

How did a clock made by John Fardon II (1736-86) arrive in San Francisco, USA?

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Tom Reggiardo, from San Francisco, California, buys an old clock from an acquaintance who originally purchased it in New York in the 1950s. It bears the name 'In Fardon, Deddington'. So he puts this into his internet search engine and lands on the article about [Deddington Clockmakers](#) on DOL which includes information about the Fardon family. He is also able to email me, as author, to ask for help in identifying his clock and its maker more precisely.

I immediately put Tom in touch with Tim Marshall — an Oxfordshire-based expert and author of the book [The Quaker Clockmakers of North Oxfordshire](#) — and drew his attention to the excellent article about [John Fardon II](#) (1736-86) written by Jill Adams. Within 24 hours Tom and Tim have exchanged information and [photographs](#) and Tom realises he is the lucky owner of a superb Tavern Clock by John Fardon II. Not surprisingly he is enormously grateful for this information.

'Tavern' clocks were so called because they were hung in drinking houses — and churches! — beginning in the mid-18th century. They also became known as 'Parliament' clocks when a tax against clocks of five shillings was introduced in 1797. The tax was so unpopular with clockmakers that it was repealed after nine months.

However, apart from being yet another example of the world-wide reach of DOL, the interesting historical question posed here is who took the clock to North America? We have details of several families who emigrated to North America in the 19th century. The extract that follows is from a much longer article, [Emigration](#), which records all the names of the Deddington families and the circumstances of the deaths of one-third of the ship's passengers from cholera on the *Brutus*. The incidental apprehension of a murderer is also recounted in the article.

[18 May 1832](#) The *Brutus* (Captain Neilson) sailed from Liverpool for Quebec and Montreal. Cholera broke out early in the voyage forcing the ship to return to Liverpool. Almost one third of the 330 passengers died. Deddington surnames: Abraham, Bray, Cooper, Cowley, Eddon, Fletcher, Gardner, [Gibbs](#), Gilkes, Green, Higgs, Moore, Nichols, Paine, Rymill, Tustain, Wheeler, Wickham.

[19 April 1845](#) The *Saint Anne* (Richards) sailed from Southampton for Quebec and Montreal. Deddington surnames: Bennett, Bonham, Gibbs, Miller, Pain, Vincent, Williams.

[Circa 1856](#) James Knibbs of Clifton to Connecticut.
