

# SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

## APPRENTICESHIP INDENTURES, 1827-1894

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Among the loose papers stored in the Southampton County Courthouse are several bundles of apprenticeship indentures which give the ages, and in some cases the exact birth dates, of the children bound out. By far the greater number of these indentures (not included here) were for "free children of color", who are so indicated in the instrument, but it is of course possible that some such were not so described. A few children were apprenticed by a parent, but the majority, who were "poor children", orphans, or illegitimate, were bound out by the Overseers of the Poor, to relieve the county of financial responsibility for their care. Some twenty of these indentures were checked through the grantor and grantee indices without being found; but whether or not they are recorded is of little moment, as the index would show only the grantor and grantee, and not the names of the children.

The terms of apprenticeship were the conventional ones, boys to serve until 21, girls until 15. The girls were to be taught housewifery; most of the boys were to be taught husbandry, although a few trades are mentioned. A minimum education was called for, and the usual clothing, tools, stock, or cash to be given at the expiration of service.

When the name of a parent is shown in the indenture, it is included in the following list. The date of the court order to bind out the child, when shown in the indenture, is also included; reference to the appropriate Order Book may reveal the name of at least one parent and the reason for the apprenticeship. Since these indentures generally followed closely upon the date of the court order, it is possible that records of the immediately previous courts may contain family data of help to the searcher, even when the date of the court order is not shown.

ADAMS, Cordy, no age given, bound 28 July 1830 by his mother, Lyda Adams, to Jesse Worrell.

ARTIS, Bennet, age 8, and Beekman, age 5, bound 4 May 1833 to Benjamin Bun.

ARTIS, Jane, age 12 years 1 month; Everitte, age 6 years 1 month; Elbert, age 4 years  $\frac{1}{2}$  month, bound 1833 [no day or month] to John Drake.

ARTIS, Nancy, born 1 Nov. 1818; Edmond, born 5 April 1821; Julia, born 7 Aug. 1823; Amos, born 16 May 1825; Hannah, born 17 Feb. 1827, bound 9 April 1832 to Bolling L. B. Barrett, according to Act for apprenticeship in cases of bastardy. See also ARTIST.

ARTIS, Richard, age 12; Wright, age 5; Pressy, age 10; Milly, age 8, bound 31 May 1830 to John D. Hart.

ARTIS, Silas, age 4; Dery, age 2; Ephraim, age 8 months, bound 19 May 1834 to Clement Rochelle.

ARTIS, Wheeler, age 7; Martha, age 10, bound 18 July 1830 to John D. Hart.

ARTIST, Anthony, age 6 on 1 April 1834, bound 21 Oct. 1834 to Richard Worrell.

ARTIST, Newsome, born 10 Jan. 1818; Edmond, born 1 April 1820; Julia, born 7 Aug. 1823; Amos, born 16 May 1825; Hannah, born 17 Feb. 1827, bound 23 Aug. 1836 to Anderson Pope. See also ARTIS.

ATKINS, Dennis, age 6, bound 1 Feb. 1835, with consent of Emma Atkins, his mother, to Henry P. Briggs.

BAILEY, Daniel D., age 17, bound 22 Dec. 1831 to Edward C. Pond.

BAILEY, George Henry, age 1 next 17 April, bound 28 Jan. 1833 to Henry Jones.

BAILEY, Henry L., age 10 the 25th of next month, bound 15 Feb. 1867 to Elliott C. Ferguson.

BAYLEY, Nicholas, age under 14, bound [ ] Aug. 1856 by Harriett Bayley, his mother, to Levi Hundley, by order of court 18 Aug. 1856.

BAILY, Robert, age 3 last 5th Dec., bound 28 Jan. 1833 to Henry Jones.

BARRETT, Seth W., age 16, bound 20 Sept. 1858 by Patsy Barrett, his mother, with his written consent (signed by mark), to R. H. Blythe.

BEAL, William Robert, age 1 year 10½ months, bastard of Emme Beal, bound 24 March 1835 to Bolling B. Vick.

BIRD, Burwell, age 6; John, age 3; Mary Ann, age 15, bound 31 May 1830 to James C. Harrison. [The surname in each appearance in the indenture is written "Evans"; in the first appearance of each name, "Evans" is lined out and "Bird" written in.]

BIRD, Delia, "borned March 1840", daughter of Emma Bird, bound 13 Nov. 1845 to Abner K. Stephenson, by court order of July 1845.

BOON "(or Hicks)", Ben, age 9, born 26 Nov. 1845; Jephtha, age 8, born 17 Aug. 1848, bound 29 March 1856 by their mother, Lotty Boon "(or Hicks)", to Harrison D. Moore by court order of 18 March 1856. She signed by mark and "or Hicks" follows the signature also.

