

Apprenticeships Involving Free Children of Color in Chatham County: 1800 to 1865

by Jim and Beverly Wiggins, revised 27Jul2022

Apprenticeship is the system of binding a child to a master to learn a craft, trade, or occupation. In North Carolina, both compulsory apprenticeship and voluntary apprenticeship have been used since colonial days.¹

The immediate objective of compulsory apprenticeship was to relieve the community of the burden of support and maintenance of indigent orphans,² abandoned or illegitimate children, and the children of impoverished parents. A longer-term objective was to train children in an occupation so that they could support themselves as adults. These apprenticeships were executed by court order, entitling the master to the apprentice's obedience and service and, in return obligating the master to provide basic necessities and training. Boys were apprenticed to learn skilled crafts such as carpentry or farming, while girls were usually apprenticed to learn housekeeping. Both white and free children of color were apprenticed. These apprenticeships were compulsory in that the permission of the parent, if one existed, was not required.³

Voluntary apprenticeships, on the other hand, were established with the permission of a parent—usually a father. The father, being by common law entitled to the service and obedience of his child until age 21, could forge a binding agreement that his child should serve another for one or more years.⁴ It was up to the courts to determine whether single and widowed women would have guardianship of their children, so those women had little say in whether their children would be apprenticed.

North Carolina law was changed in the 1820s, so that the parental rights of free men of color could also be challenged. That law permitted courts to bind out “the children of free negroes and mulattoes, where the parent, with whom such children may live, does or shall not habitually employ his or her time in some honest industrious occupation.”

Apprenticeship law gave courts the right to bind orphans (defined as children with no parents or children of unwed or widowed mothers) to local masters. Justices could bind out white boys until age twenty-one, white girls until age eighteen, and children of color—both boys and girls—until age twenty-one. The law required the master to teach apprentices to read and write. However, some localities issued apprenticeship agreements that did not follow the law. Chatham County appears to have been one of these. For example, the requirement to be taught to read and write was excluded from the contracts of most apprenticed free children of color in Chatham even before the state General Assembly changed the apprenticeship regulations in their 1836-37 session to no longer require the “master of a colored apprentice to teach him or her to read and write.”⁵

Some authors have asserted that apprenticeship amounted to forced servitude while others suggest that it was beneficial for the children involved.⁶ Certainly, some apprenticeships exploited the apprenticed child. In other cases, the apprenticeship may have been undertaken to serve the child's interest, serving as a kind of foster care or educational opportunity. Unfortunately, the records available do not speak to this issue, so there is no way to know which apprenticeships were exploitative and which were beneficial to the bound child.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas
 an ~~apprentice~~ ^{child} of Colour by the name of Hinton Evans
 about ~~twelve~~ ^{fourteen} years of age - is bound an Ap-
 prentice and servant to ~~the~~ ^{Mr} Moore until he shall
 attain to lawful age now if the said ~~Mr~~ ^{Mr} Moore
 shall constantly provide all things necessary and fitting
 for an apprentice during the term of his said apprenticeship
 - that and shall not remove said Hinton Evans
 out of the county of Chatham during the term aforesaid
 and shall at any time if lawfully required by the
 Justices of the County Court of Chatham produce the
 said Hinton Evans to said court agreeably to an
 Act of the General Assembly in such case made
 and provided then the above obligation to be void
 otherwise to remain in full force and virtue

Test
 Wm. H. H. H. H.

Mr & Mrs Moore
 mark

John L. H. H. H.

H. H.

Wording of agreement requiring the master to refrain from removing the apprentice from the county. This is image 725 in the FamilySearch database of Apprenticeship Records, binding Hinton Evans to Alex Moore.

There is some evidence that the courts recognized the special vulnerability of apprenticed children of color. Individuals applying to apprentice a child of color were required to post a substantial bond and promise not to remove or cause the child to be removed from their home county. This was not a part of the documents binding white children to their masters. The 1801 North Carolina law requiring bonds for free children of color resulted from complaints regarding documented cases of free children of color being sold by their masters as slaves.⁷

The apprenticeship records are a rich source of information about individuals who might show up in few other sources. Digitized copies of the hand-written records are available from FamilySearch.com.⁸ Unfortunately, the records currently are not indexed. Indexing the

Chatham records would be a worthy project for a volunteer and would allow those searching for their ancestors to do so without undertaking the tedious and error-prone procedure of reading through hundreds of hand-written pages.

In this report, we use the apprenticeship records for Chatham County to identify free children of color who were apprenticed before 1865. (After the Civil War, the Freedman's Bureau took over setting up apprenticeships for Black children.) The earliest apprenticeship records for Chatham County are from 1784, but for children of color, the earliest found was from 1800. The apprenticeship records provide some information about children that are not found elsewhere. For example, children are not listed by name in censuses before 1850, but the apprenticeship records do list names, ages, and sometimes even birthdates, which might help those researching their ancestors. Since finding information on people of color is particularly difficult, we have focused on those records in this report.

To identify the records of children of color in the apprenticeship records, we used the digitized copies located at FamilySearch.com. Most of the records are hand-written, and frequently are difficult to decipher. Usually, the records give only an approximation of an apprentice's age, but in some cases a birthdate is specified. Names are sometimes spelled variously even within the same record and there are multiple records for some children which inconsistently report their race. There are no records for some years. It is possible that records for some cases that do not specify race are actually for children of color and we have not recorded those. It is also possible that we have overlooked the indication of race and inadvertently left out some records that we intended to include. These difficulties pose challenges for any research, and do so here, particularly when trying to tie the apprenticeship records to other kinds of information, which we have tried to do where possible. Corrections of any errors or misinterpretations we may have made here will be gratefully received.

Perspective: Free Persons of Color in Chatham

The information about young free persons of color who were apprenticed in Chatham should be understood in the context of what we know about free persons of color in general. The 1790 Census, the first federal census, indicated that, after identifying all the whites and slaves, there were nineteen "all other free persons" in Chatham, all living in white-headed households. Two decades later, in 1810, there were eighteen "free colored" households in Chatham with 109 individual members. In 1830, there were forty-six free colored households in the County with 262 family members. By 1850, the numbers were consistent with those in 1830, but many individuals were unique to just one census, indicating considerable migration in and out of the County. The total number of "free Black and Mulatto" households in that year was forty-seven with 221 individual members. There were 2210 total households in Chatham County in 1850, of which only 2% were "free Black or Mulatto."

