

Fig. 107 Welch, Spring and Company White Label

### Labels

The Welch, Spring and Company used mainly two style identification labels, the white with black printing and the solid black with gold lettering.<sup>62</sup> In most cases, the white labels were printed by the Calhoun Print Works, Hartford, Connecticut. A few of the thirty-hour white labels were printed by the Case, Lockwood and Brainard Printers, Hartford, Connecticut, which also printed the black labels with the gold lettering. Neither the black label on the backboard showing the clocks "sir name" nor the black label on the inside of the case on the face of the base had any printer's name on them. The black label on the inside of the case read:

"Eight-day and One-day  
Brass Clocks  
Manufactured & Sold by  
Welch, Spring and Co.,  
Forestville, Conn., U.S.A."

The best way to answer the greatest number of questions about the labels is to show examples of the styles that the Welch, Spring and Company most frequently used.

The eight-day label (Figure 107) was used on wall and shelf models without the visible pendulums and black flocked paper on the backboard. After considerable research, I have been unable to determine what the March 17, 1868, patent date signifies.

The Welch, Spring and Company weight and spring "Office, Mantel, and Regulator Styles" label was used on

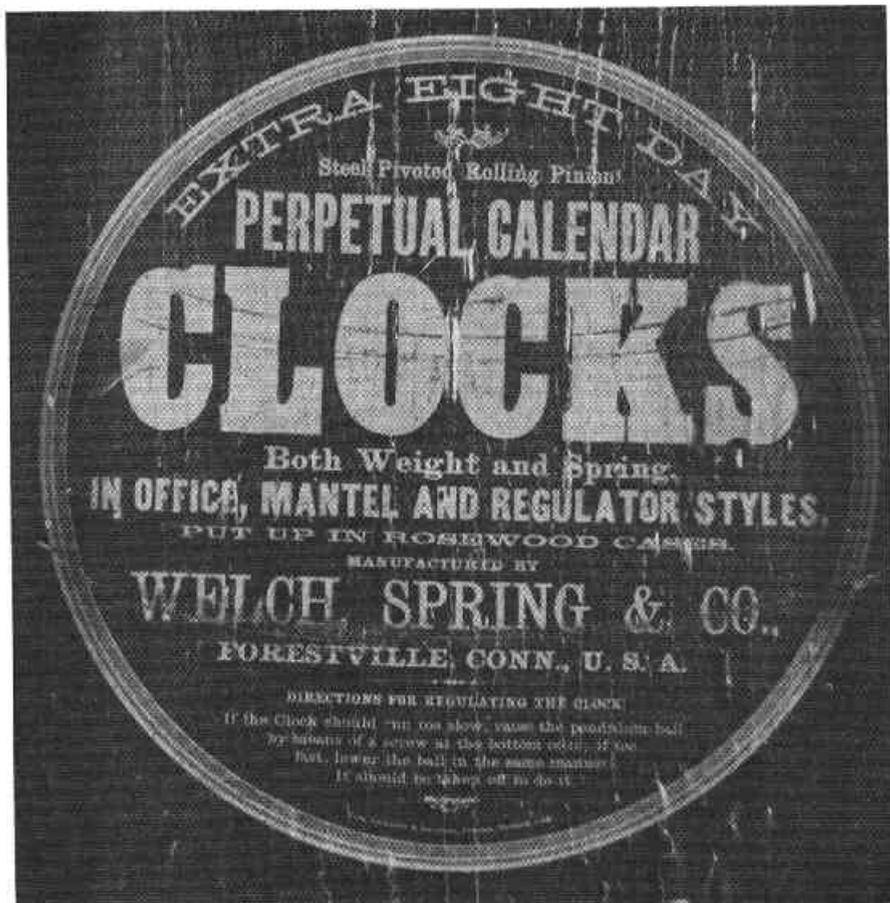


Fig. 108 Welch, Spring and Company Black Label



