

Source C: Excerpt from *The Two Fruitful Sisters Virginia and Maryland: Their Present Condition, Impartially Stated and Related*, (a pamphlet written by John Hammond in Virginia in 1656)

Background: John Hammond was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses. In this pamphlet, he is defending the settlement of Virginia and Maryland. How does he characterize the conditions and treatment of indentured servants?

The usual allowance for servants is (besides their charge of passage defrayed) when their time of service is complete: a year's provision of corn, double apparel, tools necessary, and land according to the custom of the Country, . . .

The labor servants are put to, is not so hard nor so many hours as Husbandmen [farm workers], nor Handicraftmen are kept at in England, I said little or nothing is done in winter time, none ever work before sun rising nor after sun set, in the summer they rest, sleep or exercise themselves in the heat of the day, Saturdays afternoon is always their own, the old Holidays are observed and the Sabbath spent in good exercises.

The women are not (as is reported) put into the ground to work, but occupy such domestic employments and housewifery as in England, that is cooking, cleaning the house, milking, employed about dairies, washing, sewing, etc., and both men and women have times of recreations, as much or more than in any part of the world besides, yet some women that are not fit to be so employed are put into the ground. . . .

Those Servants that will be industrious may in their time of service gain a [good amount of wealth] before their Freedoms, which is usually done by many, and they gain esteem and assistance that appear so industrious: There is no Master almost but will allow his Servant a parcel of clear ground to cut some Tobacco in for himself, which he may [tend] at those many idle times he hath allowed him and not prejudice, but rejoice his Master to see it, which in time of Shipping he may lay out for commodities, and in Summer sell them

again with advantage. [He might also] get a Pig or two, which anybody almost will give him, and his Master [will allow] him to keep them with his own, which will be no charge to his Master, and with one year's increase of them may purchase a Cow's Calf or two, and by that time he is for himself; he may have Cattle, Hogs and Tobacco of his own, and come to live gallantly; but this must be gained (as I have said) by Industry and affability, not by sloth nor churlish behavior.

And whereas it is rumored that Servants have no lodging other then on boards, or by the Fire side, it is contrary to reason to believe it: First, as we are Christians; next as people living under a law, which compels as well the Master as the Servant to perform his duty; nor can true labor be either expected or exacted without sufficient clothing, diet, and lodging; all which their Indentures (which must inviolably be observed) and the Justice of the Country requires. . . .

Be sure to have your contract in writing and under hand and seal, for if ye go over upon promise made to do this or that, or to be free, it signifies nothing.