In addition to the forty-seven free Black and Mulatto households in 1850, there were also 79 other free Black and Mulatto persons in 56 white-headed households — forty-seven males and thirty-two females. Their ages ranged from 70 to one month. The older males worked as farmers, laborers, waiter, wheelwright, carpenter, or cooper. Although unspecified in the census, older females probably worked inside the white households as housekeepers, cooks,

and caregivers of white children. About half of the Black and Mulatto persons residing in white households were under the age of fifteen.

Apprenticeships in Chatham

Although more white children were apprenticed than were free children of color, the cases were disproportionately “children of colour” relative to their proportion of the population. Children of color were actually the majority of recorded cases in the 1830s and 1860s.

How “compulsory” was the Apprenticeship Program in Chatham? A number of the apprenticeship contracts refer to the child to be apprenticed as an “orphan.” We can assume that these cases were compulsory. Where the child is not called an orphan, we can’t know whether the apprenticeship arrangement was made with the approval of the child’s parent or not.⁹ None of the records for free children of color explicitly indicates a parent’s permission. In fact, we found only one case that did so — an 1866 case involving a white child.¹⁰

The apprenticed free children of color in Chatham County ranged in age from six months to eighteen years. Both males and females were apprenticed until their legal age of twenty-one. The additional information we found in trying to follow these apprentices suggests that many of these contracts were not completed to the age designated. Several were apprenticed, sequentially, to more than one person.

Contracts were drawn between the Chairman of the Chatham County Court and private citizens (usually male and usually white) whose signatures (or marks) are on the contract. No contract included the signature (or mark) of a parent.

In 1801, the State legislature had required the adult assuming the responsibility of a free child of color as apprentice to post a bond and give a promise that they would not remove the apprentice from their home county. This provided some protection to the child (and their parents) that they would not be taken to another jurisdiction and sold as a slave. This also produced additional paperwork that adds to the data available.

The children’s obligations in apprenticeship contracts were marked by the word’s “servant” and “shall obey a master’s lawful orders.” With few exceptions, the only training that Chatham masters were obligated to provide the children of color was farmer for males and housekeeper for the females. Most white females were also to be trained as housewives, but the trades for which white males were to be trained varied widely and included wheelwright, blacksmith, tailor, cooper, wagon maker, and carpenter, among others.

Until 1936, masters were obligated to teach their apprentices to read and write, and the obligation to provide some education appears to be relatively standard in the Chatham County contracts of white children. However, it occurs infrequently in the contracts for free children of color, even before 1936-37 when the obligation to teach apprentices of color to read and write was discontinued by the NC legislature.

Most of the apprentice contracts we reviewed obligated a master to provide a child with “sufficient diet, lodging, and apparel appropriate for an Apprentice;” and in a few cases contracts obligated the master to give a child some money and clothing at the conclusion of his/her apprenticeship.

Apprenticeships continued during the Civil War. In 1861, a Chatham contract called for “a person of color” to receive fifty dollars at the end of his apprenticeship. One male apprentice was to be taught the trade of carpenter instead of farming and given fifty dollars and carpenter tools at the end of his apprenticeship in an 1863 Chatham contract. Following the war, from September 1865 to September 1866, the Freedmen’s Bureau preempted the courts’ power to apprentice indigent Black children and orphans. Several changes were made during the Reconstruction years of 1866-70. Children were no longer identified as “orphan” when the name of their mother was given in the contract. Many children were bound to a person with the same last name. More Black children were apprenticed, and masters were obligated to educate them in reading, writing, and elementary rules of arithmetic, or “cyphering.” The legal age of Black females was changed to eighteen, consistent with white females.

The end of the court-ordered apprenticeship practice, involving both white and Black, would not come until 1919 when the General Assembly established the Child Welfare Act which included child labor laws, compulsory education, and a juvenile court system.

Below we summarize the apprenticeship contracts of children of color in Chatham County. We have organized the contracts by the last name of the apprenticed child. The records are not necessarily in order by first name because some children were bound along with others and we have reported them together, and in most cases, we present in chronological order within the surname. To the information included in the contracts themselves, we add any additional information we were able to find about the apprentice by searching Ancestry.com.

A table at the end of the paper summarizes the information in the apprenticeship contracts—name of the apprentice, year of apprenticeship, name of person bound to, and image numbers. Image numbers will allow readers to go directly to the original images. For those who wish to continue the search for apprentices after the Civil War, go the apprenticeship records on the familysearch.com website¹¹ and begin with record #889.

Children of Color Apprenticed in Chatham County, NC: 1800-1865

UNKNOWN SURNAME

The earliest apprenticeship record in Chatham that identifies the apprentice as a person of color was issued on 12 May 1800, when a girl of color named **Betsey (no last name given)**,

nine years old, was bound to Benjamin Emberson. Names of household members are not given in the 1800 and 1810 censuses, but the Benjamin Emberson household does include two free persons of color in those enumerations. Fifty years later, in 1850, a Betsey Glover (60 and mulatto) lived in the Joshua Adcock household with two young adult Glover children. In 1800, the year of Betsey's apprenticeship, Pate Glover (39 and Black) headed a household of nine—Chatham's only free Black household of Glovers.

On February 9, 1863, **Henry (no last name recorded)**, "an orphan...free boy of colour now of age eight...bind onto the said William Haithcock...to learn the trade of carpenter and give said ward on his coming of age fifty dollars in money and a good set of carpenter tools." It is unfortunate that his last name is not known because, unlike most of the other male free children of color, who were apprenticed to learn farming, he was "to learn the trade of carpenter." In 1870, Haithcock (48) was a white farmer with a wife and seven children in his household, none of which was Henry.

BASS

On November 12, 1861, **Ellwood Bass**, "a person of colour...age 13 years...bound to the said Owen Lindley." Lindley agreed to refrain from removing Ellwood from the county and to pay him fifty dollars on his coming of age. In 1870, Ellwood (22 and Mulatto) lived in the Thomas Burnett (68, Mulatto, and a miller) household with two other male Bass/Bogs (Mulattoes) about the same age as Ellwood. They all were laborers. The household also included Matilda Allen (24 and keeping house) and two young Allen children, Joel and General, all Mulatto.

BUCKNER

On August 13, 1860, **Thomas Buckner** was bound to Abram Cook by the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Chatham with a \$500 bond secured by Abram Cook and E. H. Straughan. Thomas was an "orphan, person of colour...aged four years April 6th, 1860." Cook was to give him "the sum of fifty dollars with his coming of age." Cook was under no obligation to train Thomas.

