

[Mr. George Richmond]

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[???

Mr. George Richmond:

“Seems to me people paid a great deal more attention to their religion [?] a few years ago then they do now. My folks was kind of taken with Spiritualism.

I guess that's kind of dyin' out. I had an aunt went in for it. She was kind of an upstandin', independent sort of woman, didn't know whether to believe in it or not, but, she went to a meetin' one time.

“The medium tried to get in touch with my aunt's husband. Finally she says, [?] ‘Is they anybody here named Marthy? That's me, says my aunt. [?] “Well’, says the medium, ‘Henry is here, and he's knockin' to come in.’

“Leave him come in,’ says my [?] aunt. ‘He never had to knock when he was to home, and he don't have to knock now.’ Somebody started laughin' and that broke up the meetin'.

“But my dad and my mother had an experience one time. I can remember hearing them tell about it often. They was in bed, both of them, and my dad felt his side of the bed kind of raise in the air. He thought she was playin' some kind of a trick on him, so he didn't say nothin' at first, but it happened two-three times and finally he says to her: “What in blazes you tryin' to do?’ She says, ‘Why, ain't that you movin' the bed? And he says, ‘No, by gosh, it ain't me movin' the bed. And they both got up [?] in a hurry and went to the other room to sleep. Never did find out what did it. But they both believed a little [?] more in Spiritualism after that.

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"I don't know. [?] Now you asked me about stores, and of course I can't tell you anything about Seth Thomas' store, because that was gone before my time, but of course the stores [?] here when I was a young fellow were 2 all run by independent merchants. Today the independents is havin' a tough time gittin' by unless they belong to some association, which most of them do, I guess.

"But I don't think much of them chains. Tell you why. I was in [(Duff's)?] store one day and a lady came in, she says to old Pete: 'How much are your [?] canned peaches.' He told [?] her—twenty-five cents, or eighteen cents, or whatever it was. [?] 'Oh, my, she says, 'I can get 'em cheaper than that over at the First National.' Wellsir, they was a salesman standin' there listenin' to everything, and he spoke up, and he says: 'madam,' he says, 'show much are they at the First National.' She told him, I forget [?] what 'twas, say it was twenty cents. And he says to her: 'Here, [?] lady, take this twenty cents and go over there and get a can and bring them back here.' So, by golly, she did.

"When she got back, he took the can, and he says to [?] Pete 'Now, he says, 'Let's have a can of yours.' He got a can opener, and he opened both those cans right on the counter. 'Now lady,' he says, 'look here.' And he took half a dozen big slices out of Pete's can. 'And look here.' he says, and he took about four small ones out of the other can. 'You see that?' he says. 'You still think you're getting a bargain over there? I tell you lady,' he says. 'You get what you pay for, no matter where you get it. Only sometimes if you ain't careful, you get less.' Now, he was right, absolutely right, the way I look at it."

Andrew MacCurrie. Mr. MacCurrie is Scotch, but came to this country 46 years ago, went to work for Seth Thomas Clock and worked for the concern [?] off and on, he says, but about twenty years in all. He has decided opinions upon the advantages of [?] employment at the company in the 'good old days' as compared with the present.

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"For one thing," he says. "You [?] were always sure of a job.

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If you got laid off in this clock shop you could go to another. These days they favor their home town boys. Look what they did [?] over in Bristol last summer — laid off all their out of town help, [????] and told them when they did come back they'd better be prepared to make their homes in [?] Bristol.

“Another thing, they didn't push you like they do these days. Nowadays every thing is rush, rush rush! A man had a job years ago, he could damn near do what he wanted, within reason, and as long [?] as his work [?] was satisfactory.

“Now I used to have piecework jobs. I was buffin' for a while, and I did other work too, in the case shop. Some of them were hard and some were easy, and some of the prices were tough and some were good.

“Know what we used to do? When we got a good job we'd [?] get some work ahead — wouldn't put it in on the ticket, understand — [?] then when we got a poor job, we'd use that extra work and still be able to make a little money. You can't do that now, they watch you too damn close. You've got to account for every minute of your time.” 4 [?] 2nd “ - [3.45?] 3rd “ - 2.50 4th “ - 10.25 Northfield, Conn. [?] [?] - \$34. [Silver ?] - 10. [?] - 20. [?] - [?]

From the “Souvenir History of Plymouth.”

“Henry Terry in 1872, published a small pamphlet on American Clock Making from which is quoted the following:

Little is known concerning the making of clocks in this country anterior to the period of the Declaration of Independence, 1776. There were indeed a few clockmakers in New England and [?] elsewhere [?] before this time. Very few American clocks, however, can be found made [?] before this, and those are brass clocks, having a pendulum forty inches

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in length and vibrating in one second of time and adapted to a long case standing on the floor with a dial six feet from the floor.

“It is not known that any wooden clocks were made before this time, and very few, if any, anterior to the year 1792. The brass clocks made at this [?] early period were all similar to the English brass clocks and evidently made by men of skill in this department of labor. The clocks are still to be found. The workmanship of these American clocks is not inferior to those imported. An American clock was made in the town of Roxbury, Mass., by Simon Willard. A patent was obtained on it in the year [?] 1802. This proves that what we had supposed to be the truth before, that this kind of clock [?] [was ?] an American production, and that the art of clockmaking in this country [?] time was quite in advance of the arts touching other manufactures. These [clocks?] have from [?] that time been considered good timekeepers. There is evidence that good brass clocks were made in this country more than a hundred years ago. The same kind of brass clock, with much the same style and form of case, has been made [?] ever since by manufacturers near Boston and elsewhere. The statement, therefore, that has been made in advertising circulars and other publications, that American clocks were made wholly of wood until a late period, is not entitled to credit; nor has the story that ‘the wheels [?] were marked on the wood with square and compass, and then cut 5 out with a fine jack knife’ any better foundation. It is a traditional fabrication—a foolish story. It is wholly needless' to give currency to such fabulous stories, and stereotype them as part of the early history of clock making in this country. The clock makers of that age, as well as the artisans in other departments of labor, were not such bunglers as some would make them.

As part of this history, it should here be stated that Asa Hopkins, of the parish of Northfield, town of [?] Litchfield, Conn., obtained a patent about the year 1813, on an engine for cutting wheels. This invention was for the introduction and use of three mandrels, by which one row of teeth, on a number of wheels, was furnished by one operation of the engine, a machine still in use, but superseded at the time, by a new construction of an engine, with only one mandrel. Mr. Hopkins, whose factory was [?] four miles or so north of Thomaston,

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[?] profited little by that patent. He had few superiors as to mechanical skill, however, and really did more in the way of improvements, in machinery than others whose names have [?] become a [trade ?] mark for the prosecution, and continuance of the business. We speak not here against this use of names It is right; yet in giving the history of any branch [?] of industry, it is not right to ignore the skill and enterprise of men who in the early struggle contributed so largely to help alone such business.