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Willard House & Clock Museum
The Center of Early American Clockmaking

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Development



Willard House & Clock Museum Announces 5th Annual David G. Gow Memorial Scholarship

Gow Family Doubles Scholarship Award to \$10,000 to Support the Next Generation of Professional Clockmakers

North Grafton, MA, September 17, 2026: The Willard House & Clock Museum, in partnership with the family of former museum conservator David G. Gow, is pleased to announce the 5th Annual David G. Gow Memorial Scholarship for Horology—and an exciting expansion of the program: the annual scholarship award has doubled from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

The increased award reflects the Gow family's continued commitment to advancing the highly specialized field of horology and helping talented individuals pursue professional careers in clockmaking, conservation and museum-grade restoration.

"The Gow family is passionate about supporting the highly specialized and technical role of clockmaking and museum-grade restoration work," said Robert C. Cheney, Executive Director of Willard House & Clock Museum. "These are extraordinary skills that require years of education, hands-on experience, mentoring and specialized tools. Increasing the scholarship to \$10,000 gives the next generation of clockmakers a significantly greater opportunity to pursue the training they need to build successful careers."

Cheney added, "The career path of conservator-level clockmaking is not well defined, and there are virtually no apprenticeship programs available. Financial assistance for advanced training can also be difficult to find. The Gow family understands this need and has made an extraordinary commitment to helping address it."

Investing in the Future of Clockmaking

Established in memory of David G. Gow, a respected clock conservator, the scholarship supports students and emerging professionals seeking advanced education, specialized training and professional development in horology.

The need is significant. As highly trained clockmakers and restoration specialists retire, there is a growing shortage of professionals with the technical skills required to repair, conserve and restore historic timepieces.

The scholarship is already making a difference in the careers of recipients across the

country. Previous recipients have credited the scholarship with providing access to mentors, advanced training and funding for essential tools.

Cultivating a National Community of Clockmakers

The Gow family's commitment extends beyond providing financial assistance. The goal is to help cultivate a national community of skilled clockmakers, conservators and mentors who can carry the profession forward.

"My family has deep connections with clockmakers and restoration experts," said Callum Gow, a member of the scholarship review board. "There is a severe shortage of these highly skilled and trained specialists, and it's our mission to help cultivate and grow this community over the many years to come."

2026 Scholarship Details

The 5th Annual David G. Gow Memorial Scholarship for Horology includes:

- \$10,000 scholarship award, doubled from \$5,000 in previous years.
- Open to U.S.-based students and emerging professionals who have begun pursuing a career in clockmaking.
- Funds may be used for advanced courses, specialized training, educational programs, travel and other professional-development opportunities related to horology and clockmaking.

Applications are due November 4, 2026. The 2026 scholarship recipient will be announced on December 15, 2026.

To learn more about the Memorial Scholarship for Horology, go to:
<https://willardhouse.org/david-gow-scholarship>. Read about the Gow Scholarship recipients: <https://willardhouse.org/scholarship-recipients>.

About Willard House and Clock Museum - Planning for the next 50 years.

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. Works by all three generations of Willard clockmakers, and the famed clockmakers Simon Willard Jr. and Benjamin Franklin Willard, are also displayed. The Museum tour includes the Willard House, built in 1740, the original 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

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