

residue of the contract of any apprentice, the Orphans' Court, or any two justices of the peace in the county where the deceased master did last reside, may appoint three persons of the same trade or occupation with the deceased master, any two of whom shall have power to value, upon oath, the residue of the contract, and the father may make his election either to pay the widow such valuation, or the widow shall have power to make the assignment without his consent, of the residue of the indenture, with the approbation of the Orphans' Court.

NEGRO APPRENTICES.

31. The several Orphans' Courts of this State, shall, upon information being given to them, summon before them the child of any free negro, and if it shall appear upon examination before such court that it would be better for the habits and comfort of such child that it should be bound as an apprentice to some white person to learn to labor, the court shall bind such child as an apprentice to some white person, if a male, till he is of the age of twenty-one years, or if a female, till she is of the age of eighteen years.

32. The Sheriff, or any constable of the county or city, shall serve any process issued by the Orphans' Court to bring the child of any free negro before the court, and in the service of such process, shall arrest and carry such child before the court on the day therein named.

33. No negro child shall be bound under this article if the parent or parents have the means and are willing to support such child, and keep the same employed so as to teach habits of industry; and the parent or parents shall be summoned to be present at such binding.

34. In binding such children, the Orphans' Court shall give preference to those persons who may be selected by the parents, if there be any, and if not, by the children, if the person selected by them be approved by the court.

35. Every such indenture of apprenticeship shall state the name and age of the child bound, and the name of the master, and shall be recorded in the office of the Register of Wills of said county, at the expense of the master, within one month