**[PoD](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/" \o "Go to PoD's profile)**

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403437) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403437)

Here is the inventory of a navigator who died aboard a Slave ship in 1700. Its from the Book "The Forgotten Trade" by Nigel Tattersfield

**Inventory of Mr John Chapman's goods, deceased.**

**At Sea 9 October 1700**

13 Single Brawles

56 coarse callakew sheets

2 Nickanees

1 piece Pentadoes

Pte a piece Blue Lyning

11 Sheets

6 small Elephant Teeth marked J:C:A

2 small ditto m'ked J:C:P

8 small ditto m'ked J:C

3 small ditto J:C

1 man Slave m'rked J:C

1 girl ditto m'rked J:C

6 Bars lead

Some Brass wrye

**Clothes (*viz*):**

4 Old Coats, 3 old Jackcoats

1 Waistcoat, 1 pair britches

2 Flanning Sherts, 1 pair flanning Drawers

1 old Broad Cloth coat & Jackcoat

2 old Hats, 4 pair old Stockings

6 old White Shurts

1 old Check Shurt & 1 pair Drawers

1 Lace Neckcloth: 10 old Muzling ditto

1 Rumall & 1 White Handkerchiefe

1 Bed, 1 Rugg, 1 blanket, 1 Pillow

2 pair old broad Cloth Britches

1 pair Serge ditto

1 White Fustian Waistcoat

1 Serge Coat and Waistcoat

1 old Cloth Jackcoat

3 New hats, 1 pair old Gloves

2 pair old Shoes, 1 pair Silver Buckles

2 Nickers, 3 pair Sheets

1 hat brush, 1 Cane with Ivory head boss

1 Knife and fork, 1 pen Knife

**Books and Instruments (*viz*):**

1 Forestaff with 4 vanes

1 Quadrant with 4 vanes

1 Nocturnall, 1 Gunter scale

1 Plain & 1 Gunner scale

1 old Epitome, 1 old Callinder

1 Practical Navigation

1 Seaman's Practice

2 old Journal Books

1 pair Dividers, 1 pair Compasses

1 Bible, 1 Whole Duty of Man

1 Common Prayer, 1 quarto Waggoner

1 book called Heaven Opened

1 paper Pocket Book

1 old atlass, all torn

1 old papered book

*These Things are putt into two Chests which are marked J:C: and this Inventory is attested by us*

*Francis Snelling*

*Walter Prideaux*

[**silas thatcher**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10423-silas-thatcher/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 774 posts
* Location:st. louis, mo.
* Interests:probably too many interests :) old vw's, sailing, photography, home improvements, and lots more ;)

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403443) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403443)

it would be interesting to see exactly what they meant with some of the terms...brawles, knickanees, etc... and i also know that some of it is open to interpretation since the meanings of some words have changed over the last few hundred years....

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* Pyrate Captain
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* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403444) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403444)

yep thats my next job. actually deciphering it all.

[**PoD**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/)

* Pyrate Captain
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* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403445) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403445)

ok thats one down:

**Nickanees**. A cheap striped calico, patterned in the loom. Bought mainly for the slave markets

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* Pyrate Captain
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* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403446) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403446)

**Pentadoes** is also a type of cloth

**brawles** were cheap cloths

**Sheets** or Sheeting was a strong linen or cotton cloth used for bed linen.

I am assuming **Callakew** is Calico and **Lyning** is Linen

**Edited October 11, 2011 by PoD**

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403448) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403448)

In the book I was just reading, the natives selling slaves (the slaves being people from other tribes located further inland from the coast of Africa) seemed to value cloth highly.

I actually thought the books were the most interesting things. He seems to have been involved in navigation, which may explain why he could read.

[**PoD**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/)

* Pyrate Captain
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* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403449) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403449)

A **jackcoat** differs from a frock coat in that its frock is not as long and does not flare out as much**.** The materials used to make a **jackcoat** are cheaper or less fine. It is more a commoner's item of clothing.

