

4. A Blank Servant Indenture Form, 1635

The forme of binding a servant.

**T**his Indenture made the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
in the \_\_\_\_\_  
yeere of our Sovereigne Lord King Charles, &c.  
betweene \_\_\_\_\_ of the one  
party, and \_\_\_\_\_ on the  
other party, Witnesseth, that the said  
doth hereby covenant promise, and  
grant, to and with the said  
his Executors and Assignes, to serve him from  
the day of the date hereof, untill his first and  
next arrivall in Maryland; and after for and  
during the tearme of \_\_\_\_\_ yeeres, in such  
service and imployment, as he the said  
or his assignes shall there im-  
ploy him, according to the custome of the Countrey  
in the like kind. In consideration whereof, the said  
doth promise  
and grant, to and with the said  
to pay for his passing, and to  
find him with Meate, Drinke, Apparell and Lodg-  
ing, with other necessaries during the said terme;  
and at the end of the said terme, to give him one  
whole yeeres provision of Corne, and fifty acres of  
Land, according to the order of the countrey. In  
witnesse whereof, the said  
hath hereunto put his hand and seale, the day and  
yeere above written.

Scaled and delivered in  
the presence of \_\_\_\_\_ H

The usuall terme of binding a servant, is for  
five yeeres; but for any artificer, or one that shall  
deserve more then ordinary, the Adventurer  
shall doe well to shorten that time, and adde  
encouragements of another nature (as he shall  
see cause) rather then to want such usefull men.

Blank indenture form in Anon. [Father Andrew White], *A Relation of Maryland* (London, 1635, 1966), 53-54.