

BIOGRAPHICAL  
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OF THE  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES  
VOLUME III  
1775-1790

by  
N. Louise Bailey  
and  
Elizabeth Ivey Cooper



*N. Louise Bailey, Editor*  
*Walter B. Edgar, Consulting Editor*  
*Inez Watson, Research Consultant*  
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Recs., UU: 279. Orangeburg Episcopal Church, pp. 18, 26, 45, 66, 86, 123, 150. Petit Jury Lists, 1778. Reynolds & Faunt. Rumph Family Ms., in SCL. A. S. Salley, Jr., *Genealogy of the Rumph Family of South Carolina* (Birmingham, Ala., 1903), pp. 6-10. Salley, *Orangeburg County*, pp. 110, 125, 133, 150, 170, 188, 201, 471, 474, 484. *SC Counties. SCHM*, 3: 109n; 25: 150; 37: 160; 69: 42. *SC Statutes*, 5: 259, 338; 9: 334, 341. *State Grants*, 5: 170, 171; 13: 137, 339, 500, 548; 14: 64, 89, 472; 15: 585; 17: 297; 20: 498; 23: 134; 24: 334; 25: 376, 498; 26: 103, 106; 27: 242; 32: 322, 323; 37: 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 496; 45: 192, 193, 245; 50: 344; 51: 85, 263, 307, 308, 309, 310; 52: 247; 55: 65, 569; 68: 322.

**RUSSELL, NATHANIEL** (Russel) (1738-1820). Grandfather of NATHANIEL RUSSELL MIDDLETON (1810-1890); father-in-law of ARTHUR MIDDLETON (1785-1837).

Nathaniel Russell, son of Joseph Russell, was born 16 November 1738 in Bristol, Rhode Island. He first came to Charleston in 1765 in the capacity of agent for Providence merchants, but he eventually established himself as a prominent merchant in his own right. Between 1769 and 1773, he participated in the slave trade, importing two cargoes. His business association with William Hopton, a successful Charleston merchant, and his later marriage to Hopton's daughter no doubt enhanced his status, both economically and personally. Cognizant of his northern roots, Russell maintained business contacts with New England and European merchants throughout his career. By 1790 he was able to subscribe \$36,610 of the state debt. According to the 1800 federal census, he owned eighteen slaves. In a manner befitting his wealth and social standing, Russell built on Meeting Street an elaborate residential mansion (ca. 1808-1809), an excellent example of the Federal Period which was appraised at \$38,000 in 1819. At his death, he possessed two other Charleston houses, 800 acres near Rumney on Charleston Neck, and various bank stock in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

At the beginning of the American Revolution, Russell supported the Whigs. He lent £11,088 to the state government (1777, 1778) and served in the Charleston militia (1778). Following a special election in St. Philip & St. Michael parishes, he qualified 26 January 1780 for the Third General Assembly (1779-1780). After the fall of Charleston (May 1780), Russell evidently departed from South Carolina and seemingly wavered in his loyalty to the American cause. A legislative ordinance of 17 March 1783 directed his property to be confiscated, and when he returned to Charleston from London on 19 September 1783 he was not allowed to disembark. Remaining on ship in Charleston harbor for several months, he petitioned the legislature and on 26 March 1784 received a special exemption from the earlier ordinance.

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4: 339. Grand  
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Federalist, pp  
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Russell soon became involved in state politics. As a delegate for St. Philip & St. Michael at the state convention, he voted to ratify the federal Constitution (1788). St. Philip & St. Michael elected him to the Eighth (1789-1790), Ninth (1791), Eleventh (1794-1795), Twelfth (1796-1797), and Thirteenth (1798-1799) General Assemblies; however, he declined to serve in the Thirteenth General Assembly. Other positions he held included the following: member of the parochial committee for St. Michael Parish (1776); commissioner, to print and sign bills (1776); incorporator and director of the Santee Canal Company (ca. 1786-1820); delegate at the state constitutional convention (1790); director of the Office of Discount and Deposit in Charleston (ca. 1793-1811); commissioner of the pilotage for Charleston (ca. 1793-1807); commissioner, to ascertain compensation for specific individuals (1794, 1799); commissioner of the markets for Charleston (ca. 1795-1801); commissioner, to approve securities offered by sheriffs of Charleston District (1795); commissioner, to prevent the exportation of nonmerchantable bread and flour (1796); Adams presidential elector (1796); member of the Charleston Insurance Company (1797); commissioner of the Charleston Orphan House (ca. 1800-1809); commissioner of the Charleston Dispensary (ca. 1803-1820); and director of the South Carolina Insurance Company (ca. 1805-1820). A member of the Independent (Congregational) Church, he also joined the Charleston Library Society (resigned 1817) and served as the first president of the New England Society of Charleston (1819-1820).

