

IX

ISAAC CHANDLEE, SIXTH QUAKER CLOCKMAKER

The last descendant of Abel Cottey who is known to have made clocks was Isaac Chandlee, a great-grandson, born on September 12, 1760. It is thought that Isaac did not make many clocks under his own name until after Ellis decided not to be an active partner. It is probable that Isaac worked with his nephew, Veazey, making the clocks and compasses which are illustrated at the end of this chapter and are marked *Isaac Chandlee, Nottingham*. After Benjamin Chandlee, Junior, died in 1791, Isaac and his mother lived together on the Nottingham farm; and when his mother died in 1806, her sister, Susannah Folwell, kept house for him. Isaac Chandlee finished his clockworks more carefully; the levers appear to be more graceful than those made by any other Chandlee excepting Goldsmith of Winchester, Virginia.

Johnston's *History of Cecil County, Maryland*, gives a sketch of Isaac Chandlee which seems to fit the impression gained by a study of this man's records:¹

Isaac Chandlee was a member of the Society of Friends, taking part in its deliberations and laboring quietly in the moral and religious duties assigned him. He lived unmarried, but having secured the services of Susanna Fallwell, his mother's sister, as housekeeper; his domestic comforts were such as to occasion few regrets on that score. This excellent lady survived him, and died 2nd month 1816. Isaac departed this life, much regretted by his neighbors, the 10th of the 12th month 1813 aged 62 years.

¹ Johnston's *History of Cecil County, Maryland*, pages 158-9.

In the files of Cecil County Courthouse are original papers which describe how Isaac Chandlee made a noncupative will and how his brother Ellis became the administrator.²

1813, December 9th, Morning. At that time being present with Isaac Chandlee in his bedchamber, and a short time before his death, after he requesting a number of people that were present to leave the room, he expressed himself to us the subscribers in the following manner.

I feel myself in a very critical situation, I feel myself no better, I am concerned for Aunt Susannah Folwell and my Brother John Chandlee's Children. I want Aunt Susannah to have her living in this house her lifetime, and that my personal estate be sold and all my debts paid, and the remainder be equally divided between my Brother John Chandlee's Children except ten pounds to Ellis Chandlee's son Lilburn, and that the same be committed to writing. We the subscribers do Certify that the above be a true statement of facts. Witness our hands. Decmb, 10th, 1813.

Israel White

Joseph Harlan.

December 9th, 1813. Being called out of my bed before day in the morning, and informed that my Brother Isaac Chandlee was worse, I went up to his Bedroom where he was laying, it appeared to me that he was conversing with Israel White and Joseph Harlan, but do not recollect to have heard anything distinctly that passed, they left the Bedside on my coming near to them and asked him if he wanted to say anything to me, He said yes. I want thee to be my Executor, I asked who he wished to be with me he paused a short time, and then mentioned Hugh Beard, that he was active, as near as I can remember the words, he also mentioned to me there was about twenty dollars coming from him to Benj. Kirk of Abner Kirks personal estate, and about forty dollars of the real estate. He also informed me there was Money in a Book in the middle drawer, that was part of John's stock, and he said to me thee remembers thirty dollars thee got of me, I replied yes, he said that was part of it. On being asked by my wife who was present, if he remembered or thought about Aunt Susey, he said he did, and addressed himself to me, she must have her bread and meat provided, she brings no charge for service done. These were the last words I recollect hearing him speak, except his concern for Aunt Susey and the poor orphan Children before, at the same time raising up one of his hands and letting it fall he died. I do certify the above is a true statement of the fact to the best of my recollection.

Ellis Chandlee. Deo, 14th, 1817.

Know all Men etc, that we Ellis Chandlee Israel White and Nathaniel Oldham are firmly held etc, this 8th, day of February 1814, the conditions of the obligation being

² Office of Register of Wills, Administrations, 1814, Elkton, Md.

that the above bound Ellis Chandlee Administrator with the Noncupative will annexed of Isaac Chandlee Shall well and truly act as Administrator of Isaac Chandlee.

Ellis Chandlee.

Israel White.