Fig. 109 Example of the Welch, Spring and Company's "Sir Name" Label

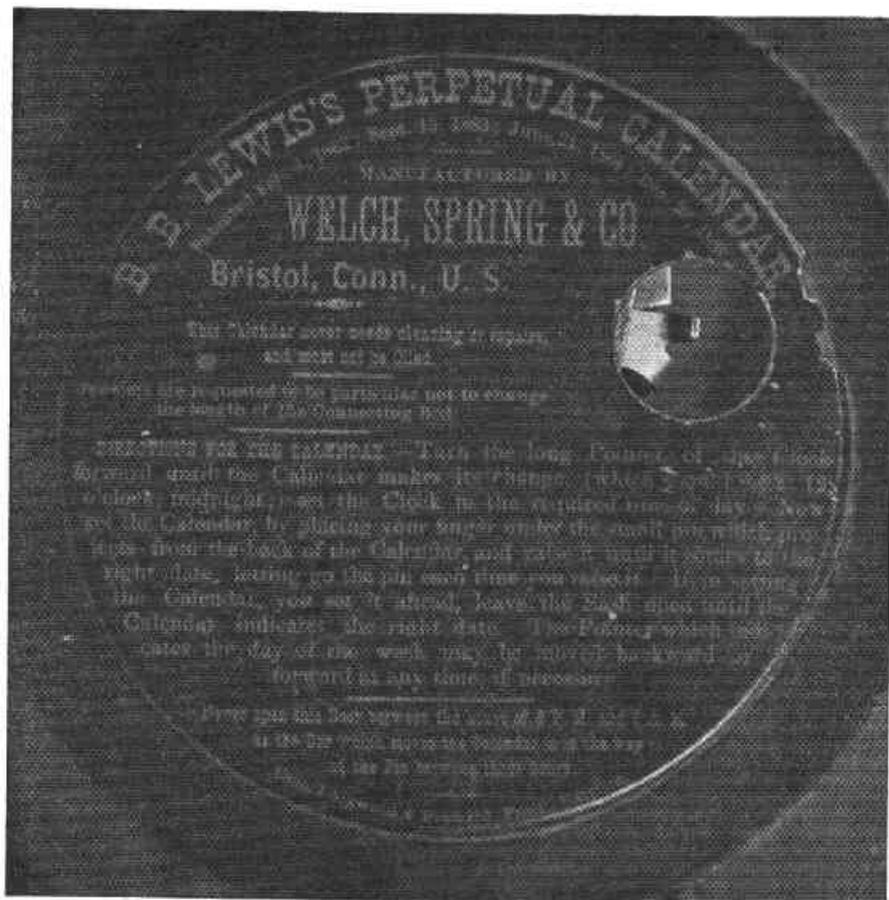


Fig. 110 Calendar Cover Label

the inside backboard in place of the black flocked paper on the models without visible pendulums. This label (Figure 108) is very similar to the ones that Solomon Spring put in the regulator cases he made for L. F. & W. W. Carter and the S. C. Spring Clock Company. The label used on the Cary model (Figure 109) is an excellent example of the *sur name* or identification label used. These labels were always pasted on the back of the backboard.

Figures 110 and 111 illustrate two of the labels used on the cover plate of the B. B. Lewis' perpetual calendar mechanism. The main difference between the two is the position of the "Welch, Spring and Company's" name. Note that the B. B. Lewis' per-

petual calendar labels have "Welch, Spring and Company, Bristol, Connecticut" not "Forestville, Connecticut". Why the B. B. Lewis' perpetual calendar labels show Bristol, Connecticut, still remains a mystery, for all the records, literature and reference information clearly show Forestville, Connecticut, as the official home of the Welch, Spring and Company.

### Unique Engineering Designs

There are two more engineering designs that are quite unique and are only found on Welch, Spring and Company clocks. The first is an extra wheel mounted to the first wheel and attached with a small spring thereby adding maintaining power to both drive wheels (Figure 112). Again,

