

Pre-House

Land owned by John Fraser – in his will he left “Dick the Carpenter” valued at 140L in 1754.¹

Nathaniel Russell Slave-Trading

Highly profitable trade to be in – made the money required to build the vast Nathaniel Russell House. 1773 sale of a single male slave made Russell a commission of 16L 5s, five times the commission he made the previous year for selling a hogshead of rum.²

One letter complains about being unable to sell a female slave since “she endeavored to behave in such a manner as to make every person who applied to purchase her believe she was either a fool or mad, and once she was sold at vendue the purchaser endeavored to return her on my hands by claiming she was mad.” Slave was probably from New England – “I have long since declined selling Negroes sent here from the North. It is very disagreeable to sell new Negroes but much more so those who have been brought up in New England.”³

Letter from Nathaniel Russell to a business partner celebrating selling his cargo of enslaved people for 5,987.70L. Hundred slaves sold including “an old woman and her grandchild about 20 months old not worth half a prime slave.”⁴

Russell Family Ownership of the Property

Service yard to the back of the house – formal garden was at the front (largely domain of Russell family) while service yard was at the back (largely domain of enslaved people, but under supervision).⁵

Thirteen slaves on the property in 1820 and 1830. Nursemaid resident from June 1827. Letter from September 1836 noting that the gardener had died of cholera while David (the houseboy) had contracted the disease.⁶

Probable that the side room in the entry hall was a servant room at some point.⁷

1850 – nineteen slaves lived in service quarters. One family of six (probably) and another thirteen owned by Sarah Dehon. She mentions three in her 1853 will: Sue, aged 55, Phillis, aged 67, and Phoebe, who died at some point between 1853 and 1857.⁸

¹ Nathaniel Russell Historic Structures Report, 4.

² Nathaniel Russell Historic Structure Report, 7.

³ Nathaniel Russell Family Correspondence, Box V, Talbot, Silar, folder one, Letter from Nathaniel Russell to Silar Talbot.

⁴ Nathaniel Russell Family Correspondence, Box II, Grafton, Joseph & James, Letter from Nathaniel Russell to Joseph and James Grafton.

⁵ Nathaniel Russell Historic Structures Report, 19.

⁶ Nathaniel Russell Historic Structures Report, 26-8.

⁷ Nathaniel Russell Historic Structures Report, 31.

⁸ Nathaniel Russell Historic Structures Report, 31.

Enslaved gardener Moses, who died of apoplexy in February 1864.⁹

Register of St. Phillip's Church – July 23rd 1818 – “Rinchy Edward, slave of Mrs. N. Russell, buried. Aged 45 years old.” → discussion about enslaved religion / power of enslavers??

Daniel Payne – born free, part of Charleston’s free people of color community. Cared for by his aunt who was enslaved in the Nathaniel Russell House. 1829 opened a school on Tradd Street for African Americans (free and enslaved); 1834 with banning (again) of education for all African Americans, left for the North, aided by the Russells. Completed his educations at the Gettysburg Seminary, eventually became a bishop in the AME church. Founder of Wilberforce University, the first institution of higher education in the United States to be owned and operated by African Americans (founded 1856).

Sarah Dehon – left her daughter Sarah R. Traiper Phillis, an enslaved women. Left her son Theodore Dehon a “woman servant” Sue and to Sarah R. Trapier Phoebe. Possibly maids in the Dehon household?¹⁰