Some of this clothing could have been what was used to cloth the slaves owned by him.

[**PoD**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/)

* Pyrate Captain
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* 
* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403450) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403450)

 On 10/11/2011 at 4:04 PM, Mission said:

I actually thought the books were the most interesting things. He seems to have been involved in navigation, which may explain why he could read.

Yeah I was interested in the books about all else too. I have tracked them down and I am in the process of trying to reproduce copies of these.

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403451) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403451)

 On 10/11/2011 at 4:04 PM, Mission said:

I actually thought the books were the most interesting things. He seems to have been involved in navigation, which may explain why he could read.

As a navigator he would most certainly have been able to read, for two reasons. Firstly, a navigator needs to be able to read charts and write up a log, and secondly in the 17thC schooling was generally done in order: reading first, writing second, arithmetic third. In order to be able to navigate he must have had some skill at arithmetic and thus his schooling had progressed beyond reading and writing.

Literacy amongst seamen (and indeed the population in general) was much higher in the GAoP that we generally credit, By the end of the 17thC most children had some basic schooling, and in some colonies it was actually enshrined in law that every child must be taught to read so that they could engage with religious and legal texts. Even lower ranking officers, like the boatswain and quartermaster, used the written word int he course of their professional duties, so virtually any advancement relied on at least some measure of practical literacy.

One of the most interesting things regarding priates and literacy is that shipments of good sent to St. Mary's island in the 1690s included horn books, which are an educational aid, suggesting that pirates were teaching others to read and write, either illiterate members of their own company or possibly the Malagasy.

[**PoD**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/)

* Pyrate Captain
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* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403452) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403452)

oops i got it slightly wrong. He wasnt just the navigator he was actually the Chief Mate. He died in a fever that it thought to have been Malaria

[**PoD**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/)

* Pyrate Captain
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* 
* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403454) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403454)

I am wondering what the difference between Britches and Drawers is? Also (going off the modern term) were Nickers what they called all underwear back then rather than just female garments?

also

**SERGE** is a woolen fabric, a durable twilled cloth of wool or silk and wool.

**BROAD CLOTH** is a soft lustrous woolen with nap sheared close and pressed; also a fine, smooth surfaced cotton or silk.

**FUSTIAN** was a coarse cloth of cotton and flax, thick twilled cotton with short nap

**Flanning** may mean Flannel material that was loosely woven, lightweight woolen with slight nap.

**Muzling** may mean Muslin which was a general name for the most delicately woven cotton fabrics, especially those used for ladies dresses, curtains, etc.

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

* Sticky Fingers Sterling Needs a New Hat
* 
* 
* Member
* 10,302 posts
* Gender:Pyrate Hunter
* Location:here
* Interests:Killing pirates, haven't met one yet worth keeping alive....

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403456) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403456)

Drawers usually refers to undergarments that cover the legs and lower torso... so hence, usually what we would refer to as underwear, underpants...etc...seeing that the item is listed with shirts, often considered an undergarment as well... I would hazard to say that it is referring to underwear...

as to nickers...or knickers...not seeing the term prior to the 19th century

[**PoD**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/)

* Pyrate Captain
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* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403457) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403457)

the only reference to nickers i could find from the period was in a play where someone gave a boy some money for nickers but nothing in the dialogue insinuated that it was underwear so still drawing a blank on that one.

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

* Sticky Fingers Sterling Needs a New Hat
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* Member
* 10,302 posts
* Gender:Pyrate Hunter
* Location:here
* Interests:Killing pirates, haven't met one yet worth keeping alive....

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403461) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403461)

hmmmm, interesting... seeing mostly linen drawers with at least one mention of cotton flannel for late 18th century... still looking...not seeing nickers except for a sound a horse makes or someone who "nicks" people by cutting them....

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

* Sticky Fingers Sterling Needs a New Hat
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* Member
* 10,302 posts
* Gender:Pyrate Hunter
* Location:here
* Interests:Killing pirates, haven't met one yet worth keeping alive....

