

Reference Code MS 136 (GR 975.8623 DOC)

Repository: Georgia Room, Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System, 823 Telfair Street, Augusta, Ga 30901

Title: *Deed of Trust Naming Five Slaves, Hancock County, Georgia, 1841*, formerly titled Document Showing Sale of Five Negro Slaves 1849

Extent: Library bound four (4) page document with single daguerreotype at the front of the document. 30 cm x 21 cm.

Name of Creator: Martha Mariah Harford (Maria Bryan, 1808-1844)

Administrative/Biographical History: Augusta Library nameplate shows the document was presented by: Patrick D. Walsh of Augusta, Georgia. The document was donated in 1966. Patrick D. Walsh was the nephew of Patrick Walsh, who served as editor of the *Augusta Chronicle* from 1875 until his death in 1899. Walsh also served as a U. S. Senator during the 1890s and was elected mayor of Augusta in 1897.

Following its donation in 1966 the document was bound and entitled "Document Showing Sale of Five Negro Slaves" but the document is in fact a Deed of Trust set up between Martha Mariah Harford (Maria Bryan) and her brother Joseph Bryan on 11 April 1841 in Hancock County, Georgia. The Deed of Trust was registered by the Clerk of Superior Court, Hancock County on 2 September 1842. The Deed was certified on 1 January 1847 by the Clerk of Superior Court, Hancock County, and again in January 1849 by the Judge of the Superior Court in Hancock County, Georgia.

The Deed of Trust states that Martha Mariah Harford (Maria Bryan) entrusts five slaves to Joseph Bryan to be managed for her benefit but Harford retains ownership and control. **The slaves are named: Matt and Bird, both about twenty-five (25); Jinny, about thirty-five 35 years old; Annette, Jinny's child; George, five (5) years old.**

The youngest daughter (Emily Cumming Hammond) of Maria Bryan's sister, Julia Bryan Cumming (Augusta, Georgia) was daughter-in-law to James Henry Hammond (Redcliffe Plantation).

Conditions governing access: restrictions. Contact the Georgia Heritage Room to schedule an appointment.

Related Resources:

Carol Bleser, ed., *Tokens of Affection: The Letters of a Planter's Daughter in the Old South* (Athens, Georgia: The University of Georgia Press, 1996). A collection of letters written by Maria Bryan to her sister Julia Bryan Cumming.

John Shaw Billings Papers, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina.