

## A Colonial Indenture

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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. Transcript is below.

North Carolina This Indenture made the Twentysixth  
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 Hephiah Mohun of the same County and  
Province of the other Part Witnesseth that the said John Brown  
by Virtue of the Power and Authority in him (by Law) Vested  
Did Put and Bind unto the said Hephiah Mohun as an  
Apprentice Jesse Cook Orphan or Minor of Samuel Cook Deed  
about the age of Seventeen years; The said Jesse Cook with the  
said Hephiah Mohun to live untill he shall accomplish  
the age of Twenty One year: during all which Term or time  
the said Jesse Cook his said Master he shall faithfully serve  
and all his Lawfull Commands everywhere Gladly Obey.  
Neither shall he the said Jesse Cook frequent Publick Houses,  
Contract Matrimony or Commit Fornication during the  
said Term. And the said Hephiah Mohun doth Covenant  
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 in the art and Mystery of a  
Shipwright in the Best manner that he can; And also that  
he will find and Provide for the said Jesse Cook, Sufficient  
Meat Drink apparel Washing and Lodging in Sickness  
and in health for and during the said Term; And the said  
Hephiah Mohun doth further Covenant and Oblige  
himself to Cause 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 herunto Interchangeably Set their hands and Seals  
the day and year first above Written.

Scaled and Delivered in presence of

John Brown

D. Raper

Benj. Wynn

Hephiah Mohun

**Style):**

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

**Read the related article:**

Land Ownership and Labor in Carolina  
Primary Source: Jesse Cook's Orphan  
Apprenticeship

**Transcript:**

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 Virtue 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. [deceased] 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 Covenant 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 in the art and Mistery of a Ship Wright in the Best Manner that he Can, And also that he will find and Provide for 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 further Covenant and Oblige himself to Cause 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.

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