

A Guide to the John Walter Rice Slavery Documents, 1831-1832 SC 0417

John Walter Rice slavery documents
1831-1832



Title Statement

A Guide to the John Walter Rice Slavery Documents, 1831-1832 SC 0417

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0417

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/799

Unit Date

1831-1832

Language

English

Abstract

The collection comprises three documents recording Dr. John Walter Rice's purchase of two enslaved people named Dianah and Edmund.

Creator

Rice, John W. (John Walter), 1793-1862

source

Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates

Extent

0.08 cubic feet 1 folder

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open to research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

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Acquisition Information

Purchased November 21, 2025 at Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates, Inc. Fall Premier Americana: Day Two Featuring The Benny Long Collection.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box#, folder #], John Walter Rice slavery documents, 1831-1832, SC 0417, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Biographical / Historical

Dr. John Walter Rice (1793-1862) attended medical school in Philadelphia before permanently moving to New Market, Virginia by 1819. He served in the War of 1812, possibly as a surgeon. In 1815, Rice married Anna Maria Gilliams in Philadelphia, and the couple had twelve children. In 1834, Rice, one of the largest landowners in the New Market area of Shenandoah County, built Stanley Hall, a Greek Revival plantation house, that is presently situated on land preserved by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation. He was elected president of the Valley Turnpike Company in 1843, a position he held for many years. According to the 1840 census, Rice enslaved 12 people. The 1850 census lists 22 people enslaved by Rice.

Other than their names and previous enslavers - information found within the documents in this collection - the archivist was unable to locate additional information about Dianah (also spelled Diana) and Edmund. In the documents, they are referred to as a girl and boy respectively, suggesting they were children at the time of their sale.

Robert H. Turner (1789-1861), originally from Woodstock, moved to Warren County in 1836 where he became county clerk.

John W. Dulaney (1800-1883) was born in Culpeper County, Virginia and later moved to Ohio.

Philip Broadus Grandstaff Jr. (1792-1865) and Benjamin Grandstaff (1794-1873) were brothers from Edinburg, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

The collection comprises three documents recording Dr. John Walter Rice's purchase of two enslaved people - Dianah from Robert Harry Turner of Woodstock, Virginia (later of Front Royal, Virginia) in 1831 and Edmund from John William Dulaney of Woodville, Virginia in 1832. The documents include an 1831 promissory note and indenture as well as an 1832 bill of sale. Brothers Benjamin and Philip Grandstaff Jr. of Shenandoah County were named in the documents related to Dianah as one or both were previously her enslavers.

Related Materials

Bill of sale for Dianah, an enslaved woman, from Benjamin Grandstaff to John W. Rice, 1831 April 19 :manuscript signed., American slavery documents collection, 1757-1878 and undated, RL.11093, David M.

Keywords

Financial Records
Slave bills of sale
Enslaved persons
Slavery
Slavery -- Virginia -- New Market
Slavery -- Virginia -- Shenandoah County
Enslaved persons -- Virginia -- New Market
Enslaved persons -- Virginia -- Shenandoah County
Slave trade -- Virginia -- New Market
Slave trade -- Virginia -- Shenandoah County
Dianah, (Enslaved person in Shenandoah County, Va.)
Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates

Bibliography

Stewart, Nancy Branner. "African Americans in Shenandoah County, Virginia, Notebooks," Vol. 4, Book A, 2010.

Provenance

From the collection of Benny Long, New Market, Virginia. Previously Booze Vaughn estate, New Market, Virginia.

Description of Subordinate Components

John Walter Rice slavery documents

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/32648

Unit Date 1831-1832

Mixed Materials [1000908380] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Promissory note for Dianah, an enslaved girl, from Benjamin Grandstaff to John W. Rice

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/32605

Unit Date 1831 April 19

Unit Date 1831 May 19

Creator Grandstaff, Benjamin, 1794-1873

Creator Rice, John W. (John Walter), 1793-1862

Keywords

Dianah, (Enslaved person in Shenandoah County, Va.)

Indenture concerning Diana[h], an enslaved girl, between Robert Turner and John W. Rice

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/32646

Unit Date 1831 November 16

Creator Rice, John W. (John Walter), 1793-1862

Creator Turner, Robert H. (Robert Harry), 1789-1861

Keywords

Dianah, (Enslaved person in Shenandoah County, Va.)

Bill of sale for Edmund, an enslaved boy, from John W. Dulaney to John W. Rice

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/32647

Unit Date 1832 February 18

Creator Rice, John W. (John Walter), 1793-1862

Creator Dulaney, John W. (John William), 1800-1883