

New Jersey Apprentice Indenture 1680

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THE FOLLOWING indenture of apprenticeship was found in Virginia and, we believe, has not been published. It is spelled as written, but the frequent capitals at beginning of words are omitted:

"This indenter made the first day of May in the yeare of our Lord 1680. Between Nathaniel Bunn, of the town of Woodbridge, in the province of New Jersey, by and with the consent of his mother, Hester Bunn, widow, the one party, and Barnerd Filder of the abovesaid town and province, potter, the other party, witnesseth that the above named Nathaniel Bun, by and with the consent of his mother abovesaid, doth by these presents covenant, agree and bind himself an apprentice unto the above-named Bernerd Filder until the abovesaid Nathaniel be of the age of one and twenty years, which will be the five and twentyeth day of March, one thousand six hundred eighty and six, dureing which time of five years, ten months and upwards, the above-said Nathaniel doth by these presents ingage to be true and faithful in his said master's service and mistreses dureing her widowhood and not longer; his master and mistreses secrets to keep and not porleine or imbesil any of his master's estate, nor consent to the porloining or inbesilment of any part thereof by any person or persons whatsoever, his said master's lawfull commands obey and not absent himself from his master's service, neither by day nor night, without his said master's leave, but in all things behave himself as a faithfull apprentice ought to do dureing the full time and terme abovesaid.

"In consideration whereof the above named Bernerd filder doth by these presents covenant, promis and ingage to find and allow the above-named Natha.l Bunn, during the time and terme abovesaid, sufficient meat, drink, washing and lodging, and at the expiration of the term abovesaid to allow him two suits of apparel, one of good cloath or stuf fit for holy days, and to pay or cause to be paid unto him, the abovesaid Nathaniel, the full and just sum of five pounds sterling, in good pay of this country, and the aboves.d Barnerd doth by these presents ingage not to sell the said Nathaniel to any man whatsoever, nor to carry him out of this government of New Jersey, except into the government of Newyork, or some part of New England, and the abovesaid Barnerd doth by these presence ingage to learn, teach and instruct the abovesaid Nathaniel the art, trade and mistery of a potter and of tile making, if he goes upon that, and also to teach him to wright and cypher, and if the said Bernerd should marry and deceas within the time abovesaid, then the abovesaid Nath.l to serve his mistres dureing the time of hir widowhood and no longer. In witness whereof the parties to these presence have interchangeably set too their hands and seale the day and yeare above written and the said Bernerd is to let the abovesaid Nathaniel, at his going away from him, have his military armes that the said Nathaniel trains with whilst an apprentice and furnis him with a new Bible."