A month earlier, when the 1860 census was taken on July 11, Thomas was already in the Cook household, along with Nancy Buckner (20), a housekeeper, both identified as Mulatto. The household had ten members, with Nancy and Thomas being in the last group headed by William Cook (50) who appeared to be working the farm owned by Abram. Ten years previously, Nancy (9) was in the Cook household, the only Buckner there, but nothing more could be found regarding Thomas, but some possible clues are suggested by the research on another Thomas Bucker, below.

In 1850, **another Thomas Buckner** (16 and Mulatto) lived in the white household of Stephanis Chamness (74), working as a farmer. Also present, was Ruth Buckner (12 and Mulatto). In 1870, Thomas (36) and his wife Fannie (33) lived in Chatham County, Matthews Township with four children—Mark, Fannie, Annie, and Taylor—all Mulatto. Also in the household are Ann Buckner (59) and Mary Buckner (14), both white. In 1880, Thomas (47) and his wife Fannie (42) are still in Matthews Township, with five children—Anthony [Mark Anthony] (16), Hannah (13), Tonnie (10), Margaret (8), and Thomas (5). His household also included his mother Hannah (69 and white.) Looking back to 1840, Hannah Buckner (20-29 and white) headed a household which included one white child and three colored children (one boy and two girls), all under ten years old. Could this “other” Thomas, Ruth, and Nancy mentioned above have been the three colored children of Hannah Buckner? Their ages would have been six, two, and less than one in 1840. If so, that would make the younger, apprenticed Thomas the likely son of Nancy Buckner and grandson of Hannah.

UPDATE: Our thanks to Calvin Dark who provided information correcting an earlier version of this paper. His corrections are now reflected above. The Margaret Buckner listed here in Thomas Buckner’s 1880 household is Calvin’s great-grandmother. Calvin is researching his family and has photographs of several of the Buckners.

BURNETT

On May 11, 1819, **Catherine Burnett**, “a girl of colour, ten years old,” was bound “to Simon Johnson to learn housekeeping and taught to read and write.” Bond was ten-thousand pounds. The inclusion of the “taught to read and write” was included for almost all white children and almost never included for children of colour. No additional information about Catherine was found, nor on Simon Johnson. Thomas Burnet (over 55 and “free colored”) was recorded in the 1830 Census heading a household which included a female 24-35 years old.

CHAVERS/CHAVIS/CHAVIOUS

These names appear to be used interchangeably to some degree. Historically, the Chavers/Chavis name is found in the 1810 Census (Washington Chavers), the 1820 Census (James and John Chavis), and the 1830 Census (James and Thomas Chavis).

On May 13, 1821, **Polly Chavias**, “an orphan girl of colour ten years old,” was bound to George Rogers “to learn the art and mystery of [housekeeper?].” No additional information about Polly was found.

On May 14, 1821, **William Chavis**, “an orphan of colour now of the age of seven,” was bound to John Dorsett and “taught farming business and spelling, reading, writing, and

cyphering" in order to "keep accounts." In 1840, a William Chavers lived in Chatham and worked in agriculture. In 1850, a William Chavers, age 32, was a cabinetmaker. His household consisted of a wife, Lucy, and four children. In 1860, the family, with one additional child, lived in Asheboro, in Randolph County. William (45) was a farm laborer.

On May 17, 1821, **Nancy Chavious**, "a girl of colour 13 years old last Christmas," was bound to Brooks Brantley. However, another contract with the same date has Nancy bound to Hezekiah Dorsett "to learn housekeeping...and taught reading, writing, and cypher." No additional information was found about Nancy.

On August 14, 1832, **Caty Chavious**, "an orphan girl of color...about seven years old in September last", was bound to John Justice for a bond of \$500. . . to learn the art of housekeeping." The only Caty Chavers to appear later was in the 1850 Census. She was 35 years old, Black and the head of a household with two children. She did not own any property or list an occupation.

On August 15, 1851, **Jordan Chavers** was bound to Robert Dorsett by Henry London, Chairman of the County Court. Dorsett posted a \$500 bond. Jordan was a "free boy of colour of the age of four years on the 16th day of January last." Dorsett was to train him in the farming business. The contract specified that Dorsett was not to remove the apprentice from the county and was required to produce the apprentice before the court on demand.

In the 1850 Census, Jordan lived in the Hezekiah Dorsett (68) household with the latter's wife, a son Robert (28 and owner of their farm) and Robert's wife, and five children, all white. Listed at the end of their census record was Elizabeth Chavers (30 and Black) and two Mulatto children, Jordan (3) and Lucy (9 months) Chavers. An adjacent household headed by John Dorsett included another Elizabeth Chavers (60 and Mulatto). A decade later, the only thing changed was the absence of Lucy. Another decade, and Jordan was gone, never to be found--unless he was the bellman of that name in Greensboro, 1905.

On May 14, 1861, **Viny Chavis**, "a person of color... (age was not recorded) ...bound unto the said Joseph Bridges...to not remove the said orphan from the county...pay said apprentice fifty dollars at the expiration of his apprenticeship." Viny (Vincent?) was not located in any other record. The 1860 slave schedule for Chatham shows Bridges as enslaving one person. In 1870, he (49) lived with his wife and three children, all white.

On August 9, 1864, **Sarah Chavis**, "a free girl of colour...about four years of age...bound to Wm. Webster" with no obligations other than to keep her in the county and produce her for the court if required. In 1870, a Sarah (10 and Black) lived in Wake County in a household

headed by another Sarah Chavis (45 and Black) with six older children working as farm laborers and four younger children "at home." The younger Sarah was a "servant." In 1883, she (21) married William Chavis (33) and by 1900 they lived in Durham with seven children.

EVANS

On 13 May 1811, "a certain boy of colour named **Isaac Evans** (aged ten years last August)" was bound to James O'Kelly. O'Kelly's obligations were 1) to refrain from taking Isaac out of the county, 2) to "treat the apprentice well, allowing him wholesome diet, washing and lodging during his apprenticeship," and 3) at the expiration of his apprenticeship to give Isaac "a good suit of clothes."

