Home > ANCHOR > Colonial North Carolina (1600-1763) > Daily Life and Work > Primary Source: Jesse Cook's Orphan Apprenticeship

Primary Source: Jesse Cook's Orphan Apprenticeship

Apprenticeships were not uncommon in Colonial North Carolina, although the system was much less formal than the Apprenticeship system in England. Apprenticeships could be voluntary or compulsory. In the case of Jesse Cook, a young man in Bertie County during the mid eighteenth century, it was likely that his apprenticeship as a shipwright was compulsory following the death of his father, which left Cook an orphan. A transcription of his indenture -- the contract that bonded Cook to Hezekiah Mohun until his 21st birthday -- is below.

This Indenture made the Twenty-Seventh day of April in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Nine between John Brown Esquire one of the Justices of the County Court of Bertie and his Successors of the one Part and Hezekiah Mohun of the same County and Province Ship Wright of the other Part. Witnesseth that the said John Brown by Virue of the Power and Authority in him (by Law) vested do Put and Bind unto the said Hezekiah Mohun as an Apprentice Jesse Cook Orphan (or Minor) of Samuel Cook Decd. about the age of Seventeen years; The said Jesse Cook, with the said Hezekiah Mohun to Live untill he shall Accomplish the age of Twenty One years: during all which Term or Time the said Jesse Cook his said Master he shall faithfully Serve and all his lawful Commands everywhere Gladly Obey. Neither shall the said Jesse Cook frequent Publick Houses, Contract Matrimony or Commit Fornication during the said Term. And the said Hezekiah Mohun doth Convenant Promise and Agree to and with the said John Brown and his Successors that he will Teach or Cause to be Taught and Instructed the said Jesse Cook, Sufficient Meat Drink apparrel Washing and Lodging in Sickness and in health for and during the said Term; And the said Hezekiah Mohun doth Gause the said Jesse Cook to be Taught to Read and Write; And also at the Expiration of the said Term Pay to the said Apprentice what the Law in that Case doth allow

In Testimony whereof the Parties to these presents have hereunto Set their hands and Seals the day and year first above Written.

Sealed and Delivered in Presence of John Brown.

Primary Source Citation:

Wynns, Benjamin. Indenture Contract. 1759. Bertie County, NC, County Records, North Carolina State Archives (CR.010.101.7).

User Tags: apprenticeship Bertie County children colonial history North Carolina North Carolina History orphans Page Students Teachers Creative Commons BY-NC-SA From: ANCHOR: A North Carolina History Online Resource **Copyright Date:** 2008 For Teachers:

Life in Colonial North Carolina (Primary Source Sets) Lesson Plans, State Archives of North Carolina

Primary Sources:

North Carolina Th ndenture made the Twenty loven day of april in the year of our Lord One Thous and pleven ly Mine Between John Brown lequire one . the founty fourt of Bertie and his Succeptor chiah Mohun of Part Withe With that the said Jak and afethority in him Lan)Ve id unto the vaid Myzekiah Mohuntar a prentice Jefse look Orphanton Minor of Jamuel looks Je of Seventeen years; The spid Jefor look, with vaid Hezelkich Mohun to Live untill he whall accom the age of Twenty One years; during all which Termor the said felse look hill said Master he hall faithfully lowe Commande every where Gladly Bbey his Jaw ful Neither shall be the aid Jefor look frequent Bublick fle Contract Matrimoney or Commet Fortication during the said Serma and the said Heze kich Mohun doth lowemant From ise and aque to and with the said John Brown and his Succeptor that he will Jeach or fame to be Taught and Instructed the vaid for look in the artand Mistery of a Ship Wright in the Best Manner that he fan and laboo that he will find and Provide for there & Jefec look, Subjaint Meat Drink apparell Marking and Lodging in Vickness and in health for and during the said Sorth; and the said Here high Mohun the further forenand and Oblige -himself to law other and for for to be Saught to Read and Write; and also at the Experation of the said form Pay to the said apprentice what the Sam in that lave dothe allow. In. estimony where of the Parties to these presento have hore unto Interchangeably Vet their hands and Jeak the day and year first & bove Muttend Scaled and Helivered in presence of John Brown Heychich Mohun

This indenture from 1759 bonded Jesse Cook, aged seventeen, as an apprentice to Hezekiah Mohun, a Bertie County

shipwright, until Cook's twenty-first birthday.

3 January 2018

Source URL: https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/primary-source-jesse-cooks

Links

[1] https://www.ncpedia.org/media/colonial-indenture