

ALL FOR LIBERTY

Jeff Strickland tells the powerful story of Nicholas Kelly, the enslaved craftsman who led the Charleston Workhouse Slave Rebellion, the largest slave revolt in the history of the antebellum American South. With two accomplices, some sledgehammers, and pickaxes, Nicholas risked his life and helped thirty-six fellow enslaved people escape the workhouse where they had been sent by their enslavers to be tortured. While Nat Turner, Gabriel Prosser, and Denmark Vesey remain the most recognizable rebels, the pivotal role of Nicholas Kelly is often forgotten. All for Liberty centers his rebellion as a decisive moment leading up to the secession of South Carolina from the United States in 1861. This compelling microhistory navigates between Nicholas's story and the Age of Atlantic Revolutions, while also considering the parallels between race and incarceration in the nineteenth century and in modern America. Never before has the story of Nicholas Kelly been so eloquently told.

JEFF STRICKLAND is Professor of History and Department Chair at Montclair State University. His first book, *Unequal Freedoms: Ethnicity, Race, and White Supremacy in Civil War Era Charleston* was a finalist for the George C. Rogers Prize for best book in South Carolina history. He has been researching and writing the history of Charleston for more than twenty years.





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The Charleston Workhouse Slave Rebellion of 1849

JEFF STRICKLAND





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In memory of Jennifer Wade Spinelli



Insurrections are phantoms that rise up, are magnified in, and continually haunt the imagination of the Southerner.

Francis Colburn Adams



CONTENTS

List of Figures page viii

List of Tables x

Acknowledgments xi

Introduction 1

- 1. Slave Insurrections in the Age of Revolutions 8
- 2. The Slave Workhouse 24
- 3. Urban Slavery 55
- 4. The Legal Implications of Slave Resistance 94
- 5. Rebellion at the Workhouse 116
- 6. Investigating the Rebellion 145
- 7. The Crisis of Fear in South Carolina 167

Conclusion 189

Notes 208

Bibliography 242

Index 270

vii



FIGURES

- 0.1 Colton Map of United States (1849) page xiii
- 2.1 A Slave (George Laws) Hoisted by Block and Tackle, Delaware, 1858 in William Still, *The Underground Rail Road* 35
- 2.2 The Tread-Wheel, James Mursell Phillippo, *Jamaica: Its Past and Present State* 43
- 3.1 Charleston (Lower Wards), including market,workhouse, and Calvary Episcopal Church,1849 61
- 3.2 Lance & Gadsden classified advert announcing the sale of a gang of fifty-two slaves 69
- 3.3 Slave sale, Charleston, South Carolina, from a sketch by Eyre Crowe, *The Illustrated London News* (Nov. 29, 1856) 74
- 3.4 Manifest of slaves, passengers on board the American schooner *Cora*, 27 tons, bound from Charleston, South Carolina, for New Orleans, March 9, 1845 81
- 3.5 Manifest of slaves, on board the brig *Hayne*, bound from the Port of New Orleans for the Port of Charleston, January 29, 1846 83
- 3.6 Manifest of slaves, on board the brig *Arabian*, bound from the Port of New Orleans for the Port of Charleston, May 15, 1847 88
- 3.7 Map of Charleston, South Carolina, 1849 92

viii



LIST OF FIGURES

- 5.1 Request to return muskets and crossbelts to the Guard House, July 23, 1849 123
- 5.2 Runaway slave advertisements from the Charleston Courier and Charleston Mercury, related to the six slaves who evaded capture for nearly two weeks 133



TABLES

2.1	Daily fees of the workhouse	page 47
2.2	Workhouse accounts receivable	
	and payable, 1839–52	53

X



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хi



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xii



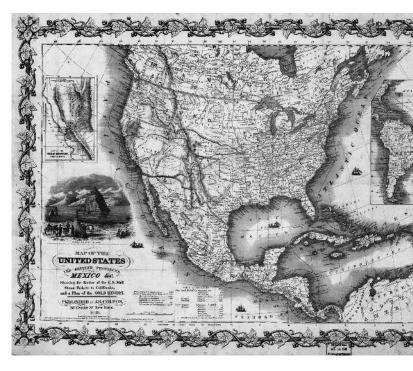


Figure 0.1 Map of the United States, the British provinces, Mexico &c. Ori Credit: Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.

