

Milton's Commemorative Gold Watches – A Mystery from the Past

Project Supplementary Report: Watch Details

Since the publication of the report on "[*Milton's Commemorative Gold Watches*](#)" there has been worldwide interest in the project. As expected, there was an interest in the Great War history of the watches and the men that received them, but there was an unexpected interest in the actual watches. By coincidence, a colleague who was researching military weapons is also a member of "[*The Internet Horology Club*](#)" who have been able to provide links to reports and databases related to the Milton watches.

In an effort to obtain additional information on the whereabouts of any of the Milton watches, a notice has been posted to the web site forum of the "[*National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors, Inc.*](#)".

This report, which was previously a separate page of the MHS web site contains details of the individual watches as the process of examining the details of the watches continues. Some of the information from the generic pages is reproduced here, followed by the more detailed review of the watches. Larger scale images of the inserts in the report are included in the report appendix. A copy of this report will be included on the MHS web site at:

<http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca/military/project-reports/gold-watch-mystery/>

The watch that started the project was the one brought into the Milton Legion by Ron Regan – the watch given to his grandfather by the Town of Milton when he returned from the First World War (the Great War of 1914-1921).



The Regan Watch

The Baverstock Watch:

We are indebted to Lorne Wasylishen for his guidance on how to further examine the Baverstock Waltham watch to learn more about its origin. Previously we had photographed to exterior of the watch case but had never opened up the watch. It was actually quite a simple job to go to that next phase of the investigation:

The watch as it first appeared in the photographs for the report and web site:



Front Face:

Waltham (American Watch Company,
Waltham Massachusetts)
12 hour clock markings only
Glass is missing, second hand is missing

Case:

Gold cover marked 1128668 (inside)
Front and rear case patter is Maple Leaf
branches

Rear Cover Case Inscriptions:

CASHIER
Unknown "winged emblem" A.W.C. CO.
Gold Filled Extra
1128668

Rear Body Inscription:

THE GREAT WAR
In Memory Of
Private E. Baverstock
From
Citizens of Milton
July 1, 1917

Lorne first provided a link to [The Internet Horology Club](#) where he also posted information about the Milton Gold Watch project and images of the watches. He then went on to provide guidance as to how to learn more about the watch:

There are a number of markings inside the watch. The image shown here has the larger outer case open on the left side of the image and then the smaller rear cover of the watch. Both covers are visible in the left side of the image. All of the details then shown inside the watch are clear in the alternate large scale images provided.

In the lower section the wording is:

American Waltham Watch Co.

In the upper right (2 o'clock position) the watch serial number is clearly visible as:



For larger scale images please see Figure 1 and 2 in the Appendix to this report.



primary serial number



alternate number on rim

11284730

In the outside rim of the watch, at the 11 o'clock position there is another number (meaning unknown):

C04137

The primary watch serial number 11284730 can be entered into the [NAWCC Information Storage](#) data base which reveals the following information: (see [Waltham Database Glossary](#) for meaning)

Start:		End:	
First:	11280001	Last:	11291000
Model:	1890	Name:	
Material:	U	Grade:	Seaside,
Size:	6	Size:	6
Plate:		Plate:	
Jewelling:		Jewels:	7-15
Balance:		Bal:	Breguet Spring
Style:		Style:	
Comment:	53		
Source:		Date:	





This image shows the inscription on the inside cover of the watch mechanism, open against the back case of the watch. The inscription, clearly visible in the full scale image, is as follows:

CASHIER
Extra
1085368

It would appear this is the model and serial number of the watch inner case, as compared to the image below which is the watch exterior case.

For larger image see Figure 3



This is a more detailed image of the inside of the back cover of the Baverstock Waltham watch which shows the following:

CASHIER
emblem
A. W. C. CO.
GOLD FILLED
EXTRA
1128668

For larger scale see Figures 4 and 5



The outer case of the Baverstock watch is intricately engraved in a MAPLE LEAF pattern.



The inscription to Private Baverstock is engraved on the outside of the inner watch case so that it is visible when the rear of the watch case is opened. The inscription reads as follows:

**THE GREAT WAR
IN MEMORY OF
PTE. E. BAVERSTOCK
FROM
CITIZENS OF MILTON
1ST JULY 1917**

For a larger image see Figure 6

The Regan Watch:

The Regan and Baverstock watches are significantly different in size, manufacturer and details. Private Baverstock was killed in the war and his watch was presented to the family at the July 1st 1917 Dominion Day Celebrations in Milton, whereas Private Regan survived the war and was presented with his watch upon his return home.

Lorne has provided a link to a publication on the Archive.org web site that provides details on the Regan watch case.

- [P. W. ELLIS and Co. Limited](#)
[1915-1916 Illustrated Catalogue](#)

The watch as it first appeared in the photographs for the report and web site:



Front Face:

Regina - Swiss Made
12 & 24 hour clock in large and small numerals
Glass is cracked

Case:

Gold cover on rear of watch only
Rear pattern is a shield or crest

Rear Cover Case Inscriptions:

SOVEREIGN Gold Filled
Maple Leaf with "E" marking emblem
Gold Filled
224987

Rear Body Inscription:

To
S. Regan
from
Town of Milton
Great War
1914-19

Lorne provided details on how to carefully open the watch to locate the serial number, which is shown below:

There are two major markings inside the watch.

