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### **Jno. Symonds, Reepham**

An Oak Long case Clock (FS27/674) offered in our Two Day Fine Art Sale starting on 14th July 2015 at our salerooms in Exeter, Devon.

#### **Description**

Jno. Symonds, Reepham, an oak long case clock the eight-day duration movement striking the hours on a bell, the twelve-inch square painted dial having centre sweep seconds hand and date hand, with black Roman hour numerals, outer Arabic five-minute numerals and an inner date ring, with flower and peach painted corner spandrels, blued steel hands and signed with the maker's name Jno. Symonds, Reepham, the faceplate to the dial stamped with the dial maker's name Wilson, the oak case with an arched trunk door, the hood with cresting to the top, turned wooden finials, full tapering pillars with cast brass capitals, and a plain base standing on bracket feet, height 211cm.

### **John Symonds (18th Century)**

*Biography of 18th Century English clockmaker John Symonds*

John Symonds is a well-recorded clockmaker from Reepham in Norfolk who married *Sarah Buddifut* at Thursford on the 17th June 1774 and was known to have taken a number of apprentices, including *Henry Brook* for 6 years from the 25th March 1784.

Symonds's shop was situated at the 'Sign of The Dial' in the north-west corner of the market square where his wife died in 1806 and his son, also John, was born and died in 1810.

John Symonds was the clockmaker to the diarist Parson Woodforde who lived at Weston Longville from 1776 until his death in 1803 and who made numerous interesting entries regarding Symonds over a period of time including, on the 31st August 1776: "Mr Symonds at Reepham brought home my new clock today and put the same up, for which I paid him £6.6.0. It is a very neat clock and I like it very much." (See *Norfolk and Norwich Clocks & Clockmakers*, edited by Clifford & Yvonne Bird for further information).



## Extracts regarding John Symonds & his son from Parson Woodforde's diary

*Parson Woodforde lived at Weston Longville from 1776 until his death in 1806 and made frequent visits to Reepham. The following diary entries relate to John Symonds :*

- 1776 Aug 31 Mr. Symonds at Reepham brought home my new clock today and put the same up, for which I paid him £6.6.0. It is a very neat clock and I like it very much.
- 1782 Mar 6 Mr. Symonds of Reepham came to my house this morn' and cleaned my lower clock and my Jack. He dined with our Folks in the kitchen. I paid him for a brass case to my large burning glass and reading glass 1s. Cleaning my clock also paid him 2s.6d. Cleaning my Jack also paid him 1s.
- 1782 Oct 23 Mr. Symonds came here this afternoon and cleaned my Jack and took away the Compass Wheel, as it required so large a weight to it and was always breaking the line. I hope now it will go better and with a less weight and above one quarter of the weight.
- 1789 Feb 6 Mr. Symonds of Reepham, Watchmaker, came to my house about noon and he dined with our Folks in the kitchen. He cleaned my large Clock. I paid him a Bill for cleaning clocks and watches for the year 1780 (?), £1.3s.6d. Cleaning my clock this day included with same.
- 1789 Nov 17 Mr. Symonds cleaned my Spring Clock. He dined here.
- 1790 Nov 19 Mr. Symonds of Reepham, Watchmaker, brought my Watch home this morning and he stayed and dined with our People in the kitchen after he had cleaned my eight Day Clock below stairs, which he made.
- 1791 Nov 21 Mr. Symonds of Reepham, Watchmaker, was at my House today and cleaned my upper Clock and he dined with our Folks in the kitchen.
- 1794 Dec 16 Mr. Symonds of Reepham cleaned both my eight day Clocks today, almost the whole day after them, he breakfasted and dined with our Folks. When he went away, which was in the Evening, I paid him a Bill for cleaning Clocks and Watch for October 1789 to December 1794 £1.0s.6d., cleaning my Clocks today included in it. I did not take any change of him out of a Guinea...
- 1796 Sept 11 I sent my Watch also by him [Briton, his servant] to Symonds the Watchmaker to be cleaned and regulated properly.
- 1798 May 2 Mr Simonds of Reepham came to my House this morning and cleaned my Clock for me. I likewise let him have my Watch to carry home to clean and regulate it. He dined here.
- 1798 Sept 11 Sat. Been this morning to Symonds of Reepham after my Watch, which he has had sometime for to clean. He returned with the same about 2 o'clock this afternoon.
- 1800 Nov 28 Clock cleaned by Symonds of Reepham.

### John Symonds, the son (1776-1810)

- 1802 Jan 12 John Symonds of Reepham, Watchmaker, Son of old Mr. Symonds, called on me this noon with a bill due to his Father for cleaning my Clocks from May 1st 1798, pd. him £0.16s.0d.

Picture of the face of another Symonds long case clock showing the maker's name.  
Found on a Spanish speaking website.