N. Oldham.

There is also in these administration papers a letter dated at Winchester, December 19, 1813, from Goldsmith Chandlee to his brother Ellis in which Goldsmith states that he could not assist in administering the estate of John Chandlee, because of the distance and the weather, unless it was absolutely necessary.

At the sale of Isaac's personal belongings, his brother Ellis bought half an interest in some of these items which apparently belonged to the partners. It is interesting to note the sale prices. Hay sold at \$1.05 a ton, corn blades \$1.05 per 100 pounds, oats 58¢ per bushel, corn 75¢ a bushel, beef 13¢ a pound, pork from 14¢ to 16¢ a pound, hogs' lard 13¢ a pound, one hive of bees \$4.05, bees' wax 30¢ a pound, tallow from 16¢ to 19¢ a pound, woolen yard 83¢ a pound, flax yarn 61¢, flax sheets from \$1.60 to \$2.51 each, cloth \$2.04 a yard, table cloths from \$1.50 to \$1.94 each, poplar boards \$1.50 per 100 feet, one mare and bridle \$60.00. Cows cost from \$17.25 to \$23.30, shoates \$1.50 to \$2.00 apiece, a yoke of oxen \$53.50, warming pans from 50¢ to \$2.10 each, sole leather 25¢ a pound, a 3½-pound pewter dish 40¢ a pound, a basin and dish weighing five and a half pounds 37¢ a pound. Pewter plates sold at 59¢ per pound, one looking glass at \$5.25. Almanacs sold from 2¢ to 26¢ apiece, and a set of bed curtains brought \$4.60.

Some books were sold from 22¢ to \$1.30 each: Crisps Sermons, Woolman's Works, one Universal Magazine, Harvey's Meditation, Sabbath of Rest, Man Worth 40 Crowns, Lafountain Fables, Backley's Apology, Hibernian Magazine, Job Scot's Journal, Apology of the Quakers, Book of Knowledge, Schoolmaster's Assistant, Folly and Vanity, Seven Champions, French Convert. There were various maps of Hungary, Spain and Europe, which sold for small amounts, and a small quantity of household furniture.

The following is a list of items pertaining to the clockmaking industry with the purchasers' names:

Ellis Chandlee	1 Stone of Iron Wire	\$4.75
"	Sweeping of the Shop	3.01
"	8¼ of Cast Brass 47½ cents per lb.	3.87¾
"	Turning Lathe	3.05
"	Small Turning Lathe	.50
"	1 small State	1.02
"	small drawer of tools	.06
"	Cast steel	.26
"	clock engine	2.02
"	½ a bench of Tools	2.55
"	Lot of old Copper	.26
"	½ a Bell Metal pot st. 5 lb. @ 5 cts.	.25
"	½ a Wire Machine	.06
"	½ of Furnace tools	.26
"	1 Lot of Crusibles	1.92
"	½ a Grind stone	2.05
"	½ a smith Anvil	5.25
Robert Cameron	Scales & Weight	.65
Ellis Chandlee	Amalgama of Silver	.05
Thos. Huggens	1 pair scales & weights	1.45
John Ewin	Box of Watch Tools	3.80
Ellis Chandlee	1 Vice	3.00
Levi Kirk	1 Vice	1.32
William Phillips	1 pair Steelyard	5.20
Ellis Chandlee	Borax & Rottenstone	.20
Wm. Philips	Wills Arithmetick	.16
Robert Logan	Fishers Arithmetic	.10
Solomon Brogen	1 small Vice	1.00
Jeremiah Brown	Iron Candlestick	.29
"	1 small Magnifying Glass	.06
Ellis Chandlee	Box of Patterns	.50
"	Magnifying Glass	.20
"	Drawing Pen	.09
"	Old Silver & Gold scopts & watch hand	.35
"	Lot of profile frames	.25
Hugh Beard	Specticles	1.00
Ellis Chandlee	Surveyors chain	2.50
"	Segar pipe	.20
John Reynolds	The time of an apprentice boy called John Merriman	80.00

Evan Chandlee	1 watch	10.05
Horatio Chandlee	Watch Cristles	.01
Ellis Chandlee	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ of Bad Brass at 4 cts.	.15
“	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Pewter & Lead at 14 cts.	.63
“	2 lb. Iron Wire @ 20 cts.	.40
“	Sun dial	.50
Ellis Chandlee	Small Steelyard	.25
“	1 piece of Glass	.03
John Brown	2 Boreing Irons	.46

The products made by Isaac Chandlee which are illustrated in this chapter were all found within a radius of forty miles of where they were made.