BOON, Jephtha, age 14½; John Murfee, age 13; Josepha, age 11; bound 25 May 1863 by Lotty Boon, mother, to

T. J. Pretlow, by court order of 18 May 1863.

BRANCH, Willis, age 2, bound 19 June 1830 to James Cotton.

BROWN, Gensey, age 4, bound 16 Nov. 1835 to Thomas C. Jones.

BRYANT, George, age about 11, orphan, bound 20 Jan. 1834 to Jeremiah Williford.

BUCK, Sam, age 7; Richd., age 7 months, children of Willy Buck, bound 14 Jan. 1848 to Thomas J. Pretlow, by court order of 19 July 1847.

CHAPPELL, Evelina, age 15; Sally, age 3; Henry, age 6, bound 17 Oct. 1831 to Harrison W. Gay.

CHAPPELL, Jack, age 10, bound 18 Nov. 1827 to John Denegre; transferred 1836 to Mary Denegre [widow of John].

CHAPPELL, Peter, age 6, bound 18 Nov. 1827 to John Dengre who promises to pay to Eddy Chappell, Peter's mother, \$6 annually from the time Peter is 11 until he is 21. Transferred 17 Dec. 1836 to Mary B. Denegre.

CHAPPELL, Sam, age 9 years 8 months 7 days, born 15 Jan. 1826; Allen, age 8 years 5 months 7 days, born 15 May 1827; William, age 7 years 8 months 7 days, born 15 Feb. 1828, bound 22 Oct. 1835 to James Bell.

CHAPPELL, Thomas, age 10, bound 8 June 1833 to Edwin Travis.

CHITTY, Luiza, age 4, bound 28 Feb. 1833 to Barton Chitty.

CLEMENTS, Omev, age 10, bound 15 Dec. 1873 by her mother, Sarah Ann Clements, to Charles F. Pretlow by court order of 15 Dec. 1873.

CORBITT, Carr Bowers, will be 21 on 31 Aug. 1848, bound 24 March 1840 by his guardian, James Holmes of Southampton to William Eley of Nansemond, by court order of 18 March 1840.

COTTON, Ruffin, age 12 on 11 Feb. 1834; Joshua, age 6 on 18 Sept. 1834; Daniel, age 9 on 5 Jan. 1834, bound 15 Nov. 1834 to George Williams.

COTTON, John, age 12, bound 19 July 1830 to John D. Hart.

COTTON, Weldon, age 13, bound 21 June 1830 to Selah Ellsworth.

CROCKER, Henderson and Spratley, no ages given, bound 18 March 1833 to James H. Sebrell. Henderson is to serve until 16 April 1847 [possibly his 21st birthday?].

CROCKER, Lemuel, age 2 years 2 months, bound 5 Nov. 1834 to John A. Hill.

CROCKER, Nancy, age 13, bound 21 June 1830 to George G. G. Gray.

DARDEN, John, age 5; Henry, age 3, bound 9 Jan. 1830 to Benja. N. Barnes.

DAVIS, George, age 8, bound 12 April 1834 to John Mercer.

DAVIS, Lucy Ann, age 5 on 25 Nov. 1835, bound 17 Oct.

1835 to Jesse H. Summerell.  
 DAVIS, Martha, age 5, daughter of Willie Davis, bound 1 Jan. 1842 to Thomas Pitman by court order of April 1841.  
 DAUGHTREY, Thomas, age 11, bound [ ] 1830 to William Wills.  
 DIGGINS, John, age 16, bound 29 May 1848 to James Fisher.  
 DIGGS, Jim, age 2, bound 21 March 1831 to Thomas Jones.  
 DRAKE, Merit, to be 21 on 4 Feb. 1836, binds himself 2 July 1830 to John Mercer.  
 EDWARDS, Estelle, age 1, daughter of Walter J. Edwards "(who is a lunatic)", bound 5 May 1894 to William Raines of Portsmouth.  
 EDWARDS, Peter, age 12, bound 17 May 1875 by his guardian Maria Doles, with consent of the court and order of 17 May 1875 to John N. Sebrell.  
 ELI [probably meant for ELEY], Elisha, age 9, bound 26 Feb. 1836 by Frances Eli, his mother, to Hardy Joyner.  
 EVANS, Billy, age 8, bound 27 Feb. 1839 to John C. Turner.  
 EVANS, Burwell, John, Maryann. See BIRD.  
 EVANS, Charlot, age 6, bound 4 Oct. 1834 to Philip Cloyd.  
 EVANS, Henry, age 7 on 24 Dec. next; Spratty, age 9 on 15 June next, bound 8 April 1836 to Thomas Brittle.  
 EVANS, Lucinda, age 5, bound 27 Feb. 1839 to John C. Turner.  
 EVANS, Thomas, age 9, bound 27 Feb. 1839 to John C. Turner.  
 FREEMAN, Nartheny, age 3 on 28 Jan. next, daughter of Kitty Freeman, bound 17 Oct. 1833 to William G. Wilson.  
 FOULER, James, age 9, bound 23 July 1834 to Jonas Edwards until 23 July 1846.  
 FOWLER, Hillory, age 13, bound 21 July 1834 to Robert Drury.  
 GARDNER, William C., age 9, bound 20 Sept. 1869 to William N. Sebrell by court order of Aug. 1869.  
 GARNER, Emma, no age given, bound 8 June 1833, from 26 April 1833, to Charles Butts.  
 HAMBLIN, Lydia, age 7, bound 16 March 1832 to Polley Oney.  
 HARGRAVE, Alfred G., age 13, bound 5 June 1838 to Henry Johnson.  
 HARGRAVE, Jim, no age given, bound 10 Aug. 1834 to Lewis N. Branch.  
 HARRISSON, Antoniet and Dennis, no ages given, bound 13 Oct. 1834 with consent of Amy Harrison [sic], their mother, to Henry P. Briggs, Antoniet bound from 1831 until 21, Dennis from 1829 until 21.  
 HATHCOKE, Dennis, age 4, bound 15 Sept. 1834 to Cuthbert D. Barham. The name is Heathcock in the endorsement on the back of the indenture.  
 HICKS. See Boon.  
 HOOD, William, age 14 "16 April last (1831)", son of

