# Indentured Servants Have Genealogies, Too!
## Mt. Diablo Genealogy Society 19 February 2016

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, starting in the late 17th century, Indians were increasingly pulled into indentured servitude.

## *Impact of American Revolution*
The American Revolution severely limited immigration to the United States.

## Caribbean
A half million Europeans went as indentured servants to the Caribbean (primarily the south Caribbean, Trinidad, French Guiana, and Suriname) before 1840.

## Indentured Servants in the US (**Th**e Histo**ry 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

**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;

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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.

**Departure Records - From Europe to America**
http://www.italygen.com/ships/departure-records.html

**Virtual Jamestown:** http://www.virtualjamestown.org/indentures/search_indentures.html
**Search the Registers of Servants Sent to Foreign Plantations, 1654 - 1686**

**The Yorkshire Emigration**
http://www.libris.ca/yrkfam/

**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

**Convicts to Virginia**
http://www.genealogy-quest.com/collections/vaconvicts.html

**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

**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

**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
Many immigrants were indentured servants, apprentices whose masters paid for their passage in return for labor. Indenture records often mention birthplace or residence. Examples of these kinds of records are—

- Coldham, Peter Wilson. *Child Apprentices in America From Christ's Hospital, London, 1617-1688*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1990. (FHL book 942.1/L1 J2cp.)

- ——. *The Bristol Registers of Servants Sent to Foreign Plantations, 1654-1686*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988. (FHL book 942.41/B2 W2c.)

You can find similar records in the Place Search of the Family History Library Catalog under [COUNTRY or STATE] - BUSINESS RECORDS AND COMMERCE or under [COUNTRY or STATE] - OCCUPATIONS.

Clues to an immigrant's occupation are in family sources, census records, city directories, and even ship's passenger lists. Local histories, maps, census records, and city directories can help identify nearby businesses or companies that may have needed the immigrant's skills.

## Tracing Immigrants Arrival Newspapers
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Tracing_Immigrants_Arrival_Newspapers
Newspapers also provide immigration information. In addition to obituaries (described next), newspapers from the immigrant's lifetime may list:
- Passengers or new arrivals.
- Immigrants treated in a local hospital.
- **Immigrants who came as indentured servants** or apprentices.
- Missing relative or friend queries.
- Marriage announcements.
- Notices of estate probates.

## London Emigration and Immigration
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/London_Emigration_and_Immigration
In lieu of passenger lists, genealogists have sought for London emigration records in a variety of other sources. Tens of thousands of records of indentured servants and transported convicts leaving London for America exist.

## Mid Atlantic Publications in Name Search at Genealogical.com
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Mid_Atlantic_Publications_in_Name_Search_at_Genealogical.com

## Virginia Emigration and Immigration
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Virginia_Emigration_and_Immigration
The original European settlers came in the early 17th century from the midland and southern counties of England. They first settled in Virginia's tidewater (coastal plain). Many colonists had connections to Barbados.

## Barbados Occupations
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Barbados_Occupations
 Since the early days of colonizations, sugar cane production has been one of Barbados's most important industries.
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Barbados

## Chester County, Pennsylvania
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Chester_County,_Pennsylvania
 Emigration and Immigration

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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 PAGenWeb Archives including Early Chester Arrivals; index of names 1681-1687

## 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; Poorhouse Bound Apprentices, 1801-1825

## Tracing Immigrant Origins
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Tracing_Immigrant_Origins

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

## US Immigration Passenger Arrival Records
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/US_Immigration_Passenger_Arrival_Records
**Indentured Servants Database**
More than 75 percent of the colonists who settled south of New England financed their voyages to the New World as indentured servants, convict servants, and redemptioners. This project aims to identify all immigrants described by these terms in American and European sources from 1607 through 1820.

## German Records: Research beyond vital records
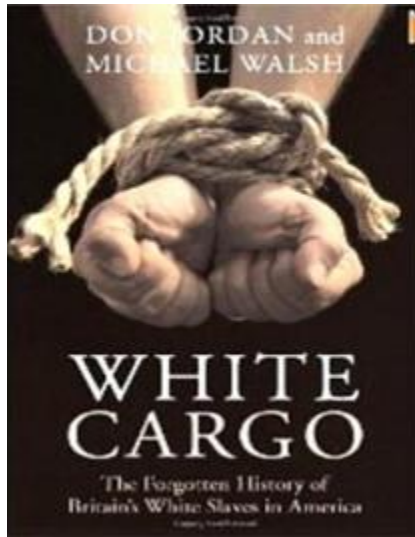https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/German_Records:_Research_beyond_vital_records
**Occupation Records**: The culture, history and records of Germany Occupations are varied and steeped in tradition, (see Understanding Occupations in German Research | Learn | FamilySearch.org) Many provide name, age or birth date, trade, migration and residency information.

# The Irish Slave Trade – The Forgotten "White" Slaves

*The Slaves That Time Forgot*
By John Martin
Global Research, January 27, 2013

*They came as slaves; vast human cargo transported on tall British ships bound for the Americas. They were shipped by the hundreds of thousands and included men, women, and even the youngest of children.*

*Whenever they rebelled or even disobeyed an order, they were punished in the harshest ways. Slave owners would hang their human property by their hands and set their hands or feet on fire as one form of punishment. They were burned alive and had their heads placed on pikes in the marketplace as a warning to other captives.*

We don't really need to go through all of the gory details, do we? We know all too well the atrocities of the African slave trade.

But, are we talking about African slavery? King James II and Charles I also led a continued effort to enslave the Irish. Britain's famed Oliver Cromwell furthered this practice of dehumanizing one's next door neighbor.

The Irish slave trade began when James II sold 30,000 Irish prisoners as slaves to the New World. His Proclamation of 1625 required Irish political prisoners be sent overseas and sold to English settlers in the West Indies. By the mid-1600s, the Irish were the main slaves sold to Antigua and Montserrat. At that time, 70% of the total population of Montserrat were Irish slaves.

Ireland quickly became the biggest source of human livestock for English merchants. The majority of the early slaves to the New World were actually white.

From 1641 to 1652, over 500,000 Irish were killed by the English and another 300,000 were sold as slaves. Ireland's population fell from about 1,500,000 to 600,000 in one single decade. Families were ripped apart as the British did not allow Irish dads to take their wives and children with them across the Atlantic. This led to a helpless population of homeless women and children. Britain's solution was to auction them off as well.

During the 1650s, over 100,000 Irish children between the ages of 10 and 14 were taken from their parents and sold as slaves in the West Indies, Virginia and New England. In this decade, 52,000 Irish (mostly women and children) were sold to Barbados and Virginia. Another 30,000

Irish men and women were also transported and sold to the highest bidder. In 1656, Cromwell ordered that 2000 Irish children be taken to Jamaica and sold as slaves to English settlers.

Many people today will avoid calling the Irish slaves what they truly were: Slaves. They'll come up with terms like "Indentured Servants" to describe what occurred to the Irish. However, in most cases from the 17th and 18th centuries, Irish slaves were nothing more than human cattle.

As an example, the African slave trade was just beginning during this same period. It is well recorded that African slaves, not tainted with the stain of the hated Catholic theology and more expensive to purchase, were often treated far better than their Irish counterparts.

African slaves were very expensive during the late 1600s (50 Sterling). Irish slaves came cheap (no more than 5 Sterling). If a planter whipped or branded or beat an Irish slave to death, it was never a crime. A death was a monetary setback, but far cheaper than killing a more expensive African. The English masters quickly began breeding the Irish women for both their own personal pleasure and for greater profit. Children of slaves were themselves slaves, which increased the size of the master's free workforce. Even if an Irish woman somehow obtained her freedom, her kids would remain slaves of her master. Thus, Irish moms, even with this new found emancipation, would seldom abandon their kids and would remain in servitude.

In time, the English thought of a better way to use these women (in many cases, girls as young as 12) to increase their market share: The settlers began to breed Irish women and girls with African men to produce slaves with a distinct complexion. These new "mulatto" slaves brought a higher price than Irish livestock and, likewise, enabled the settlers to save money rather than purchase new African slaves. This practice of interbreeding Irish females with African men went on for several decades and was so widespread that, in 1681, legislation was passed "forbidding the practice of mating Irish slave women to African slave men for the purpose of producing slaves for sale." In short, it was stopped only because it interfered with the profits of a large slave transport company.

England continued to ship tens of thousands of Irish slaves for more than a century. Records state that, after the 1798 Irish Rebellion, thousands of Irish slaves were sold to both America and Australia. There were horrible abuses of both African and Irish captives. One British ship even dumped 1,302 slaves into the Atlantic Ocean so that the crew would have plenty of food to eat.

There is little question that the Irish experienced the horrors of slavery as much (if not more in the 17th Century) as the Africans did. There is, also, very little question that those brown, tanned faces you witness in your travels to the West Indies are very likely a combination of African and Irish ancestry. In 1839, Britain finally decided on its own to end its participation in Satan's highway to hell and stopped transporting slaves. While their decision did not stop pirates from doing what they desired, the new law slowly concluded THIS chapter of nightmarish Irish misery.

But, if anyone, black or white, believes that slavery was only an African experience, then they've got it completely wrong.

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Irish slavery is a subject worth remembering, not erasing from our memories.

But, where are our public (and PRIVATE) schools???? Where are the history books? Why is it so seldom discussed?

Do the memories of hundreds of thousands of Irish victims merit more than a mention from an unknown writer?

Or is their story to be one that their English pirates intended: To (unlike the African book) have the Irish story utterly and completely disappear as if it never happened.

None of the Irish victims ever made it back to their homeland to describe their ordeal. These are the lost slaves; the ones that time and biased history books conveniently forgot.

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