Contract made the 1st day of January 1870
between us the free people who have signed this paper of one part, and our employer, Willis P. Bocock, of the other part.
We agree to take charge of & cultivate for the year 1870, a portion of land, say 120 acres or thereabouts, to be laid off to us by our employer on his plantation, & to tend the same well in the usual crops, in such proportions as we & he may agree upon. We are to furnish the necessary labor, say an average hand to every 15 acres in hoe crops, making in all 8 average hands; and are to have all proper work done, ditching, fencing, repairing &c as well as cultivating & saving the crops of all kinds, so as to put & keep the land we occupy and tend in good order for cropping and to make a good crop, ourselves; and to do our fair share of all job work about the place.
Our force is to be under one or more good head men, who are to work faithfully themselves, & see that all the other hands work faithfully & well, & conduct themselves right, & who are to carry on the business under the general superintendence & control of our employer and his manager.
We are to be responsible for the good conduct of ourselves our hands and families, and agree that all shall be respectful to employer, owners & manager, honest, industrious, and careful about everything, and shall not interupt anything about the place, working as industriously the last part of the year as the first; and then our employer agrees that he & his manager shall treat us kindly and help us study our interest & do our duty.
If any hand or family proves to be of bad character, or dishonest or lazy or disobedient or any way unsuitable our employer or manager has the right, and we have the right, to have such turned off.

We are to be found in house room & fire wood not over one fire place for every three hands, and are to use dead or useless timber for fire wood not saplings or rail trees, and are not to burn or destroy fence rails or pieces.

For every person taken to stay in a house who is not a hand, and is not staying by arrangement with our employer, our employer is to be paid at the rate of not less than one dollar a week by the person or hands that occupy or control that house. We are to have the privilege of patch ground for vegetables, say as much, if we wish it as one acre to 10 or 12 hands, to raise for our own use, but not for sale.

We are to be furnished at the beginning of the year with a plow horse or mule to every two average hands, making **four** for our company, and with the necessary tools & implements for the use of our force, & our plows &c are to be kept in proper order and repair to do good work. We are to find our own axes & things of that kind; and are to do such repairs to our tools &c as are usually done by head men & hands. We are to take good care of every thing furnished or lent for our use, and to be responsible for them, and for all damage by us or ours on the place. We are especially to take good care of our teams, & to see that none of them are rode off the place. We are to be furnished with the necessary feed for our teams, which we are to take care of, and see that it is not used for anything else. And we are not to have any stock on the place except by agreement with our employer.

Land houses and everything else in our use or keeping are to be returned to our employer in good order & condition at Christmas next 1870; or sooner if called for by our employer & not needed by us.

For the labor & services of ourselves and hands

rendered as above stated, we are to have one third part of all the crops, or their nett proceeds, made and secured, or prepared for market by our force, we paying our share for the bagging ties & other expenses of our cotton, and if it is desired to sell any other part of the crops made by us, are to prepare that also for market.

We are to find ourselves & pay all our own expenses. But we are to be furnished by our employer through his manager with provisions if we call for them not over one peck of meal or corn, and 3½ pounds of meat or its equivalent ⅌ week, for every 15 acres of land or average hand, to be charged to us at fair market prices. And whatever may be due by us or our hands to our employer for provisions or anything else, during the year, it is to be a lein on our share of the crops and is to be retained by him out of the same before we receive our part.

And it is further agreed that we and our hands are to be charged what is reasonable for every violation of our contract; and on the other hand if we and our hands comply faithfully with our contract, and at the end of the year have the recommendation of our head men, and the manager of the place, then of all the excess of Cotton that we make over three bales, averaging when sold 500lbs to the bale, to each of our eight hands our employer will allow us one half in the place of our third of such excess: and if we make one hundred and fifty bushels of Corn or over to each of our eight hands, he will allow us to return him our bread corn at the rate of one peck a week to each of our eight hands out of the crop before a division, or to draw it for ourselves if we do not owe it to him.

But in consideration of the foregoing we also agree to do for our employer and his family outside of plantation work, any work he may call on us to do not in a busy time of the crop, as much as four

days work with all our hands in the year, he finding us our two meals a day when so at work for him.

Witness our signatures. W.P. Bocock

Andrew his X mark Murray for

witness Clifford A Smith, yourself and Henrietta his wife

witness Clifford A. Smith, Isaac his X mark Patteson

witness Clifford A. Smith Page his X mark Patteson

witness C. A. Smith Andy his X mark Calwell for

Self & wife Phebe