



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Bureau of Historic Sites -Peebles Island, P.O. Box 219, Waterford, New York 12188

518-237-8643
Fax: 518-235-4248

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To whom it may concern

Jack Betterly undertook the treatment of cleaning and repair of a 19th century French clock owned by New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The clock is exhibited at the Staatsburg Mansion in Staatsburg, New York, the late 19th century Beaux-Arts mansion created by Ogden and Ruth Livingston Mills.

Mr. Betterly took the time to understand what our needs were in the treatment of this historic timepiece. We were interested in preserving the clock and returning it to working condition – if determined to be safe. He was very familiar with this caliber of clock and was able to guide us to the proper treatment ensuring that the clock can be safely run for years to come – enhancing the interpretation of the historic site.

Mr. Betterly showed great knowledge and skill in the work that he performed on the clock. He was sensitive to the historic nature of the clock and to our desire to limit intervention. He undertook historic research on the clock-works and clock-making firm to allow us to better understand how this particular clock fits into the collection of clocks assembled by Mr. Ogden Mills. Mr. Betterly also graciously instructed site staff in the proper running of the clock to ensure it would be properly cared for.

I highly recommend Jack Betterly to undertake the cleaning and repair of any quality timepiece. I hope that we will be able to turn to him in the future for the treatment of other clocks in the New York State Parks system.

Heidi Miksch, Decorative Arts Conservator
New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation