

Chapter 15

Freemen of the City and Apprenticeship Records.

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Introduction

Here is a section that puts 'flesh on the bones' of our ancestors!

A search through the many indexes that exist for Freemen and Apprentices revealed many Jephcott entries. Those that have been found are shown on the following pages. There must also be many more to be found.

We are fortunate to have found so many records of apprenticeships as, the training of working men (and women) was not usually recorded. The indentures of apprenticeship tended to be private documents and therefore in private hands.

Between 1710 and 1811, the good old taxman saw an avenue to extract a tax from the master and records do exist in the PRO (IR1, IR17). We have not consulted these records, but it is probable that other references would be found by doing so.

Of the records that we have searched, such information as name (and sometimes parents name) of apprentice, address and trade of the master, term of apprenticeship, cost of apprenticeship paid to the master by the apprentice and date of indenture. Such information can tell us much about an ancestor's movements and lifestyle. Many of those mentioned left a will in later life, where more information can be obtained.

Quite often, an apprentice would leave home and go to live with his master, perhaps several miles away. These records can therefore assist with tracing the movements of individuals.

In some cases, subsequent marriage indexes have revealed marriages between apprentices and the master's daughter. It adds a nice touch to a family history when this sort of thing occurs and puts an end to the question – 'I wonder how they met each other!'

A wording of a typical 19th century indenture is shown elsewhere in this section and it gives an insight into what was expected of an apprentice when bound to a master.

Freemen of the City of Coventry

from 1722 to 1934

The following is an extract taken from the index of those persons who were made Freemen of the City of Coventry (held at CRO). The persons who were made Freemen were usually persons who had served an apprenticeship in the city and subsequently made their living in their chosen trade.

Jephcot	John	Jun Barber, Bayley lane Ward	1722		
Jephcot	John	Capper, Cross Cheaping Ward	1722		
Jephcot	Henry	Capper, Cross Cheaping Ward	1722		
Jephcot		Daventry, not sworn	1722		
Jephcot	Henry	Southam, Skillamer	1722		
Jeffcoat	Thomas	Bandworkermaker, Birmingham	1768		
Jefcut	Joseph	Weaver, 7th Reg't of S Foot	1770		
Jephcott	Francis	Woolcomber, Bayley Lane Ward	1782	AA	
Jeffcoat	Thomas	Weaver, Bishopstreet Ward	1784		
Jeffcoat	Thomas	Chandler, Crosscheaping Ward	1788		
Jephcott	Richard	Woolcomber, Bayley Lane Ward	1792	AA	
Jephcott	Francis	Hatter & Feltmaker, Spon St. Ward	1818	AA	
Jephcote	George	Weaver, Stoke	1826	AA	b1798
Jephcott	Jacob	Tinman & Brazier, Cross Cheaping Ward	1829		
Jephcott	William	Brushmaker, Smithford St. Ward	1835		
Jephcott	Henry	Brush & Pattern maker, Crosscheaping Ward	1840		
Jephcott	Thomas	Brushmaker, Bishop St. Ward	1842		
Jephcott	William	Grocer & Chandler, Birmingham	1842		
Jephcott	Edwin Davies	Brush & Patternmaker, Smithford St. Ward	1851	AB	b1828
Jephcott	Thomas	Butcher & Furniture Broker, Broadgate Ward	1851		
Jephcott	William	Watchfinisher, Bishop St. Ward	1853		
Jephcott	Henry	Furniture Broker & Haberdasher, Broadgate Ward	1857		
Jephcott	Francis	Furniture Broker & Haberdasher, Broadgate Ward	1859	AA	b1836
Jephcott	Tom Coke	Brush Manufacturer, Stivichall	1871	AB	b1850
Jephcott	William	Watchfinisher, Spon St. Ward	1871		
Jephcott	William	Builder & Cabinetmaker, Gosford St. Ward	1874		
Jephcott	William	Builder & Cabinetmaker, Gosford St. Ward	1874		
Jephcott	William	Carpenter & Joiner, Bishop St. Ward	1878		
Jephcott	Edwin Coke	Watchfinisher, Spon St. Ward	1878	AB	b1857
Jephcott	John William	Builder, Bishop St. Ward	1881	AA	b1860
Jephcott	Walter	Builder, Bishop St. Ward	1884	AA	b1863
Jephcott	Abraham Jun	Bricklayer, Hillfields Ward	1907	AA	b1886

The following listings have been taken from various indexes to apprentices and their masters that have been found on the shelves of unspecified libraries.

In some instances, the indexes use abbreviations. For instance, the first item refers to an indenture dated 1757, for Daniel Jeffcutt who was bound in the sum of £10 to Richard Portinger, a wheelwright of Adderbury, Oxfordshire.

There are spelling errors with the names of apprentices which is probably due to poor quality of documents from which the extracts have been taken. For instance, the Jephesst shown further on is definitely a Jephcott belonging to family AK.

Apprentices of Great Britain 1710-1762

53/127	1757	Jeffcutt Dan to Ric Portinger of Adderbury, Oxon Whlw £10
52/161	1756	Jefcoat Wm to Jn Dodd of Loughborough Leics. knitter (frame) £4 10/
48/195	1718	Jephcoat Edw Jos of Righton Warws to Jn Hall of Brandon do, Mason £4
48/19	1722	Jephcott Fran Nic Decd to Rob Sedgley of Coventry Carp £6
2/148	1713	Jephcott Hen Nic of Southam, Warws to Wm. Fawson of Coventry., fell £10
14/46	1735	Jephecott Jn ELiz to Thos Andrews of Bermondsey Basket £5
49/41	1728	Jephcott Thos Thos of Feleshill Coventry to Jn Orton to do Whlw £6
52/147	1755	Jephcott Thos to Sam Wymont of Daventry Groc £60
2/117	1713	Wm Hen of Coventry Warws to Geo Meakins at & Gold & Silver Wire Drawer £5
21/100	1757	Jephcott Wm to Wm holden of Birmingham Sadl & C £94 10/-
53/204	1760	Jephestt Wm to Sam Jackeman of Killsby Woolc £8 8/

Warwickshire Apprentices & Their Masters

1710 - 1760

- 944 Halford, John son of John, yeoman, deceased to John Jephcott of Coventry, barber & wig maker: 1st March 1716: CIC: 7 years £20 (14th april 1716: 44/95)
- 2160 Tookey, William: To John Jephcott of Coventry, wigmaker: 1st May 1722: SIC: 7 years £20 (9th January 1723:47/181)
- 1193 Jephcoat, Edward, son of Joseph of Righton: To John Hall of Brandon, mason: 11th March 1718: CIC: 7 years: £4 (12 June 1725: 48/95)
- 1194 Jephcott, Francis, son of Nicholas, deceased: to Robert Sedgley of Coventry carpenter: 2nd November 1722: CIC 7 years: £6 (7th June 1723: 48/19)
- 1195 Jephcott, Thomas, son of Thomas, of Coleshill: to John Orton of Coleshill Wheelwright: 12th October 1728 CIC 7 years: £6 (6th November 1728: 49/41)

The following is almost a repeat of the previous extract but contains some differences which may affect your search.

WARWICKSHIRE APPRENTICES AND THEIR MASTERS

1710 - 1760

Apprentices

- 1193 JEPHCOAT, Edward, s. of Joseph, of Righton: to John Hall of Brandon, mason: 11 mar. 1718: C.I.C.: 7 years: £4 (12 June 1725: 48/195)
- 1194 JEPHCOTT, Francis, s. of Nicholas, deceased: to Robert Sedley of Coventry, capenter: 2 Nov. 1722: C.I.C.: 7 years: £6 (6 Nov. 1728: 49/41)

Masters

- 944 HALFORD, John, s. of John, yeoman, deceased: to John JEPHCOTT of Coventry, barber and wigmaker: 1 Mar. 1716: C.I.C.: 7 years: £20 (14 Apr. 1716: 44/95)
- 2160 TOOKEY, William: to John JEPHCOTT of Coventry, wigmaker: 1 Mar 1722: S.I.C.: 7 years £20 (9 Jan. 1723: 47/181)

Each entry gives the following information:

apprentice's name, parentage abode, and parent's occupation
master's name, occupation and abode
date of the indenture
type of indenture
term
premium and (within brackets) the date of the payment of duty

and finally the short reference:

C.I.C = common indenture and counterpart
S.I.C.= single indenture and counterpart

Apprentices of Gt. Britain 1710-1762

Index of Masters 1-5

43	11-15	Jn Jefcott 2476
44	16-20	Jephcott Ursula 3773
46	26-30	Jephcott Jn 5925
47	31-33	Jeffcut Ric 6362

EXTRACTS FROM COVENTRY APPRENTICES AND THEIR MASTERS

1781 - 1806

APPRENTICES

- 2421 JEFFCOAT, Benjamin, s. of William of Coventry, weaver: to Samual Lightbourne of Coventry, weaver: 1 Feb 1791: 84r
- 2422 JEFFCOAT, Henry, S. of Thomas of Coventry, butcher: to his father: 26 Jan 1797: 153v
- 2423 JEFFCOAT, Richard, assigned from John Eyre, woolcomber, deceased: to Michael Eyre of Coventry, woolcomber: 15 Oct 1785: 38v
- 2424 JEFFCOAT, Thomas, assigned from Mary Goode: to Robert Goode of Coventry, tallow chandler and grocer: 24 Jan 1785: 33r
- 2425 JEFFCOAT, Thomas, assigned from Thomas Goode, deceased: to Mary Goode of Coventry, widow: 24 Mar 1783: 18v
- 2426 JEFFCOAT, William, s. of Thomas of Coventry, weaver: to his father: 6 Feb 1798: 159r
- 2427 JEFFCOTE, John, s. of William of Coventry, labourer: to Benjamin Lapworth of Coventry, weaver: 9 Apr 1785: 35v
- 2442 JEPHCOAT, Richard, s. of Francis of Coventry: to John Eyre of Coventry, woolcomber: 7 Feb 1785: 34r

