

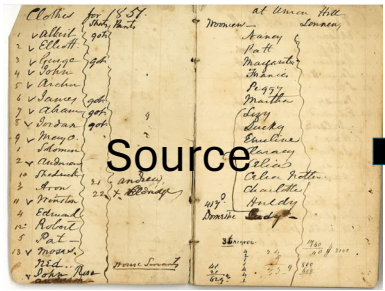
# Enslaved Data Preparation

Methodology from Transcription to the final csv file for submission to the Journal  
of Slavery and Data Preservation

Kathy Cabell Terlesky, Ph.D.

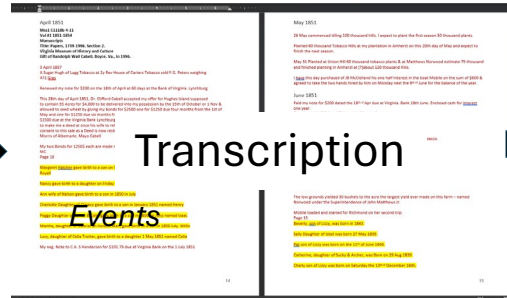
January 2024

# Extracting information on the enslaved persons from Cabell family documents



Source

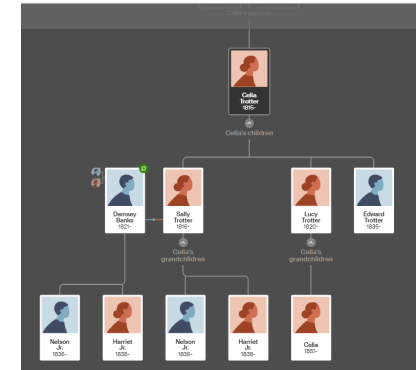
Journals, Wills,  
Deeds, Letters



Transcription

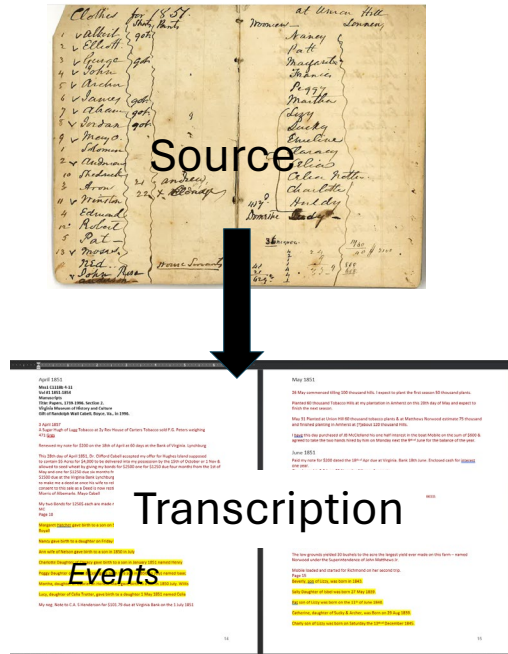
Enslaved person data

- Names, dates, activities
- Relationships
- Overseers
- Enslavers



Individual and  
family data  
publicly available

# Transcribing methodology



## 1. Visit Repository

1. Wills, Deeds, Probate Court records – Nelson County Court house in Lovingston, Va., or Amherst County Court House in Amherst Va. Or on-line through Ancestry.com.
2. Personal journals
  1. University of Virginia Special Collections Library
  2. William & Mary SWEM Special Collections Library
  3. Library of Virginia
  4. Virginia Museum of History & Culture
3. Used camera phone to take photos of artifacts and their call number information.
4. Downloaded and compiled photos into one PDF document by source.
5. Transcribe document on computer using word processor.
  1. Capture source document call number and repository information in document.
  2. Capture page numbers or dates on page of each journal.
  3. Use [?] when a word or letter cannot be deciphered.
  4. Capture abbreviations used by the writers and their full definition.
  5. Highlight events with enslaved persons as transcribing.