Polly Hood, bound 16 Aug. 1830 [sic] to William W. Cutler until 21, which will be 16 April 1837.  
 HUGHES, George, age 6 in Jan. last, bound 16 April 1831 to Saml. Drewry.  
 HUNT, Artimisy, will be 18 on 9 Aug. 1849, bound by her father, Charles Hunt, 11 Sept. 1837 to Bennet K. Whitfield. Transferred June 1845 to Mary Whitfield; July 1845 court rescinds transfer order.  
 HUNT, Beekman, age 6, and Charles, age 8, bound 23 Jan. 1835 to Elijah Nelms.  
 HUNT, John, age 8 on 15 June next, bound 5 March 1830 to Thomas Bryant.  
 HUNT, John, will be 21 on 11 May 1847, bound 11 Sept. 1837 by his father, Charles Hunt, to Bennet K. Whitfield June 1845 transferred to Mary Whitfield; July 1845 court rescinds transfer order.  
 HUNT, William M., to be 21 on 25 Sept. 1836, son of Mary Hunt, bound 13 March 1820 to Lemuel Story; 17 March 1834 transferred by Polly Story, administratrix of Lemuel, to John Wilson.  
 JOHNSON, Caroline, age 2, bound 17 May 1875 by Fannie Johnson, her mother, to Kymerdy [elsewhere Kymedry] Parham, by court order of 17 May 1875.  
 JOHNSON, Joseph, age 3, bound 16 Jan. 1880 by July Ann Johnson, his mother, to Thos. R. Pond, with consent of and by order of court 15 Sept. 1879.  
 JOHNSON, William, age 6, bound 16 Jan. 1880 by July Ann Johnson, his mother, to T. R. Pond, with consent of and by order of court 15 Sept. 1879.  
 JOYNER, Eliza, age 9, bound 26 Sept. 1829 to Joshua Whitney.  
 LOVE, James, age 5, bound 29 Aug. 1850 by Rebecca Love, his mother, to John Yates by court order of 15 July 1850.  
 LOVE, John, age 5, bound 4 Oct. 1834 to Philip Cloyd.  
 MELTON, James, age 9, bound 1 April 1831 to Joseph Drewry.  
 MOUNTFORD, George, no age given, bound 22 Aug. 1828 to Azael Joyner.  
 MUMFORD, Benjamin, age 15 on 27 Aug. 1847, bound [ ] Aug. 1847 to Mordica Bradshaw by court order of 21 July 1847.  
 MURFEE, George W., age 16½, bound 21 March 1835 to Burwell Murfee.  
 NELMS, William, age 14, bound [ ] 1830 to Wilton Gay.  
 NICHOLS, Romine, age 4, will be 18 on 18 Dec. 1892, bound 18 Feb. 1878 by Rebecca Nichols, her mother, to Wat Holland.  
 POWELL, Elijah, age 4, bound 13 April 1837 to Lemuel Daughtery.  
 POWELL, John, age 5, bound 18 Oct. 1894 by his mother,

Florence Powell, to Jas. A. Darden. Folded with the indenture is a letter of same date from her to Judge J. B. Prince of the County Court, saying she has bound out her son as he has no father living and her health is so bad that she never expects to recover and therefore cannot provide for him.

POWELL, William, age 5 "about the date of these presents", bound 21 April 1835 to Anthony Mullen.

PRINCE, Waverly, age 16, bound 15 April 1872 to William Prince.

