

Indentured servants Have Genealogies, Too

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From **Wikipedia**, the free encyclopedia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indentured_servant

Indentured servitude was a form of debt bondage, established in the early years of the American colonies and elsewhere. It was sometimes used as a way for poor youth in Britain and the German states to get passage to the American colonies. An indenture was a legal contract enforced by the courts.

Restrictions

Indentures could not marry without the permission of their owner, were subject to physical punishment (like many young ordinary servants), and saw their obligation to labor enforced by the courts.

Southern New England Native Americans and indenture

In southern New England and parts of Long Island, people starting in the late 17th century, Indians were increasingly pulled into an exploitative debt-peonage system designed to control and assimilate Indian people into the dominant culture as well as channel their labor into the market-based Atlantic economy. Following King Philip's War (1675–1676) most Indians in the region were resigned to reservations or lived in increasingly marginal enclaves on the edges of colonial towns. Due to restricted access to resources, land loss, and changes to the environment caused by European settlement, many Indians, especially coastal groups, could no longer practice traditional subsistence activities and therefore became increasingly dependent on European trade goods—cloth, tools, guns, alcohol, and increasingly, food.

Impact of American Revolution

The American Revolution severely limited immigration to the United States. Economic historians differ however on the long-term impact of the Revolution. Sharon Salinger argues that the economic crisis that followed the war made long-term labor contracts unattractive. His analysis of Philadelphia's population shows how the percentage of bound citizens fell from 17% to 6.4% over the course of the war.

Caribbean

A half million Europeans went as indentured servants to the Caribbean (primarily the south Caribbean, Trinidad, French Guiana, and Suriname) before 1840. Most were young men, with dreams of owning their land or striking it rich quick would essentially sell years of their labor in exchange for passage to the islands. However, forceful indenture also provided part of the servants: contemporaries report that youngsters were sometimes tricked into servitude in order to be exploited in the colonies.

Indentured Servants

<http://www.ushistory.org/us/5b.asp>

Indentured Servants In The U.S. (The History Detectives)

<http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/feature/indentured-servants-in-the-us/>

Slavery and Indentured Servants (Law Library of Congress)

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/awlaw3/slavery.html>

Gottlieb Mittelberger On the Misfortune indentured Servants

<http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/documents/1600-1650/gottlieb-mittelberger-on-the-misfortune-indentured-servants.php>

Departure Records - From Europe to America

<http://www.italygen.com/ships/departure-records.html>

Indentures from Early Court Records

quarter sessions indentures in 1697...8th and 9th days of the 4th month

http://chester.pa-roots.com/courtrecords/1697_indentures.html

Indentured Servants & Apprentice Records, 1700-1855 <http://www.chesco.org/>

[List of imported servants and transported convicts from Europe](#) who served labor terms in Colonial Chester County, Pennsylvania (work in progress), courtesy: [Immigrant Servants Database](#)

Tracing Immigrant Origins

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Tracing_Immigrant_Origins

Virginia Emigration and Immigration

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Virginia_Emigration_and_Immigration

Virtual Jamestown: http://www.virtualjamestown.org/indentures/search_indentures.html

Search the Registers of Servants Sent to Foreign Plantations, 1654 - 1686

Convicts to Virginia

<http://www.genealogy-quest.com/collections/vaconvicts.html>

Maryland History Brief History

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Maryland_History

Mid Atlantic Publications in Name Search at Genealogical.com

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Mid_Atlantic_Publications_in_Name_Search_at_Genealogical.com

Chester County, Pennsylvania

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Chester_County,_Pennsylvania

Emigration and Immigration

For information about emigration into Pennsylvania, see the Pennsylvania Emigration and Immigration page.

- **1680s-early 1700s** - "Some Early Arrivals: Settlers in Chester County, Pa.," *Publications of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania*, Vol. 4, No. 3 (Mar. 1911):281-304. For online access, see [WeRelate](#); the Family History Library also has this series in its collection: FHL Book 974.8 B2p.
- [Immigration Records of Chester County at Chester County, Pennsylvania PGenWeb Archives](#) including Early Chester Arrivals; index of names 1681-1687

[Poorhouse Bound Apprentices, 1801-1825](#)

Berks County, Pennsylvania

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Berks_County,_Pennsylvania#Indentured_Servants

[List of imported servants and transported convicts from Europe](#) who served labor terms in Colonial Berks County, Pennsylvania (work in progress), courtesy: [Immigrant Servants Database](#).

Barbados Occupations

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Barbados_Occupations

<https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Barbados>

Irish Passenger Lists

http://members.tripod.com/~data_Mate/irish/Stgeor1.txt

The Irish Slave Trade – The Forgotten “White” Slaves

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-irish-slave-trade-the-forgotten-white-slaves/31076>

Indentured Servants found in a search of FamilySearch:

<https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Special:Search?fulltext=true&search=indentured+servants&searchbutton=Search>

Tracing Immigrants Arrival Business Records and Commerce

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Tracing_Immigrants_Arrival_Business_Records_and_Commerce

Tracing Immigrants Arrival Newspapers

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Tracing_Immigrants_Arrival_Newspapers

London Emigration and Immigration

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/London_Emigration_and_Immigration

- [Child Apprentices in America from Christ's Hospital, London, 1617-1778](#) at Ancestry

Index to "Paupers in Workhouses 1861" (10% sample)

<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/Paupers/>

About London Apprenticeship Abstracts 1442-1850

<http://www.origins.net/help/aboutbo-lonapps.aspx>

The Yorkshire Emigration

<http://www.libris.ca/yrkfam/>

US Immigration Passenger Arrival Records

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/US_Immigration_Passenger_Arrival_Records

German Records: Research beyond vital records

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/German_Records:_Research_beyond_vital_records

Italy Gen: <http://www.italygen.com/ships/index.html>

Approval to emigrate before departure

For paternalistic reasons and/or for control of population movement, governments enacted procedures to regulate emigration. At some time, requirements existing in most, if not all, countries included:

- 1) that the emigrant have completed military responsibilities;
- 2) that he or she was not wanted for criminal offences or trying to flee any authority;
- 3) that he or she was not trying to abandon family; and
- 4) that he or she, if under age, had permission from their father or other family authority.

South Sea Islanders – Fact sheet 289—Australia

<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/fact-sheets/fs289.aspx>

Child and youth migration

<http://guides.naa.gov.au/good-british-stock/introduction.aspx>