

Indentured Servitude Contract

THIS WRITING INDENTED made the Last day of July/ Anno Dom 1627 And in the Third year of the reign of our Sovreign Lord Charles by the Grace of God king of England Scotland France and Ireland Defender of the faith &c. between Richard Lowther of Broome in the Parish of South well [i.e., Southill] in the County of Bedford brewer of the one party and Edward Hurd Citizen and Iron monger of London of the other party witnesses that the said Richard Lowther (for the Considerations here in after Mentioned) has hired himself and is become and by theis presents does Covenant and agree and bind himself to be remain and Continue the Covenant servant of him the said Edward Hurd his heirs and assigns to be by him or them sent and transported unto the Country and land of Virginia, in the parts beyond the Seas & to be by him or them employed upon his plantation there, for and during the space of Four years to begin at the feast day of St. Michael Tharchangell now next coming during which said term the said Richard Lowther shall and will truly employ and cnd [sic] endeavour himself to the utmost of his power knowledge and skill to do and perform true and faithful service unto the said Edward Hurd his heirs and assigns in for and concerning all such Labor and business as he or they shall think good to use and employ him the said Richard Lowther in, And shall and wilbe tractable and obedient as a good and a faithful servant ought to be in all such things as shalbe Commanded him by the said Edward Hurd his heirs or assigns in Virginia aforesaid or elsewhere during the said term . IN CONSIDERATION whereof the said Edward Hurd for himself his executors administrators or assigns and for every of them do covenant promise and grant to and with the said Richard Lowther his heirs executors administrators and assigns by theis presents that he the said Edward Hurd his heirs executors administrators and assigns shall and will (at his and their own charges) not only transport and furnish out the said Richard Lowther to and for Virginia aforesaid and there find provide and allow unto him sufficient meat drink apparel and other necessities for his livelihood and maintenance during the said term But also at the expiration of the said term shall and will grant assign and allot unto him the said Richard Lowther the quantity of Fifty acres of Land in Virginia aforesaid to hold to him his heirs and assigns for ever as in such Cases usual without fraud or Coven In witness whereof the said parties to theis present writings indented Interchangeably have set their hands and seals given the day and year first above written.