

Carpenters' Company:

Minute Books of Courts and Committee:

7th July 1741 - 5th September 1749

John Atkins Son of Thomas Atkins of Horninghold in the County of Leicester Yeoman bound to Emanuel Johnson & by him made free paid 12s. Quar 3s:4d Noninrolement

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7th July 1741 - 5th September 1749

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← MARGIN that the Cause will be taxed next Trinity Term & that the Company will stand a good Chance And it is further Ordered that the Clerk do Attend Mr Bentham from time to time inquire after the said Affair

← MARGIN F

BRACKET :
[John Atkins](#) Son of [Thomas Atkins](#) of Horninghold in the County of Leicester Yeoman bound to [Emanuel Johnson](#) & by him made free paid 12s. Quar 3s:4d Noninrolement

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Carpenters' Company

The [Carpenters' Company](#) was governed by a **Court of Assistants**, which met regularly. Members of the Court, who are listed at the top of the minutes of every meeting, were the **master** of the Company, the **wardens**, and **assistants**. The Court's business consisted largely of appointing Company officers; regulating apprenticeship and admittance to the freedom and livery of the Company; distributing charity to company members; receiving dues; and administering the Company's portfolio of properties. Specifically, entries in the minutes frequently include:

Carpenters' Company, Minute Book, 1737-57, Guildhall Library, Ms. 4329/17, LL ref: GLCCMC251060009.

- Details on the **election of the master and wardens**, with those who refused to serve recorded as paying a fine instead.

- Names of [apprentices](#) bound to members of the Company, with information on the name, origin, and occupation of the father; the name of the master; and the amount of any premium, or **consideration**, paid.
- Records of the **transfer of apprentices** from one master to another when a master died or the indenture was dissolved.
- Names of men who were made [free](#) of the Company, and the basis on which **freedom** was granted (completion of an apprenticeship, patrimony, or redemption).
- Names of freemen who were nominated to the **livery of the company**, and records of the substantial fines (and the cost of the clothing) new liverymen were required to pay.
- Records of the dues ("**quarteridge**") paid by members of the Company.
- Decisions on the distribution of [charity](#) to company members. Mostly this consists simply of decisions, such as on the [4th of January 1736](#), "that £50 be distributed amongst the poor members of this Company at ten shillings each on Saturday the 15th- instant at the Hall". But in the earlier books there are lists of **pensions** paid to the Company pensioners, names of members receiving doles given to the **accidental poor** and from bequests such as "Mr Pope's gift", and names of Company members admitted to become pensioners.
- Decisions concerning the management of Company funds, and leases of Company properties.

The content, format, and clarity of the minute books varies considerably over time, depending no doubt largely on the diligence and predispositions of the Company clerk. In the 1720s, for example, the clerk used abbreviations, such as "B" for "bound apprentice" and "Q" for "quarteridge", making the book somewhat difficult to interpret.