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Freedmen's Contract - for 1867  
State of S. Carolina

Richland District

Articles of agreement between C. K. Singleton & freedmen whose names are hereunto attached.

1<sup>st</sup> Said freedmen agree to hire their times as laborers on the plantation of said C. K. Singleton from the 22<sup>d</sup> day of Jan: 1867 to the 22<sup>d</sup> day of Jan: 1868; to conduct themselves civilly, faithfully, honestly & obligingly, to perform all labor on said plantation, or such as may be connected therewith, that may be required by said C. K. Singleton or his agent.

2<sup>d</sup> Said freedmen agree to perform the daily tasks hitherto usual allotted on said plantation, such as 125 to 150 rails, cutting hay one & a half to two acres, ditching & banking 150 to 200 feet, hoeing cotton three quarters to one acre, Corn one to one & a half acres, in all cases where tasks cannot be assigned they agree to labor obligingly ten hours per day.

3<sup>d</sup> All lost time from sickness shall be charged at the rate of 50 cents per day & for absence from the plantation on working days, the laborer shall be charged two dollars per day for a first offence. If the offence is repeated, the laborer shall be dismissed from the plantation & forfeit his share of the crop, but the employer shall pay the party so dismissed at the rate of four dollars a month (for full hands) for the time he has been in his employment, deducting therefrom advances made.

4<sup>th</sup> Said freedmen agree to take good care of all plantation tools entrusted to their care, & to pay for the same if injured or destroyed. Also to be kind & gentle to all work animals under their charge, & to pay for any injury they may sustain while in their hands, through carelessness or neglect. They agree to keep their fences, fences & huts in good condition.

5<sup>th</sup> Said freedmen agree to furnish from their number a man to carry the barn yard manure, whose duty it shall be to feed the work animals. Said freedmen agree also to furnish from their number a foreman. The barnyard man & the foreman, both to be selected by the employer.

6<sup>th</sup> Said freedmen agree to be directed in their work by the

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freeman, who shall report daily tall absence, neglect, refusal to work, or disorderly conduct, to the employer or his agent.

7<sup>th</sup> - Said freedmen agree that in case any of them member shall do the daily tasks badly, he shall work the same tasks the day following, & be charged 50 cents for every day so lost.

8<sup>th</sup> - all fines & forfeitures shall inure to the benefit of the employer and employees in proportion to their relative shares.

9<sup>th</sup> - In case the employer should deem it necessary for the good of the crop to procure extra hands during the months of May & June to keep the grass down, the laborers agree to pay their share of the expense. They also agree to pay their share, if it should be necessary to employ extra labor at the time of gathering the crop.

10<sup>th</sup> - In case of depredation being committed when the crop is ripening, the laborers agree to furnish from their number, one or more as the employer may deem necessary, whose duty it shall be to guard the crop at night, & who shall be exempt from all other work at that time.

11<sup>th</sup> - Said employer agrees to treat the laborers with justice and kindness, to furnish quarters on his plantation, to allot to each full hand four acres of land to be planted in grain & vegetables and the privilege of getting fire wood from some portion of the plantation to be indicated by the employer. The destruction of houses or any fencing or timber without the consent of the employer, shall be charged at their full valuation against the depredator.

12<sup>th</sup> - The employer agrees to divide the crop with the laborers on the following terms, namely, one third of the Corn, potatoes and peas, after they are hauled, and one third of the net proceeds of the ginned cotton.

13<sup>th</sup> - The employer agrees to furnish to each laborer one peck of pint or meal per week, gratis, from the day said laborer commences to the first day of May 1868. and three lbs. of bacon per week at market value, freight included - said advance of bacon to be deducted from each laborer's share of the crop at the

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end of the year.

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- 14<sup>th</sup> The employer agrees to furnish work animals, & to feed them. Also wagons, carts, & plantation tools, such as cannot be made by the laborers themselves.
- 15<sup>th</sup> The employer agrees that the laborer shall keep stock & poultry, provided they are not allowed to injure the crops, and are kept on such part of the plantation as he shall direct. The owner of each animal - which is found out of the bounds indicated by the employer, shall be fined two dollars for each offence.
- 16 The employer or his agent shall keep a book in which shall be entered all advances made by him, and fines and forfeitures for lost time or other cause, which books shall be received as evidence in the same manner as Merchants books are now received in Courts of Justice, & shall have a right to deduct from the share of each laborer all his fines and forfeitures, & also advances made. All fines and forfeitures herein made will be subject to the decision of the authorities having jurisdiction of the same.
- 17<sup>th</sup> No laborer shall sell any agricultural product to any person whatsoever without the written consent of the employer, until after the division of the crops.
- 18<sup>th</sup> The laborers shall commence work at sunrise, and be allowed, from one and a half to two and a half hours each day for their meals according to the season of the year.
- 19<sup>th</sup> All violations of the terms of this contract, or of the rules and regulations of the employer as herein agreed to by the laborers shall be punished by deduction from the plantation, and forfeiture of his share of the crops, but the employer shall pay parties so delinquent at the rate of 40 cents per month for all hands, deducting therefrom advances made, as specified in paragraph 3<sup>d</sup> of this Contract.

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Sum 22 <sup>a</sup>	
Wm Richardson	Capacity
Wm Richardson	Foreman
Edwin Rich	Full hand
Robert Scott	" "
Wm Rich	" "
John Stuy	" "
Wm Hall	" "
Wm Winton	" "
Wm Richardson	" "
Wm Major	" "
Wm Green	" "
Wm Morris	" "
Wm Drayton	" "
Wm Anderson	" "
Wm Richardson	" "
Wm Large	" "
Wm Riley	" "
Ellis Stuy	" "
Wm Bates	" "
Wm Jones	" "
Wm Price	" "
Wm Small	" "
Wm Medds	" "
Thomas Brown	3/4 hand
Wm Richardson	Full "
Wm Stephenson	3/4 "
Wm Morris	Full "
Hector Moore	" "
Wm Frost	" "
Wm Ellis	" "
Wm Morris	" "
Wm Yoffe	" "
Wm Stuy	1/2 hand

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