On May 10, 1817, **Moris Evans** and **Visey Evans** were bound to James O'Kelly by William Fields, Chairman of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Chatham County. Moris was "an orphan boy of color aged thirteen years." Visey was "an orphan girl of colour...the age of ten years...They will be good and faithful servants...until the age of twenty-one years." The standard contract required that O'Kelly not remove the children from the County. It also would have required O'Kelly to provide them with "schooling," but that statement was crossed out. The bond posted by O'Kelly was 100 pounds. The 1860 Census reported a 46-year-old Black woman, Dicy Ivans, residing in Chatham with two young children.

~~eighteen months, applying and liberating the my~~
tery of farming and that he will constantly
find and provide sufficient diet was being lodging
and apparel fitting for an apprentice and
also all other things necessary both in sickness
and in health in witness where of the parties
to this present have set their hands and
Seals, the day and year first above written.
Test
William Fields, Chairman of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Chatham County
James O'Kelly

Part of contract binding Moris Evans to James O'Kelly. Image number 496 in the FamilySearch database of Apprenticeship Records.

On May 11, 1818, **Wesley Evans**, “an orphan boy of colour...age of eight years” was bound to William Winn with a five-hundred-pound security to assure the Court that Winn would not take Wesley out of the County. Winn was to teach Wesley “the farming business and eighteen months of schooling.” In August 1827, **Westly/Wesley Evans**, “a coloured boy...now of the age of eighteen years” was bound to Johnathan Harelson to teach Wesley the “art and mystery of a farmer.”

In August 1826, **Banks Evans**, “a coloured boy of the age of twelve years” was bound to Henry Claiborn to learn the farming business. In February 1827, in a new contract, **Banks Evans**, “a coloured boy eleven years old” was bound to John Farrar. Farrar had a free colored male, age 10 to 23, living with him in 1830, but not a decade later. Another record, from the NC Archives, dated 10 July, 1837, indicates that Banks had been working for Jonathan Smith in Haywood, NC, and that Banks had completed his apprenticeship. “I do hereby certify that a coloured Boy, by the name of **Banks Evans**; that was bound to **Col. John Farrar**, of this county has lived in my employ; for the last three years up to February last; about which time he became twenty one years of age & in a short time afterwards left my employ & hired himself to a man in my neighbourhood, in Rutherford County, N.C. with whom at the time I left in June, past, as a free man & receiving pay for his services as a freeman; after he became free I gave him a copy of his indentures with the certificate of the clerk of the county court of Chatham Co., with the county seal thereto attached, believing that was sufficient evidence of his freedom. Signed, **Jno. Smith.**”

In 1832, **Claborn Evans**, “an orphan boy of colour...about five” was bound to James Harmon “until he shall attain lawful age [21].”

In 1833, **Levi Evans**, “a boy of colour about eight years old” bound to Aston Straughan “to learn the farming business.”

On November 10, 1834, **William Evans**, “a coloured boy four years old the first day of October” was bound to Aaron Bryan...”to learn the farming business.”

On February 9, 1864, **James and George Evans**, “two free negroes...about five and three years of age...bound unto the said Alsa Mitchell...to learn the art and mystery of a farmer.” By 1870, they lived in the household of Lucian Bynum (27 and Black) which also included Thena Evans (24 and Black) and Phillip McClannahan (23 and Black). In 1880, George (19 and Mulatto) lived with Shadrack Alston (40 and Black) and Terrie Alston (35 and Mulatto) who was identified as George’s mother. It seems likely that Thena and Terrie were the same female. They lived near New Hope P.O. Also in 1880, James married Addie Thompson (24 and “colored”) and they lived in Durham.

On February 9, 1835, **Hinton Evans**, an orphan boy of colour about twelve years old, was bound to Alex Moore for a bond of \$500. No training was specified but the standard requirement to refrain from removing the apprentice from the county applied. On May 11, 1835, **Hinton Evans**, an orphan boy of colour fifteen years old next December and **Susan Evans** [no age given] both of colour,” were bound to Joseph Gunter...the boy to be taught farming and the girl to be taught housekeeping.” There are multiple copies of these contracts, all dated May 11, 1835, binding the two children to Gunter. One set mentions both children in one contract and the other has separate contracts for the two children.

Joshua Evans, “a coloured boy about fifteen years of age,” was bound to Isaac Hartsoe “to learn the farming business” on 11 February 1835.

On February 16, 1954, **James and Margaret Evans** were bound to Albert Gean by the County Court of Chatham with a \$1000 bond secured by Albert Gean, James Harmon, and Joseph Glossen. James was “a person of color...Aged six years, seven months, and 15 days.” Margaret was “age seven years, six months, and 15 days...Albert Geon “shall produce such persons of color to this Court at the expiration of the time of their service for which such persons of color were bound; and shall pay to said James the sum of one hundred dollars on his coming to the age of twenty-one years, and to Margaret Evans the same sum on her coming to the same age, then the above obligations will be void.” The way the contract was written suggests that Margaret was added as an afterthought.

A two-year-old James Evans was not found in the 1850 Census. That Census indicated that Margaret (3) lived with Bithey Evans (45) with a Charlot Evans (22) nearby. All were Black with no property. The 1860 Census finds James (11) and Margaret (12) in the Gean household at the end of a list of 12 residents, but their last name is Jones, and they are not identified as Black.

On November 13, 1861, **Joseph Evans**, “a person of colour...age nine years...bound unto Samuel Ellis...shall not remove the said orphan...out of the county.” Again, no other obligations were specified. Joseph was not in the Ellis household a decade later. In 1860, Joseph (7 and Mulatto) lived in a household composed of Haston Poe, his wife, and three children, all white. The household also included Adeline Evins (32) and two Evins children in addition to Joseph, all Mulatto. A decade later, Adeline and her three children were no longer in the Poe household. Nor could they be found anywhere. In 1880, Adeline (48) lived with a daughter Dora (12) keeping house with no indication of an occupation. There was a Ginnie Evans (17 and Black) working as a servant in a nearby household.

A total of sixteen Evans children (fourteen males and two females) were taken into Chatham County's apprenticeship program between 1811 and 1864. There were only two colored Evans households in Chatham during each of the 1810-1830 Censuses, both male-headed. Richard Evans (45 and over) was one, but he didn't die until 1855, so his children were not orphans. Anthony Evans was recorded in the 1810 (two in household) and 1830 (one in household) Censuses so it is assumed that he was probably there in 1820. In 1830, there were two more male-headed households in Chatham—James (with an adult female and three children) and John Evans (with an adult female and one child).

