

**AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS**

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Indentures Collection, 1666-1850

LOCATION(S):

Misc. mss. boxes "I"
Oversize mss. boxes "I"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

1 folder (25 items); 1 oversize folder (2 items)

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

The 1666 indenture, gift of Mrs. Charles T. Tatman, 1946; the 1750/51 indenture, gift of Dorothy Pennett, 1960; the 1782 indenture, gift of Warren C. Lane, 2002; the 1809 indenture, purchased from Ahab Rare Books, 1996

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

An indenture is a contract binding a person to work for another for a given length of time, as an apprentice to a master, or an immigrant to service in a colony. An indenture can also be an official, authenticated list, inventory, and etc.

This collection is made up of indentures securing various agreements. They are generally handwritten and/or partially printed, originating in various locations. One indenture, dated 1 February 1666, contracts passage for a boy from England to Boston, Mass., in exchange for seven years of his service. There are indentures for apprenticeships for a joiner, housewright, husbandman, hatter, and blacksmith, as well as for housekeepers. One indenture, dated 22 January 1850, binds a black child as servant in exchange for an education. There are two photostats of printer's apprenticeships; one dated, 7 July 1756, that binds Isaiah Thomas (1749-1831) to Zechariah Fowle (1726-1776), and another, dated 8 August 1771, that binds Anthony Haswell (1756-1816) to Isaiah Thomas. All the indentures state conditions of the agreement including behavior of the apprentice, length of term, etc.

The collection also contains an indenture for a lease for household furnishings, listing all items included, as well as indentures for leases of land. There are two indentures for obligations, in addition to indentures of various agreements (e.g., judgment, marriage, release of note, manufacturing, and copartnership).

See Contents List.

American Antiquarian Society
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT

INDENTURES COLLECTION, 1666; 1750-1850
CONTENTS LIST

FOLDER

ITEM	DATE	
1	1666 February 1	Binds Thomas Austin to seven years service for passage to New England
2	1750/51 January 18	Joiner apprenticeship; binds Daniel Thomson, of Bellingham, Mass., to Ebenezer Holbrook, of Mendon, Mass.
3	1756 July 7	Printer apprenticeship; binds Isaiah Thomas (1749-1831) to Zechariah Fowle (1726-1776), both of Boston, Mass.
4	1761 September 7	Apprenticeship; binds Hannah Child to Jonas and Hannah Brown, both of Sutton, Mass.
5	1765 November 25	Housewright apprenticeship; binds Samuel Gearfield to David Baldwin, both of Spencer, Mass.
6	1766 July 21	Obligation; between David Baldwin, Asa Baldwin, and John Brown, of Leicester, Mass., to Thomas Hubbard, of Boston, Mass.
7	1771 August 8	Printer apprenticeship; binds Anthony Haswell (1756-1816) to Isaiah Thomas (1749-1831), both of Boston, Mass.
8	1778 March 23	Lease; between Jonathan Stoddard, of Templeton, Mass., to William White, of Bolton, Mass.
9	1779 March 31	Lease; between Samuel Gardner Jarvis, of Boston, Mass., and Increase Sumner, of Roxbury, Mass.
10	1782 December 17	Husbandry apprenticeship; binds Artimus Pratt (poor child), of Westborough, Mass., to Joseph Carryl and his wife Elizabeth and their heirs, of Hubbardston, Mass.
11	1803 August 1	Husbandry apprenticeship; binds King Allen to Samuel Pine, both of Petersham, Mass.
12	1803 September 3	Agreement to judgment between William Campbell, of St. John, New Brunswick, and James Putnam, of London, Great Britain, against Daniel Murray, of York Co., New Brunswick
ITEM	DATE	
13	1807 December 5	Hatter apprenticeship; binds George Plumb, of East Haddam, Conn., to Gibbons Mather, of Chatham, Conn.

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| 14 | 1809 August 15 | Marriage agreement; between Thomas Lincoln and Elizabeth Lincoln & David Rice, of Fayette Co. |
| 15 | 1815 January 7 | Housekeeping apprenticeship; binds Hetty Clark (colored) to William Reeves, both of Randolph, N.J. |
| 16 | 1815 March 14 | Blacksmith apprenticeship; binds Jesse H. Brown to William Vangordon, both of Wallkill, N.Y. |
| 17 | 1829 April 14 | Release of notes in favor of Susannah Taft, of Worcester, Mass. |
| 18 | 1832 | Housekeeping apprenticeship; binds Sally Graves, of Westminster, Mass., to George W. Cowen, of Gardner, Mass. |
| 19 | 1832 January 6 | Housekeeping apprenticeship; binds Claramon Sawin, of Westminster, Mass., to Thomas Damon |
| 20 | 1832 March 23 | Manufacturing agreement; between William Hovey, of Boston, Mass., and John Simmons & Albert Curtis, of Worcester, Mass. |
| 21 | 1834 November 20 | Apprenticeship; binds John McVeagh to Jotham B. Pratt and John Pratt, all of Worcester, Mass. |
| 22 | 1835 July 30 | Copartnership agreement; between David Harris and Harrison Bliss, both of Worcester, Mass. |
| 23 | 1838 March 27 | Copartnership agreement; between William Barker and Edwin Conant, both of Worcester, Mass. |
| 24 | 1850 January 22 | Bound servant; binds John Henry Smith (colored) to Jacob Carpenter, of Jamaica, N.Y. |
| 25 | 1850 May 18 | Obligation; between Enoch Flagg & Patrick O'Rouke and James McCloskey, all of Worcester, Mass. |

OVERSIZE FOLDER

- | ITEM | DATE | |
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| 1 | 1796 October 10 | Lease; between John Watkinson and Thomas Nicholson,, bc of Scarbrough, England |
| 2 | 1848 October 21 | Lease; between Samuel Mendum, of Kennebunk, Me., and James Clarke, of West Cambridge, Mass. |