Allston Household

According to *Chronicles of Chicora Wood*, the household enslaved staff at the Nathaniel Russell House were: Nelson, a butler and “house-servant,” William Baron (who according to the author enjoyed arranging the flowers in the Nathaniel Russell House), Stephen Gailant, Governor Allston’s valet and sometimes waiter, Phoebie and Nannie, both maids, and Neillie who was the laundress, assisted by a young girl. Moses was the gardener and a bell-boy called Harris. Aleck was the coachman. 1861 incident in which Nelson was too drunk to work as a butler. When he could not be coerced to work, the Allston daughters had to summon Nannie, one of the maids, to fetch Joe Washington, the cook. Suggests that Nannie was quartered over the kitchens, which the Allston girls would venture in to, while Joe was further into the quarters, in an area which would have been considered off limits for the daughters. Section revealed that guests had to ring from the street to gain entry and that he was quartered in the butler’s pantry.¹¹ Joseph Washington living in Ward 4 of Charleston in the 1870 Federal census – born circa 1830, working as a laborer. Married to Lucinda Washington, born circa 1840, working as a domestic servant. Had a child, also called Joseph Washington (born circa 1868), and a boarder, Lewis Giles, described as bring at school (born circa 1853).¹² Still working as a day laborer in 1880 in

⁹ Nathaniel Russell Historic Structures Report, 40 and 45.

¹⁰ “Will of Sarah Dehon,” Charleston County Wills, volume 48, pages 92-4.

¹¹ Nathaniel Russell Historic Structures Report, 41-2.

¹² “Joseph Washington,” 1870 United States Federal Census, accessed 9th June, 2017, <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7163/4275949_00455?pid=11743580&backurl=http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc%3DqUW8%26_phstart%3DsuccessSource%26usePUBJs%3Dtrue%26gss%3Dangs-c%26new%3D1%26rank%3D1%26msT%3D1%26gsfn%3DJoesph%26gsfn_x%3DNP_NN_NIC%26gsln%3DWashingtono_n%26gsln_x%3DNP_NN_NS%26msrpn__ftp%3DCharleston,%2520Charleston,%2520South%2520Carolina,%2520USA%26msrpn%3D21847%26msrpn_PlInfo%3D8-%257C0%257C1652393%257C0%257C2%257C0%257C43%257C0%257C552%257C21847%257C0%257C0%257C2%6cp%3D0%26MSAV%3D1%26MSV%3D0%26uidh%3Du43%26pcat%3DCEN_1870%26h%3D11743580%26dbid%3D7163%26indiv%3D1%26ml_rpos%3D1&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=qUW8&_phstart=succes sSource&usePUBJs=true.

Charleston, married to Cinda Washington who is still working as a domestic servant. Both listed as illiterate.¹³

Lottie B. Deas – MIGHT BE MORE INFORMATION ON PELZER HOUSEHOLD?? CHECK HSR.

Lottie B. Deas an African American woman, born in 1904, in South Carolina. Married to Charlie Deas (born 1899). Two children: Lizzie Mae Deas (born 1921) and Charlie Deas (born 1925). Worked as a cook in the 1940 United States Federal Census.¹⁴ According to Historic Structures Report, worked as a children's nurse or nanny before 1942.¹⁵

Other Things

H. A. De Costa did work on the front entry room in the 1960s – prominent local African American architect business.

¹³ "Joseph Washington," 1880 United States Federal Census, accessed 9th June, 2017, <https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/6742/4244509-00319/42378162?backurl=&ssrc=&backlabel=Return>.

¹⁴ "Lottie Deas," 1940 United States Federal Census, accessed 9th June, 2017, http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=1940usfedcen&h=138867328&tid=&pid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=qUW1&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&rhSource=6224.

¹⁵ Nathaniel Russell Historic Structures Report, 64.

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Know All Men, By These Presents, That I
Nathaniel Rufsell

*for and in consideration of the Sum of THree hundred and fifty
Dollars
to me in hand Paid, at and before the Sealing and Delivery
of these Presents, by William Porter*

*the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, to have
bargained and sold, by these Presents, do bargain, sell and
deliver to the said William Porter a Certain Negro
Woman Named Peggy with all her future Ifsue and
increase*

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the said Negro Woman Named Peggy

unto the said William Porter, his

*Executors, Administrators and Assigns, to his and their own
proper use and behoof forever, And I the said
Nathaniel Rufsell, my*

*Executors, administrators and assigns to his and their
own proper use and behoof forever William Porter, his*

*Executors, Administrators and Assigns, from and against all
persons shall and will warrant and forever defend,
by these Presents,*