A more probable source of one or more of the Evans apprentices, particularly the "orphaned," was Jemima Evans (26-44) with two female children in the household she headed. She could only be located in Chatham in the 1820 Census. In 1830, Jenny Evans headed a household of two 55–99-year-old females, again the only year she could be located in Chatham. But of course, any of these females could have been "hidden" in an earlier household because they were not household heads during a particular census, for example, that of Anthony Evans. Jumping ahead to 1850, Bithay Evans (45) had two very young children in her household (all Black) and no property. She was born in North Carolina and could not read or write. She could have been a sibling to one or more of the apprenticed Evans children. There is no indication that any of the apprentices stayed in Chatham County.

FANN

On November 18, 1860, **Isabel Fann** was bound to William Foushee by the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Chatham with a \$500 bond secured by Foushee. Isabel was "a certain illegitimate child, a person of colour...aged eight years." Foushee "was to pay the girl \$125.25 at the expiration of her apprenticeship." No specific training was obligated by Foushee.

On the same date, **[Francis] Marion Fann** was bound to Hezekiah Dorsett by the same Court with a \$500 bond secured by Dorsett and E. H. Straughan. Marion was "a person of colour...aged nine years." Dorsett was "to pay said boy \$130 at the expiration of his apprenticeship." Dorsett was not obligated to provide training.

On June 8, 1860, Isabel (11) and Marion, (16) [note the discrepancy in the ages], both Mulattoes, lived with Jane Fann (70, but only 46 a decade earlier) and Aris Fann (35), both white females identified as "paupers." A ten-month-old male Mulatto child named Richard lived with them. In 1850, they had been living with Isaiah Cole (72 and white) who listed some real estate, but no occupation. Arris was identified as Mulatto, suggesting she was the mother of Isabel and Marion. And daughter of Jane? In 1840, Jane Fann (40-49 and white) had headed a household which included a younger white female and three free colored persons.

In 1860, William Foushee (34) was a property-owning farmer with only his wife in the household. Isabel was not in the household in 1870 as she would have reached the legal age of twenty-one and cannot be located in Chatham beyond that time. In 1880, Francis [Marion] (30) was a farm laborer with his mother Aris (65), also a farm laborer. He is identified as “idiotic” and “disabled.” Three of Aris’ teen children were also in the household, a daughter (17 and Black) worked as a servant. In 1900, [Francis] Marion (48 and Black) was an inmate in the Home of the Aged and Infirm (County Home) on South Street.

FREEMAN

On August 9, 1824, **John Freeman**, “an orphan free boy of colour...now age of six years,” was bound to Lewis Freeman to learn the art of farming. Lewis Freeman and Charles J. Williams posted a bond of 1000 pounds. Although not identified as such in the apprenticeship contract, Lewis Freeman was a free man of color and long-time resident of Pittsboro, who owned several Pittsboro lots. The 1820 Census indicated that his household included two free adults and two young slaves, one a male. The 1830 census indicated that his household consisted of two older free persons of color, one male and one female, and two younger free persons of color, both male, one aged under ten and the other between ten and twenty-three. In 1840, John Freeman was found in Chatham living with what appears to be his wife and young male child.

GEORGE

On August 15, 1811, orphans **Matthew and Sally George** were bound to John Dowd for a bond of one-thousand pounds. The race of the children is not specified, but the bond and the requirement that Dowd not remove the children from the county suggest that they were “of colour.” Sally, “the age of eleven years the 17th of January last” was to have nine months schooling. Matthew, age six “the 18th of February last,” was to have one year of schooling and to learn the “halers [haulers?] trade.” No additional information about Sally or Matthew was found.

On 14 Aug 1833, **Oliver George**, “a coloured boy about nine years old in October next” was bound to Aaron Evans “to learn the farming business.” Evans was to provide Oliver with “sufficient diet, washing, lodging, and apparel; and also all other things necessary, both in sickness and in health.” There were no colored Georges recorded in Chatham in the 1830 and 1840 Censuses. There were two white George households. The 1840 Census shows a free colored male (10-23) living in the white Evans household. In 1850, Oliver (25 and Black) lived in the Tarlton Johnson (37) household which included the latter’s wife, three children, and a day laborer, all of whom were white. Johnson and Oliver were wheelwrights. For the next three decades, Oliver headed his own households which included two different wives

and increasing numbers of children, and which moved from Chatham to Robeson County. In 1860, his household included Elizabeth George (60 and Mulatto).

On 10 Feb 1834, **John George**, “a coloured boy about fifteen years old,” was bound to Thomas E. Glass[?] to learn the farming business. By 1850, there were five individual Georges (two Black and three Mulatto) living in three white-headed households, none of which would have been John’s age.

GORDEN

On May 15, 1819, **Terrill Gorden**, “a boy of colour between nine and ten years old,” was bound to Richard Jones who posted a bond of one thousand pounds. The only Terrel Gordan with the appropriate age (50) found lived in Moore County in 1860 in a household (his name heads the list) with his family and several other families and individuals, all Mulatto. No additional information was found.

JEFFREYS

On February 10, 1852, **John and Mary Jeffreys** were bound to Alfred Lindley by Henry A. London, Chairman of the County Court. The two were “orphans...of the age John 13 and Mary 11 years...A. Lindley agrees that he will teach and instruct John to learn the farming business & the girl how to keep house.” Again, the remainder of the indenture contract was the same as above.

In the 1850 Census, John (12) and Mary (9) Jeffreys, both Mulattoes, already lived with Alfred H. Lindley (29), a white physician and active in Alamance County Quaker meetings. This suggests that the children’s mother may have initially agreed to Lindley taking custody of them. The household also included three Lindley women, the oldest 57, and five non-Lindleys, two of which were teen male farmers. A decade later, John and Mary were gone from Chatham County. Also in 1850, there was an Eliza Jeffreys (35) in Chatham with a daughter Tempe (12), both Mulatto, listing no property or occupation, and who could not read or write. Eliza lived close to William Lindley (58), (who we believe was Alfred’s uncle). Eliza was gone by 1860.

JOHNSON

On November 19, 1859, **James Johnson** was bound to Zakariah Mitchel by the County Court with a \$1000 bond secured by Zakariah Mitchel, Kelley Mitchel, Alvin Mitchel, William Burges, and Ridley Burges. James was “a person of colour...aged eleven.” Mitchell agreed to “supply and allow the said apprentice with convenient and sufficient meat, drink, lodging and apparel, and use his best endeavors to instruct him in the art and calling of a house

carpenter.” The obligation to teach the apprentice to read and write was crossed out. Mitchel’s only other obligation was to “produce said person of colour before this Court at any time when this Court may require it and...at the expiration of the time of service for which such person of colour was bound.” Only three months later, James was bound to Thomas Womble with a \$500 bond secured by Womble, John W. Taylor, and Kelley Mitchel. Womble was to give James (“person of color, aged eleven”) \$75 and a suit of clothes at the end of his service. The contract did not specify that Womble had an obligation to teach James anything. James was not listed in Womble’s household in the 1860 census.

