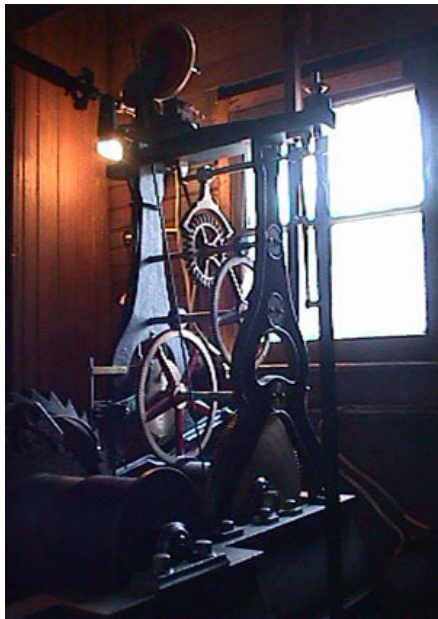


Tower Clock
George M. Stevens Tower Clock
Photographs courtesy of Magnetic North

The tower clock in the Conway Library was made by George M. Stevens Co. of Boston in the year 1900. In 1900, George Milton Stevens turned sixty-two years old, and was considering retirement. George Stevens was born in Boston in 1838 and started the clock company in 1864 with his father, Collins Stevens. George Stevens passed away in 1917. The time section of the clock is conventional, using a dead beat escapement as most of his competitor's did.



The strike section is unique. Stevens used the count wheel Crane striker system. This is a walking escapement which depends on striking hammer recoil for its control and function.

Torque from the drive weight drum goes directly to the hammer through two alternating push rods each handling approximately 300 pounds. The strike design is simple and efficient using a minimum number of parts to accomplish the striking task. However, it is difficult to adjust and is subject to severe damage due to the high forces if the mechanism misbehaves. None of the competitors copied this design. Eventually, Stevens copied his competitors. The count wheel Crane striker system did perform very well if properly monitored--and did last for many, many years. The large number of Stevens clocks still running and striking attest to

this.

*Paul Douglass - June 10, 1996,
Freedom NH*

NAWCC Bulletin, George M. Stevens & Company Tower Clocks by Frederick Shelley (CT)
April 1994