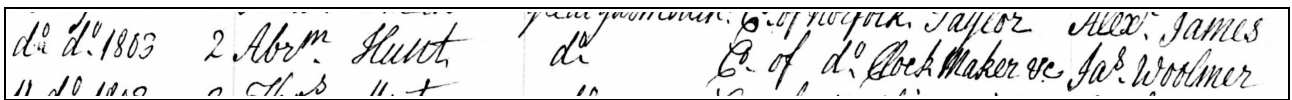


Source Citation Norfolk Record Office; Norwich, Norfolk, England;

Norfolk Church of England Registers; Reference: PD 28/17

Source Information Ancestry.com. Norfolk, England, Church of England Baptism, Marriages, and Burials, 1535-1812

1803 Apprenticed to Abraham Hunt : Clockmaker : Abraham was James' future father-in-law

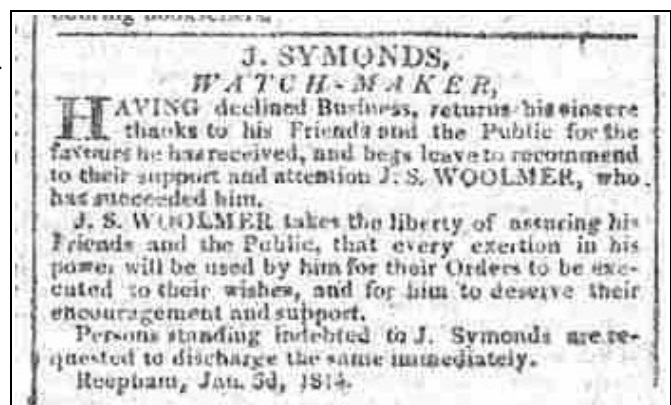


Source Citation The National Archives of the UK (TNA); Kew, Surrey, England;

Collection: Board of Stamps: Apprenticeship Books: Series IR 1; Class: IR 1; Piece: 71

Source Information Ancestry.com. UK, Register of Duties Paid for Apprentices' Indentures, 1710-1811

1814 John Symonds retires from business & hands over his trade to James Woolmer



Norfolk Chronicle 08 January 1814

1815 Marriage to Marianne Hunt by licence : St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of Great Yarmouth
in the County of Norfolk in the Year 1815?

James Henry Woolmer of St. Nicholas Parish
Bachelor
and Marianne Hunt of St. Nicholas Parish
Spinster
were married in this Church by License with Consent of
this Eighth Day of
October in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Fifteen

By me B. Turner Minister

This Marriage was solemnized between us } J. B. Colbyer
Marianne Hunt

In the Presence of } Alfred Hunt
Priscilla Hunt J. B. Colbyer

No. 484

Source Find My Past : Image copyright and served from FamilySearch.org

1816 Baptism of their eldest son Alfred was registered in Hackford Church on December 22nd.

1816 22 Decr	Alfred Woolmer Son of	James and Marianne	Woolmer	Hackford	Watchmaker	J. B. Colbyer Curate.
No. 87.						

He was the eldest of nine children.

Unusually Alfred was also received into the church aged 16 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, in 1833.

October 27	Alfred Thomas son of	James- Shreeve or Mayann	Woolmer	High Street	Watchmaker	W. F. Powell Esq Perpet. Curate
No. 1984.						

admitted into the Church at the age of 16 having been privately baptized at Keyham Norfolk.

Alfred died in 1838 age 22 and was buried in Hackford.

Alfred Woolmer	Hackford	Dec: 21 st 22	Edw Holly
No. 283.			Rector

1816 A year after John Symonds' death no heir seems to have been found and there are still outstanding bills.

Norfolk Chronicle 17 February 1816

JOHN SYMONDS.
ALL persons having any demands upon the Estate and Effects of Mr JOHN SYMONDS, late of Hackford, next Reepham, Norfolk, Watchmaker, deceased, are requested to send an account thereof to Mr. Daniel Sidney, of Thurning, or Mr. Wm. Mayes, of Foulsham, the Executors of his Will, or to Mr. Wymer, Solicitor, Reepham. And all persons indebted to the said Estate and Effects, are required immediately to pay their debts as above, or to Mr. Woolmer, Watch-maker, Hackford aforesaid, who is authorised to receive the same.

1817 A reminder that many houses in the Market Place were tenanted.

Norfolk Chronicle 17 May 1817

Besides his clock & watchmaking business James Woolmer was also an auctioneer & valuer, an emigration agent and a fire insurance agent.

An excellent Situation for a WATCHMAKER.
To be SOLD by AUCTION,
 In the Month of July next, (unless sooner disposed of by Private Contract)
AN excellent Brick-built MESSUAGE and Shop situate in the Market place of Hackford, otherwise Reepham, in Norfolk, now in the occupation of Mr. J. S. Woolmer, Watchmaker, in which trade they have been used for a great many years by the late proprietor, Mr. John Symonds, deceased, and are excellently well situated for that purpose, and there are a yard and out-houses adjoining.