RAWN [or ROWN], Sam, no age given; Matthew, age 10, bound 20 Sept. 1830 to James Cotton. [It is possible that these children were free Negroes as a free Negro, Josiah Rawn, was bound to Cotton in the same year.]

REED, Newit, age 6; Betsey, age 5, bound 21 June 1830 to Selah Ellsworth.

REVELLE, Hope May, age 2½, will be 18 on 12 July 1891, bound 25 March 1876 by Susan Revil [sic], her mother, with consent of and by order of court of Jan. 1876.

RICKS, Frank, age 14, bound 1 March 1867 by Henry Ricks, his father, to J. D. Pretlow, to serve 3 years and 10 months. Frank's written consent is signed by mark.

RICKS, John E., age under 14, bound 1 March 1867 by Henry Ricks, his father, with consent of the court of 18 Feb. 1867 to J. D. Pretlow, to serve 4 months.

RICKS, Robert, age 14, bound 16 May 1853 by Louisa Ricks, his mother, to Demarcus L. Doles. She signed by mark; he signed his written consent.

ROBERTS, Thomas, age 11, on 19 Dec. 1837, bastard of Levina Roberts, bound 19 Feb. 1838 to Josiah Holleman.

SADLER, Bennett, age 13, bound 14 Nov. 1835 to Joshua Herrard [Harrod on back].

SADLER, Charles, to be 21 on 25 Dec. 1842, bound 15 Dec. 1834 to Matthew Wills.

SCOLLEN, Nancy, no age given, bound 4 June 1832 to Jeremiah Joyner.

SCOTT, Oswald, age 10; Copeland, age 8, bound 18 Jan. 1831 to Abraham L. Gardner.

SCOTT, William, now 16; Levi, now 14, bound 16 Oct. 1871 by Margaret Scott, their mother, with consent of and by order of court of Nov. 1866, to T. J. Pretlow.

SHEPHERD, Jacob, age 6 next June, bound 30 March 1837 to John R. Bryant.

SHEPHERD, Levi, born 15 Aug. 1836, son of Amy Shepherd, bound 18 March 1839 to John R. Bryant.

SUMMERELL, Amanda, age 5 years on 7 March 1852, infant of Jane Summerell, bound to Mathew Wells by court order of Sept. 1851. Nov. 1852, transferred to Mary Ann Wells.

SPENCE, James, age 10; Frank, age 8; Wm., age 6, bound

by court order of 6 Jan. 1871 to Mills A. Britt.

SWET, Mary, age 11, bound 7 Feb. 1833 to Cuthbert D. Barham.

TURNER, Harriet, age 4 years 8 months, bound 6 June 1836 to Sarah Doyall.

TURNER, Harry, age 11, bound 15 April 1872 to William Prince of Drewrysville.

TURNER, Jane, age 9, bound 2 March 1830 to Elizabeth Scott.

TURNER, John R., age 6 in Jan. 1836; Benjamin T., born 9 Jan. 1836; Sally G., age 4 in Aug. 1836, bound 21 May 1836 to Willis Beal.

TURNER, Simon, "of the age of of [sic] March the 15th 1830"; Jane Ann, born 26 Aug. 1832; William, born 20 Aug. 1835, bound 16 June 1836 to Henry Turner.

TURNER, Solomon, age 5 years 6 months; Martha, age 16, bound 18 Dec. 1837 to Joseph H. Barham.

TYERS, Roser [Rosen elsewhere], age 4, bound 9 July 1872 by Sarah Tyers, mother, to Nat Evans, to age 18. [This probably indicates Rosen was a girl.]

UNDERWOOD, Thomas, age 14, bound 24 April 1857 by Edmond Underwood, father, with written consent of Thomas, signed by mark, to A. Miles Britt.

WARREN, Dick, age 10, bound 21 June 1830 to George G. G. Gray. [A letter indenture exists for a Dick Warren, "free boy of color".]

WHITEHEAD, Clary, age 17 next April 2; Linch [elsewhere Lency], age 12 next Feb. 24; Davis, age 10 next 12 March; John, age 5 next 13 June, bound 20 Oct. 1835 to John Hargrave.

WARREN, Martha, age 9, bound 15 July 1836 to William O. Bailey.

WHITFIELD, Crecy, age 6½, bound 17 Sept. 1831 to Matilda Bryant to age 18.

WILLIAMS, James, age 11, bound [ ] 1831 to John Denegre; transferred 1836 to Mary Denegre.

WILLIAMS, Phoebe, age 7 next 28 Dec., bound 19 April 1830 to Shugars Lain.

WILLIS, Lucinda, age 13, bound 15 Feb. 1867 by court order of 21 Jan. 1867 to Richard M. Stephenson.

WOODSON, Margaret and Lias, no ages given, bound 17 May 1830 to Miles A. Britt.