On 19 June 1788, Russell married Sarah Hopton, daughter of William Hopton (d. 1786) and Sarah Ward. Two daughters were born to them: Alicia Hopton (m. Arthur Middleton) and Sarah (m. Theodore Dehon [1776-1817]). Survived by his wife and children, Nathaniel Russell died 11 April 1820 and was buried the following day in the Independent (Congregational) Churchyard.

<i>Third General Assembly</i>	<i>St. Philip &amp; St. Michael</i>	1780*
<i>Eighth General Assembly</i>	<i>St. Philip &amp; St. Michael</i>	1789-1790
<i>Ninth General Assembly</i>	<i>St. Philip &amp; St. Michael</i>	1791
<i>Eleventh General Assembly</i>	<i>St. Philip &amp; St. Michael</i>	1794-1795
<i>Twelfth General Assembly</i>	<i>St. Philip &amp; St. Michael</i>	1796-1797
<i>Thirteenth General Assembly</i>	<i>St. Philip &amp; St. Michael</i>	1798**

SOURCES: *Almanacs*, 1793, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1819, 1820. Aud. Accts., 6690. *Census*, 1790, 38. *Census*, 1800, Charleston Co., 130. *Charleston Directory*, 1790. *CLS Journal*, 2: 21 June 1815, 19 Mar. 1817, 18 June 1817. Edwards, p. 44. Elliot, 4: 339. *Grand Jury Lists*, 1778. *Journal of the Constitutional Convention*, 1790, 9. *Journal of the Convention of SC*, 1788, 40. *Misc. Recs.*, RR: 477. Orvin, *Historic Berkeley*, pp. 149-50. *Petit Jury Lists*, 1778. Rogers, *Charleston*, pp. 5, 54, 70. Rogers, *Evolution of a Federalist*, pp. 103-4, 154, 163n, 202, 204, 287, 293, 376, 384. *St. Philip's Register*, 2: 112, 120, 243. *SCHM*, 1: 253-54; 5: 120; 19: 18; 30: 24n; 31: 107n; 32: 73, 75; 33:

64; 38: 140, 145; 41: 45; 47: 145; 53: 16, 102; 56: 47; 65: 209; 68: 60n, 72n; 70: 163. *SC Statutes*, 4: 361, 568-70, 624-26; 5: 238-39, 259, 294; 7: 116, 541; 8: 196, 205, 238. Walsh, p. 86n. William Way, *History of the New England Society of Charleston, South Carolina for One Hundred Years, 1819-1919* (Charleston, SC, 1920), pp. 25-30. Williams, *St. Michael's*, p. 41. Wills, 34(1818-1826), 265-74.

### RUTHERFORD, ROBERT (Ruthford, Rutherford; Sr.) (1734-1814).

Robert Rutherford, merchant and planter, was born in April 1734 in Hobbs Hole, Virginia. He moved first to Northampton County and then to Chatham County (1768) in North Carolina. A Whig, he represented Chatham County in the Third Provincial Congress (20 August-September 1775) of North Carolina. Active in the military, he served as colonel of the Chatham County militia. Sometime toward the close of the American Revolution, Rutherford moved to Ninety Six District, South Carolina. Settling in the fork between the Broad and Saluda rivers, he was granted some 1,266 acres in that area which became Newberry County. At death, he possessed five tracts of undisclosed location and acreage, an island in the Oconee River in Georgia, 200 acres, a lot in Newberry, and 23 slaves. Among his contributions to his community was the introduction of the cotton gin.

The Lower District Between Broad and Saluda Rivers elected Rutherford to the House in a special election, and he qualified 30 July 1783 for the Fifth General Assembly (1783-1784). Continuing service in the Sixth General Assembly (1785-1786), he again represented the Lower District Between Broad and Saluda Rivers until 12 February 1785 when he was chosen sheriff of Ninety Six District. As a delegate for the Lower District Between Broad and Saluda Rivers at the state convention, he voted against ratification of the federal Constitution (1788). Locally Rutherford served as justice of the peace for Newberry County (1785); trustee, for erecting and establishing a college at Ninety Six (1785); tax inquirer, assessor, and collector for the Lower District Between Broad and Saluda Rivers (1786); and commissioner of public buildings (1799).

On 22 April 1752, Rutherford married Dorothy Ann Brooks. Ten children were born to them: Dorothy (m. Aaron Cates), Mary (m. Thomas Mathis), Johannah (m. Morgan Minter), Sarah (m. Freeman Hardy), Thomas Brooks, Nancy (m. Henry Slappy), John, William, Robert, and Elizabeth (m. Frederick Nance). His first wife died in the early 1790s, and he wed Frances Burt, widow of John Harrington, circa 2 June 1794 when a marriage settlement was arranged. No issue was born to them. Survived by his second wife and children, Robert Rutherford died 25 January 1814.

Fifth Gen

Sixth Gen

SOURCES:  
Census, 1790  
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1814), 182-  
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