

Philadelphia, Penna.

Thomas Whitney advertised in the Federal Gazette of April 12, 1798, as from London, and "moved from 72 (late Mr. Gould's) to No. 74 South Front Street where he makes various instruments in the most approved and accurate manner." Whitney did not depend solely on the sale of instruments for his income. Bunting by the piece was sold, writing slates and razors, silversmith's anvils and files; pen-knives and sailor's pocket knives, sissors and bone moulds - whatever they may be - could all be purchased at the shop of Thomas Whitney from London.

The 1800 and 1801 Philadelphia directories list Whitney, John, mathematical instrument maker and optician 74 S. Front. The name John is evidently a mistake. In the 1802 directory Whitney, Thos., mathematical instrument maker, 95 S. Second. Thomas Whitney is listed in the Philadelphia directories from 1802 to 1824 as a mathematical instrument maker, although Gurley has repaired a compass marked, "Thos. Whitney, Phil<sup>a</sup> 1828."

Thomas advertised in 1819 in Paxton's Philadelphia Annual Advertiser. In the 1820 issue of Whitely's Annual Advertiser he states that he has made over 500 surveyor's compasses in the past thirteen years and that he is situated on North Sixth Street, near the Mill Pond, one mile from Philadelphia.

In the Wm. J. Young's file is a copy of the indenture of William James Young to Thomas Whitney of the township of N. Liberties, County of Philadelphia dated the thirtieth day of January 1813.

Thomas Whitney died on July 30, 1823 at his residence near Philadelphia, according to Paulson's American Daily Advertiser of Thursday morning, August 7, 1823.

In the Gurley Museum is a Surveyor's Vernier Compass. It is 14-1/4" overall 5" needle. It is engraved Thos. Whitney Maker Philadelphia. Underneath the staff socket is inscribed: No. 109 1810.

The Franklin Institute has a Whitney Surveyor's Vernier Compass. Length overall 14" Needle 5" 1 level vial.

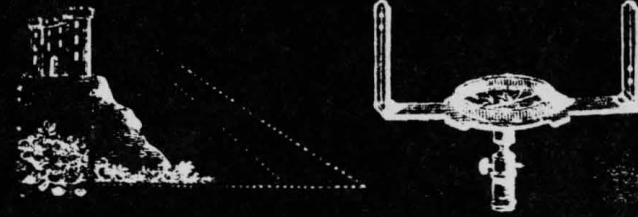
The Chicago Historical Society has a Whitney Surveyor's Vernier Compass. It is 14" overall with a 5-1/8" needle.

There is privately owned in Clifton, N. J. a Whitney Surveyor's Compass. The label is marked "1817".

There is privately owned in Bristol, Pennsylvania a Whitney Surveyor's Vernier Compass. (The sights are missing). It is engraved Thos. Whitney, Philadelphia, Pa., On the underside of the compass is engraved No. 63 1810. Length overall is 14", with a 5" needle.

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*Whitely's Philadelphia Annual Advertiser.*



**THOMAS WHITNEY,**

**Mathematical Instrument Maker,**

*North Sixth street, near the Mill Pond, one mile from  
Philadelphia,*

Presents his sincere thanks to his friends and the public, and respectfully soliciting the continuation of their favours, wishes to inform them, that he has devoted his attention principally to the making of

**SURVEYING COMPASSES,**

For more than thirteen years past, and has made about *five hundred* of them, the good qualities of which are well known to many Surveyors, in at least sixteen of the States and Territories of the Union.

THOMAS WHITNEY, continues to make SURVEYING COMPASSES, of all the constructions in general use, and also for Vertical and horizontal angles, leveling, &c. newly projected, and other Instruments made to drawings or descriptions; improved Protractors, Gunner's Calibers, and Quadrants, Standard Measures, Surveying Chains, Magnets, Pocket Compasses, with various other Instruments and apparatus.

*Also has for Sale,*

Cases of Drawing Instruments, Pasometers, or Reflecting Semicircles, Polygonographs, Globes, &c.

N. B. Orders will be thankfully received, and promptly attended to, if left at No. 105, North Second street, at Messrs. McAllisters, No. 48, Chesnut street, where the Instruments are for sale, or at his House and Manufactory, North Sixth street.

*Instruments carefully clean'd and repaired.*