FIGURE 142.

Surveyor's compass with brass cover. When the bubble in the spirit level is directly under the small circle, which is cut into the glass, the instrument is in a true level position. Made about 1797.

Owned by R. A. Applegate.

FIGURE 143.

The date 1795 is approximated for this clock with brass dial. Isaac Chandlee's father probably left the dial unfinished, and Isaac completed it. The king-bird sways with the pendulum. A walnut case 94 inches high holds the clock.

The owner, W. Horace Pennell, inherited the clock from his great-great-grandfather, John Pennell.



FIGURE 143



FIGURE 144.

The walnut case is 91 inches.
Made about 1804.

Owned by Joshua Christy Conner.

FIGURE 144

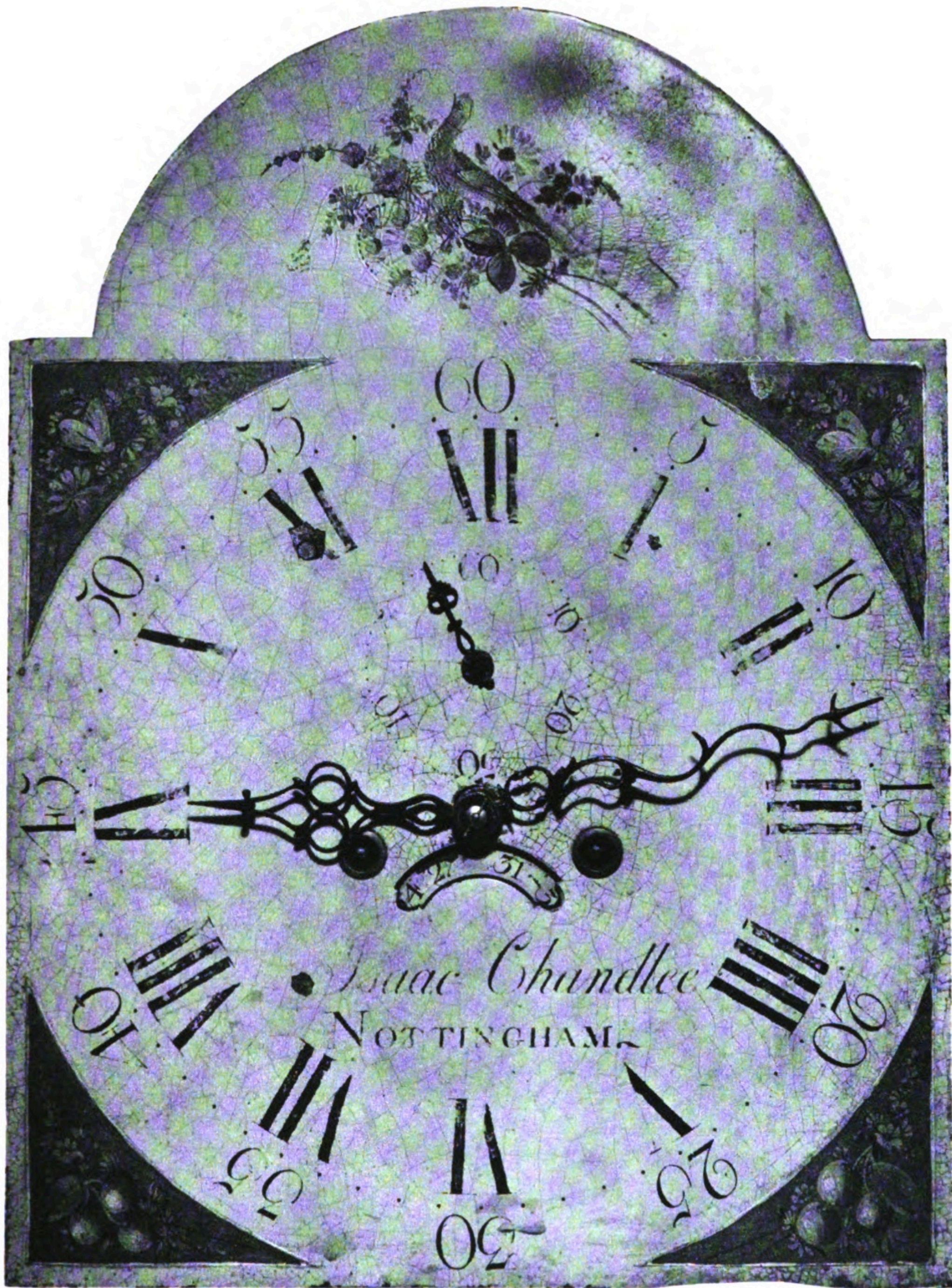


FIGURE 145

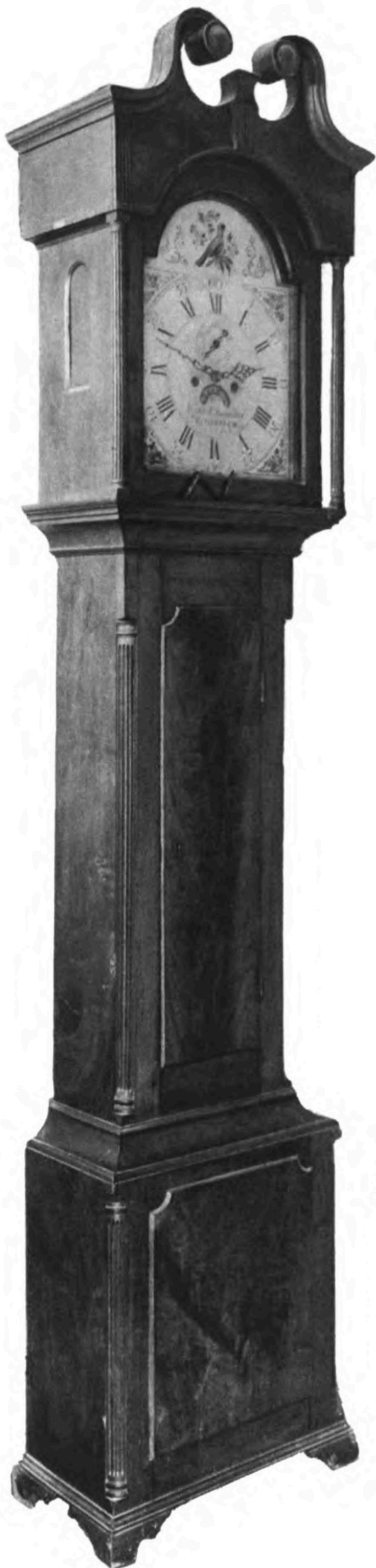


FIGURE 146.

Andrew Mearns bought this clock from Isaac Chandlee about 1806. Mrs. Carrie M. Cameron, a descendant, now owns it.

FIGURE 146

FIGURE 147





FIGURES 148, 149.

The walnut case is $97\frac{1}{2}$ inches high with a painting in the lunette inscribed, "The Duke of York." Made about 1807. Upon the death of the first owner in 1837, the clock was appraised at \$27.50. The finials are $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches high, doweled to a base 2 inches high by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide.

A descendant of the original owner now owns the clock: Samuel W. Passmore.

FIGURE 148



FIGURE 149



FIGURE 150

FIGURES 150, 151.

A complete surveying outfit with tripod. Brass compass threaded on a brass ball and socket, which is attached by a ferrule to the Jacob Staff, leather saddle bags and a chain of iron links with brass stirrup-shaped hand grasps.

The compass is engraved "Isaac Chandlee Nottingham," and has a turned brass snap on the cover. Made about 1800.

Owned by J. Hayes Mc Cauley.