We could find no Census record of James Johnson identified as colored, Black or Mulatto living in Chatham County between 1840 and 1870. In 1850, a James Johnson (2) lived in Alamance County in the household of Jno. Johnson, his wife Charity and eight young children.

KELLY

In August 1852, **Martha Kelly** “a certain minor, a person of color,” aged 4 years, was bound to George Beavers, who posted a \$500 bond requiring him to refrain from removing her from the county and to produce her upon the order of the court. In 1850, Martha, age 2, is listed in the household of Margaret Kelly, along with two other children, James (8), and George (5). No race is indicated for the family, suggesting that they are white (as other whites are also left blank on nearby pages). This household was listed in the census just two households away from that of the George Beavers family. In 1860, Martha (12) and George (14) are in the household of George Beavers, along with other members of his family. Again, no race is indicated for anyone in the household. In 1870, Martha Kelly, (24) and now identified as Black is keeping house on Pittsboro Road. There is one child, Charles Kelly, in her household.

LITTLE/LYTL

On November 16, 1825, **William Little or Lytle**, “of colour and of the age of seventeen years 27th August last,” to William Love, who posted a one-thousand-pound bond and was obligated to teach the art of farming and provide six months of schooling. A William Love is found in Chatham in both the 1820 and 1830 censuses. We found no additional information about William Little/Lytle.

LUCAS

On August 8, 1864, **Fab Lucas**, “a free boy of colour...about thirteen years of age...bound to Granson Evans.” No obligations were specified other than not removing Fab from the County. In 1860, Fab already lived in the Evans household which was located near the Grove P.O. All were Mulatto. Not since 1824 (the John Freeman case, discussed above) had the

County Court assigned a free Black child to a free Black adult. Granson was the son of Richard Evans, one of the first free Blacks to arrive in Chatham County by 1800. In 1870, Fab (19 and Black) was living in the Joshua Gardiner household which included Gardiner's wife and six children, all white. Fab was a farm laborer. He (23) married Adeline Alston (21) on December 30, 1875, and, during the next three decades, Fabeous had a family which included Adaline and son Thomas. He was a renting farmer near the New Hope P.O. By 1910, Thomas had acquired a wife and four children. A decade later, Fab (70) was still farming near New Hope P.O., but with a different wife, Clemtiny (65 and Mulatto).

MELTON

On May 14, 1827, **Miles Melton**, "a coloured boy about seventeen years old," was bound to Charles Lutterloh to be taught to be a farmer. Bond \$500.

On May 15, 1827, **Alabama Melton**, "a coloured boy of the age of four, son of Patsy Melton," was bound to Johathan Haralson to be taught to be a farmer. Bond \$500.

Patsey Melton, free colored person, age 35-54, headed a single-person household in 1840. The only other female with a similar name found in Chatham during the early 1800s was Naomi Milton (26-44), who in 1810, headed a household with one other female (16-25), both identified as "free white."

MITCHEL

On November 14, 1832, **John, Robert, and Eliza Mitchel**, "three children of colour...John of the age of nine years, Robert and Eliza in their eighth year," bound to Hilary Yeargain [Yeargin] as apprentice and servant until legal age. The bond was \$500.

On May 15, 1833, "three coloured children, **Robert Mitchel** about four years old, **Frederick Mitchel** about the age of three years, **Mabel Mitchel** about six months old" were bound to Archibald Utley where they were to follow the standard prescription to "everywhere readily obey" and not at any time to be absent without leave. Scratched out was the clause requiring Utley to "teach and instruct, or cause to be taught and instructed to learn." There was no bond recorded. Mitchel households in Chatham were all white in the 1830 and 1840 Censuses. In 1850, Fanny Michel (52 and Black) headed a household of seven children, all Mulatto. John (26) was a laborer. Nothing on Fanny earlier.

MYRICK

On August 13, 1841, legal custody of **Duncan Myrick** was bound to Frederick Williams by Wesley Hanks, Chairman of the County Court. Duncan was "an orphan...now of age eleven

...to live after the manner of apprentice and servant...until the said Apprentice shall attain the age of twenty-one: during all which time the said Apprentice faithfully shall serve all his master's lawful commands...shall not any time absent himself from his Master's service...Frederick Williams...will teach and instruct the said Duncan Myrick to learn the farming business and that he will constantly provide the said Apprentice with sufficient diet, washing, lodging and apparel, fitting for an Apprentice, and also all things necessary, in sickness and in health."

Apart from Duncan, all the Myricks in the County were white at the time. There was an unmarried white female, Francis/Fanny Myrick, who, in the 1830 Census, had two children, one a young male under five years old who was identified as white. We surmise that this boy might be Duncan, in part because one of Duncan's daughters was named Frances who, on her death certificate, was identified as Fannie. In 1850, Duncan, now identified as eighteen and Mulatto, lived in the Jesse Mann (29) household with Mann's wife and three young children. Duncan's job was not specified. A year later, Duncan married Hannah Mitchell (19 and Mulatto), and by 1860, they had five children, while he worked as a laborer. In 1870, a decade later, Duncan (49) still lived with his wife and seven children and worked as a laborer. He continued to be identified as Mulatto.

PERRY

On November 13, 1860, **Lemuel W. [Weldon] Perry**, "a person of colour age four years," and **Gaston Perry**, "an orphan of colour age two years," were bound to Sidney F. Durham (27), a farm owner. There was no reference to training, but Durham was to pay each of them \$25 on expiration of their apprenticeships.

In June that same year, Gaston (2) and Lemuel [Weldon] (4), both identified as Mulatto, were in the household of Lizza Pery (44), a white female and a property-owning farmer. There were four older children, all white, in the household. In 1870, both Weldon (12) and Gaston (11) were still on Sidney F. Durham's (37) farm, listed as farm laborers. A decade later, Weldon (25) was a farmer with a wife, Flora, and two children. Gaston (21) was single and a farm laborer on Sidney Durham's farm. In 1910, Weldon (53), was still a farmer with a different wife, Lucy, and seven children. Gaston (52), now a farm owner, was married to Nancy, with five children. Gaston (1858-1928) and Weldon (1856-1913) are buried in the Perry/Burnette cemetery in Center Township.