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403462) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403462)

Hmmm all my books on undergarments always spell it with a K as it is an abbreviation of the term knickerbocker...and according to C. Willett & Phillis Cunnington, The History of Underclothes, Despite this, it is to the year 1879 that we owe the evocative "knickers" as a diminutive. page 108

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

* Sticky Fingers Sterling Needs a New Hat
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* 
* Member
* 10,302 posts
* Gender:Pyrate Hunter
* Location:here
* Interests:Killing pirates, haven't met one yet worth keeping alive....

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403463) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403463)

Montgomery has the following words for fabrics that come close to the ones you have listed...

**Pintado** "In 16th century Portuguese texts, the word applied to cheap block- printed cotton cloth made in India. But in the following century, the words pintado and chintz indicated the rich arborescent of floral cottons of fine quality mordant-painted and resist-dyed in India. From about the middle of the 17th century, explicit directions and actual patterns to appeal to the Western market were sent by East India Company Merchants to their agents. In 1657 an order was placed for "Chints or Pintadoes 1,000 pieces.... The 1660 London Book of Rates lists "Pintadoes or Callecoe cubbard clothes"... For the remainder of the century, sales in England for clothing and furnishing were enormous. Several laws were enacted for the protection of the English weaving industry, and in 1720 "The Use and Wearing in Apparel" of imported chintz, and also its "use or Wear in or about any Bed, Chair, Cushion, or other Household furniture" were prohibited... (unless you were selling to the colonies)... page 324

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

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* Interests:Killing pirates, haven't met one yet worth keeping alive....

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403464) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403464)

**Brawles:** "A cheap blue and white striped cotton cloth, patterned in the loom, classified as a "guinea stuff'" These Indian cloths were copied by English weavers at the end of the 17th century. Saidder and Chiader brawles were among goods imported by the Dutch from the East Indies between 1686 and 1696. Wearing brawles was prohibited in England from about 1700...

You covered Nickanee, which could also be spelled Neconnee or nicconnee...

and interestingly enough, not seeing the term sheets at all in Montgomery....

**Rumal or Romal** : a handkerchief imported from India: a cover or decorative piece. Silk, cotton, and Serunge romals were prohibited in England at the end of the 17th century.

Interesting how a lot of what this fellow had was made illegal round about the time he died...does the book mention his background?

Did he hail from England or the colonies?

btw please keep coming up with these wonderful finds...

**Edited October 11, 2011 by Capt. Sterling**

[**Capt. Bo of the WTF co.**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2748-capt-bo-of-the-wtf-co/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,339 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Spanish Louisiana - on the river Osage
* Interests:Many and varied.

[Posted October 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403471) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403471)

Will this help any?

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=739>

Sorry, I'd like to stay and help but still not feeling well from my little hospital vacation. Good luck and I'll check back in the morning if I am able.

Bo

[**PoD**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 12, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403479) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403479)

 On 10/11/2011 at 9:08 PM, Capt. Sterling said:

Interesting how a lot of what this fellow had was made illegal round about the time he died...does the book mention his background?

Did he hail from England or the colonies?

the book sumises that he was a professional seafarer and a man of some substance judging by the inventory of what he owned. It suggests that many of his items were goods he hoped to sell on his journey but hadn't managed too. He hadnt declared them to the customs officials at Dartmouth (the port they began their journey from) either so hadnt paid the 10% tax.

I imagine he hailed from England as the ship he was on, 'The Daniel and Henry' was from Exeter in the south of England.

I'd recommend the book if you can get hold of it as its full of loads of interesting information like ships cargos, exchange rates for gold, price of goods in different ports along with a reprinting of the log from the voyages themselves.

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted October 12, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403483) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403483)

 On 10/11/2011 at 5:04 PM, PoD said:

**Flanning** may mean Flannel material that was loosely woven, lightweight woolen with slight nap.

**Muzling** may mean Muslin which was a general name for the most delicately woven cotton fabrics, especially those used for ladies dresses, curtains, etc.

