

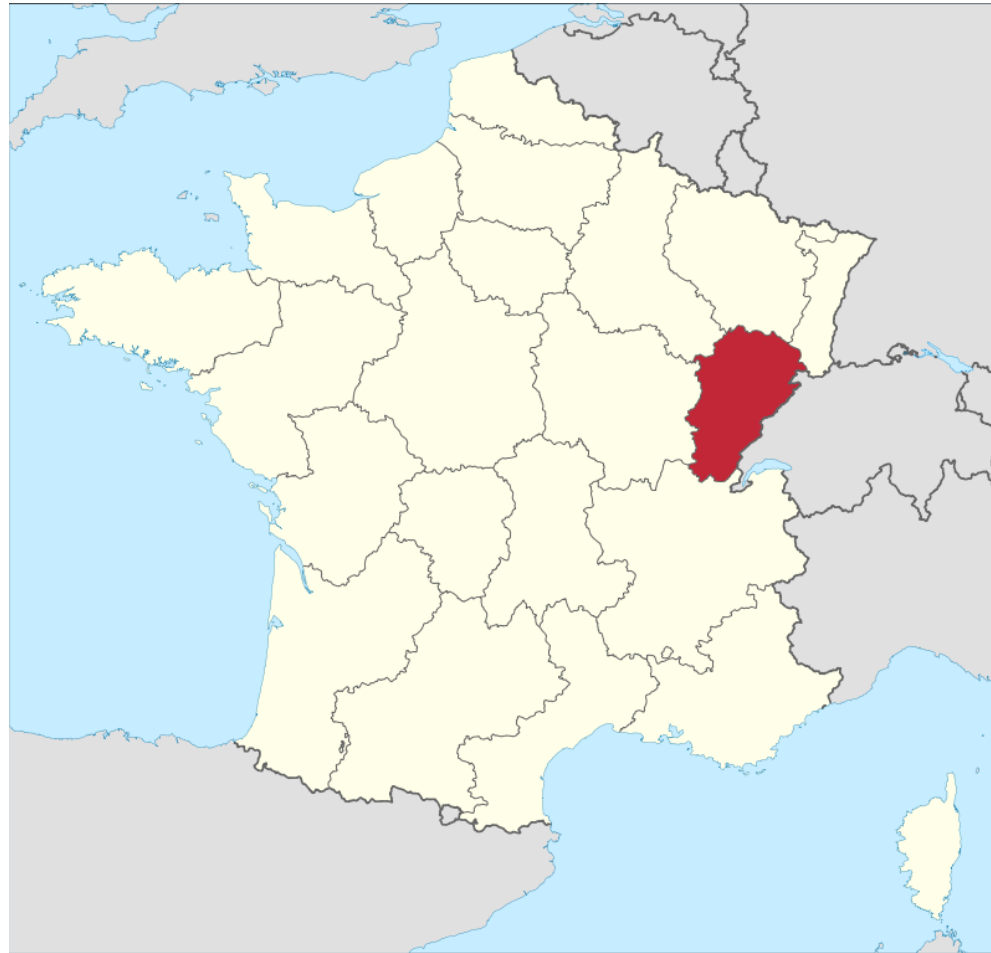


DATING A MORBIER

MORBIER or COMTOISE CLOCK



FRANCHE-COMTE' REGION



DATING YOUR MORBIER

- **When it comes to dating clocks there is only one hard and fast rule and that is, “There are no hard and fast rules.” This is especially true for Morbier clocks.**
- Ken McWilliams

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A MORBIER

- It's a family affair
- Sometimes an entire village
- Final assembly by a few clockmakers
- 240 years of improvements and modifications