# Assumptions Part 1

## **Birth year estimation assumptions**

1. Birth year was estimated based on events to minimize errors in documenting duplicate or unique individuals
2. Age provided by enslaver with date
3. Woman at least 14 years old at birth of child
4. Woman at max 40 years old at birth of child
5. At least 13 years old to run away
6. "old" is over 60 years
7. Highest monetary value of slaves at 25 years old.
8. Person with less than half the monetary value of the oldest in a list and not listed as a child was estimated to be over 45 years old
9. At least 15 years old to be assigned to an indentured crafts
10. At least 10 years old to be documented in list of receiving necessity
11. Person designated as "child" was less than 10 years old
12. At least 13 years old to travel
13. At least 13 years old to be assigned to an overseer

## **Sex determination assumptions**

1. Sex or gender reference provided by enslaver
2. Sex consistent with biblical name reference
3. Sex consistent with English name reference

# Assumptions Part 2

## **Owner Transfer assumptions**

1. Male enslaver inheriting plantation from father, enslaved persons remained at plantation
2. Wife enslaver inheriting enslaved from husband, remained at plantation with wife
3. Daughter enslaver inheriting enslaved from father, enslaved remained at plantation with daughter until marriage and evidence of transfer to new location
4. Son enslaver inheriting enslaved from father, enslaved transferred with son to residence
5. Enslaved transfer sibling to sibling varied depending on proximity of plantations and sibling relationships. These were not always documented

## **Enslaved Name assumptions**

1. Enslaver documented surname
2. Enslaver documented first name. Phonetic spelling variations between enslaver assumed to be the same person (Example, "Brackenridge" and "Breckinridge". And "Clarissa" and "Clericy")
3. Enslaved marriages documented with enslaved given and surnames in Freedman Marriage Records 1866-1867
4. Surnames extracted from persons tracked to 1870 census

## **Enslaved location assumptions**

1. Enslaved person listed as enslaved by a Union Hill enslaver assigned to specific Union Hill plantation. Some persons referenced at locations away from the James River (Amherst), but were included under the Union Hill plantation and enslaver
2. Enslaved born after 1775 were designated as born in Nelson County, Virginia
3. Union Hill location designations use current county names (Nelson) vs historic (Amherst)
4. If an enslaved birth was recorded by enslaver for a location, the same location was used for siblings unless otherwise recorded.

## **Enslaver assumptions**

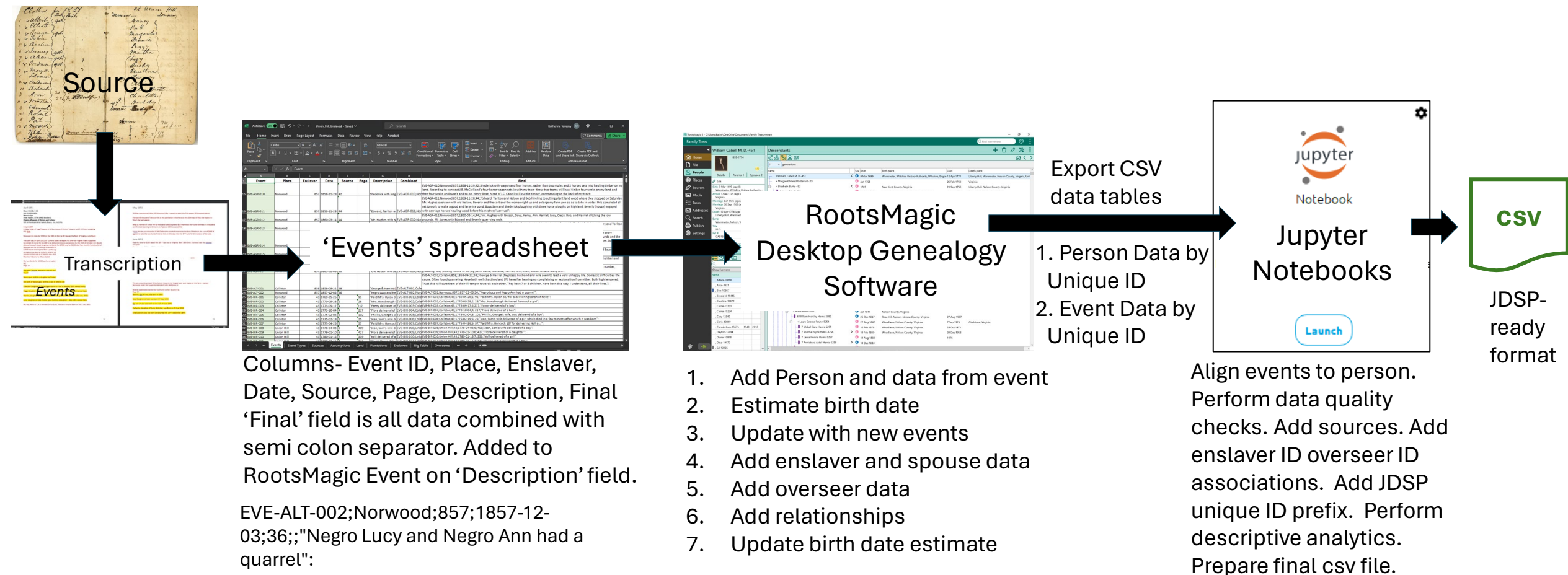
1. The EVE-ENS event designation is used to state the enslaver and enslaved after the first event referencing the relationship No specific source is provided for this event type as it is extrapolated based on other events for the person.
2. Spouses of the enslavers were included in the Enslaver Data set where known

