

# GMK-Fancher - Torrington Model - Tall Case Clock - (circa mid-1980s)



WNS-CLK-109 - GMK-Fancher - Torrington - Model 107 - Full Front View



WNS-CLK-109 - GMK-Fancher - Torrington - Model 107 - Full Front Dial View



WNS-CLK-109 - GMK-Fancher - Torrington - Model 107 - Top Right Front View



WNS-CLK-109 - GMK-Fancher - Torrington - Model 107 - Pendulum View

# **GMK-Fancher Clock Company - Floor Clock - Model 107 Torrington (circa mid-1980s) - Beautiful Mahogany and Cherry Wood case with the best cabinetry workmanship.**

This is a very nice example of the extraordinary workmanship of a GMK-Fancher Clock Company's casework. I purchased this clock in October 2009 after finding it on a Craigslist advertisement. I had to order new pulleys and a movement winder and it is now looking and working like new. It features a nice moon phase dial (29 1/2 days) with views of stars and a full moon face. It is made from beautiful solid mahogany and cherry wood.

Additional features include:

- 2 easy access side doors (mitered and dowelled)
- German made weight driven Kieninger triple chime clock movement with 3 solid brass weights and ornately designed pendulum.
- The back of the Cabinet is completely finished (The back panel provides the access to the Kieninger clock movement)
- 1-1/2" door with wooden glass retainers and coordinated quality solid brass hardware
- All four panels (each side and two in the front) have beveled glass
- Solid hardwood with hand finishes with coordinated (book matched with a superb grain pattern) crown design

It stands 79" tall (from the bottom to the top of the finial) and is 21" wide and 12-1/2" deep. There are 3 weights that work on an 8 day cycle that wind the German Kieninger movement.

**Item ID: WNS-CLK-109**

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*The GMK-Fancher Clock Company (1979 - 1987)*

*By George Mueck*

*(Additional information appended by Randy Jaye)*

**Historical Background (GMK Clock Company)**

After several years of discussions Gottfried Kieninger and George Mueck decided to start the GMK Clock Company to manufacture handcrafted grandfather, grandmother, wall and regulator clocks in North America. The year was 1972. The place was Aldingen, in the Black Forest. The name GMK stands for George-Gottfried-Mueck-Kieninger. The company was incorporated in 1975.

Their first project produced the Limited Edition of “The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Centennial Floor and Wall Clocks” created by The Larsens of Canada by Appointment to the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The first GMK clock line consisted of 8 models – Model 103, 105 1010, 2010, 4030, 4031 and 4032. The international furniture and clock designer Moon Choi designed the floor clocks to the vision of George Mueck and Herbert Nahlik. GMK floor clocks featured only the large Kieninger H series weight driven, solid brass triple chime clock movement with solid brass moon-dials, shells and lyre pendulums and tuned brass chimes, produced by Kieninger in the Black Forest. The cases were manufactured locally to the specifications of GMK.

The cases offered specially tuned chime boards and handcrafted clock cases of solid walnut, mahogany, cherry and pine. The cases were hand rubbed to a French polish that included the back panel of each case.

### **1975 to 1978**

In the first year GMK sold nearly 1,000 clocks to clock shops in the U.S.A. and Canada. In the spring of 1977 GMK created the Lincoln Heritage Collection of 500 clocks for the jewelry stores owned by Mr. Lincoln White of Salt Lake City with stores in Utah and California. The clocks were delivered in September to 20 stores.

### **Historical Background (GMK-Fancher Clock Company)**

GMK was introduced to the Fancher Furniture Company in Salamanca, N.Y. by John Murphy. George Mueck met with Len and Brian Erickson and after a series of meetings the decision was made to proceed with the creation of the finest handcrafted floor clocks ever offered to the public, anywhere.

The GMK-Fancher Clock Co., Inc was officially founded on November 23, 1979 . The company was co-owned by the GMK Clock Company, which was located at 428 Gage Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada and the Fancher Chair Co., Inc which was located in Falconer, New York. Both companies owned 50% of the shares. The founding officers of the Company were: C. Leonard Erickson (Chairman), George Mueck (President), John Elsen (Secretary/Treasurer), Bruce Clark (VP Finance) and Brian Erickson (VP Sales).