Owner improvements over the years
hands, dials and surrounds

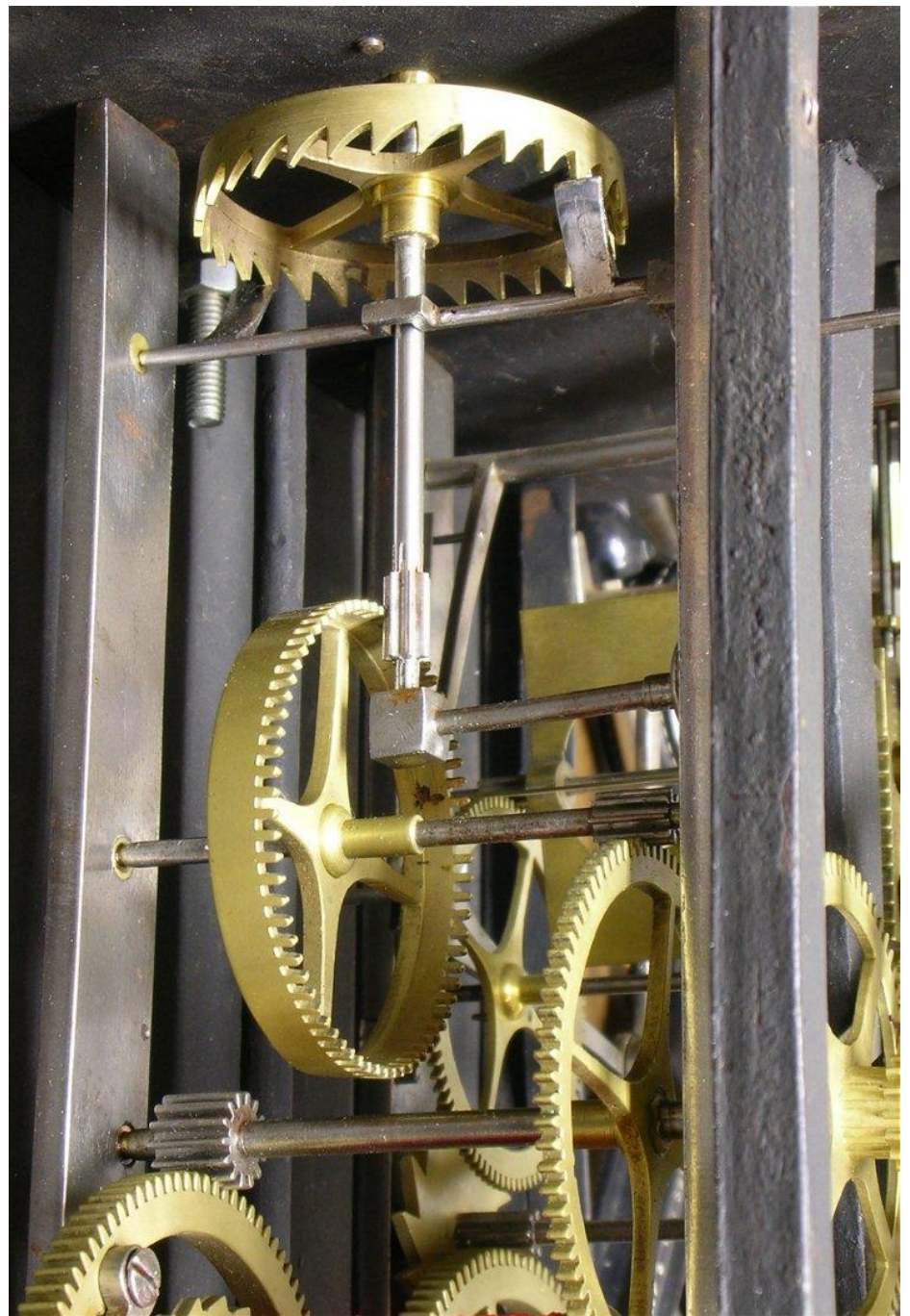
Look for modification clues.



