

**An obligation of debt to the town council of Portsmouth and an obligation of Preserved Fish to become the legal guardian of an orphaned boy named Henry Lawton  
9/11/1780 - PHS #211.52**

Know all men by these presents that Preserved Fish, blacksmith, Thomas Potter & George Hall, yeomen, all of Portsmouth in the County of Newport & State of Rhode Island, are held and firmly bound unto Thomas Shearman, Esq., David Gifford, Burrington Anthony, George Cornell, Alexander Thomas, and William Anthony, the present members of the Town Council of said Portsmouth, and their successors in said office, in the full sum of two thousand pounds lawfull money equal to silver or gold, to be paid unto the present members of the Town Council aforesaid, or to their successors in said office for the time being, to which payment well & truly to be made. We bind our selves, our heirs, Executors and Administrators & every of us jointly and severally and firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals, dated this eleventh day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & eighty.

Where as the Town Council above said by Record bearing even Date herewith, granted the said Preserved Fish of said Portsmouth to be guardian unto Henry Lawton, orphaned son of Job Lawton, late of Portsmouth, deceased. Now the conditions of the above obligation is such that if the above said Preserved Fish of Portsmouth, shall do well and truly act as a faithfull Guardian for the above said Henry Lawton, orphan, in all things by Law and Equity Required of him, the said Preserved Fish, for the true and faithfull Discharging of the trust deposed in him as aforesaid and to render a true and just Account thereof when lawfully thereunto Required, then this Present obligation to be Null and Void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed, Sealed & Delivered in the Presence of  
[Signed by:]  
Charity Hall  
Ruth Hall

Preserved Fish  
Thomas Potter  
George Hall