# Tool Selection for Managing Data on Enslaved Persons for journal submission

- Needed a genealogy tool that allows capture, maintenance, and visualization of family data.
  - Requirements:
    - Allow addition of additional sources for genealogy data elements
    - Allow adding new types of genealogy events
    - Provide data quality checks (identify and merge duplicates, data clean)
    - Sync with a genealogy on-line site such as Ancestry.com
    - Allow tailored extraction of data elements into a spreadsheet for analytics using python
    - Allow selection of subsets of people for data extraction
- RootsMagic determined to be the best product for this purpose.
  - [www.rootsmagic.com](http://www.rootsmagic.com)

# Extracting and Consolidating Data on Enslaved Persons

Method for moving events and names of enslaved persons from original source material such as journals, wills, deeds and newspaper clippings to a CSV file ready for publication in *The Journal of Slavery and Data Preservation* (JDSP)



# Compiling the Events Spreadsheet

1. Create spreadsheet tab of ‘Event Types, definitions and abbreviations consistent with the Enslaved controlled vocabulary recommendations. Expand as necessary during transcriptions.

Event Types Master		
A	B	C
Event types	Abbreviation	Definition
1 Runaway Advertiseme	EVE-ADV	A public notice seeking the capture and return of a fugitive or missing person, often on promise of compensation.
2 Agriculture	EVE-AGR	Work involving the cultivation of soils or plants; harvest of crops; care of draft animals, livestock, or poultry; and/or the management of trees or forests. Includes farmer, field hand, gleaner, herder, lumberjack, peasant, etc.
3 Birth	EVE-BIR	Event in which a person is born
4 Crafts or Trades	EVE-CFT	Work involving specialized skills, tools, and knowledge.
5 Crime	EVE-CRM	Event in which a person is a perpetrator or victim of a crime.
6 Court	EVE-CRT	A event where a judicial institution with the authority to adjudicate criminal, civil, or religious matters within a given jurisdiction documents a case.
7 Death	EVE-DEA	Event in which a person dies from any cause.
8 Disappearance	EVE-DIS	Event in which an enslaved person runs away, is kidnapped, or otherwise goes missing, including temporarily. Includes self-emancipation.
9 Domestic	EVE-DOM	Work involving the management and care of the home or family of an enslaver, employer, or guardian. Includes butler, coachman, footman, gardener, laundress or starcher, maid/servant, messenger, nursemaid, etc. Excludes Midwifery and Wet-nursing.
10 Employment	EVE-EMP	Event in which a person's labor and services are contracted or hired out, under voluntary or compulsory conditions.
11 Enslaved	EVE-ENS	Event that first names an enslaved person - Person whose body, labor, and reproductive rights are owned by or fall under the dominion of another person or organization in a social or legal system of involuntary servitude.
12 Altercation	EVE-ALT	Event in which two or more enslaved persons are documented to be involved in a physical or verbal altercation
13 Emancipated Person	EVE-FRE	Person who is freed through an immediate or conditional manumission.
14 Hiring	EVE-HIR	Work involving for-hire labor and service rendered in exchange for cash or credit, managed by an enslaved person, an enslaver, or a guardian. Includes day laborer, jobber, and slave rental (e.g., hiring: escravo de ganho).
15 Manual Labor	EVE-LAB	Work involving physical strength and stamina, often involving the movement of heavy loads. Includes laborer, ditch-digger, water-carrier, etc.
16 Marriage	EVE-MAR	Event in which two persons are joined in a domestic, common law, legal, ritual, or conjugal.
17 Medical	EVE-MED	Work involving the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease, illness, or bodily injury; the preparation of medications or cures; or the handling of dead bodies.
18		Event involving the participation (voluntary or involuntary) of a person in an army.



Transcription  
Events

1. Add events to ‘Events’ spreadsheet using successive event IDs as the Event ID in Column A.

1. Column Headers

1. Event
2. Place
3. Enslaver ID (RN from Genealogy software)
4. Date (of event)
5. Source (document)
6. Page (in source)
7. Description (text from source)
8. Combined combine the first 7 cells in row into one column with “;” separator.
9. Final column is a copy of the ‘combined’ with only the text- not the formula. THIS is the cell pasted into RootsMagic.

