

## 1: Jacob Hagey Tall Clock Information Request | NAWCC Message Board

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July 29, Research by the consignor suggests that the original owner was Richard Scherer, born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, in . He was married and had at least two sons, one of whom, another R. Scherer, was born in . The Scherer family appears to have remained in western Pennsylvania for the next two generations, and by at least part of the family was residing in Muscantine and Newton, Iowa. There is no record of the Scherers in either Ohio or Indiana in the days leading up to the Civil War, although the compass may well have traveled across these states in order to reach Iowa, its journey following the pattern of American Western migration in the 19th century. Taylor Campbell, Chief Cartographer for the northwest section of the state of Missouri. He worked for a while in the Missouri lead belt, for the U. It was on a visit to a second hand store in Fredricktown, sixty miles south-southwest of St. Louis, that Campbell discovered the Rittenhouse compass in . A letter from the consignor, detailing family history, is included in the Lot. David Rittenhouse Rittenhouse " was born in Roxborough Township, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, near the paper mill that is paternal grandfather had built in . He read, figured, and tinkered. It was here that David began his business making and repairing clocks, and where he trained his younger brother Benjamin, born in . He laid out the twelve-mile radius around Newcastle, which forms the boundary between Pennsylvania and Delaware. The accuracy of his work was commended, and his calculations accepted by Mason and Dixon. His international reputation as an astronomer was established when he accurately computed the Transit of Venus in , and observed the planet with astronomical instruments of his own construction in the observatory that he built. In , influential patrons encouraged David Rittenhouse to move to Philadelphia, where his growing reputation gained him employment on boundary surveys and commissions in Maryland, Virginia, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. He produced calculations for Thomas Jefferson and was consulted by Benjamin Franklin, following whose death in , David Rittenhouse was elected President of the American Philosophical Society. A professor of Astronomy in the University of Pennsylvania, and an elected member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, he was appointed the first director of the Mint by Washington in . The relatively little surviving documentation on David the younger confirms that he was engaged, at least for a period, in the manufacture of clocks and instruments. In the August of , he advertised a sale of his own in the Norriton Herald and Weekly Advertiser; various pieces household and farm equipment were listed, although there was no mention of either clocks or surveying instruments. Assuming that the other documented Scherer compass dates from the period between " , when Scherer would have been in his early thirties, it suggests that the compass here is either one of the final instruments produced by David Rittenhouse the elder , or that it is a rare example of the work of his nephew from the time of his professional association with Benjamin Rittenhouse. Owning instruments commissioned from two members of the Rittenhouse family whether the brothers David and Benjamin, or Benjamin and his Son would have conferred a certain status on the prosperous land owner or surveyor that Richard Scherer appears to have been, and their study provides the potential for future important research. The Smithsonian lists six compasses, all in museums, signed either D.

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### 6: Staff View: Clockmakers of Montgomery County,

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*Clockmakers of Montgomery County, William Lukens Potts (July 17,)www.enganchecubano.com of Thomas Potts and Elizabeth Lukens. William's parents were originally from Moreland Township in Montgomery County, but eventually settled in Sussex County, New Jersey.*

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