



Lot 16: RARE BENJAMIN CHANDLEE SURVEYOR'S PLAIN COMPASS Brass, with silvered dial engraved with an eight-point compass rose and a fleur-de-lis.

Est: \$2,000 - \$3,000  
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Item Overview

Description: RARE BENJAMIN CHANDLEE SURVEYOR'S PLAIN COMPASS Nottingham, Maryland, 18th Century Brass, with silvered dial engraved with an eight-point compass rose and a fleur-de-lis indicating north. Raised degree scale engraved with 0-90 in four quadrants. One arm marked "B. Chandlee Nottingham" in serif lettering and the other marked "R. Cr." in script lettering. Retains original brass dial cover. Length 11.5". Bezel diameter 5".

We believe this compass to be the work of Benjamin Chandlee, Jr. (1723-1791). His father, Benjamin Chandlee, Sr., emmigrated from Ireland to Philadelphia and apprenticed under clockmaker Abel Cottey, whose daughter he married. Benjamin, Jr. worked under his father for awhile before settling in Nottingham, Maryland. His three sons, Goldsmith, Ellis and Isaac, also became well-known clock and instrument makers. Together the family was referred to as the "Six Quaker Clockmakers". Goldsmith Chandlee created sophisticated compasses, one of which was presented by George Washington to his nephews.

Condition Report: Sight vanes missing. Dial glass is a newer replacement and is cracked. Needle does not seem to move properly. Old patina and wear commensurate with age and use. Gold

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