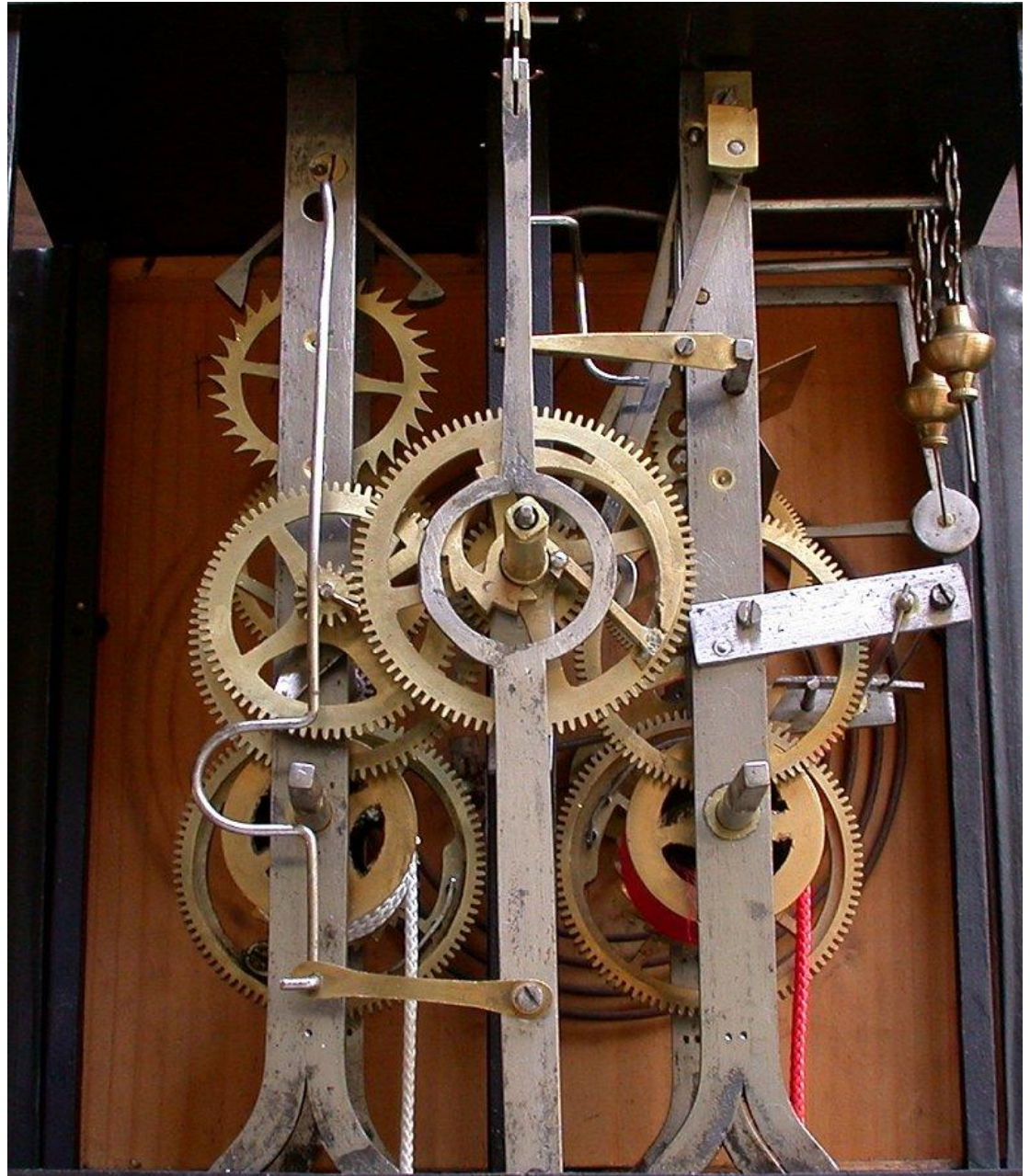
WHERE DO I START?

- Pendulum suspension tower hanger (string)
 - at rear, 5" high is pre 1760
 - at rear 2.5" 1740 – 1800
- Tower moved to the front around 1795 till 1825
- Anchor escapement appeared around 1815 along with a lower mount suspension spring hanger
- Check for case for clues of a modification

