

Terms of apprenticeship; Aaron, a mulatto child (his exact race is not given), is to become an apprentice to Captain John Lawton of Portsmouth.

11/12/1753

1700.042

Whereas the Town Council of the Town of Portsmouth in the county of Newport in the Colony of Rhode Island. At a meeting of said Town council held the 12th Day of November, A.D. 1753, ordered that a Molatto Parish male named Aaron be bound out an apprentice by the clerk of said council unto Capt. John Lawton of Portsmouth aforesaid until he the said Aaron shall attain to the age of Twenty four years. He being now arrived to the age of six years, eleventh months and Twenty-one days.

Now this indenture made the twelfth day of November in the Twenty seventh year of his Majesties Reign King George the Second King of Great Britain, Annoque Domini, 1753. Witnesseth that Robert Dennis, Clerk of said Town Council of Portsmouth aforesaid, pursuant to order of council aforesaid, hath put, and by these present, doth put & bind the abovesaid Molatto called Aaron, an apprentice unto the above named John Lawton, his heirs and Assigns, after the manner of a servant to serve from the date aforesaid unto the twenty second day of November, Annoque Domini, one thousand seven hundred and seventy. During which time the said apprentice, his said master, his heirs and Assigns faithfully shall serve their secrets, keep their lawful commands, gladly obey their secrets keep. He shall do no damage to his Master, nor flee, it done by others, without giving notice to his said Master thereof, he shall not waste, lend or purloin the goods of his said master, nor absent himself from his said Master's service by day or by night without his consent, he shall not commit fornication nor contract matrimony within said term. Nor haunt Ale-houses, Taverns, nor Playhouses, nor exercise himself in any unlawful game or games, whereby his said Master may be damaged, but in all things behave himself as a true and faithful apprentice might do during the said term.

In consideration whereof, the said John Lawton for himself, his heirs, and Assigns do covenant and agree to find and provide for said Apprentice good and sufficient meat, drink, apparel, washing & lodging, both in sickness and in health, fitting and suitable for the said Apprentice during all the abovesaid term and learn him to read, if he be capable to receive the same within said term, and at the end of said term to discharge said Apprentice with one new suit of apparel and all the wearing apparel that then shall belong to him. In witness thereof, they have hereunto interchangeable set their hand and seal, the Tenth day of December, Annoque Domini, 1753.

Signed, Sealed & Delivered in the presence of

[Signed by:]

Francis Brayton

Joseph Anthony

John Lawton