

Guide ~ Source H (George Alsop)

Title of your primary source: **Account by former indentured servant George Alsop**

Type of source & date: **book, 1666**

Author/creator: **George Alsop**

What do you know about the creator of this source?

Alsop was an indentured servant in Maryland who returned to London when his period of indenture was over.

What information does this source give you about the living conditions of servants or what it was like to be an indentured servant in the colonies?

- **Alsop says that service in Maryland is easier than an apprenticeship in London**
- **Alsop considers the life of a working class person in England “sordid liberty,” i.e. freedom, but not very pleasant or fulfilling**
- **Alsop says that servants are *not* “sold in open market for slaves,” as some report in England**
- **servants work 5 ½ days during summer months**
- **during the greatest heat of the summer, servants are allowed 3 hours rest during midday**
- **in winter, servants “do little or no work or employment, save cutting of wood” unless they choose to hunt for themselves**
- **servants who are artisans do not have to work in the fields and are highly respected by their masters**
- **after the period of service, a freed servant receives 50 acres of land, enough grain for one year, three suits of clothes, and tools**
- **women who come as servants are highly prized as wives**

Does this source present a **positive**, **negative**, or **neutral** view of indentured servitude?

Explain why?

- **encourage students to give their views of this and ask them to explain them/provide support**
- **positive**
 - **servants are treated well**
 - **servants have more opportunities once freed than they would ever have in England**