The Fancher Chair Co., as one of the leaders of fine furniture makers in the world, had the ability to handcraft clock cases that included the features of yesteryears, which were not now available on floor clocks made by any other manufacturer in this century. This was the beginning of the creation of a series of heirloom clocks that captured the hearts of clock collectors in the U.S.A., Canada, the Black Forest and Europe. The standard features included:

- Clock Crowns – 1-1/2”double thickness
- Side Door Each cabinet featured two mitered and dowelled side door, for easy access viewing of the Kieninger solid brass weight driven triple chime clock movement.

- Back of Cabinet- Each cabinet is completely finished including the back. The back panel provides the access to the Kieninger clock movement.
- Dial Plate Frame & Door – Each cabinet contained the classic features of a ¾ “ dial frame plate, a 1 ½” door with wooden glass retainers and coordinated solid brass hardware-The designs added the last touch of quality to these handcrafted heirloom clocks.
- Beveled glass, four panels for the treasured look
- Solid hardwood posts with co-coordinated crown design
- Book matched and hand finishes inside and back cover of clock case
- Individually handcrafted base boxes, veneered for a perfect grain pattern
- With decorative panels of solid hardwood to enhance the touch of quality
- 1” Foot levelers under each corner

The GMK-Fancher Clock Company created a collection of twelve new models:

**Leicester** Model 101-C: Cherry Veneers and Solids with “Olive Ash Burl Accents”

**Eastbourne** Model 102-C: Cherry Veneers and Solids with “Olive Ash Burl Accents”

**Salzburg** Model 103-C: Cherry Veneers and Solids with “Olive Ash Burl Accents”

**Oxford** Model 104-C: Cherry Veneers and Solids with “Olive Ash Burl Accents”

**Shenandoah** Model 105-C: Cherry Veneers and Solids with “Inlay and Brass Accents”

**Lafayette** Model 202-O: Oak Veneers and Solids

**Innsbruck** Model 203-O: Oak Veneers and Solids

**Melrose** Model 301-M: Mahogany Veneers and Solids with “Inlay and Brass Accents”

**Devon** Model 302-M: Mahogany Veneers and Solids with “Burl Overlays”

**Diplomat** Model 304-M: Mahogany Veneers with “Brass Accents”

**Beaufort** Model 401-W: Walnut Veneers and Solids with “Inlay and Brass Accent”

**Canberra** Model 601-R: Rosewood Veneers and Cherry Solids with “Inlay and Brass Accents”

**Special Paint Finishes** were added in the subsequent years. Model 103 “Marble, Model 104 Hand–Painted Raised Chinoiserie and Model 102 “Gold Trim. They were sold in Limited Editions to clock collectors.

GMK-Fancher then released “The Victoria Registered Limited Edition – MCMLXXX” which was created for the discerning collector who is not only looking for a floor clock that would pride any home, but also an investment for the future – an heirloom in fact. Each “Registered Limited Edition” clock combines the designs of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, which was perhaps the

richest period in the history of floor clocks – with the highest standards of craftsmanship available. The collection was sold prior to release and caused a sensation with clock shops and collectors. Marty Pratt designed the clock, together with Brian Erickson and George Mueck.

GMK-Fancher also introduced two other exceptional floor clocks that never reached production:

The Imperial Model 305M and “The Prince Albert Registered Limited Edition” to follow as the successor to The Victoria (Victoria and Albert). It also produced two Models of Vienna Regulators that are still today unequalled in quality, workmanship and design.

### **In Closing**

GMK-Fancher Clocks made a major impact with clock collectors in the U.S.A., Canada and Europe. While every dream must end, ours however left a legacy of what can be done by those who seek excellence and love fine clocks. The company made and marketed many fine clocks including tall case clocks, mantle clocks and bracket clocks. As the economy weakened and the market softened for these fine pieces, GMK-Fancher Clock Co., Inc found itself unable to compete with the larger competitors in the field.

Due to a lack of capitalization and continued monetary losses; a certificate of dissolution was filed September 18, 1987 and the company ceased operations. Although the company is no longer in business, their legacy surely lives on through their superior designed and meticulously handcrafted clocks...