

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 micro-history 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.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-49259-1 — All for Liberty
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The Charleston Workhouse Slave Rebellion of 1849

JEFF STRICKLAND



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108492591

DOI: 10.1017/9781108592345

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First published 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Strickland, Jeffery Glenn, 1970– author.

TITLE: All for liberty : the Charleston Workhouse Slave Rebellion of 1849 / Jeff Strickland, Montclair State University, New Jersey.

OTHER TITLES: Charleston Workhouse Slave Rebellion of 1849

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2022. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2021024801 (print) | LCCN 2021024802 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108492591 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108592345 (ebook)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Charleston Workhouse Slave Rebellion, Charleston, S.C., 1849. | Slave insurrections – South Carolina – Charleston – History – 19th century. | Slavery – South Carolina – Charleston – History – 19th century. | Kelly, Nicholas, –1849. | Slave insurrections – Historiography. | BISAC: HISTORY / African American & Black

CLASSIFICATION: LCC F279.C457 S77 2022 (print) | LCC F279.C457 (ebook) | DDC 975.7/91503–dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021024801>

LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021024802>

ISBN 978-1-108-49259-1 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-71691-8 Paperback

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In memory of Jennifer Wade Spinelli

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

Francis Colburn Adams

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book project began while researching my first monograph, *Unequal Freedoms*, a study of Charleston during the Civil War era. In 2009, I presented a paper on the workhouse rebellion at the Social Science History Meeting in Long Beach, California, and historian Kerry Ward suggested the topic was a book-worthy endeavor. Over the past nine years, I have spoken about the incident with scholars whose work has focused on Charleston, including Bernard Powers, David Blight, Doug Egerton, and Ethan Kytte, and they agreed. Randall Miller and Stanley Harrold offered valuable criticism in encouraging me to consider its broadest implications. Latin Americanists Richard Conway and Matt Childs have listened to me think out loud about the rebellion for a decade, and their input has helped expand its historical context. Brazilian historian James Woodard provided invaluable feedback on the manuscript from the earliest stages through the final version. Legal historian Andrew Fede made helpful suggestions on the chapters dealing with slavery and the law. Montclair State University provided funding for travel to archives in the Carolinas and Washington, D.C. Mike O'Toole has continually asked questions and scoured the internet for primary sources. In 2014, Debbie Gershenowitz, then senior editor for American history at Cambridge University Press, set up a meeting during the Society for Historians of the Early American

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Republic conference in which she expressed interest in the project. In late 2020, Cecelia Cancellaro, the new senior editor for U.S. and Latin American history at Cambridge University Press, took over the final draft and guided it through production. It has taken some time to collect and assemble the existing archival record and connect the dots in this monograph. I have uncovered material with the help of archivists at the College of Charleston Special Collections, the South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Duke University, the Special Collections Division at Tulane University, the Waring Historical Library at the South Carolina Medical College, the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina, and the Library of Congress Manuscripts Division. The Interlibrary Loan staff at the Montclair State University Library have handled hundreds of book and article requests. In the end, I have attempted to write a book that both academics and a general audience will find readable and meaningful. If I have succeeded, it is due to the assistance of people mentioned here.

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

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