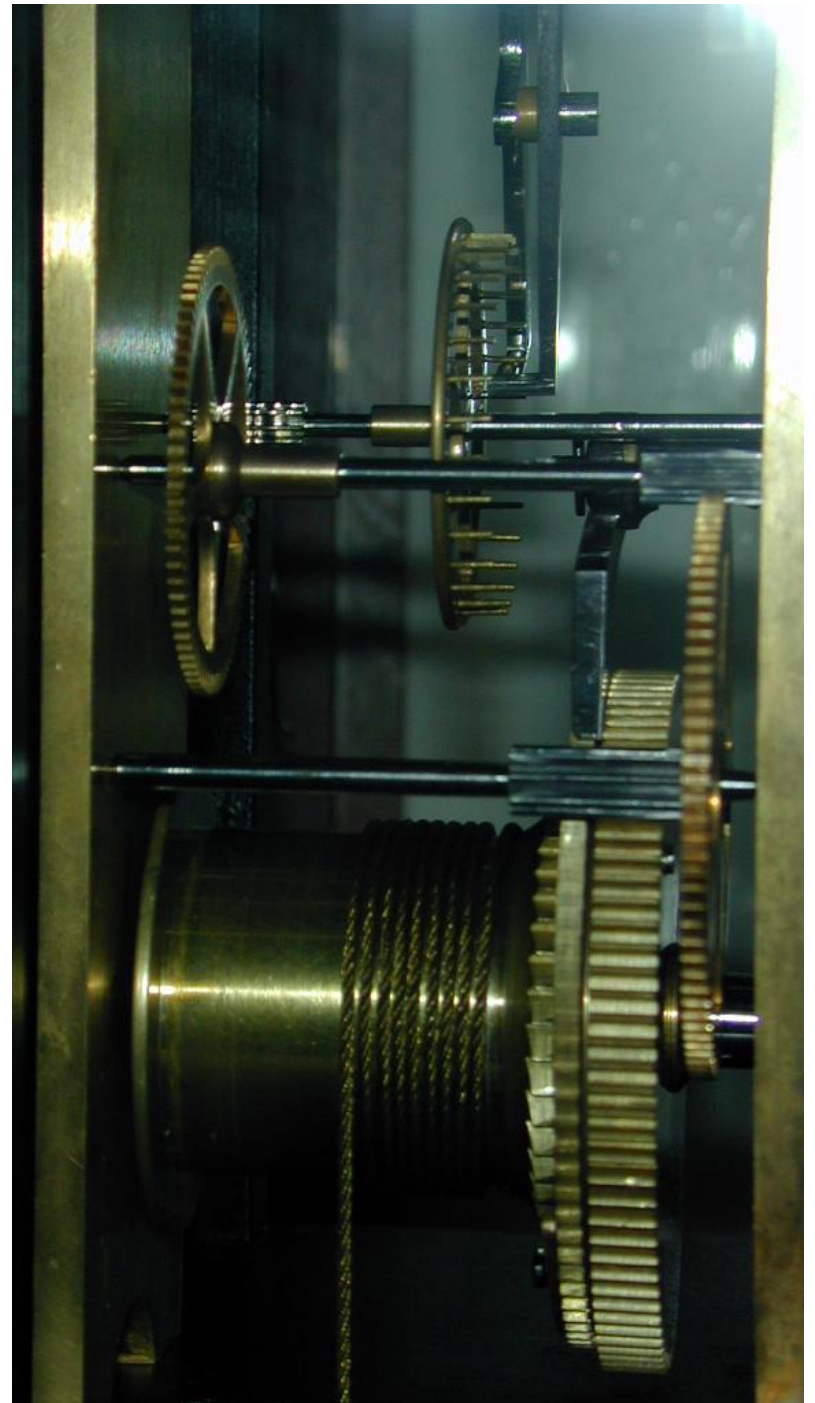
CROWN WHEEL
ESCAPEMENT
1680-1840



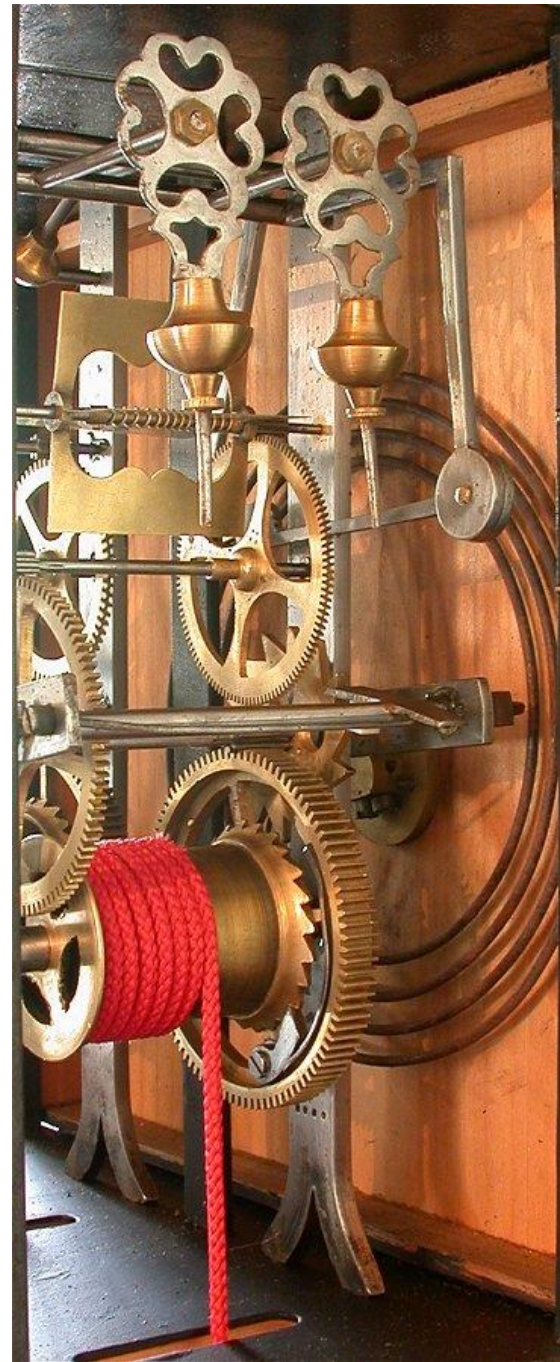
ANCHOR
ESCAPEMENT
1790-1920



PINWHEEL
ESCAPEMENT
1820-1890



STRIKE MECHANISM AFTER 1800



CAST HEADPIECE or SURROUND

- Cast brass, pre 1800.
- The motif represented the political era
 - Backward looking rooster was during Louis XIV & XV. Often with clasped hands showing solidarity with the king.
 - French Revolution (1795 – 1799)
 - Napoleon brought in eagles



REPOUSSE SURROUNDS

- Common events with happy scenes.
- 1805 – 1850 made of 2 pieces but did not extend top and bottom
- 1860 – larger surrounds.
 - Some painted, precious stones
 - Matching repousse pendulums



Morbier Time Line

1680 1700 1750 1800 1850 1900 1930