*In Witness Whereof, I have unto set
Hand and Seal Dated at Charleston on the twenty seventh day of
April in the year of our Lord, one
thousand eight hundred and nine and in the 33
year of our Independence of the United States of America*
Nathaniel Rufsell

*Signed Sealed & Delivered
in the Presence of John Sing Charleston*

Recorded 29, April 1809

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Know All Men, By These Presents That I Benjamin
Langstaff

for and in consideration of the Sum of Fourteen Hundred and forty
four Dollars and Eighty three Cents
to me in hand Paid, at and before the Sealing and Delivery
of these Presents

By Nathaniel Rufsell

the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, to have
bargained and sold, by these Presents, do bargain, sell and
deliver to the said Nathaniel Rufsell Three Negroes
named Sam, Dye and Chloe, with the future Issue of the
Females

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the said Three Negroes

unto the said Nathaniel Rufsell his

Executors, Administrators and Assigns, to his and their own
proper use and behoof forever, And I the said Benjamin
Langstaff my

Executors, administrators and assigns to I and
own proper use and behoof forever
Nathaniel Rufsell, his

Executors, Administrators and Assigns, from and against all
persons shall and will warrant and forever defend,
by these Presents,

In Witness Whereof, I have unto set
Hand and Seal Dated at Charleston *on the Seventeenth day of*
July *in the year of our Lord, one*
thousand eight hundred and one *and in the sixth*
year of our Independence of the United States of America

Signed Sealed & Delivered
in the Presence of John Parker

Benjamin Langstaff
Recorded January 11 1803

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, District of Charleston

*Know All Men, By These Presents, That We John Potter
Nathaniel Rufsell Samuel Prioleau, Jr. Hugh Smith afsignees of
Major James Hamilton*

*for and in consideration of the Sum of Three thousand Five hundred
and Twenty one Dollars Eighty nine Cents*

*to us in hand Paid, at and before the Sealing and Delivery
of these Presents, by Mrs Mary C Gregorie and Nathaniel Rufsell Trustees
under the will of James Gregorie deceased*

*the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, to have
bargained and sold, by these Presents, do bargain, sell and
deliver to the said Mary C. Gregorie and Nathaniel Rufsell
Trustees as aforesaid Twelve negroes viz George Sally George
Grace Minnie Mary Ann Flora Primus Dido Molly July with the
future issue of the females.*

*TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the said negro Slaves and the issue of the females
thereof unto the said Mary Christiana Gregorie and Nathaniel Rufsell
Trustees for the use benefit and behoof of Alexander Trapier
Gregorie and his children in the first instance subject to the
limitations obed contained in the Will of the said James Gregorie
deceased being thereunto had some fully appeard.*

*unto we the said John Porter Nathaniel Rufsell Samuel Prioleau
and Hugh Smith our*

*Executors, administrators and assigns to Mary C. Gregorie and
and Nathaniel Rufsell*

*Executors, Administrators and Assigns, from and against all
persons shall and will warrant and forever defend,
by these Presents,*

*In Witness Whereof, we have unto set
Hand and Seal Dated at Charleston on the thirty first day of
January in the year of our Lord, one
thousand eight hundred and Eleven and in the thirty eighth
year of our Independence of the United States of America*

Signed Sealed & Delivered

in the Presence of J. Simmons Bee

Recorded 23rd March 1813

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Know All Men, By These Presents That Joseph Champlin and Jane Champlin of Charleston South Carolina
for and in consideration of the Sum of Six hundred Dollars
to us in hand Paid, at and before the Sealing and Delivery
of these Presents, by Nathaniel Rufsell of Charleston aforesaid Merchant
the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, to have
bargained and sold, by these Presents, do bargain, sell and
deliver to the said Nathaniel Rufsell One negro female Slave Named
Nancy and her Child Friday

**TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the said Negro Slaves together with her future issue
unto the said Nathaniel Rufsell, his**