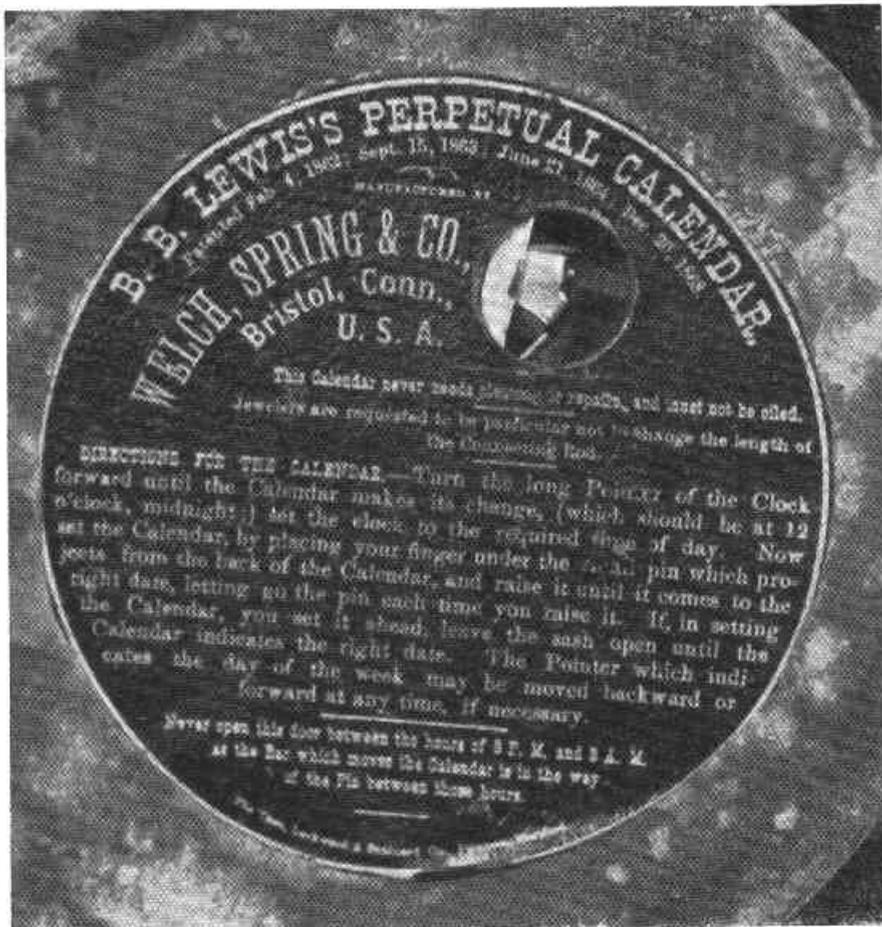


Fig. 111 Another Example of the Calendar Cover Label used

B. B. Lewis was the inventor and received Patent No. 252,588 on January 17, 1882, for it (Figure 113). In most cases, it was used in the No. 2 Regulators made after 1881.

The other unusual item was an eccentric beat setter as shown in Figure 114. Note that the crutch is made from a solid brass strip and has a rotating disc mounted at the point where the crutch wire enters the pendulum. With the disc being a pressure fit it can be rotated to allow the crutch wire to take an eccentric position which, in turn, allows the movement to be put into beat without bending the crutch wire. Previously shown movements, in Figures 37 and 97, illustrate how this works in actual cases.

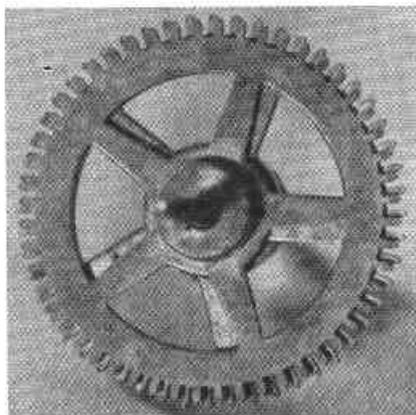


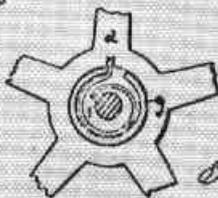
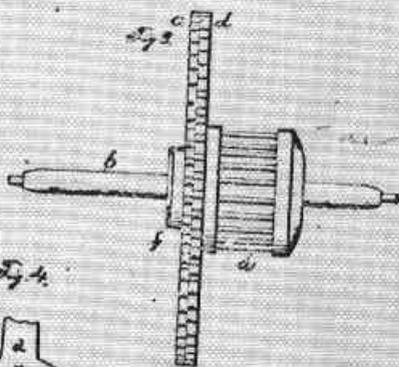
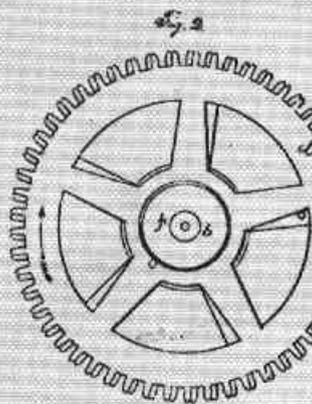
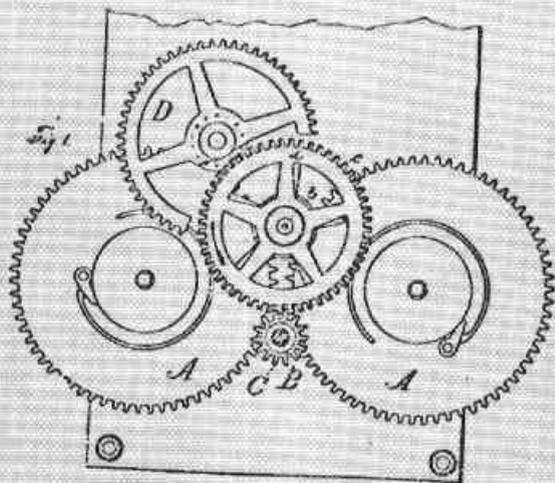
Fig. 112 B. B. Lewis' Maintaining Power Drive Wheel