## Events Spreadsheet

Excel formula to concatenate across the row using a semicolon separator between column values

Color code the event in Column A once it has been entered into RootsMagic to denote completion.

Important: Replace all semi-colons and colons in the original text with periods. The semi-colons and colons are used to facilitate data extraction in python and cannot have this punctuation within the text of a cell in the spreadsheet.

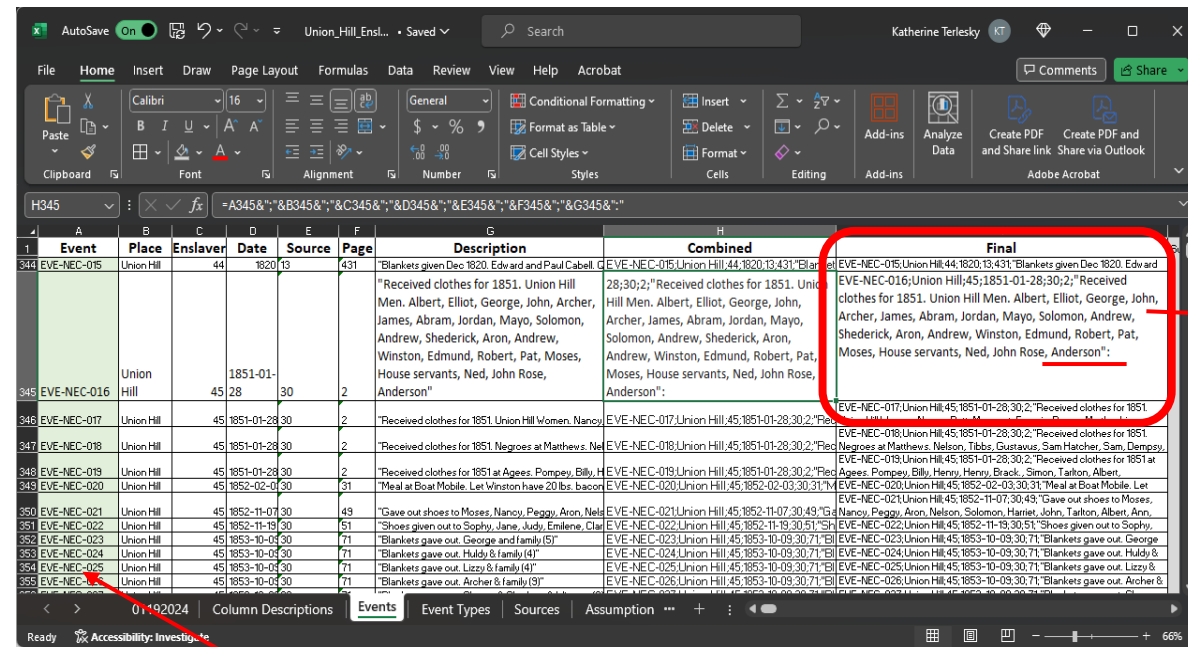


# Moving data from the Events Spreadsheet to RootsMagic

## RootsMagic Genealogy Software

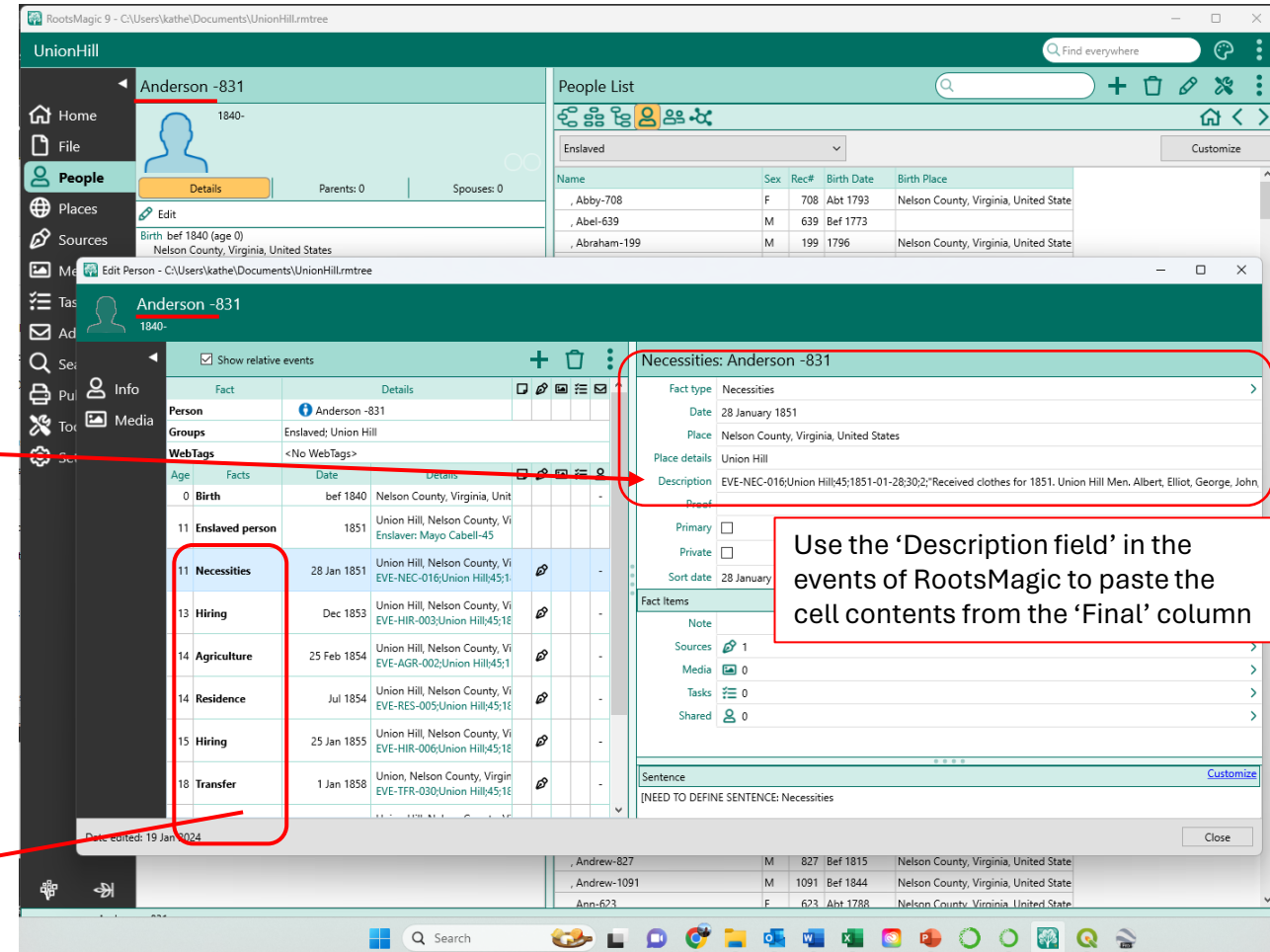
Manually add people starting with oldest event dates.

Manually add events and the associated data for each person.



