

Section D

Indentures

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1 INDENTURE OF JOHN WITNEY 1860:

As one of the only two complete indenture discovered, it is reproduced in full.¹ Hand-written insertions in the printed *pro forma* are indicated by italics.

This Indenture Witnesseth That John Whitney, aged Fourteen years and Seven[?] months. Son of William Whitney of Ombersley in the County of Worcester, Carpenter, by and with the consent of his father the said William Whitney (testified by his being a party to and consenting these presents) doth put himself Apprentice to John Nicholson of the city of Worcester, Organ Builder to learn his Art and with himafter the Manner of an Apprentice to serve from the day of the date hereof unto the full End and Term of Six Years and five months from thence next following to be fully complete and ended on the thirty first day of December 1866. During which Term the said Apprentice his Master faithfully shall serve his secrets keep his lawful commands every where 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 meaning to his said Master of the same. He shall not waste the Goods of his said Master not 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 other unlawful Games whereby his said Master may have any loss with his own goods or others during the said Term without Licence of his said Master. He shall neither buy nor sell. He shall not haunt Taverns or Playhouses 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 John Nicholson without premium, or payment of any kind made to him his said Apprentice in the Art of an Organ Builder which he useth by the best means thathe can shall teach and Instruct or cause to be taught and instructed The said William Whitney Finding unto the said Apprentice sufficient Meat Drink clothing, washing Lodging and all other Necessaries during the said Term and the said John Nicholson paying wages to the said Apprentice during the said term as follows that is [to] say, nothing for the first year, one shilling per week during the second year, Two shillingsper week during the third year, Three shillings per week during the fourth year, Four shilling per week during the fifth year, and Five shillings per week during the sixth year, and six shillings per week during the remainder of 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 where of the Parties above named to these Indentures interchangeably have put their Hands and Seals the Sixteenth day of July and in the Twenty fourth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the Grace of God of the united Kingdom of Great Britainand Ireland QUEEN Defender of the Faith and in the Year of Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty.

Signed sealed, and delivered by all the said parties in the presence of John AtkynsVicar of Ombersley

John Whitney William Whitney
John Nicholson *No Premium.*

Deleted from the pro forma is the concluding passage (in small print),

The Amount of the Money or the value of any matter or thing given or agreed to be given with the Apprentice, by way of Premium must be truly inserted in words at length, otherwise the Indenture will be [signed? indec.] and double such Amount or value Forfeited.

¹ MS Mal 2/5.

2 INDENTURE OF CHARLES WOOD 1878:

Another indenture survives in its original form for Charles Wood.¹ It was written by a legal clerk on a printed *pro forma*, complete with handsome wax seals and stamped 'Chief Office 11.10.78'. The legal avoidance of almost all punctuation makes instant comprehension difficult.

This Indenture Witnesseth: That Charles Wood of North Barbourne in the county of Worcester a Minor of the age of sixteen years by and with the consent of his Father Joseph Wood of the same place testified by his execution hereof doth put himself **Apprentice** to John Nicholson of the Parish of Saint Alban in the city of Worcester Organ Builder —

To learn his Art and with him after the Manner of an apprentice to serve from the Thirtieth day of September One thousand eight hundred and seventy eight – unto the full End and Term of Five Years from thence and following to be fully complete and ended **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 other unlawful games whereby his said Master may have any loss with his own goods or others during the said term without Licence of his said Master He shall neither buy nor sell He shall not haunt Taverns or Playhouses 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 John Nicholson for the consideration aforesaid [*sic*] —

his said Apprentice in the Art of Organ Building 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 Lodging and all other Necessities~~ [*sic*] during the said term and paying unto the said Apprentice during the said term the following sums weekly namely during the first year thereof the sum of one shilling per week during the second year thereof the sum of two shillings per week during the third year the sum of three shillings per week during the fourth year thereof the sum of four shillings per week and during the fifth and last year the sum of seven shillings per week the said John Nicholson to find all Tools

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 interchangeable have put their Hands and Seals the 30 day of November – and in the Forty Second Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the Grace of God of **Great Britain and Ireland QUEEN** Defender of the Faith and in the Year of our **Lord** One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Eight

John Nicholson
Joseph Wood
Charles Wood

The Amount of the Money or the value of any other matter or thing given or agreed to be given with the Apprentice by way of Premium must be truly inserted in words at length: otherwise the Indenture will be void and double such amount or value forfeited [Nothing is entered in this part of the document, but the following is written by another hand.]

Signed sealed and delivered by the above named Charles Wood, Joseph Wood and John Nicholson in the presence of

John Waldron
[and another signature that is now cut-off.]²

¹ MS 9/1, private collection.
² MS W9/1.



His Indenture Witnesseth That Charles Wood of North Burbourne in the County of Worcester a Minor of the age of sixteen years by and with the consent of his father Joseph Wood of the same place testifies by his execution hereof doth put himself Apprentice to John Nicholson of the Parish of Saint Alban in the City of Worcester Organ Builder

to learn his Art and with him after the Manner of an Apprentice to serve from the Twentieth day of September One thousand eight hundred and seventy eight unto the full End and Term of Five Years from thence next following to be fully complete and ended During which Term the said Apprentice his Master faithfully shall serve his secret keep his lawful commands every where 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 contract Matrimony within the said Term He shall not play at Cards or Dice Tables or any other unlawful Games whereby his said Master may have any loss with his own goods or others during the said Term without Licence of his said Master He shall neither buy nor sell He shall not haunt Taverns or Playhouses nor absent himself from his said Master's service day or night unlawfully But in all things serve faithfully Apprentice He shall behave himself towards his said Master as of all his during the said Term And for the said John Nicholson for the consideration aforesaid



his said Apprentice in the Art of Organ Building which he useth by the best means that he can shall teach and Instruct or cause to be taught and instructed ~~Teaching~~ ~~the said Apprentice sufficient about Printing~~ ~~and all other~~ ~~business~~ during the said Term and paying unto the said Apprentice during the said Term the following sums weekly namely during the first year thereof the sum of one shilling per week, during the second year thereof the sum of two shillings per week, during the third year thereof the sum of three shillings per week, during the fourth year thereof the sum of four shillings per week and during the fifth and last year the sum of seven shillings per week the said John Nicholson to find all Tools

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 Hand and Seals the ³⁰ day of November and in the Forty second Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady 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 seventy eight

John Nicholson
Joseph Wood
Charles Wood



The Amount of the Money, or the value of any other matter or thing given or agreed to be given with the Apprentice, by way of Premium must be truly inserted in words at length otherwise the Indenture will be void and such amount shall be forfeited

Signed sealed and delivered by the above named Charles Wood, Joseph Wood and John Nicholson in the presence of - John Walds

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