Executors, Administrators and Assigns, to his and their own proper use and behoof forever, And We the said Joseph Champlin and Jane Champlin, our

Executors, administrators and assigns to Nathaniel Rufsell, his

Executors, Administrators and Assigns, from and against all persons shall and will warrant and forever defend, by these Presents,

In Witness Whereof, we have unto set Hand and Seal Dated at Charleston on the Eighteenth day of August in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and three and in the twenty eighth year of our Independence of the United States of America

Signed Sealed & Delivered Joseph Champlin
in the Presence of Jane Champlin

Recorded 28 September 1807

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

*Know All Men, By These Presents That I Arthur Middleton,
Executor of the Estate of Nathaniel Rufsell deceased*

*for and in consideration of the Sum of Three hundred and Twenty
Dollars*

*to me in hand Paid, at and before the Sealing and Delivery
of these Presents, John Redforn*

*the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, to have
bargained and sold, by these Presents, do bargain, sell and
deliver to the said a certain female Slave or Girl by name Judy*

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the said Female Slave Judy

unto the said John Redforn, his

*Executors, Administrators and Assigns, to his and their own
proper use and behoof forever, And I the said Arthur
Middleton, Executor, my*

Executors, administrators and assigns to the said John Redforn, his

*Executors, Administrators and Assigns, from and against all
persons shall and will warrant and forever defend,
by these Presents,*

*In Witness Whereof, I have unto set
Hand and Seal Dated at Charleston on the Fourteenth day of
February in the year of our Lord, one
thousand eight hundred and twenty six and in the Fiftieth
year of our Independence of the United States of America*

*Signed Sealed & Delivered Arthur Middleton, Esquire of Estate of
in the Presence of Nathaniel Rufsell*

Recorded 7 March 1826

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Know All Men, By These Presents, That I Beulah Hughes Sole Dealer

for and in consideration of the Sum of Three hundred and thirty Dollars

*to me in hand Paid, at and before the Sealing and Delivery
of these Presents, by Nathaniel Rufsell*

*the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, to have
bargained and sold, by these Presents, do bargain, sell and
deliver to the said, Nathaniel Rufsell ne certain negro Slave named
Fatima With her future ifsue and increase*

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, he said Negro Slave Fatima with her future
ifsue and increase

unto the said, Nathaniel Rufsell, his

*Executors, Administrators and Assigns, to his and their own
proper use and behoof forever, And I the said Beulah Hughes,*

*Executors, administrators and assigns to the said Nathaniel Rufsell,
his*

*Executors, Administrators and Assigns, from and against all
persons shall and will warrant and forever defend,
by these Presents,*

*In Witness Whereof, I have unto set
Hand and Seal Dated at Charleston on the twenty seventh day of
February in the year of our Lord, one
thousand eight hundred and twelve and in the thirty sixth
year of our Independence of the United States of America*

Beulah Hughes

*Signed Sealed & Delivered
in the Presence of Joseph Jones*

Recorded 7 March 1812

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Know All Men, By These Presents That James Turnbull

for and in consideration of the Sum of Five hundred and eighty
Dollars

to me in hand Paid, at and before the Sealing and Delivery
of these Presents, by Nathaniel Rufsell

the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, to have
bargained and sold, by these Presents, do bargain, sell and
deliver to the said Nathaniel Rufsell a negro woman named Nancy with the
future issue and increase

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the said negro named Nancy

unto the said Nathaniel Rufsell, his

Executors, Administrators and Assigns, to his and their own
proper use and behoof forever, And I the said
James Turnbull, my

Executors, administrators and assigns to Nath Rufsell, his

Executors, Administrators and Assigns, from and against all
persons shall and will warrant and forever defend,
by these Presents,

In Witness Whereof, I have unto set
Hand and Seal Dated at Charleston on the twenty second day of
February in the year of our Lord, one
thousand eight hundred and seventeen and in the forty first
year of our Independence of the United States of America

James Turnbull

Signed Sealed & Delivered
in the Presence of

Recorded 24th February 1807