A	Event	Place	C	Date	E	Page	Description	Combined	Final
344	EVE-NEC-015	Union Hill	44	1820-10	431		"Blankets given Dec 1820. Edward and Paul Cabell, C	EVE-NEC-015;Union Hill;44;1820-10;431;"Blankets given Dec 1820. Edward and Paul Cabell, C	EVE-NEC-015;Union Hill;44;1820-10;431;"Blankets given Dec 1820. Edward and Paul Cabell, C
345	EVE-NEC-016	Union Hill	45	1851-01-28	30	2	"Received clothes for 1851. Union Hill Men. Albert, Elliot, George, John, Archer, James, Abram, Jordan, Mayo, Solomon, Andrew, Shederick, Aron, Andrew, Winston, Edmund, Robert, Pat, Moses, House servants, Ned, John Rose, Anderson"	EVE-NEC-016;Union Hill;45;1851-01-28;30;2;"Received clothes for 1851. Union Hill Men. Albert, Elliot, George, John, Archer, James, Abram, Jordan, Mayo, Solomon, Andrew, Shederick, Aron, Andrew, Winston, Edmund, Robert, Pat, Moses, House servants, Ned, John Rose, Anderson"	EVE-NEC-016;Union Hill;45;1851-01-28;30;2;"Received clothes for 1851. Union Hill Men. Albert, Elliot, George, John, Archer, James, Abram, Jordan, Mayo, Solomon, Andrew, Shederick, Aron, Andrew, Winston, Edmund, Robert, Pat, Moses, House servants, Ned, John Rose, Anderson"
346	EVE-NEC-017	Union Hill	45	1851-01-28	30	2	"Received clothes for 1851 Union Hill Women. Nancy	EVE-NEC-017;Union Hill;45;1851-01-28;30;2;"Received clothes for 1851 Union Hill Women. Nancy	EVE-NEC-017;Union Hill;45;1851-01-28;30;2;"Received clothes for 1851 Union Hill Women. Nancy
347	EVE-NEC-018	Union Hill	45	1851-01-28	30	2	"Received clothes for 1851 Negroes at Matthews. Ne	EVE-NEC-018;Union Hill;45;1851-01-28;30;2;"Received clothes for 1851 Negroes at Matthews. Ne	EVE-NEC-018;Union Hill;45;1851-01-28;30;2;"Received clothes for 1851 Negroes at Matthews. Ne
348	EVE-NEC-019	Union Hill	45	1851-01-28	30	2	"Received clothes for 1851 at Ages. Pompey, Billy, H	EVE-NEC-019;Union Hill;45;1851-01-28;30;2;"Received clothes for 1851 at Ages. Pompey, Billy, H	EVE-NEC-019;Union Hill;45;1851-01-28;30;2;"Received clothes for 1851 at Ages. Pompey, Billy, H
349	EVE-NEC-020	Union Hill	45	1852-02-03	30	31	"Meal at Boat Mobile. Let Winston have 20 lbs. bacon	EVE-NEC-020;Union Hill;45;1852-02-03;30;31;"Meal at Boat Mobile. Let Winston have 20 lbs. bacon	EVE-NEC-020;Union Hill;45;1852-02-03;30;31;"Meal at Boat Mobile. Let Winston have 20 lbs. bacon
350	EVE-NEC-021	Union Hill	45	1852-11-07	30	43	"Gave out shoes to Moses, Nancy, Peggy, Aron, Nela	EVE-NEC-021;Union Hill;45;1852-11-07;30;43;"Gave out shoes to Moses, Nancy, Peggy, Aron, Nela	EVE-NEC-021;Union Hill;45;1852-11-07;30;43;"Gave out shoes to Moses, Nancy, Peggy, Aron, Nela
351	EVE-NEC-022	Union Hill	45	1852-11-19	30	51	"Shoes given out to Sophy, Jane, Judy, Emiline, Cla	EVE-NEC-022;Union Hill;45;1852-11-19;30;51;"Shoes given out to Sophy, Jane, Judy, Emiline, Cla	EVE-NEC-022;Union Hill;45;1852-11-19;30;51;"Shoes given out to Sophy, Jane, Judy, Emiline, Cla
352	EVE-NEC-023	Union Hill	45	1853-10-03	30	71	"Blankets gave out. George and family (5)"	EVE-NEC-023;Union Hill;45;1853-10-03;30;71;"Blankets gave out. George and family (5)"	EVE-NEC-023;Union Hill;45;1853-10-03;30;71;"Blankets gave out. George and family (5)"
353	EVE-NEC-024	Union Hill	45	1853-10-03	30	71	"Blankets gave out. Huddy & family (4)"	EVE-NEC-024;Union Hill;45;1853-10-03;30;71;"Blankets gave out. Huddy & family (4)"	EVE-NEC-024;Union Hill;45;1853-10-03;30;71;"Blankets gave out. Huddy & family (4)"
354	EVE-NEC-025	Union Hill	45	1853-10-03	30	71	"Blankets gave out. Lizzy & family (4)"	EVE-NEC-025;Union Hill;45;1853-10-03;30;71;"Blankets gave out. Lizzy & family (4)"	EVE-NEC-025;Union Hill;45;1853-10-03;30;71;"Blankets gave out. Lizzy & family (4)"
355	EVE-NEC-026	Union Hill	45	1853-10-03	30	71	"Blankets gave out. Archer & family (9)"	EVE-NEC-026;Union Hill;45;1853-10-03;30;71;"Blankets gave out. Archer & family (9)"	EVE-NEC-026;Union Hill;45;1853-10-03;30;71;"Blankets gave out. Archer & family (9)"

Event types in RootsMagic with the Spreadsheet compiled information captured



UnionHill

Anderson -831

1840-

Details

Parents: 0 Spouses: 0

Birth bef 1840 (age 0)  
Nelson County, Virginia, United States

People List

Name	Sex	Rec#	Birth Date	Birth Place
Abby-708	F	708	Abt 1793	Nelson County, Virginia, United State
Abel-639	M	639	Bef 1773	Nelson County, Virginia, United State
Abraham-199	M	199	1796	Nelson County, Virginia, United State

