

Hammond Manual (1857)

This excerpt is from a manual compiled by James Hammond for his plantation. In it, he outlined the procedures to be observed in overseeing nursing mothers, pregnant women, and the old and infirm. As you read this document, consider what it reveals about the everyday lives of slaveowners like Hammond. What were their motivations for detailing specific rules for these particular groups of slaves?

Sucklers.

Sucklers are not required to leave their houses until sun-rise, when they leave their children at the children's house before going to field. The period of suckling is 12 mos. Their work lies always within $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile of the quarters. They are required to be cool before commencing to suckle - to wait 15 minutes, at least, in summer, after reaching the children's house before nursing. It is the duty of the nurse to see that none are heated when nursing, as well as of the Overseer & his wife occasionally to do as. They are allowed 45 minutes at each morning to be with their children. They return 3 times a day until their infants are 8 mos old - in the middle of the forenoon, at noon, & in the middle of the afternoon: 'till the 12 th mo but twice a day, missing at noon: during the 12 th mo at noon only. On weaning, the child is removed entirely from its Mother for 2 weeks, & placed in charge of some careful woman without a child, during which time the Mother is not to nurse it at all.

Remarks -The amount of work done by a Suckler is about $\frac{3}{5}$ of that done by a full-hand, a little increased toward the last.

Old & Infirm.

Those, who from age & infirmities are unable to keep up with the prime hands are put in the suckler's gang.

Pregnant.

Pregnant women, at 5 mos, are put in the Suckler's gang. No plowing or lifting must be required of them.

Sucklers, old, infirm, & pregnant receive the same allowances as full-work hands.

Sucklers. —

1 Sucklers are not required to leave their houses until sunrise, when they leave their children at the children's house before going to field. The period of suckling is 12 mos. Their work lies always within $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile of the quarter. They are required to be cast before commencing to suckle - to wait 15 minutes, at least, in summer, after reaching the children's house before nursing. It is the duty of the nurse to see that none are heated when nursing, as well as of the Overseer who is occasionally to do so. They are allowed 45 minutes at each nursing to be with their children. They return 3 times a day until their infants are 8 mos. old - in the middle of the forenoon, at noon, in the middle of the afternoon: till the 12th mo. but twice a day, nursing ^{noon} during the 12th mo. at noon only. On weaning, the child is removed entirely from its mother for 2 weeks, & placed in charge of some careful woman without a child, during which time the mother is not to nurse it at all.

Remarks. - The amount of work done by a Suckler is about

$\frac{3}{4}$ of that done by a full-hand, a little increased toward the last.

Old & Infirm. —

15 Those, who from age & infirmities are unable to keep up with the prime hands are put in the sucklers gang.

Pregnant. —

16 Pregnant women, at 5 mos., are put in the Sucklers gang. No plowing or lifting must be required of them.

Sucklers, old infirm & pregnant, receive the same allowances as full-work hands.