

A MALTON CHIMNEY SWEEP OF 1832.

At the present time there must be very few indentured apprentices in Malton, Pickering, Thirsk, or even York, whilst most trades have long ago ceased to use indentures at all. One of these trades is that of chimney sweeper, which first became regulated by the Act of 1789. It was, however, not until 1842 that the terrible cruelties practised on young chimney sweepers were prevented by law. After this date no one could compel a youth under 21 to have anything to do with the interior of a flue, and no child under 16 could be apprenticed to the trade.

Until the other day I had never seen an actual indenture, and have been greatly interested in availing myself of the kindness of a Kirbymoorside gentleman, who has forwarded me an indenture made in 1832. I print this below on account of its local as well as national interest. Readers will notice how the trade is described as an "art" and "mystery." Most of us have derived all our knowledge of it from the pages of Charles Kingsley's "Water Babies," or perchance from Lives of Lord Shaftesbury. The clauses preventing the haunting of alehouses or gaming houses would, I fear, be needed in the Malton of that day! A special dress was to be provided once a year, but not to be worn on Sundays when the apprentice had to attend public worship, I suppose at either St. Leonard's or St. Michael's Church. One wonders how the weekly cleaning was enforced and carried out? Considerable interest attends the clause binding the master not to compel his apprentice to "call the streets" before certain times in summer and in winter. The closing portion of the indenture may have prevented Malton masters from ill-treating their apprentices, but did not, I am afraid, ensure a happy and healthy life to most of the sweeps in England. E.E.T.

The Indenture

THIS INDENTURE made the eleventh day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two BETWEEN HANNAH ROBINSON of Aberdeen in the County of Aberdeen and THOMAS ROBINSON her son of the one part and CHARLES STOTTS of New Malton in the County of York Chimney Sweeper

of the other part WITNESSETH that the said Hannah Robinson by and with the consent and approbation of William Canning Clerk and Edward Taylor Esquire two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace acting in and for the North Riding of the said County of York signified as hereunder written hath put and bound and by these presents DOTHT put and bind the said Thomas Robinson being of the age of eight years to be Apprentice to the said Charles Stott he being his first Apprentice to learn the trade art business and Mystery of a Chimney Sweeper and with him to dwell remain and serve from the day and date of these presents for and during the term of seven years from hence next ensuing fully to be complete and ended during all which time he the said Apprentice his said Master will faithfully serve and obey his secrets keep and his lawful commands every where gladly do and perform he shall not haunt Ale houses or Gaming houses nor absent himself from the services of his said Master day or night without his leave but in all things as a faithful Apprentice shall behave himself towards his said Master and all his family during the said term. And the said Charles Stott in consideration of the goodwill which he hath and beareth towards the said Apprentice and of the faithful service to be performed by him doth hereby covenant promise and agree with the said Hannah Robinson and her said son that he the said Charles Stott his said Apprentice in the Art and Mystery of a Chimney Sweeper which he now useth shall and will teach and instruct or cause to be taught and instructed in the best manner that he can and shall and will provide and allow unto the said Apprentice during all the said term competent and sufficient meat drink washing lodging Apparel and other things necessary for the said Apprentice. And that the said Charles Stott his Executors Administrators or Assigns shall not nor will assign over this present Indenture or the Apprentice to be bound thereby without the consent and approbation in writing of any two such justices of the Peace to be signified according to the form of the Approbation hereunder written AND WHEREAS from the nature of the Business or Employment of a Chimney Sweeper it is necessary for the boys employed in climbing to have a Dress particularly

suited to that purpose which Dress is only fit for that part of the occupation the said Charles Stott doth hereby also covenant promise and agree to and with the said Hannah Robinson and the said Apprentice to find and allow such suitable Dress for the said Apprentice as often as Need or Occasion shall be and require and provide for and deliver to the said Apprentice once in every year in the least during the term aforesaid over and above the said Dress proper for climbing one and Linen, Stockings, Hats and Shoes AND FURTHER that the said Charles Stott shall and will at least once in every week cause the said Apprentice to be thoroughly washed and cleaned from Soot and Dirt and shall and will require the said Apprentice to attend the public Worship of God on the Sabbath Day and permit and allow him to receive the Benefit of any other religious Instruction and that the said Apprentice shall not wear his sweeping Dress on that day AND that the said Charles Stott shall nor will compel or oblige the said Apprentice to call the Streets or any other places before Seven of the clock in the Morning nor after Twelve at Noon between Michaelmas and Lady Day nor before Five of the Clock in the Morning nor after Twelve at Noon between Lady Day and Michaelmas. AND that the said Charles Stott shall not nor will at any time during the said term let out his said Apprentice for hire by the day night or otherwise to any other person or persons exercising or using the said Trade nor shall the said Charles Stott or any person or persons whomsoever by his directions require or force him the said Apprentice to climb or go up any Chimney which shall be actually on fire nor make use of any violent or improper means to force him to climb or go up any such Chimney but shall in all things treat his said

Apprentice with as much Humanity and Care as the nature of the Employment of a Chimney Sweep will admit of IN WITNESS whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first herein written

Signed and sealed and delivered by the within named Hannah Robinson Thomas Robinson Charles Stott in the presence of

WM. SIMPSON
SAM WALKER

The Mark
HANNAH x ROBINSON L.S.
and Seal of
The Mark
THOMAS x ROBINSON L.S.
and Seal of
The Mark
CHARLES x STOTT L.S.
and Seal of

We the above named Wm Canning Clerk and Edward Taylor Esquire two of His Majesty's Justices of the peace acting in and for the North Riding of the County of York having inspected and examined the above named Thomas Robinson do hereby consent to and approve of his being bound as an Apprentice to the above named Charles Stott according to the terms and stipulations expressed in the above written Indenture.

Given under our hands this 16th day of June one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two.

WM CANNING

Note added by Maltonhistory

In the 1841 census Thomas Robinson is shown living with Charles Stott (and his wife, Mary) at Church Hill, Old Maltongate. Thomas is described as a 'Sweep' so has presumably finished his apprenticeship.