

Labor Contract for School Farm Number 12, Orange Grove Plantation, Milton Blake, Ladies Island, SC, 1865

Source: Records of the Field Offices for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872 (NARA Micropublication M1910), Reel 59

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Copy of Contract.  
School farm No. 12.  
Milton Blake.

Orange Grove.

Ladies Island.

with Free people.

Beaufort Dist.

March 4. 1865

The within has been read and explained to the laborers whose signatures are attached, and they have signified their intention to work on the terms proposed during the season of 1865.

C. F. Williams  
Genl. Supt.

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Articles of Agreement made & concluded this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 1865 between the labours (Colored) of School farm No. 12 (Orange Grove plantation) on Ladies Island, of the first part, and Milton Blake Lessee of the U. S. Direct Exp. Commissioners of the second part. Witnesseth;

That the said labours the party of the first part, do hereby agree to labor on the said School farm No. 12, as above, in cultivating and raising Cotton, Corn, Potatoes, Peas, Peanuts and Melons and gathering Corn blades during the ensuing year on the conditions and for the considerations hereinafter mentioned.

And the said Milton Blake party of the second part doth agree to pay to the party of the first part the following stated prices for each piece of work. To-wit,

Listing ground for Cotton	per task	.50
Spreading manure	" "	.10
Plowing	per acre	.15
Hoeing cotton each time.	per task	.25
Hauling " " each time	" "	.25
Thinning " " each time	" "	.05
Planting " "	" "	.10
Cotton as picked per pound		.02 1/2
Stripping Corn blades per hundred pounds		.40

And it is hereby further agreed upon by the said parties that the said labours parties of the first part, shall give to the said Blake party of the second part, One bushel of Potatoes for every task worked in Potatoes and the one fourth part by measure of all the Peanuts and Peas and the one fourth

Planting	each time	25
Thinning	each time	05
Planting	" "	10
- Cotton as picked per pound		02 1/2
Stripping Corn blades per hundred pounds		40

And it is hereby further agreed upon by the said parties that the said labouring parties of the first part, shall give to the said Blake party of the second part, One bushel of Potatoes for every tuck worked in Potatoes and the one fourth part by measure of all the Peanuts and Peas and the one fourth part of all the Muling they shall raise on the said farm.

And it is hereby further agreed upon by the said parties that the said labouring parties of the first part shall have the amount of two (2) acres to each family, for raising Corn, for which they agreed to deliver to the said Blake party of the second part all the corn blades raised on said land nicely cured and free of charge, and further if any labourer plants more than two acres, he is to give to the said Blake party of the second part one bushel of corn for every tuck planted in corn above two acres.

And it is also agreed that the said second party shall pay the said first party every month.

In witness whereof the said parties hereunto set their hands and seals this day and year first above written.

In presence of Witness.  
Signed <sup>by</sup> Timothy M. Taylor.

Titus Stony ✓  
Alice <sup>her</sup> Stony ✓  
Barb <sup>mark</sup> Stony ✓

Daphny <sup>her</sup> Seabrook ✓  
Minta <sup>her</sup> Akers ✓  
Leah <sup>her</sup> Hoge ✓

Th. M. M.

at her

And it is hereby further agreed upon by the said parties that the said labouring parties of the first part, shall give to the said Blake party of the second part, One bushel of Potatoes for every tuck worked in Potatoes and the one fourth part by measure of all the Peanuts and Peas and the one fourth part of all the Muling they shall raise on the said farm.

And it is hereby further agreed upon by the said parties that the said labouring parties of the first part shall have the amount of two (2) acres to each family, for raising Corn, for which they agreed to deliver to the said Blake party of the second part all the corn blades raised on said land nicely cured and free of charge, and further if any labourer plants more than two acres, he is to give to the said Blake party of the second part one bushel of corn for every tuck planted in corn above two acres.

And it is also agreed that the said second party shall pay the said first party every month.

In witness whereof the said parties herunto set their hands and seals this day and year first above written.

In presence of Witnesses.

Signed *Amos M. Taylor.*

*Jetus Stony* ✓

*Alice Stony* ✓

*Rachel Jones* ✓

*Matilda Orchard* ✓

*John Orchard*

*Daphne Seabrook* ✓

*Minta Atkins* ✓

*Leah Hogg* ✓

*Thomas Garrison* ✓

*John Garrison*

part of all the tithing they shall raise on the said farms.  
 And it is hereby further agreed upon by the said parties that  
 the said labouring parties of the first part shall have the amount  
 of two (2) acres to each family, for raising Corn, for which  
 they agreed to deliver to the said Blake party of the second  
 part all the corn blades raised on said land nicely cured  
 and free of charge, and further if any labouring plants more  
 than two acres, he is to give to the said Blake party of the  
 second part one bushel of corn for every track planted in  
 corn above two acres.

And it is also agreed that the said second party shall pay  
 the said first party every month.

In witness whereof the said parties hereunto set their hands  
 and seals this day and year first above written.

In presence of Witnesses.

Signed *Matthew M. Taylor.*

*Titus Stoney*  
*Alice* <sup>her</sup> *Stoney*  
*Basel* <sup>mark</sup> *Stoney*

*Daphne* <sup>her</sup> *Seabrook*  
*Minta* <sup>mark</sup> *Stiker*  
*Leah* <sup>her</sup> *Logan*

*Matilda* <sup>her</sup> *Orchard*  
*Clara* <sup>her</sup> *Orchard*  
*Molly* <sup>her</sup> *Storks*  
*Abriam* <sup>her</sup> *Lewis*  
*Ann* <sup>her</sup> *Lewis*  
*Mary* <sup>her</sup> *Lewis*  
*Sarah* <sup>her</sup> *Lewis*  
*Hannah* <sup>her</sup> *Lewis*

*Annie* <sup>her</sup> *Lewis*  
*John* <sup>her</sup> *Lewis*  
*Selen* <sup>her</sup> *Lewis*  
*Kate* <sup>her</sup> *Richardson*

Signed *Milton Blake.*