Rules for the Overseer or Manager.

1. He must not indulge in Swearing, drinking, or any immorality on the place. The morals of the negroes must be strictly attended to, and unless the overseer conducts himself like a gentleman no improvement can be expected ~~from~~ in negroes.

2 He should not enter into Conversation with the negroes except on business. Familiarity breeds Contempt.

3 Occasionally and at odd times he should patrol the negro quarters to see that nothing amiss is going on.

4 He must not injure the negroes, never strike one in a passion, or with any thing that might do mischief. If they do wrong & need correcting let it be done without Cruelty. and avoid taunting them with their misconduct afterwards. Avoid torture of mind or body.

5 A brisk lively motion both for Mules and negroes should generally be required, but no rushing. It is desirable for every thing to last as long as possible, which Cannot be the case if over worked.

6 Breeding & Suckling women ~~Should~~ be worked near the house if posible, & carefully.

7 Mules & horses should be well rubbed & attended to every day, & negroes should be allowed a Specified time for that purpose, Say one hour at 12 oclock in winter, and the time lengthened as the days grow long & hot. In hot weather hands & mules must have 2 hours rest at 12 oclock.

8 At night let the negroes employ themselves as they please till the bell rings, without any interference unless they are violating Some rule of the Plantation.

9. The women must be allowed time every week for washing and mending, & the largest girls must help their mothers. If a rainy day comes in the week let them have it then. If not, allow them two or three hours by 9am on Saturday evening.

10 About once a month, say on the 1st Saturday, after the weather begins to get warm, have a cleaning up about the houses, yards, and under the houses, and haul off the litter. Cleanliness is necessary to health.

11 Negroes are allowed to come up to see Mistress and Master on Sunday mornings and late Sunday afternoons. At all other times they must ask leave of the overseer before they come. The house hands do not go to the quarters without permission.

12. Men are allowed a rooster and 3 hens, two hens additional for their wives, and one for each child that works in the field. These they have to start with at the first of the year. The chickens & eggs they raise are for their own use, not to be sold off the place.

13 As we try to raise meat & all supplies for the place, the overseer must pay as much attention to the stock of all kinds as to the crops. Have them counted frequently, & count himself & list at least once a month.

14 Notice negroes fences & gates, put and keep them in as good condition as practicable. Attend to the gear of all kinds, and all plantation tools wagons, plows &c; let all be kept in good order & good repair, and when not in use put in their right places, not left exposed to hot sun & wet weather.

15. The great rule of managing is. Keep every thing in good condition & repair; waste nothing; take care of every thing, especially when likely to
16 be scarce. And the rule for Cropping is, first make an abundance to live and feed on, including plenty of Vegetables for the negros; then as much market crop as convenient.

~~16~~ 17 The overseer raises nothing for Sale, except for his employer; and sells nothing off the place except by authority of his employer, then for Cash only which he at once hands over.

17 The overseers time is paid for by his employer, and belongs to his employer. It is not right for the overseer to use that or any thing else that belongs to his employer, in going about, in visiting, or in entertaining; or in any way but for his employer.

18 He keeps a book, prepared & furnished him at the beginning of each year, in which the rules are written down. & he ~~sets~~ down every thing in the course of the year according to the heads.

20 And when his employer is absent he writes to his employer ~~at~~ the end of every week an account of matters on the place. Sending at the end of every month a report of his stock &c.

Marengo County Alabama, July 15th 1860

This agreement witnesseth that Lewis O. Collins has agreed to live for Willis P. Bocock at Waldwick as his overseer or manager from the above date till the end of this year. He agrees to give his whole time & attention his best Skill, industry, & judgement, to carrying on the busines and carefully managing every thing under his charge; to attend to and observe the foregoing rules for his guidance, and in all things to observe the wishes & directions of his employer when made known; to be careful of the good conduct health & cleanliness of the negroes; to take care of the Sick; & to see that they comply in a reasonable manner with the rules laid down for them; also to conduct himself with prudence & sobriety, and a faithful regard to his employers interests.

Said Bocock on his part agrees in consideration of said Collins's Services so rendered, to furnish him an animal to ride about Said business, he furnishing his own Saddle & bridle; to allow for his family that stays with him on the place a reasonable finding of such things as are raised on the plantation to be used without waste, also a woman of the place to cook & wash for them, and to pay him wages at the end of his time at the rate of five hundred dollars for twelve months, Said Collins accounting for all time lost from his employers business.

As evidence that Said Collins intends to be faithful it is further agreed that whenever Said Bocock becomes dissatisfied he may put an end to this agreement by paying L. Collins up to that time; and further, at the Said Collin's own request, that if he drinks any Spirits in the time he is not to receive any wages.

July 16. 1860.

Lewis O. Collins

W. P. Bocock

Lewis O. Collins
Agreemt
16 July 1860

Settlemt within