MASTERS

- 2403 JAMES, Matthew, assigned from John Mace and Thomas JEFFCOAT, to Thomas Cotton of Coventry, blacksmith and farrier: 1 Aug 1799: 175r
- 2334 HUNTER, Samuel, s. of John of Radford, Coventry, woolcomber: to Thomas Jeffcoat of Coventry, grocer and chandler: 26 Jan 1789: 59r
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The Oath of a Freeman

The following is a transcript of the Oath of a Freeman awarded to Francis Jephcott who, later in life, lived in Birmingham.

City of Coventry

The Oath of a Freeman

I Francis Jephcott of Spon Street Ward, Hatter and Feltmaker, do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithfull and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Third and that I will be obedient unto the Mayor and Magistrates of this City. The Lands Liberties Franchises and Lawfull Customs thereof I will maintain and the same in all that I can or may lawfully defend and keep harmless. I will be tributary to all Contributions Taxes Tallages Summons Watch Scot and Lot and all other Charges to be laid within this City bearing my part as any other Freeman shall or ought. I will maintain and defend the King's Peace in that I may. And if I shall know of any Gatherings and Conspiracies moved or made against the King's Peace I will let the Mayor or Justices of this City know the same. I will not with hold or impair nor conceal the with holding or impairing any Evidences or Charters belonging to this City but will warn the Mayor or Justices of this City of the same. I will not colourably bear or seem to bear or allow any Horse Mare Guelding Colt Filley Cow or Heifer or other Cattle of any other Mans but of my own upon any of the Commons of this City. All which Points and Articles I do swear well and truly to keep according to the Laws of God and this Realm and the Lawfull Customs of this City. So help me God.

Admitted and Sworn in Council }The 30th Day
a CITIZEN and FREEMAN }of June 1818

J.Clarke Mayor

A 19th Century Apprentice's Indenture

The following is a transcript of an Apprentice's Indenture. The precise terms and wording of these documents vary according to the nature of the Apprenticeship and is normally based on a standard format, with particular clauses and conditions being added such that it sets out clearly what is expected of each party.

This Indenture Witnesseth That Abraham Jephcott junior doth put himself Apprentice to his father Abraham Jephcott senior of Bradford Street Coventry in the County of Warwick doth of his own freewill put himself to his father the aforesaid Abraham Jephcott of the City of Coventry as Apprentice to learn his Art and with him after the manner of an Apprentice to serve from the ninth day of December one thousand eight hundred and ninety nine unto the full End and Term of Seven Years from thence next following to be fully complete and ending During which term the said Apprentice his Master faithfully shall serve his secrets keep his lawful commands everywhere gladly do he shall do no damage to his said Master nor see to be done of others but to his Power shall tell or forthwith give warning to his said Master of the same. He shall not waste the Goods of his said Master nor lend them unlawfully to any. He shall not commit fornication nor contract Matrimony within the said Term. He shall not play at Cards or Dice Tables or any of the unlawful Games whereby his said Master may have any loss with his own goods or others during the said Term with out Licence of his said Master shall neither buy nor sell. He shall not haunt Taverns or Play houses nor absent himself from his said Master's service day or night unlawfully. But in all things as a faithful Apprentice he shall behave himself towards his said Master and all his during the said Term.

And the said Master Abraham Jephcott Bricklayer of Number Seven of Bradford Street Hill Fields in the City of Coventry in the County of Warwick and the said Master shall use the utmost of his endeavours to teach or cause to be taught and instructed the said Apprentice in the trade and Mystery he now professeth occupieth or followeth and shall teach his said Apprentice in the Art of Bricklaying which he useth by the best means that he can shall teach and instruct or cause to be taught and instructed Finding unto the said apprentice sufficient Meat Drink Apparel Washing and Lodging and all other Necessaries during the said Term

And for the true performance of all and every the said Covenants and Agreements either of the said Parties bindeth himself unto the other by these Presents In Witness whereof the parties above named to these Indentures interchangeably have put their Hands and Seals the ninth day of December and in the sixty second Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria by the Grace of God of the united Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen Defender of the faith and in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Nine

Abraham Jephcott junr
Abraham Jephcott senr
sealed and delivered by all parties
in the presence of us as witnesses

William Jephcott of Foleshill
Willam ----- Coventry