(Model)

B. B. LEWIS.  
CLOCK MOVEMENT.

No. 252,588.

Patented Jan. 17, 1882.



Witnesses

John Edwards for  
Brymond & Sons

Inventor  
Benjamin B. Lewis  
By James Sheppard  
att'y

Fig. 113 B. B. Lewis' Maintaining Power Patent

## Dissolvement of the Welch, Spring & Co. 1884

After only sixteen years of producing a superior quality clock line, it became apparent that these clocks were too costly to produce and much too expensive for the public to buy. Without any indication that the market would change or that the public would demand a quality clock over an inexpensive model, the partners of the Welch, Spring and Company had no alternative but to dissolve the company. On July 24, 1884, at the annual business meeting of the E. N. Welch Manufacturing Company, a motion was made, "to purchase the entire property of the Welch, Spring and Company after an appraisal and that E. N. Welch would be authorized to make said purchase."<sup>63</sup> Since four out of the five Welch, Spring and Company partners were the stockholders of the E. N. Welch Manufacturing Company, the motion was passed thus ending the partnership. On July 30, 1884, after the appraisal had been completed, E. N. Welch purchased for the E. N. Welch Manufacturing Company all lands, buildings, inventory, and machinery that belonged to the Welch, Spring and Company for \$10,000.00.<sup>64</sup> Thirty-five days later on September 4, 1884, the *Bristol Press* noted that all work at the Bristol plant had been discontinued. Although the E. N. Welch Manufacturing Company did try to consolidate a portion of the Welch, Spring and Company clock line into theirs, it proved to be not only unprofitable but unsuccessful for them as well. So ended Bristol's last hope to bring quality and superior workmanship back to the clock industry. Mass production had won, for the public only wanted an inexpensive item, not one of beauty, dependability, and style. One hundred years later, the Welch, Spring and Company is beginning to receive the full recognition and respect it worked so hard to achieve in the 1870's and 1880's.

At the time the company was sold, Solomon Spring was made superintendent of the E. N. Welch Manufacturing Company, and he remained in this capacity until 1893, when the company

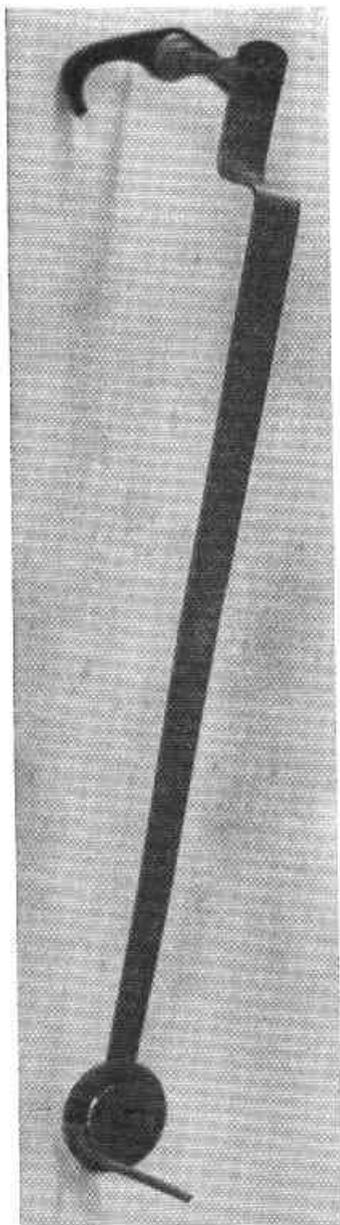


Fig. 114 Welch, Spring and Company's  
Unique Beat Setter