Based on spelling in the various books I have read from period and the context, this is almost certainly the case.

 Quote

1 man Slave m'rked J:C

1 girl ditto m'rked J:C

I wonder what is marked? Is this referring to some kind of a document or is it branding or tattooing?

[**PoD**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/)

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* Member
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* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 12, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403511) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403511)

It says in the book it was branding. I bet the slaves were thankful he left his middle initial out.

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted October 12, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403512) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403512)

 On 10/12/2011 at 8:07 AM, PoD said:

the book sumises that he was a professional seafarer and a man of some substance judging by the inventory of what he owned.

Depending on what is meant by 'man of substance', that's quite a surmise to make. Based on the inventory, he doesn't seem any better off than any other typical merchant sea-officer of the time. The cloth products, lead, and wire were almost certainly private trade goods, but that was fairly normal. The list of clothes is comparable with the inventories of many other seamen, including foremastmen and petty officers.

The elephant tusks and slaves naturally wouldn't show up on any customs documents from Dartmouth as they'd have been acquired on the African coast. The cloth was probably overlooked because it was personal property rather than proper 'cargo'.

[**PoD**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 12, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403524) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403524)

They say the clothes were nothing out of the ordinary too but seem to be basing the 'man of substance' title on the fact that he had the trade items (which they call a sizable venture?) and the 2 slaves.

[**William Brand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)

* Mercury Malefactor
* 
* 
* Admin
* 8,884 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Logan, Utah
* Interests:My name is William Pace and I live and work as a graphic designer, illustrator and photographer in Northern Utah. I'm married to the lovely Tracy Pace and we have three children. In addition to all things art, I enjoy traveling and meeting new people from every walk of life. I've always been a fan of history, theology, and of course, Pyracy.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSkt-q-HihQ

[Posted October 13, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403537) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403537)

I envy the fellow for his books and instruments.

[**PoD**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 13, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403553) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403553)

I am trying to get together the instruments for my navigation kit. I have some of them that were made by a certain knowledgeable fellow that hangs around this forum. I believe he goes by the name Foxe.

I should be reproducing Gunter Scales and Gunners Scales soon too so they wont be a problem to get either.

I have a copy of the Epitome, Practical Navigation and Seaman's Practice that I am in the process of reproducing.

I wonder what they mean by '1 pair Compasses'? I doubt they mean directional compasses but I could be wrong. Did navigators use the type of compass we use today for drawing arcs?

**Edited October 13, 2011 by PoD**

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted October 13, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403558) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403558)

Speaking of arc-compasses, check [this](http://www.ebay.com/itm/Antique-Georgian-Architect-Engineer-Drafting-Set-Shagreen-Etui-Case-/300608535821?pt=Antiques_Decorative_Arts&hash=item45fdaa3d0d) out. (It's an pocket engineer's kit in a shagreen case on eBay.) Being an engineer, it appeals to me, although it's almost certainly post-period and of no relevance to the hobby that I can figure. :)



[**Capt. Trueblood**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/14117-capt-trueblood/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 37 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:KCMO

[Posted October 14, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403576) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403576)

 On 10/13/2011 at 10:57 AM, PoD said:

I wonder what they mean by '1 pair Compasses'? I doubt they mean directional compasses but I could be wrong. Did navigators use the type of compass we use today for drawing arcs?

Compasses (plural) usually refers to the instrument we would call dividers today. They may have two points, or a point and pen or pencil. As the picture in Mission's post shows, the points may be interchangeable. Although that beautiful set would be used for drafting rather than navigating. For navigation they typically have two points and are used for measuring or marking off distance on a chart rather than drawing arcs. They were probably of the two pointed type with loops at the top near the joint.



