

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Willard House & Clock Museum**  
*The Center of Early American Clockmaking*  
DATE: March 21, 2023  
CONTACT: Robert Gierschick, Dir. of Development



## **Willard House & Clock Museum Celebrating Simon Willard's 270<sup>th</sup> Birthday During the Month of April**

### **Willard launches April fun including a special month-long clock scavenger hunt at the Grafton Public Library**

**North Grafton - March 21, 2023** — Grafton's Simon Willard was born on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1753. His birthday will be celebrated during the entire month of April.

#### **Free Museum Admission**

Kicking off the festivities, the museum will offer FREE admission starting April 1<sup>st</sup>. This was made possible by a generous donation from [Gaudette Insurance](#) of North Grafton. Book a visit at: <https://willardhouse.org/contact>.

In addition, Willard will hold a birthday party on the grounds on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from noon to 3:00 PM. Come and enjoy cake and special children's activities. Register at <https://willardhouse.org/events/calendar/2022/4/2/simon-willards-birthday-9lr5t> so that the museum can order enough cake!

#### **GPL Clock Scavenger Hunt**

"Horology, the science of time and timekeeping, has been a neglected science throughout our schooling" explains Executive Director, Robert C. Cheney "yet it is perhaps the most important of the sciences for the development of our modern world. Virtually every important discovery you can think of depends on horology."

The museum has partnered with the Grafton Public Library on a special clock scavenger hunt, at the library. First through sixth graders are invited to find clocks of various types including a Benjamin Willard Jr. tall case clock and an Aaron Willard steeple clock. Participating children will turn in a check list and receive glow-in-the-dark stickers highlighting the museum's collection. "We are thrilled to provide an interactive, DIY program for youth this month celebrating our partnership with Willard House and Clock Museum!" says Library Director, Beth Schreiber.

## **A Special Drawing for Scavenger Hunt Participants**

The museum will hold a special drawing as part of its Clocks for Kids program and will give away a restored shelf clock to a lucky winner at the end of April. The prize makes a nice introduction to conventional (non-digital) clocks.

## **Richard Potter's 19<sup>th</sup> Century Magic Show, April 21st**

Rounding out the month, Willard will host Richard Potter's 19<sup>th</sup> Century Magic show on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

"Willard is pleased to welcome back Robert Olson as Richard Potter to amaze our audience with his marvelous feats of magic. Robert has made it his life's devotion to study and perform as Potter and his passion shines through", says Cheney. "His prior appearance was standing room only, so order your seats early."

Wearing 19<sup>th</sup> century costume, veteran magician, Olson, brings Richard Potter's 1800s magic to audiences, using original and recreated props (cards, coins, ribbons, and boxes) as well as costumes and the language that was used during that period--all to carry the audience back in time.

## **About Willard House and Clock Museum - Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Located at 11 Willard Street in North Grafton, MA, Willard House and Clock Museum exhibits more than 90 Willard clocks in the birthplace and original workshop of the Willard clockmakers, along with family portraits, furnishings and other family heirlooms. The work of all three generations of Willard clockmakers, focusing on the famed brothers, Simon Willard and Aaron Willard are displayed. The Museum tour includes the original Willard House built in 1718, the original 1766 clock-making workshop, and three modern galleries.

Willard is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Visit the Willard House and Clock Museum website at [www.willardhouse.org](http://www.willardhouse.org) and follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

For more information about the museum, please contact Beverly Snow, Program Coordinator, at 508-839-3500.

#####