



Smithsonian Institution

Freedmen's Bureau

Mississippi Assistant Commissioner, Labor Contracts of Freedmen, Oct.–Dec. 1865, Part 3

Extracted on Mar-29-2024 11:09:48

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the Freedmen's Bureau as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the Freedmen's Bureau website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact Freedmen's Bureau or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the Freedmen's Bureau. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

[[stamp]]

Articles of Agreement made and concluded this 27th day of December 1865 by and between Richard H. Watson of the first part and Robert Ross, Rilter Jas, Arthur & Jackson freedman of the second part, whereby it is agreed and covenanted as follows:

For and in consideration of the payments hereinafter agreed to be paid, the said R. R. and family freedman agreed and binds himself to work as a plantation laborer from 1st January 1866, to 1st January 1867, on the plantation of the said [[R Watson?]] in Yazoo County Mississippi. He agrees and binds himself to render to said party of the first part, during the period of one year, as before stated, respectful, obedient and faithful labor; from sun rise until sen set, each day under such plantation regulations as the party of the first part shall make, not inconsistent with the provisions of this contract or the rules and regulations of the freedman's bureau.

In consideration of the faithful performance of his contract by the said R. R & family freedman. party of the second part, the said Watson party of the first part offers and binds himself to pay to said R. R & family freedman at the rate of \$ R. R \$12, wife \$10, Jas Arthur \$8, Jackson \$3, Mary [[Jane?]] \$10,00 per month, with rations of 4 pounds of meat, 1 peck of meal, 1 pint of molasses and pounds of salt per week.

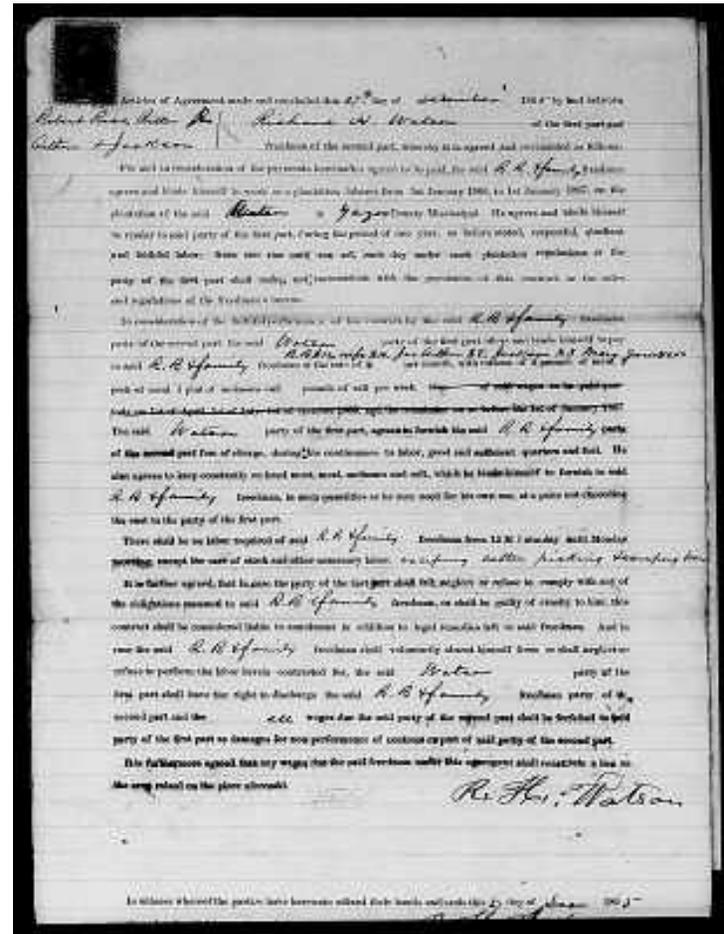
~~One~~ of said wages to be paid quarterly on 1st of April, 1st of July, 1st of October 1866, and the remainder on or before the 1st of January 1867. ~~The said Watson party of the first part, agrees to furnish the said R. R + family party of the second part free of charge, during his continuance to labor, good and sufficient quarters and fuel. He also agrees to keep constantly on hand meat, meal, molasses and salt, which he binds himself to furnish to said R. R + family freedman, in such quantities as he may need for his own use, at a price not exceeding the cost to the part of the first part.~~

There shall be no labor required of said R. R & family freedman from 12 M Saturday until Monday morning, except the care of stock and other necessary labor. excepting cotton picking & scraping ~~[[?]]~~. It is further agreed, that in case the party of the first shall fail, neglect or refuse to comply with any of the obligations assumed to said R. R + family freedman, or shall be guilty of cruelty to him, this contract shall be considered liable to annulment in addition to legal remedies left to said freedman. And in case the said R. R & family freedman shall voluntarily absent himself from or shall neglect or refuse to perform the labor herein contracted for, the said Watson party of the first part shall have the right to discharge the said R. R & family freedman party of the second part and ~~[[?]]~~ all wages due the said party of the second part shall be forfeited to said party of the first part as damages for non-performance of contract as part of said party of the second part.

It is furthermore agreed that any wages due the said freedman under this agreement shall constitute a lien on the crop raised on the place aforesaid.

R. H. Watson

In witness whereof the parties have hereunto affixed their hands and seals this 27 day of Decr 1865



Mississippi Assistant Commissioner, Labor Contracts of Freedmen, Oct.-Dec. 1865, Part 3
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Mar-29-2024 11:09:48



Smithsonian Institution

Freedmen's Bureau

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)