1830 Auctioneer etc as well as watch/clock maker

from Pigot's Directory of 1830

AUCTIONEER & APPRAISER.
Woolmer James Shreeve (& watch & clock maker jeweller & engraver, and agent to the Norwich Union fire office) Market place

Many advertisements appear for auctions in the area, local ones were held in the Kings Arms or the Sun Inn, or in a field as the Kerdiston example shows. Not all auctions he led were in Reepham, others were held in Cawston and Aylsham. Woolmer's autioneering activity had diminished by the end of the 1840s.

REEPHAM.
To be SOLD by AUCTION,
 By J. S. WOOLMER,
 On Wednesday, August 19, 1840,
 At Five o'clock in the Evening,
 At the King's Arms Inn, Reepham.
A Very Desirable FREEHOLD ESTATE, situate in the above parish, now in the occupation of Mr. John Burrell and his Tenants, containing four tenements, brewing office, tan room, Barn, stables, waggon sheds, coal-houses, and other convenient outbuildings, with large garden adjoining. Conditions at the time of sale.

KERDISTONE.
J. S. WOOLMER
 Respectfully announces that he has been honoured with instructions from Mr. R. W. BRADY, of Kerdistone, next Reepham,
TO OFFER FOR SALE BY AUCTION,
 On Thursday, October 7th, 1841,
130 Very excellent Half-bred EWES, 5 superior true-bred Leicester Tups, 7 capital two-year old Steers and Heifers, valuable Norfolk Cow, and 2 very excellent Horses, one of which is now six years old, light and active. The above Stock are all of a very excellent description, and are earnestly recommended to the notice of Agriculturists, being parted with solely on account of Mr. Brady's intention to decline his Ewe Flock.
 The Sale will take place in a Field of Mr. Brady's half way between Reepham and his house at Kerdistone, and will commence punctually at Eleven in the Forenoon, in order to give Gentlemen the opportunity of attending other sales which may be in the neighbourhood on that day.

Norfolk Chronicle 2 October 1841

Auctions of the estates & property of George Wymer and Henry Rodham.

To be SOLD by AUCTION,
 By J. S. WOOLMER,
 On Wednesday and Thursday, October 1st and 2nd, 1845,
ALL the FARMING STOCK, Implements in Husbandry, Dairy and Brewing Utensils, and part of the Household Furniture, &c., of the late Mr. HENRY RODHAM, of the Pittville Farm, Hackford, next Reepham.

Norfolk Chronicle 20 September 1845

REEPHAM.
To be SOLD by AUCTION,
 In Six Lots,
 By Mr. WOOLMER,
 At the King's Arms Inn, Reepham,
 On Wednesday, the fourth day of September, 1839,
 At Three o'clock in the Afternoon.
 Lot 1. **A** Very excellent Freehold MESSUAGE or DWELLING-HOUSE, in good repair, with Barn, four-stalled Stable, and Chaise-house, Offices, Pump, Yard, large productive Gardens, Shrubberies, and Orchard, well planted with thriving fruit trees, pleasantly situated at Reepham, in the county of Norfolk, fronting the road at the entrance of the town of Reepham leading to Salfe, containing about 1/2 A. 2R.

Norfolk Chronicle 17 August 1839

Reepham Association,
FOR PROSECUTING THIEVES, &c.
THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held at the
King's Arms Inn, Reepham, on WEDNESDAY,
July 22, 1829, at One o'clock in the Afternoon.
MEMBERS' NAMES.

W. Bircham, Esq.	Mr. Wm. Ungless
Guy Lloyd, Esq.	— J. S. Woolmer
Mr. S. Bircham	— Wm. Pratt
— W. Bircham, jun.	— M. Austin
Messrs. W. & S. Bircham	Edw. Bartell, Esq.
Mr. S. Adams	Mr. John Ramp
— S. Sewell	— George's Exccutors
— James Gladden	— B. Seely
Rev. J. Stoughton	— Baley
Mr. R. W. Brady	— T. Barton
— John Seely	— S. Leeds

WM. BIRCHAM, Jun. Treasurer.
J. S. WOOLMER, Secretary.

Secretary of the Reepham Association for Prosecuting Thieves etc.

EMIGRATION.

Employment for Agriculturists and Labourers in Upper Canada.