Fact

Anderson -831

Enslaved: Union Hill

<No WebTags>

Age Facts Date Details

0 Birth bef 1840 Nelson County, Virginia, United States

11 Enslaved person 1851 Union Hill, Nelson County, Virginia, United States  
Enslaver: Mayo Cabell-45

11 Necessities 28 Jan 1851 Union Hill, Nelson County, Virginia, United States  
EVE-NEC-016;Union Hill;45;1851-01-28;30;2;"Received clothes for 1851. Union Hill Men. Albert, Elliot, George, John, Archer, James, Abram, Jordan, Mayo, Solomon, Andrew, Shederick, Aron, Andrew, Winston, Edmund, Robert, Pat, Moses, House servants, Ned, John Rose, Anderson"

13 Hiring Dec 1853 Union Hill, Nelson County, Virginia, United States  
EVE-HIR-003;Union Hill;45;1853-12-01;30;71;"Hiring of Huddy & family (4)"

14 Agriculture 25 Feb 1854 Union Hill, Nelson County, Virginia, United States  
EVE-AGR-002;Union Hill;45;1854-02-25;30;71;"Agriculture of Huddy & family (4)"

14 Residence Jul 1854 Union Hill, Nelson County, Virginia, United States  
EVE-RES-005;Union Hill;45;1854-07-01;30;71;"Residence of Huddy & family (4)"

15 Hiring 25 Jan 1855 Union Hill, Nelson County, Virginia, United States  
EVE-HIR-006;Union Hill;45;1855-01-25;30;71;"Hiring of Lizzy & family (4)"

18 Transfer 1 Jan 1858 Union, Nelson County, Virginia, United States  
EVE-TFR-030;Union Hill;45;1858-01-01;30;71;"Transfer of Archer & family (9)"

Necessities: Anderson -831

Fact type Necessities

Date 28 January 1851

Place Nelson County, Virginia, United States

Place details Union Hill

Description EVE-NEC-016;Union Hill;45;1851-01-28;30;2;"Received clothes for 1851. Union Hill Men. Albert, Elliot, George, John, Archer, James, Abram, Jordan, Mayo, Solomon, Andrew, Shederick, Aron, Andrew, Winston, Edmund, Robert, Pat, Moses, House servants, Ned, John Rose, Anderson"

Primary ☐

Private ☐

Sort date 28 January

Fact Items

Note 1

Sources 1

Media 0

Tasks 0

Shared 0

Sentence [NEED TO DEFINE SENTENCE: Necessities]

Customize

Close

Use the 'Description field' in the events of RootsMagic to paste the cell contents from the 'Final' column

Establish Groups to bin people as "Enslaved", 'Enslaver', 'Overseer', and 'Union Hill'

# Using the 'Custom Report' Feature to extract Person data

## RootsMagic

Toggle who is included using established groups for Enslaved, enslavers and overseers

Custom Report Designer

Items in the header will print at the top of each page. Items in the detail rows will print for each record.

Cell Type	Text	RN	Width %							
Header	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6	Col 7	Col 8	Col 9	Col 10
	RN	Given Name	Nickname	Surname	Sex	Birthdate	Deathdate	Father	Mother	Spouse
Row 1	Record number	Given name(s)	Nickname	Surname	Sex	Birth date	Death date	Father name	Mother name	Spouse name

Generate Report

## Publish Custom Reports

### 1. Person Data: 3 separate csv files

1. EnslavedPersonData\_date.csv
2. EnslaverPersonData\_date.csv
3. OverseerPersonData\_date.csv

Bring into  
Jupyter  
notebook



## EXCEL STEP REQUIRED

For groups that may have more than one spouse- split these out in Excel into separate columns prior to uploading into Jupyter notebooks.