**Edited October 14, 2011 by Capt. Trueblood**

[**PoD**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 14, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403584) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403584)

yes thats what I would have thought also had they not already listed that he had a pair of dividers as well as a pair of compasses. If they were both dividers surely they would have just put 2 pairs of dividers

[**PoD**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 14, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403585) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403585)

 On 10/13/2011 at 11:35 AM, Mission said:

Speaking of arc-compasses, check [this](http://www.ebay.com/itm/Antique-Georgian-Architect-Engineer-Drafting-Set-Shagreen-Etui-Case-/300608535821?pt=Antiques_Decorative_Arts&hash=item45fdaa3d0d) out. (It's an pocket engineer's kit in a shagreen case on eBay.) Being an engineer, it appeals to me, although it's almost certainly post-period and of no relevance to the hobby that I can figure. :)

I've seen quite a few of those Etui's knocking around on ebay. They usually sell for about £200 ($315). I think most are from the mid to late 18th century although some seem to imply they are earlier. There was certainly an earlier one in the National Maritime Museum when I went the other week. I have a number of seperate bits from these kits in my own navigation kit.

I have a few of the dividers from such kits for sale on my website here: <http://www.lettersofmarque.co.uk/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=11>

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted October 14, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403592) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403592)

My grandfather was a land-surveyor from the 1940s to the 1980s and used a drawing kit almost identical to that one.

Dividers might be the one-handed kind shown in the photo above, but might also be straight ones. Possibly, that's the differentiation in the inventory.

[**PoD**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 14, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403607) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403607)

yeah it could be that.

ok next question is then:

Does anyone have an image of what a plain-scale looked like from the period? Aparently its another word for a ruler but no idea what the measurements would look like on it.

They describe it in this 1721 book (*but its waaaaaaay over my head to work out*) - 'The description, nature and general use, of the sector and plain-scale,:briefly and plainly laid down. : As also a short account of the uses of the lines of numbers, artificial sines and tangents' by Edmund Stone

<http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=nqU2AAAAMAAJ&dq=The%20Description%2C%20Nature%20and%20General%20Use%2C%20of%20the%20Sector%20and%20Plain-Scale&pg=PP3#v=onepage&q&f=false>

*Don't you just hate it when google doesnt scan in the folded pages at the end.*

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

* Sticky Fingers Sterling Needs a New Hat
* 
* 
* Member
* 10,302 posts
* Gender:Pyrate Hunter
* Location:here
* Interests:Killing pirates, haven't met one yet worth keeping alive....

[Posted October 14, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403612) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403612)

Oi ye might want to pm Dutchman about the rulers... he has done some investigating in that area and knows what to look for...as a matter of fact he found one for me, himself and I believe he assisted Mister Lasseter as well to some extent...

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted October 16, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=403648) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=403648)

This sorta', kinda' fits with and/or supports the inventory, so I thought I'd throw it in here. It's from *The Voyages and Travels of Captain Nathaniel Uring* (1928 reprint, first published in 1726).

“The Commodities which suit them [for trade; Uring is referring to the logwood cutters off Honduras], are all sorts of strong Liquors, Provisions, small Arms, Gun-Powder, and small Shot, Cutlashes or Hangers, Axes, Ozenbrigs and Shoes. Ozenbrigs is their general Wear, and almost all their Cloathing, except Hats and

\_\_

Shoes; their Pavillions are also made of Ozenbrigs, which are described in the Account of the *Muscheto* People1; there is no possibility of living without ‘em, there being such Multitudes of biting and stinging Flies, as *Muschetos*, Sand Flies, Galley Nippers, and Bottle Asses..." (Uring, p. 242-3)

1 The manner of their Lodging is thus: They fix several Crutches in the Ground about Four Foot high, and lay Sticks cross, and other Sticks cross them close together; and upon those Sticks they lay a good Quantity of Leaves, and upon them a Piece of old Canvas if they have it; and this is their Bed. There is also at each Corner of the Bed-Place, a tall Pole fixed, to which they fasten their Covering, which is generally made of Ozinbrigs; it is sewed together, and fastened at each Corner to these Poles about Four Foot above the Bed-Place, and is so contriv'd that it falls down on every Side, which tucks close in all round, and serves not only for Curtains, but also keep the Flies from disturbing them." (Uring p. 124-5)

[**PoD**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted December 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=412347) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=412347)

 On 10/11/2011 at 6:57 PM, PoD said:

the only reference to nickers i could find from the period was in a play where someone gave a boy some money for nickers but nothing in the dialogue insinuated that it was underwear so still drawing a blank on that one.

