

Tom Russell

The evidence which has been used to link Tom Russell to the Nathaniel Russell family is a petition submitted by Sarah Russell for greater recompense following the execution of Tom Russell¹ and the trial records.² However, the city directories for 1822 list four individuals named Sarah Russell, all widows in 1822,³ and neither the petition nor the trial records specify which Sarah Russell owned Tom Russell. Tom Russell is described in his trial as an “edged tool maker.”⁴ One of the Sarah Russell widows listed in 1822 is the widow of John Russell, resident at 18 Wentworth Street in 1822.⁵ John Russell, her husband, is listed as a blacksmith in the 1819 City Directory, resident at 124 Wentworth Street,⁶ and in the 1816 City Directory as a blacksmith, resident at 124 Wentworth Street with a shop at 179 East Bay Street.⁷ John Russell placed an advertisement in the *City Gazette and Daily Advertiser* in January 1819 listing himself as a “Black and White Smith and Edge Tool Makers” on East Bay Street,⁸ the same profession as Tom Russell.⁹ Furthermore, one of the witnesses called is an acquaintance of Sarah Russell, Mrs. Mark Marks.¹⁰ Mark Marks is listed in the 1822 City Directory as a deputy sheriff, living at 310 King Street,¹¹ whilst in the 1825 City Directory he is listed as living at 308 King Street,¹² both being in the vicinity of the Wentworth Street residence described for Sarah Russell. The fact that Mrs. Mark Marks knows details of how Mrs. John Russell ran her household, and appeared as a witness, relating that Mrs. John Russell has warned Tom Russell “not to have much to do with Jack”¹³ would suggest that Mrs. Mark Marks knows Sarah Russell socially. Given the disparity between the wealthy Nathaniel Russell family and the more modest Mark Marks family, it is likely that the Sarah Russell in the trial is not Mrs. Nathaniel Russell.¹⁴ Given the geographical and socio-economic similarities between the John Russell family and the Mark Marks family, along with the shared profession between Tom Russell and John Russell, this would suggest that the most likely candidate for the owner of Tom Russell is Mrs. John Russell. Of the other two candidates, one Sarah Russell is the widow of Daniel Russell, who in the 1816 City Directory is listed as a carpenter,¹⁵ whilst the other Sarah Russell was resident on Lynch Lane¹⁶ (now Atlantic Street),¹⁷ in a completely different ward of the city, making it less likely she would know Mrs. Mark Marks socially.

¹ Sarah Russell, *The Memorial of Sarah Russell*, South Carolina Archives and History, accessed 2nd August 2016. See attached.

² Edward A. Pearson, ed., *Designs Against Charleston: The Trial Record of the Denmark Vesey Slave Conspiracy of 1822*, (Chapel Hill, N.C.: The University of North Carolina Press, 1999), 208-9.

³ James W. Hagy, *Charleston, South Carolina City Directories for the Years 1816, 1819, 1822, 1825, and 1829* (Baltimore, MD.: Clearfield, 1996), 97.

⁴ Pearson, *The Trial Record*, 209.

⁵ Hagy, *City Directories*, 97.

⁶ *Ibid*, 60.

⁷ *Ibid*, 23.

⁸ John Russell & Co, *Notice*, *City Gazette and Daily Advertiser* (Charleston, South Carolina), 20th January 1819.

⁹ Pearson, *The Trial Record*, 209.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, 209.

¹¹ Hagy, *City Directories*, 88.

¹² *Ibid*, 122.

¹³ Pearson, *The Trial Record*, 209.

¹⁴ In the 1830 census records they are listed as owning four slaves whilst in the 1810 census record they own none, suggesting fairly moderate means when combined with the husband's listed profession.

¹⁵ Hagy, *City Directory*, 23.

¹⁶ Hagy, *City Directory*, 97.

¹⁷ “Atlantic Street,” *Charleston County Public Libraries*, accessed 2nd August 2016,
<http://ccpl.org/content.asp?id=15617&action=detail&catID=6025&parentID=5747>.

