

Indentured Servitude - Primary Source Documents

**John Reid, Jr.'s Indenture of Apprenticeship contract with Robert Livingston, Jr.,
1 November 1742, from the Gilder Lehrman Collection**

THIS *Indenture* Witnesseth, that John Reid of freedhold in the County of Monnmouth Jersey by and with the Consent of his father John Riad of Sd place hath put himself, and by these Presents doth voluntarily, and of his own free Will and Accord put himself an Apprentice to Robert Livingston Jun of New York with him to live, and (after the Manner of an Apprentice) to Serve from the first Day of Novembr: *Anno Domini*, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty two till the full Term of five years be compleat and ended. During all which Term the said Apprentice his said Master faithfully shall serve, his Secrets keep, his lawfull Commands gladly every where obey: he shall do no Damage to His said Master nor see to be done by others without letting or giving Notice to his said master he shall not waste his said Masters Goods, nor lend them unlawfully to any, he shall not commit Fornication, nor contract Matrimony within the said Term. At Cards, Dice or any other unlawful Game, he shall not play, whereby his said Master may have Damage with his own Goods, nor the Goods of others within the said Term, without Lisence [*sic*] from his said Master, he shall neither buy not [*sic*] sell, he shall not absent himself Day nor Night from his said Masters Service without his Leave, nor haunt Ale-Houses, Taverns or Play-Houses; but in all Things as a faithful Apprentice he shall behave himself to his said Master and all his during the said Term. And the said Master during the said Term shall by the best Means or Method that he can, Teach or cause the said Apprentice to be Taught the Art and Mystery of a Marchent [*sic*] And also shall find an provide unto the said Apprentice sufficient meat Drink and Lodging

For the true Perfomance of all and every the said Covenants and Agreements, either of the said Parties bind themselves unto the other by these Presents. *In Witness* whereof they have hereunto interchangeably put their Hands and Seals this first Day of Novembr. in the Sixteenth Year of His Majesty's Reign *Annoq; [sic] Domini*, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Two,

Sealed and delivered in

the Presence of

John Reid

John Carpenter

John Reid Jnr:

Richd Smith\

Advertisements for runaway indentured servants from the *Maryland Gazette*, 22 May 1755, from the Gilder Lehrman Collection

<p>RAN away from the Subscriber, living at <i>Benedict</i>, on the 2d of <i>February</i> last, an hired <i>Irish</i> Servant Man, named <i>Patrick Smith</i>, about 5 Feet 4 Inches high, and pretty thick set. He had on when he went away, a black Everlasting Waistcoat, a light Fustian Jacket with white Metal Buttons, a grey Sagathy Coat with blue Lining, a Pair of blue Half-thick Breeches, and a cut Grizzel Wig.</p>	<p>RAN away on the 13th of <i>April</i> last, from the Subscriber, living near <i>Bladenburg</i>, in <i>Prince George's</i> County, a Servant Man, named <i>Nathanael Sherlard</i> (but may probably change his Name), by Trade a Carpenter and Joiner, a well set, clean limb'd Man, about 5 Feet 10 Inches high, of a swarthy Complexion, has black Eyes, and a sly Look. He has taken many Cloaths with him, both Men and Womens, some new Linen and Money, a Blanket and coarse Sheet, also some Carpenters and Joiners Tools, such as Chizzels, Saws, Broad Axe, a Smoothing Plane, &c. and a large Man's Saddle and Bridle; but as no Horse is missing, it is supposed he had some Companion to help him to one.</p>
<p>Whoever shall secure the said <i>Patrick Smith</i>, or convey him to the Subscriber, shall receive Ten Shillings, besides what the Law allows. paid by <i>Basil Brooke.</i></p>	<p>Whoever apprehends the said Servant, and brings him to the Subscriber, shall receive Four Pistoles Reward, if taken within Forty Miles from Home; if taken at a greater Distance, Five Pistoles Reward; and reasonable Charges, paid by <i>Andrew Beall.</i></p>
<p>RAN away, on the 21st of <i>April</i>, from the Subscriber, living in the Borough of <i>Lancaster</i>, an Apprentice Lad, named <i>William Kenley</i>, about 15 Years of Age, of a fresh Complexion, and has brown Hair: Had on when he went away, a Felt Hat, half worn Bearskin Coat, green Napt Jacket, Buckskin Breeches, white Shirt, Worsted Stockings, and good Shoes. Whoever takes up and secures said Apprentice, so that his Master may have him again, shall have Forty Shillings Reward, and reasonable Charges, paid by <i>William Dunlap.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>April 24, 1755.</i></p> <p>NOTICE is hereby given to the Inhabitants of <i>Anne Arundel</i> County, that (as very little of the County Tax has this Year been paid in Money) they are requested to pay off their Dues by the Tenth of <i>June</i> (the Time affix'd by Law) in Tobacco, that the Subscriber may be enabled to pay the Officers and Clergy, in the limited Time, their respective Demands. And those who do not settle, agreeable to Law will oblige</p>
<p><i>N. B.</i> It is supposed he is sent off by his Father <i>Daniel Kenley</i>, Schoolmaster in <i>Lancaster</i>, to his Grandfather, ——— <i>Wells</i>, in <i>Baltimore</i> County, <i>Maryland</i>, and is harbour'd by him, or some one of that Family.</p>	

Thinking about these documents -

- Make a T-Chart. On one side, list the benefits of being an indentured servant. On the other side, list the disadvantages of being an indentured servant.
- Make another a t-chart. On one side, list some ways being an indentured servant was like being a slave. On the other side, list ways being an indentured servant was different than being a slave.
- Why might indentured servitude and slavery existed at the same time in many colonies?

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