

Apprenticeship

An apprenticeship was a system where a craftsman took on a young apprentice to teach him/her skills of their profession. In Great Britain, the Statute of Apprentices of 1563 stated that no one could set up a trade without completing an apprenticeship. An apprentice was bound to a "Master" for at least 7 years. Apprentices relied on their masters for food, housing, and clothes. During their training they were not allowed to marry, gamble, or visit pubs.

The indenture was an agreement between a master and the (parent) of the apprentice. It was usually a written contract. Some parents or family had to pay the master to take on the apprentice and this was known as a premium.

Here are a few examples from Navenby.

(Data: "Find My Past", Britain, Country Apprentices 1710-1808.)

Thomas Andrew was the "Master", he was a carpenter.

Indenture year 1760

Premium £4 .0s 0d

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Apprentice **William Farmery**

James Rollitt was the "Master", he was a cordwainer

Registration year 1755

Premium £5 .5s 0d

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Apprentice **William Skinner**

Joseph Daubeny was the "Master", he was a plumber.

Registration year 1725

Premium £5 .0s 0d

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Apprentice **Benjamin Wilson**, from Waddington.

Benjamin's father was Thomas Wilson.

John Toynbee was the "Master", he was a butcher.

Registration year 1741

Premium £10. 10s. 0d

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Apprentice **William Walker**

Henry Winton was the "Master", he was a cooper.

Registration year 1771

Premium £0 .0s 0d

Navenby

Apprentice **William Hubbard**

NOTES:

A "Cooper" made barrels, buckets, butter churns etc. A "Cordwainer" was a shoemaker, but not a cobbler.