1823-111-01

The Committee on Claims to whom was referred
the petition of Sarah Rupke praying ^{extra} compensation
for a negro executed, have had the same
under consideration and beg leave to recommend
that the prayer thereof be not granted.

A. H. Tracy, Chairman

B23 - 133 - 01

To The Honorable Speaker and other Members
of the House of Representatives of
South Carolina,

The Memorial of Sarah Russell

Timothy Shewell

That your memorialist was one of
those who suffered in the summer
of 1822 by having, and transacting
Slave Thomas Tom, Executed agreeable
to his sentence and the Law and
that your, Memorialist, was with
the rest who misfortune I was to
hear, the 1st of October the punishment
of the Slave Tom at the last session
But your, Memorialist, aware of the
little, consideration she, had received
when compared with the amount of said
boy's claim to a reward your Hon'ble House
and to memorialized you to grant double
you in your, wisdom see, if my further
remuneration for, the loss & property
sustained by, the execution so justly
inflicted on said her, Slave &

And your, Memorialist will
always pray

Charleston
Dec^r 2nd 1823 20-1

Sarah Russell

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Sarah Russell, The Memorial of Sarah Russell, South Carolina Archives
and History, date accessed 2nd August, 2016.

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respective members & friends &c.
and your Petitioners as in their names
have signed and sealed - Charleston 29th November
1829.

Chas. D. Bell
Chas. D. Bell
John S. Morris
John A. Deas
John H. Green
John H. Green

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South-Carolina State-Gazette, published as SOUTH-CAROLINA STATE GAZETTE, AND TIMOTHY'S DAILY ADVERTISER. (Charleston, South Carolina) • 03-20-1802 • Page [5]

BLACKSMITH & EDGE TOOL

MAKER.

This subscriber wishes to inform his friends and the public in general that he has commenced business in the Blacksmith and Edge Tool making line, on the East side of Governor's Bridge, where the above business will be carried on in its various branches, and on the most reasonable terms.

JOHN RUSSELL.

N. B. - A good Negro Workman wanted, for whom generous wages will be given, especially above.

March 17

3

1830 United States Federal Census for Marto Marks

South Carolina • Charleston • Charleston Ward 4

SAVE ✓

SCHEDULE of the whole number of Persons within the Division allotted to

Mark Marks. 1830 United States Census. Accessed
2nd August 2016. Page 91.

1810 United States Federal Census for Marks Marks

South Carolina

Charleston

Charles

SAVE ✓

Mark Marks.
1810 United States Census. Answered 2nd August
2016. Page 356.

1820 United States Federal Census for Russell

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South Carolina Charleston Charleston

1820 US Census. Accessed 2nd August 2016.
Page 66.

1820 United States Federal Census for Russell

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South Carolina Charleston Charleston

1820 US Census. Annual 2nd August 2016. Page 61.



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1820 United States Federal Census for Russell

South Carolina Charleston Charleston

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1820 United States Federal Census for Russell

SAVE ✓

South Carolina Charleston Charleston

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
William B. Wilcox	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
P. Murray	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Arch. Bragdon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Mr. Day, Chaplain	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Stephen T. Treadwell	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Sam. Davis	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Charles Edwards	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Mr. Rice	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
William B. Peabody	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
George Society	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Frank Miller	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Arch. Shaffey	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Arch. Dyer	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Mr. Munn	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
S. C. Clark	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Mr. Clark	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Stephen T. Treadwell	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Sam. Davis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Arch. Shaffey	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Mr. Munn	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
S. C. Clark	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Mr. Clark	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Stephen T. Treadwell	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Sam. Davis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Arch. Shaffey	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Mr. Munn	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
S. C. Clark	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Mr. Clark	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Stephen T. Treadwell	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Sam. Davis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Arch. Shaffey	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Mr. Munn	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
S. C. Clark	3	1	1	1	1	1														

1820 US Census. Accessed 2nd August. Page 11.

1820 United States Federal Census for Sarah Russell

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South Carolina Charleston Charleston

1820 US Census. Accessed 2nd August 2016. Page 63.

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