

The Apprenticeship of Lancelot Larkham

The apprenticeship of Lancelot Larkham, age 8 ½ years old, by his mother, Frances Larkham of South Kingstown, Rhode Island, to the weavers Joseph and Margaret Enos of Richmond, Rhode Island, July 7, 1749. The period of the apprenticeship was to last for 12 years, four months, and 13 days - from July 7, 1749 until November 20, 1761, which was Lancelot's 21st birthday.

Lancelot's father, Thomas Larkham, died while serving in King George's War at Fort George, Newport Rhode Island on September 4, 1746, which is why his mother placed him into the apprenticeship.

Original document in the possession of Sally Russell Cox, 5th great granddaughter of Lancelot Larkham.

This Indenture witnesseth that Francis Larkham of South Kingstown in Kings County in the Colony of Rhode Island & Providence plantations in New England wofulled Corner hath put her son Lancelot Larkham and by these presents both voluntarily and of her own free will and accord put her aforesaid son Lancelot Larkham an apprentice unto Joseph Enos & his wife Margaret Enos of the Town of Richmond in the County & Colony aforesaid Weavers to Learn their art Trade or mystery of a Weaver after the manner of an apprentice to serve them from the Day of the Date hereof for and During the full Term of twelve years four months & thirteen Days next ensuing During all which time the said apprentice his said master & mistress faithfully shall serve their secrets keep their Lawfull Comoniments Gladly & Obedy where Obedy he shall Do no Damage to his said master nor mistress nor see it to be Done by others without Letting or Giving notice thereof to his said master or mistress he shall not waste his said master or mistress Goods nor Len them unlawfully to any he shall not Commit fornication nor Contract matrimony within said Term at Cards Dice or any other unlawful Game he shall not play where by his said master or mistress may be Damaged with their ~~own~~ non Goods nor the Goods of others he shall not absent him self ~~from~~ nor night from his said masters nor mistress service without their Leave nor ~~be~~ haunt ale houses Taverns or play houses but in all things behave him self as a faithful apprentice ought to Do During the said Term and the said master and mistress shall use the utmost of their Endeavour to Teach and instruct or Cause to be Taught and instructed the said apprentice in the Trade and mystery of a weaver and procure and provide for him sufficient meate Drink apparel Washing and Lodging fitting for such an apprentice During the said Term and the said master and mistress shall procure to instruct the said apprentice in Reading and at the Expiration of the aforesaid Term to Give unto the said apprentice one whole sute of apparel besides his Query Day wearing apparel and for the more performance of Query of the said Couenants and agreements Either of the said parties bind them selves unto the other by these presents in witness whereof they have Inter changeably put their hands and seals this seventh Day of July in the Twentieth ~~and~~ Third year of the reign of our sovereign Lord George ^{4th} by the Grace of God King our Greate Britain: A.D. 1749

signed sealed & Delivered
in the presence of

Anna Larkham

John Webster

Francis Larkham

**The Apprenticeship Indenture of
Lancelot Larkham of South Kingstown, Rhode Island
7 July 1749**

This indenture witnesseth that Frances Larkham of South Kingstown in Kings County in the Colony of Rhode Island & Providence Plantation in New England *Woosted Corner hath put her son Lanceselot Larkham and by these presents doth voluntarily and of her own free will and accord put her aforesaid son Lanceselot Larkham an apprentice unto Joseph Enoss & his wife Margaret Enoss of the town of Richmond in the county & colony aforesaid Weavers to learn their art: Trade or mystery of a weaver after the manner of an apprentice, to serve Them from the Day of the Date hereof for and During the full term of twelve years, four months & Thirteen Days next Ensuring during all which time the said apprentice his said Master and Mistress faith fully shall serve their secrets keep their Lawful Commandments Gladly Every where obey. He shall Do no Damage to his said Master nor Mistress nor see it to be Done by others without Letting or Giving notice thereof to his said Master or Mistress. He shall not waste his said Master or Mistress Goods nor Lend them unlawfully to any. He shall not Commit fornication nor Contract Matrimony within said Term. At Cards, Dice or any other unlawful Game he shall not play, whereby his said Master or Mistress may be Damaged with their own Goods nor the Goods of others. He shall not absent himself Day nor night from his said Master nor Mistress service Without their leave nor haunt alehouses 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 and Mistress shall use the utmost of their Endeavors to Teach and Instruct or Cause to be Taught and Instructed the said apprentice in the Trade and mastery of a weaver and procure and provide for him sufficient meate Drink apparel washing and lodging fitting for such an apprentice. During the said Term and the said master and mistress shall endeavor to Enstruct the said apprentice in Reading and at the Expiration of the aforesaid Term to Give unto the said apprentice one whole sute of apparel besides his Every Day wearing apparel and for the True performance of Every of the Said covenants and agreements Either of the Said parties bind themselves unto the other by these presents in witness whereof they have Interchangeably put their hands and seals this seventh Day of July in the Twenty Third year of the reign of our sovereign Lord George by the Grace of God King our Greate Britain: A.D. 1749

Signed sealed & Delivered
in the presence of
Anna Kinyon
John Webster

Frances Larkham

Notes: *woosted was the old English term for worsted. The name, Woosted Corner, indicates that Lanceselot's parents probably worked in the Rhode Island textile industry. This would explain why he was being put into an apprenticeship to learn the trade of weaving.