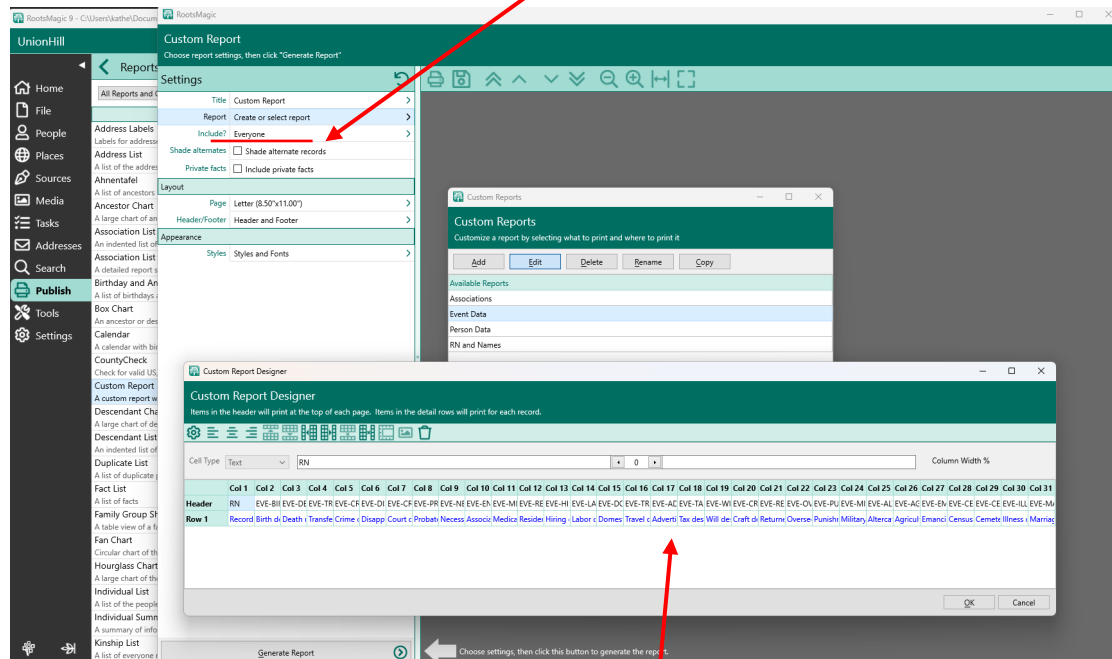
Fields pulled from each person for the Person Data

This data is created as each new person is added to RootsMagic

# Using the 'Custom Report' Feature to extract events by person attached to their unique RN

## RootsMagic

Toggle who is included using established groups for Enslaved, enslavers and overseers



### Custom Report – Event Data

Create Custom Report for Events that grabs the 'Description' field for all events.

Save as text file, then use Text Import Wizard in Excel to bring data into a csv. Going straight from RootsMagic to csv will cause misinterpretation of numbers and dates.

### Publish Custom Reports

1. Event Data: 2 separate reports
  1. EnslavedEventData\_date.csv
  2. OverseerEventData\_date.csv
2. List of people at Union Hill
  1. UnionHill\_date.csv

Bring into Jupyter notebook



### EXCEL STEP REQUIRED

Remove all quotation marks from the csv file before uploading to Jupyter. The quotation marks complicate manipulation in python.

# Final Data Prep using Python in Jupyter Notebooks

The next slide shows the work-flow in in python

## Step 1



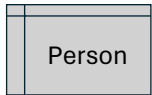
All Enslaved Person Data by RN

Data Clean up steps

Calculate Child Field from  
Mother and Father fields

Bring in list of people just at  
Union Hill and reduce the  
enslaved list down to those at  
Union Hill

Add column for status "enslaved"



Person  
DataFrame

## Step 2



All Enslaved Event Data by Person RN  
One column for each event type

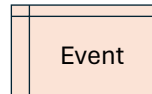
Use wide-to-long to stack  
event types by row

Separate multiple events into  
new columns on ";" designation  
at end of each event

Use wide-to-long to stack  
unique events by row

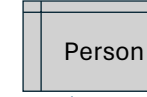
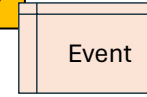
Break apart using ";" separator  
into new columns (Event ID',  
'Place', 'Enslaver ID', 'Date',  
'Source', 'Page', 'Description')

Data Clean up steps

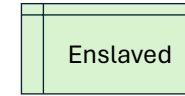


Event  
DataFrame

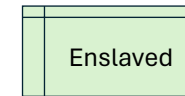
## Step 3



Bring Event data into  
Person data making  
'Enslaved' DataFrame



Add source data  
to each row

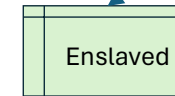


## Step 4

Repeat steps 1-3 for  
Overseer data

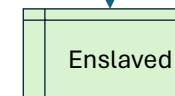
## Step 5

Bring in Enslaver  
Person data



- Add Prefix to unique ID
- Combine children to 1 column.  
Spouses to 1 column.
- Add list of overseers by enslaver to  
each enslaved
- Bring in lat long for each place

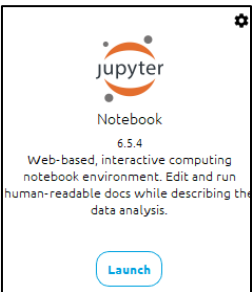
## Step 6



## Step 7

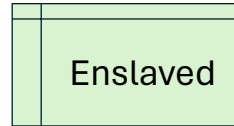
**Export to csv for JDSP**

Descriptive Analytics in  
python



# Descriptive Analytics

Step 7



Enslaved

Final DataFrame

