



**Educating the Youth of
Pennsylvania:
Apprentices in the Age of
Franklin**

Primary Source

Transcription: Indenture of John Henry Coats as cordwainer

This Indenture Witnesses, That John Henry Coats Hath put himself, and by these Presents, and with Consent of his father Samuel Coats doth voluntarily, and of his own free Will and Accord, put himself Apprentice to John Humphries Cordwainer and his assigns to learn his Art, Trade, and Mystery, and after the Manner of an Apprentice to serve him the said John Humphries from the Day of the Date hereof, for, and during, and unto the full End and Term of nine years + Seven months next ensuing. During all which Term, the said Apprentice his said Master faithfully shall serve, his Secrets keep, his lawful Commands everywhere readily obey. He shall do no Damage to his said Master, nor see it to be done by others, without letting or giving Notice thereof to his said Master. He shall not waste his said Master's 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, without Licence from his said Master, he shall neither buy nor sell. He shall not absent himself Day nor Night from his said Master's Service without his Leave. Nor haunt Ale-houses, Taverns, or Play-houses; but in all Things behave himself as a faithful Apprentice ought to do, during the said Term. And the said Master shall use the utmost of his Endeavour to teach or cause to be taught or instructed the said Apprentice in the Trade or Mystery of Cordwainer, and procure and provide for him sufficient Meat, Drink, Apparrell, Lodging and Washing, fitting for an Apprentice, during the said Term of nine years and Seven months, to Teach him to read the bible to write and Cypher the Rule of Three and at the Expiration give him the usuall freedom dues and a set of tools. And for the true Performance of all and singular the Covenants and Agreements aforesaid, the said Parties bind themselves each unto the other firmly by these Presents. In witness whereof, the said Parties have interchangeably set their Hands and Seals hereunto. Dated the 29th Day of May in the 23rd Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Second King of Great- Britain, & c. Annoque Domini One Thousand Seven Hundred and fifty.

Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of us

John Humphreyes

[?] Lawrence [?]

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