PRICE

On November 14, 1810, **Susanna Price**, "a girl of colour," was bound to John Johnson "until she attained the age of 18." Johnson was to provide "one year of schooling and a suit of clothes when free." Image 407 includes the note about schooling and clothes but does not identify Susanna as colored. Image 409 does describe her as a "girl of colour." In 1860 Susan

Price, Mulatto, age 65, was head of a household in Pittsboro with occupation servant. Also in her household was Anderson Price, age 27. In 1880, Susan Price, Mulatto (80), is listed in the household of her son, Anderson (40), Black, and a farmer; his wife, Martha Ann, and four children. Interestingly, in 1850, Anderson Price, age 11, is listed in the household of William Hackney, along with other Prices: Sukey (45), John (19), and Jane (17). Might this be the same family?

On November 19, 1834, **Alexander Price**, an “orphan of colour...about fourteen years of age,” was bound to William Hackney for a bond of \$500. In 1850, William Hackney’s household included four free persons of color with the last name Price, but Alexander is not among them (see entry for Susanna Price above). An Alex Price (68) is found in the 1860 census, in a household that includes nine other Prices, including youngsters with the names Alexander and Susan.

SEARS

On February 11, 1861, **Mary Sears**, “a person of colour...age 8 years...bound unto the said Martin Phillips...shall not remove the said orphan...out of the county.” No other obligations were specified in the contract. She was not found in the Phillips household in either 1860 or 1870. In 1860, a Mary J. Sears (7 and Mulatto) lived in the household of John Loyd (22) which included his wife, Allphiah, and a young son, all white.

SMITH

On February 8, 1847, H. A. London, Chairman of the County Court, on behalf of the Justices of the Court, bound **William Smith** to Hiram Haithcock. William was “of colour, now of the age seven years on the 27th of Sept 1847, to live with the said Hiram Haithcock...after the manner of an Apprentice and servant, until the said Apprentice shall attain the age of twenty-one: during all which time the said Apprentice faithfully shall serve all his master’s lawful commands...shall not at any time absent himself from his Master’s service...Hiram Haithcock will teach and instruct the said William Smith to learn the farming business and that he will constantly provide the said Apprentice with sufficient diet, washing, lodging and apparel, fitting for an Apprentice, and also all things necessary, in sickness and in health.”

Three years later, in the 1850 census, William, an eleven-year-old mulatto, was living in the Edward Hobby (24) household with Edward’s wife and infant child. This family lived adjacent to Hiram Haithcock. Hobby was a laborer. In 1880, William (42) lived with his wife Fanny, six children, and brother Bartlett Smith (38). William was a carpenter. William’s 1917 death certificate indicated his age was 76 and that his mother had been Sally Smith, but his father was unknown. The 1840 Census indicated that Sally was white, 30-39 years of age, with two young children including a colored male under 10 and white male under five.

UPDATE: Char Chatfield, a descendant of apprentices Duncan Myrick and William Smith, shared information indicating that William Smith married Elizabeth Myrick and that both William and Elizabeth are buried at Mitchel Chapel AMEZ Church in the old section.

STITH

On November 12, 1818, four Stith children were bound to Henry Rogers, who posted one-thousand-pound bonds for each. **Amos Stith**, was described as “an orphan of colour of the age of eight.” The other three children were not described as orphans: **Celia Stith**, “a girl of colour ten years and six months old” was to learn “to spin, weave, & other house business.” **George Stith**, “a boy of colour twelve years and six months old,” and **Larry Stith**, “a boy of colour about the age of fifteen,” were to learn farming. In 1830, there was a free Black Maus Stith household with two residents in Chatham County, but none before that time. Amos, Celia, and George “disappear from Chatham.” But Larry (36-54) reappears in 1840 when he is head of a household of seven free colored persons and two whites. The only other thought-provoking information comes from the 1850 Census where Betsy Stith (70 and Mulatto) lives in the Thomas Hill household with seven whites.

SUGGS

On November 16, 1861, **Simon Suggs**, “a certain minor...aged ten years,” was bound to Nasa Neal for a bond of \$500. In several places in the contract, “person of colour” is lined through, but the bond and requirement to refrain from removing Simon from the county suggest that he was being treated as a person of color. In 1860, Nancy Neal, age 31, was a house carpenter with a Pittsboro Post Office address.

WALDEN

Historically, in 1830, Stephen Walden had a family with three male children under 10 — all “colored.”

On February 14, 1831, **Kearney Walden**, “an orphan boy of colour...about 8 years old...bound as an apprentice and servant to James Emerson for a bond of \$500 and the standard promise not to remove the apprentice from the county. No specific training was indicated. On May 8, 1837, **Keurney Walden**, “an orphan of colour...about 13,” was bound to John Emerson for the unusually high bond of \$4,000.

On November 15, 1831, **Thomas Waldin**, “an orphan of colour...about thirteen or fourteen years old” was bound to Joshua Adcock on a \$500 bond to learn “the farming business.”

On May 11, 1832, **Edward Walden**, “a boy of colour...now of the age of seven” was bound to Anderson Adcock on a \$500 bond “until he shall attain to lawful age to learn the art and mystery of farming.”

On November 10, 1834, **Neill Walden**, “an orphan boy of colour about nineteen years old next February,” was bound to Aaron Emerson to learn the farming business.

Conclusion

It is our hope that these summaries provide helpful information for those researching ancestors of color, and that the paper sheds some light on the history of apprenticeships in Chatham County. Corrections and additions will be gratefully received via the Chatham County Historical Association, history@chathamhistory.org.

The following table provides an index to the apprenticeship records for Chatham County children of color from 1800 to 1865.