PERSONS desirous of proceeding to Canada, may obtain every information, and secure their passages in first class British Vessels, coppered, and copper fastened, on application to the undermentioned county agents :

Bedfordshire, Mr. Thomas Morris, Leighton Buzzard.
 Berkshire, Mr. Frederick Cowslade, Mercury Office, Reading.
 Buckinghamshire, Mr. Henry Bradford, Thame, Oxon.
 Cambridge, Mr. James S. Woolmer, Reepham.
 Essex, Mr. Geo. Wakeling, Colchester.
 GLOUCESTERSHIRE, Mr. John Bravender, Cirencester.
 Hampshire, Mr. Henry Cordery, Longstock, near Stockbridge.
 HEREFORDSHIRE, Mr. James Lodwidge, Hoarwithy, near Hereford.

Kent, Mr. Edward Pearce, Ramsgate.
 Leicester, Mr. Geo. Eaglesfield, Leicester.
 Lincoln, Mr. Jas. Babington, Horncastle.
 MONMOUTH, Mr. J. Lodwidge, Hoarwithy, near Hereford.
 Northamptonshire, Mr. W. E. Boyes, Alkerton, near Banbury.
 Norwich, Mr. Jas. S. Wolmer, Reepham.
 Oxford, Mr. W. E. Boyes, Alkerton, near Banbury.
 Shropshire, Mr. John Stowers, Maltster, Bridgenorth.
 SOUTH WALES, Mr. Edw. Powell, Engineer, Brecon.
 SOMERSETSHIRE, Mr. John Bravender, Cirencester.
 Stafford, Mr. John Stowers, Maltster, Bridgenorth.
 Sussex, Mr. Henry Cordery, Longstock, near Stockbridge.
 Surrey, Mr. Fred. Cowslade, Mercury Office, Reading.
 Suffolk, Mr. George Wakeling, Colchester.
 Warwick, Mr. John Gibbert, Bedworth, near Coventry.
 Worcester, Mr. James Stowers, Maltster, Bridgenorth.
 Wiltshire, Mr. John Bravender, Cirencester.

To CHARLES GALINDO, LIVERPOOL;

Or to any other of his agents for England, Ireland, or Scotland, The passage money, for Adults, to Quebec, is £2. 15s, if in companies of not less than twenty persons. All Children under 14 years, £1. 7s 6d. Every accommodation and assistance will be rendered.

Through either of the above, passage may be secured on low terms to any other part of the world.

All letters must be post paid.

An agent for Charles Galindo of Liverpool, to supply information & a secured passage for people wishing to emigrate to Canada.

Costs : Adult £2.15s.
 Child £1.7s.6d

1869 Birthday Event

Norfolk News 20 March 1869

REEPHAM.—BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY.—A

party of friends invited Mr. Woolmer on Monday evening last (the anniversary of his birth) to congratulate him on his having completed the 80th year of his age, and still being in the full vigour of his health; presenting him also with a handsomely embossed tea-pot as a mark of friendship and respect. Mr. Wood officiated as chairman, supported by Mr. F. Eglinton in the vice-chair, and a highly respectable company of gentlemen of the town. The complimentary speeches delivered on the occasion were acknowledged by Mr. Woolmer with an emotion he could not suppress at so unexpected and flattering a demonstration of regard.

A memory from Harry Hawes

"Mr. Woolmer wore a tall hat and black frock coat. Every night at about four o'clock you could see him on his way to the church to wind up the clock. One of the weights was made of iron the other was made of lead. Each was suspended on 15 or 16 feet of rope. They each worked up and down a long box. One day the ratchet of one of the weights got out of repair. The crank knocked the poor old man and hurt him. My mother with my help did the clock winding for a few months. I remember seeing one of the brass weights the date 1760."

REEPHAM.

A MUFFLED PEAL of Bob Minor was rung on the Hackford and Whitwell Church bells on Monday last by the Reepham and Sall Ringers, in memory of the late Mr. James Shreave Woolmer, the late treble ringer, who died in the 91st year of his age, and who was interred that day in the Hackford Cemetery.

Mrs. Marianne Woolmer

By 1845 Whites Directory Marianne was running a 'Young Ladies Seminary' in the Market Place, according to Harry Hawes the school occupied the fishmonger's shop. Harry's mother Elizabeth had been a pupil.

"Mrs Woolmers school for girls only one well known scholar was the Writers mother Elizabeth Ann Watson now occupied by Mr. Wrights fish shop the market place."

Tracing back through the censuses it seems that this (in the 1950s) was the building now occupied by Diane's Pantry. In the early 20th century it was the premises of at least two butchers - W. J. Utting from about 1923 and before that by Richard Watts Austin.

YOUNG LADIES' SEMINARY.
MARKET PLACE, REEPHAM.
MRS. WOOLMER will be happy to receive
her Pupils on Tuesday, January 19th. [766]

Norfolk News 16 January 1864

SEMINARY,
MARKET PLACE, REEPHAM.
MRS. WOOLMER respectfully announces the
present vacation will terminate on Tuesday,
the 25th instant. [8752]

Norfolk News 15 July 1865