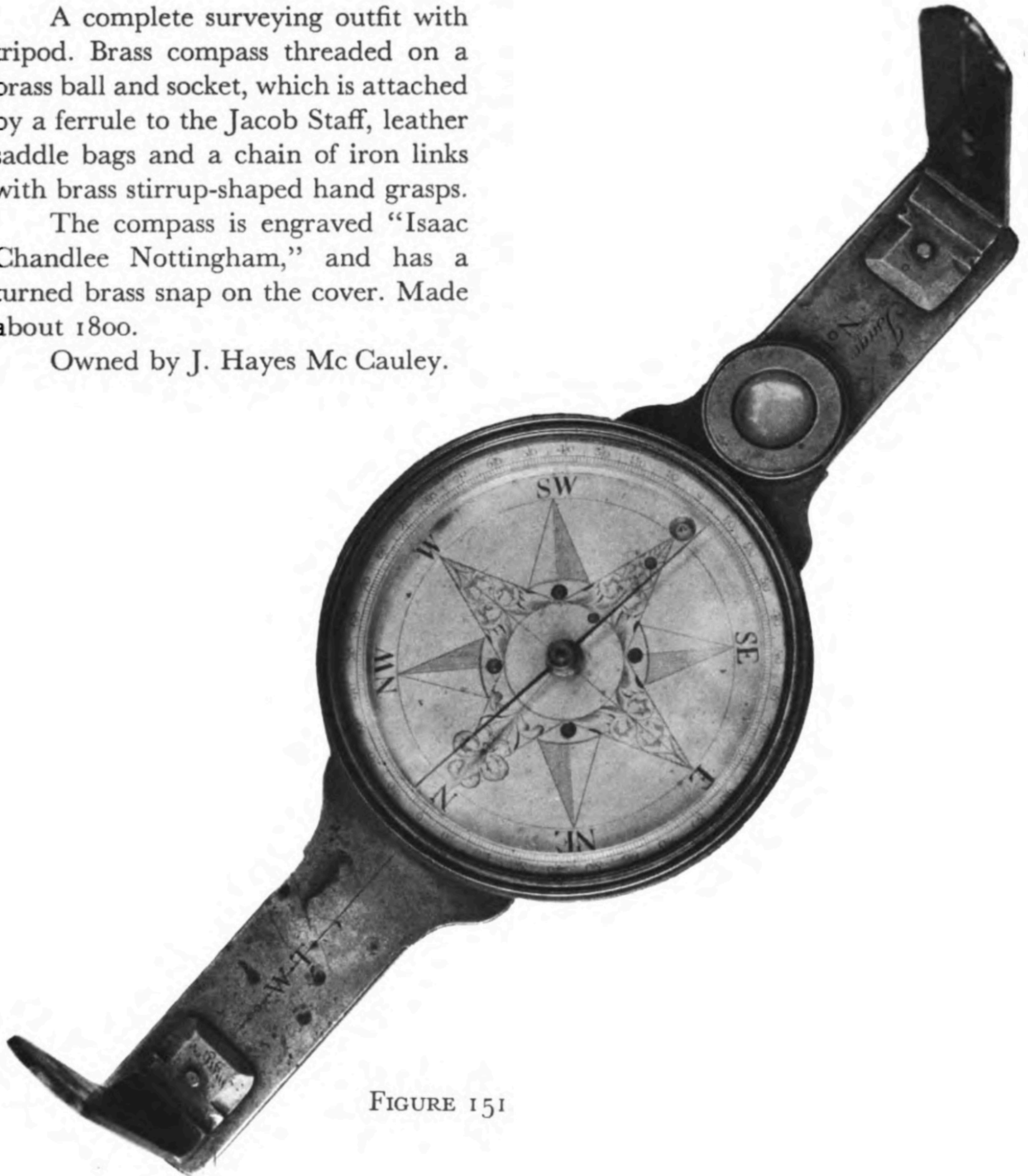


FIGURE 151



FIGURE 152

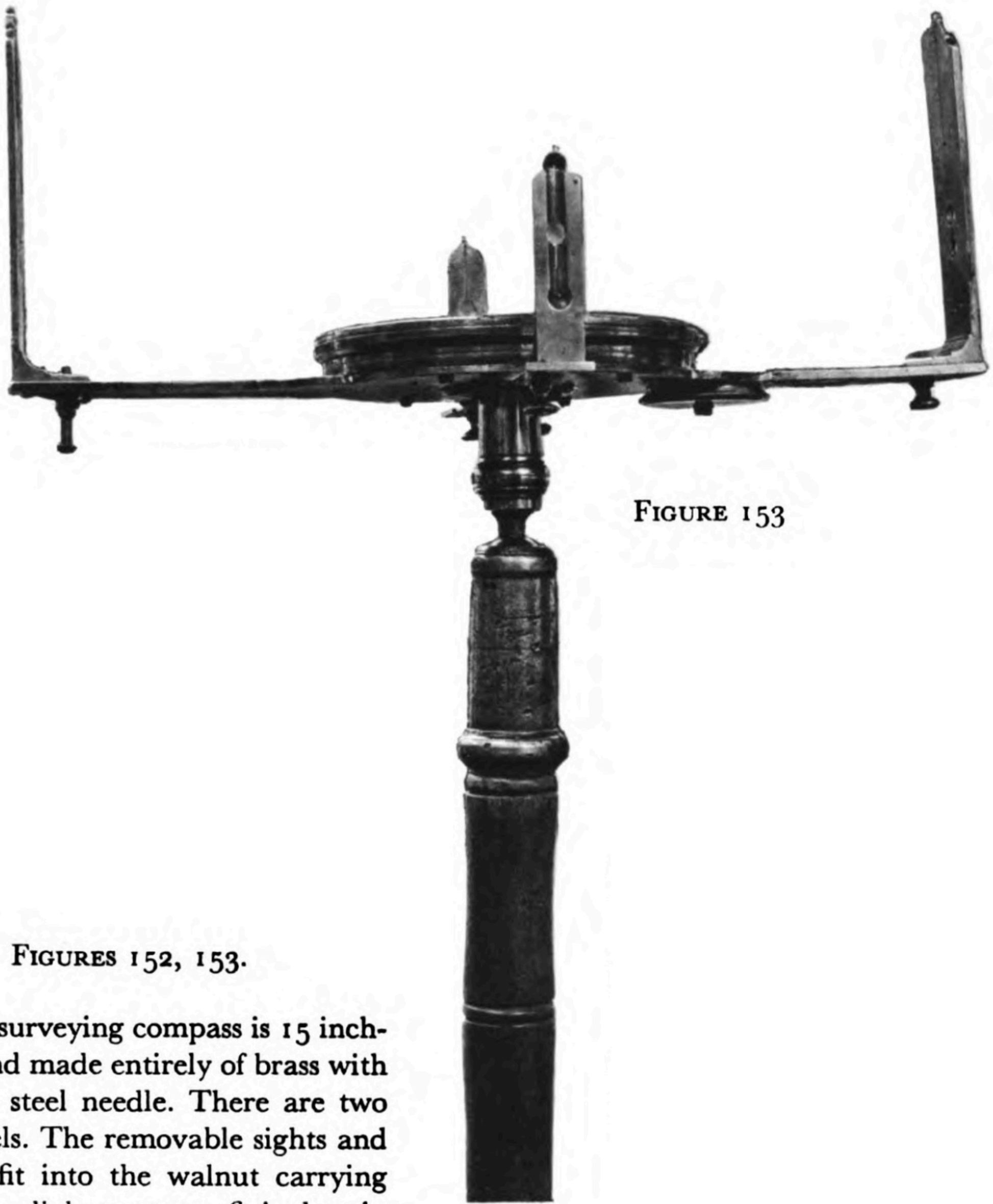


FIGURE 153

FIGURES 152, 153.

The surveying compass is 15 inches long and made entirely of brass with the usual steel needle. There are two spirit levels. The removable sights and compass fit into the walnut carrying case. The dial measures 6 inches in diameter.

The longest sighting vanes are 6 inches and used for hilly country. The short ones are $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches. They are for determining a straight line on flat grounds.

Owned by John E. Homsher.