I've actually just stumbled across what nickers might be refering too. It was what Marbles were called back then:

*"The word "marble" was not used to represent the round toy ball made from various stones until 1694 in England. It was then that marble stone was being used for the toy and was being imported from Germany. Before this time, the English adopted the Dutch word "knikkers" for marbles. The word "knikker" was used by New York City children well into the 19th century."*

Obviously this makes the reference I found to a child being given money to buy nickers make more sense. They were mainly small clay balls back then. It does however seem strange that John Chapman would have them in his belongings. Unless they were items he bought along as a keepsake or to trade. I wouldnt imagine that marbles would be a great game for sailors to play on a swaying ship.

Also they are listed under clothing in his inventory so this might be totally wrong.

**Edited December 5, 2012 by PoD**

[**Grymm**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10793-grymm/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 281 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Chilterns UK
* Interests:Stuff

[Posted December 17, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=412573) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=412573)

Just a wild stab in the dark, and 'membering that in the period standardised spelling was a ways off yet, but as 'er's wi' the sheets could it be an old/dialect word for pillow/bolster, neckers(?) in a wez c'un'ry aaaaaacent? =o)

My fav bits of info in the book, 'side from the couple of lists of personal stuff, are the cargo lists for 'The Daniel and Henry' (and the multitude of other ships in the appendix ) giving a better idea of what would be available for 'plunder' if they were taken by pirates.

'The Daniel and Henry' had;

As well as the chests of cloth there are barrels of beads, firkins of tallow, trade(negro) knives, iron bars/ingots, copper pans, looking glasses, pewter tankards and basins plus 100 fuzees 100 carbines a barrel of gun flints, 6 gilt rapiers and 10 hangers(2 different qualities) and a shi .....shed load of other stuff.

**Edited December 17, 2012 by Grymm**

[**Frtiz**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/19865-frtiz/)

* Bilge Rat
* 
* 
* Member
* 15 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Willich, Germany
* Interests:I am interested in history and started re-enacting some years ago. In Germany the most common time period for living history events is the middle ages. So I started with dark ages, but went on to re-enact 12th century. My next step forward in history is the Golden Age of Piracy.

[Posted December 17, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=findComment&comment=412589) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18320-inventory-of-mr-john-chapmans-goods-deceased-1700/&do=reportComment&comment=412589)

 On 12/5/2012 at 8:01 PM, PoD said:

I've actually just stumbled across what nickers might be refering too. It was what Marbles were called back then:

*"The word "marble" was not used to represent the round toy ball made from various stones until 1694 in England. It was then that marble stone was being used for the toy and was being imported from Germany. Before this time, the English adopted the Dutch word "knikkers" for marbles. The word "knikker" was used by New York City children well into the 19th century."*

Obviously this makes the reference I found to a child being given money to buy nickers make more sense. They were mainly small clay balls back then. It does however seem strange that John Chapman would have them in his belongings. Unless they were items he bought along as a keepsake or to trade. I wouldnt imagine that marbles would be a great game for sailors to play on a swaying ship.

Also they are listed under clothing in his inventory so this might be totally wrong.

We still call them Knicker today in some parts of Germany. The first k is not voicelesss. It is spoken and the Dutch surely have spoken it as well. Maybe the term was common enough to change its pronounciation to fit the English fashion. So by the usually dodgy spelling of this era the knickers became nickers.