

Turnbull's Contract

In the name of God and his divine grace, Amen.

Let it be known and made manifest to all by means of this true and public document that the undersigned, spontaneously and of free will in the most exact way, manner, method, form and mode possible which in custom and law have the greatest force, do hereby agree and obligate ourselves freely each one for himself together with the conditions set forth in this document as follows:

I, Andrew Turnbull, obligate myself to conduct and transport to the Province of English Florida those who have signed their own full names below.

That when those who wish to work in farming the land as peasant farmers have arrived in that Province, they will be taken care of and maintained at my expense (by me, Mr. Turnbull) with all they means the will need to live on until crop land has been assigned to them.

That I will give to them that piece of land which themselves shall judge to be suitable and fit for cultivation.

That when the land produces crops and the peasants and farmers have enough to live on, there shall be taken out of the proceeds of the harvest enough to reimburse Mr. Turnbull for whatever he shall have advanced to the peasants and farmers after their arrival in the Province of Florida. However, this shall not include the expenses that Mr. Turnbull shall have incurred to transport the workers and their families. These expenses shall be born by Mr. Turnbull alone.

That after these expenses have been met, one half of the harvest will belong to Mr. Turnbull and the other half in equal proportions to the peasants or farmers who cultivate the land. This will be done, however, not to the custom in Italy, but rather one half will go to Mr. Turnbull and one half to the farmers, as expressed above, having first deducted the funds advanced to the peasants to live on.

That those proceeds shall be exempt from any kind of duty or tax for a period of ten consecutive years beginning with the first division of the harvest.

That Mr. Turnbull shall recover whatever expenses he incurs after arrival in the Province, but not the cost of the voyage, since the farmers shall not be required to pay that.

That Mr. Turnbull shall not discharge or remove from his service any of the undersigned, nor for their part, shall any of them leave his service for a period of ten years.

That it is stipulated that the peasants shall work the land and gardens, applying due care and labor on those types of crops which will be most advantageous and useful to the Province and most profitable to both proprietor and farmers.

In order that this present contract and agreement and all it contains be fully observed, we, the undersigned, each one for himself, pledge all our goods, present and future, as well as our own persons, and do hereby draw up this pact in most solemn form according to law and custom.

That when this contract with Mr. Turnbull shall be fulfilled, each family shall receive one hundred English shares of land for himself and fifty shares for each member of his family, male or female.

This, we sign by our own hands at Mahón, on the Island of Minorca, on February 11, the Eight year of the reign of George III, King by the grace of God, of Great Britain (Scotland) and Ireland, defenders of the Faith and in the year of God, Jesus Christ, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight.

Andrew Turnbull

¹ This contract may only have been a copy since an actual signed contract has not been found. In all likelihood, there were different contracts for different people, depending on the circumstances and their particular skills.