Image numbers from Family Search, Film # 007640980; Chatham images begin with number 285. Apprentice bonds and records, 1716-1921; ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L9G8-T9Y5-R?i=844&cat=766317

Index to Apprenticeship Records for Chatham County Children of Color, 1800-1865

Last Name	First Name	Year of Apprenticeship	Bound To	Image number
?	Betsey	1800	Benjamin Emberson	372
?	Henry	1863	William Haithcock	857-859
Bass	Ellwood	1861	Owen Lindley	851-852
Buckner	Thomas	1860	Abrahm Cook	821-822
Burnett	Catherine	1819	Simon Johnson	552-553 560-561
Chavers	Jordan	1851	Robert Dorsett	772-774
Chavias	Polly	1821	George Rogers	581-582
Chavious	Caty	1832	John Justice	669-670

Last Name	First Name	Year of Apprenticeship	Bound To	Image number
Chavious	Nancy	1821 1821	Hezekiah Dorsett Brooks Brantley	573-575 577-579
Chavis	Sarah	1864	William Webster	882-883
Chavis	Viny	1861	Joseph Bridges	849-850
Chavis	William	1821	John Dorsett	583-586
Evans	Banks	1826 1827	Henry Claiborn John Farrar	616-618 620-623
Evans	Claborn	1832	James Harmon	671-672
Evans	George	1864	Alsa [Aley] Mitchel	884-885
Evans	Hinton	1835 1835	Alex Moore Joseph Gunter	725-726 731-732 727-730
Evans	Isaac	1811	James O'Kelly	420
Evans	James	1854	Albert Gean	794
Evans	James	1864	Alsa [Aley] Mitchel	884-885
Evans	Joseph	1861	Lemuel Ellis	847-848
Evans	Joshua	1835	Isaac Hartsoe	733-734 741-742
Evans	Levi	1833	Alston Straughan	687-690
Evans	Margaret	1854	Albert Gean	794
Evans	Moris	1817	James O'Kelly	495-497
Evans	Susan	1835	Joseph Gunter	729-730 735-736
Evans	Visy	1817	James O'Kelly	495-497
Evans	Wesley/Westly	1818 1827	William Winn Jonathan Harelson	541-544 624-627
Evans	William	1834	Aaron Bryan	702-705
Fann	Isabel	1860	William Foushee	823-824
Fann	Marion [Francis]	1860	Hezekiah Dorsett	825-826
Freeman	John	1824	Lewis Freeman	604-607

Last Name	First Name	Year of Apprenticeship	Bound To	Image number
George	John	1834	Thomas E. Glass	706-709
George	Matthew	1811	John Dowd	422-423
George	Oliver	1833	Aaron Evans	691-692
George	Sally	1811	John Dowd	422-423
Gorden	Terrill	1819	Richard Jones	562-563
Jeffreys	John	1852	Alfred Lindley	785-788
Jeffreys	Mary	1852	Alfred Lindley	785-788
Johnson	James	1859	Zachariah Mitchel	816-818
Johnson	James	1860	Thomas Womble	831-832
Kelly	Martha	1852	George Beavers	780-782
Little / Lytle	William	1825	William Love	611-614
Lucas	Fab	1864	Granson Evans	888-889
Melton	Alabama	1827	Jonathan Haralson	630-633
Melton	Miles	1827	Charles Lutterloh	634-637
Mitchel	Eliza	1832	Hillary Yeargain	677-679
Mitchel	Frederick	1833	Archibald Utley	695-696
Mitchel	John	1832	Hillary Yeargain	677-679
Mitchel	Mabel	1833	Archibald Utley	695-696
Mitchel	Robert	1832	Hillary Yeargain	677-679
Mitchel	Robert	1833	Archibald Utley	695-696
Myrick	Duncan	1841	Frederick Williams	747-750
Perry	Gaston	1860	Sidney F. Durham	836
Perry	Lemuel W. [? Weldon]	1860	Sidney F. Durham	835
Price	Alexander	1834	William Hackney	710-711 714-715
Price	Susanna	1810	John Johnson	407-409
Sears	Mary ???	1861	Martin Phillips	845-846
Smith	William	1847	Hiram Haithcock	752-753

Last Name	First Name	Year of Apprenticeship	Bound To	Image number
Stith	Amos	1818	Henry Rogers	523
Stith	Celia	1818	Henry Rogers	519-520
Stith	George	1818	Henry Rogers	521-522
Stith	Larry	1818	Henry Rogers	515-518
Suggs	Simon	1861	Nasa Neal	844
Walden	Edward	1832	Anderson Adcock	682-683
Walden	Kearney/Keurney	1831 1837	James Emerson John Emerson	664-665 744-745
Walden	Neill	1834	Aaron Emerson	718-721
Waldin	Thomas	1831	Joshua Adcock	666-667

¹ Stevenson, George, and Jeremy T. Canipe, Apprenticeship, NCPedia, 2006.
<https://www.ncpedia.org/apprenticeship#>

² For most of Chatham's history, a child was considered to be an orphan if its father was deceased, even if its mother was living and had physical custody of the child. Guardians were often appointed for orphans with estates. Orphans who had no estate were commonly bound out as apprentices. *From North Carolina Research - Genealogy and Local History - Second Edition* by Helen F. M. Leary.
<http://www.capefearclans.com/Guardianship.html>

³ Stevenson, George, and Jeremy T. Canipe, Apprenticeship, NCPedia, 2006.
<https://www.ncpedia.org/apprenticeship#>

⁴ Stevenson, George, and Jeremy T. Canipe, Apprenticeship, NCPedia, 2006.
<https://www.ncpedia.org/apprenticeship#>

⁵ Militeer, Warren Eugene Jr., North Carolina's Free People of Color 1715-1885, Louisiana State University Press, 2020, p. 156.

⁶ Militeer, Warren Eugene Jr., North Carolina's Free People of Color 1715-1885, Louisiana State University Press, 2020, pp. 148-149.

⁷ Militeer, Warren Eugene Jr., North Carolina's Free People of Color 1715-1885, Louisiana State University Press, 2020, pp. 151-512.

⁸ Microfilmed copies of Chatham County Apprenticeship Records can be found at
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L9G8-T9Y5-N>.

⁹ Additional research on some of the free children of color revealed circumstances that could possibly suggest that their parent approved of their apprenticeship. Jordan Chavers, before becoming an apprentice to Robert Dorsett in 1850, lived in Dorsett's father's household in 1840 which included a thirty-year-old Black female who could have been his mother. John and Mary Jeffreys, before apprenticing with A. Lindly, already lived in the Alfred Lindley household two years before. Thomas Buckner, before becoming an apprentice to Abram Cook in

1860, was already living in the Cook household a month earlier with Nancy Buckner (20). None of these circumstances provide strong evidence. All will be discussed in more detail below.

¹⁰ Image number 1014 in the FamilySearch Apprenticeship Record database.

¹¹ Microfilmed copies of Chatham County Apprenticeship Records can be found at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L9G8-T9Y5-N>.