The serial number:

5286487

Lorne provided a link to the OMEGA watch on the web page of the "[National](#)



You will note the serial number is in the center of the image, a bit to the right under the gear.

See Figure 7 for larger scale.



Association of Watch & Clock Collectors, Inc.". Apparently OMEGA bought out REGINA in 1912 but continued to manufacture a lesser grade watch under the REGINA brand. The serial number shows for a production during the period 1916-1927.

At this time we do not have information to search this serial number. We will have to wait to see what the experts in Horology have to say.

In addition to the serial number, there is additional wording as noted on the far left side of the inner mechanism or at the 9 o'clock position in the photograph to the left:

**REGINA WATCH Co. SWISS
17 JEWELS ADJUSTED
2 POSITIONS**

Here the image has been rotated and cropped to show the wording.

click on image for larger scale



There also appears to be some form of detailed graphic under the mechanism below the serial number, as shown in the enlargement on the left. My digital camera equipment did not allow me to improve on this close-up.



Unlike the Baverstock Waltham watch, there is no information on the inside watch mechanism cover.

There is a pattern to the gold finish, perhaps anticipating that in some instances there would be an inscription inserted at that point.



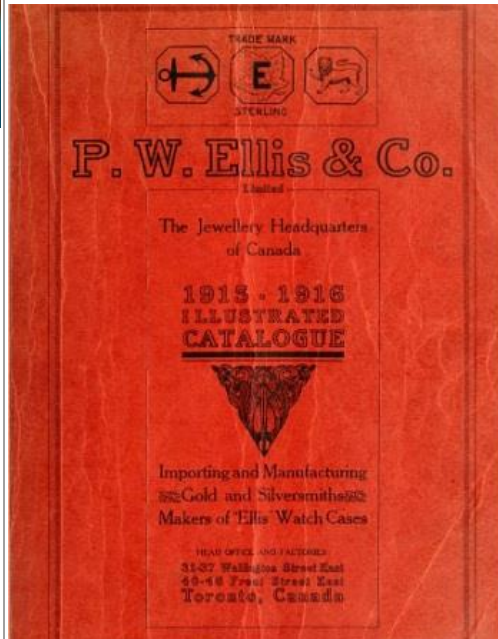
The inside of the watch case does have wording:

SOVEREIGN
Maple Leaf with "E" marking emblem
GOLD FILLED
224987

Lorne provided us with a link to a book about the ELLIS WATCHES which provides further information:

[click on book cover to view the document](#)

See Figure 8 for larger scale.





You will note that on page 4 of the book there is an image of the maple leaf and the "E" insert ("Ellis").



The outer case of the Regan watch has a clear emblem, but either does not appear in the book or I am missing it!



The inside markings of the watch contain the inscription:

**To
S. Regan
from
Town of Milton
Great War
1914-19**

See Figure 9 for larger size.

The Morley Watch:

As this watch is not in our possession, we do not have the ability to investigate it further at this time. I will contact the owner for additional details. It will be interesting to see if the markings are identical to those of the Regan watch, which we can then compare to the dates when they were issued.

What we do have for this watch is a number of photographs provided by Greg Melanson, the custodian of the Morley OMEGA/REGINA watch. Note that the full scale images of the Morley watch are only a fraction of the size of the Baverstock and Regan watches.



See Figure 10 for larger size.

Front Face:

Missing

Case:

Regan style

Rear Cover Case Inscriptions:

unknown at this time

Rear Body Inscription:

To
S. Morley
from
Town of Milton
Great War
1914-1919

Note that the script of the engraving in the Morley watch differs from the Regan watch. It is theorized the watches were purchased in bulk and the inscriptions were made by the Milton jeweler (*Marchand*) at a later date.



The inside of the watch case has a similar inscription to the Regan watch, only the number differs::

SOVEREIGN
Maple Leaf with "E" marking
emblem
GOLD FILLED
271074



This version of the image shows the case components, as there is no mechanism left in this watch.



SAMUEL MORLEY "Regal" Gold Watch (case)



It would appear that the inside of this watch mechanism cover (as compared to the watch case cover) has a serial number:

224417

In an earlier photograph (see below), the serial number was not visible. What appeared initially to be a logo above the number appears now to be only a smudge mark.



S. Morley - Milton

In an earlier picture of the Morley watch, prior to it being polished by the owner, there appears to be similar finishes to the inside cover of the watch mechanism.

The smudge mark is clearly evident in this photograph but not the number. The number may be blocked from view.



The various components of the Morley watch are visible in this open shot, which is the only image showing the outer case. It is not possible from this image to tell if it is the same as the Regan watch.

Perhaps we can obtain additional images from Greg Melanson, until such time as we have the opportunity to personally inspect the watch.

Appendix 1: Enlarged Watch Photographs



Figure 1: Baverstock Watch



Figure 2: Baverstock Watch



Figure 3: Baverstock Watch Inside Cover



Figure 4: Baverstock Watch Inside Cover



Figure 5: Baverstock Maple Leaf Case



Figure 6: Baverstock Inscription



Figure 7: Regan Watch Number



Figure 8: Regan Watch Markings



Figure 9: Regan Watch Inscription



Figure 10: The Morley Watch