

# Enslaved Data Preparation

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

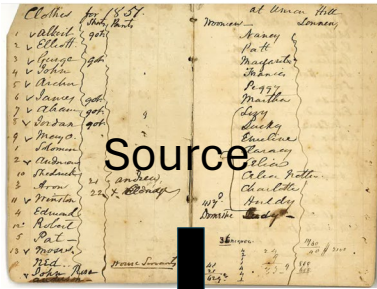
Kathy Cabell Terlesky, Ph.D.

January 2024

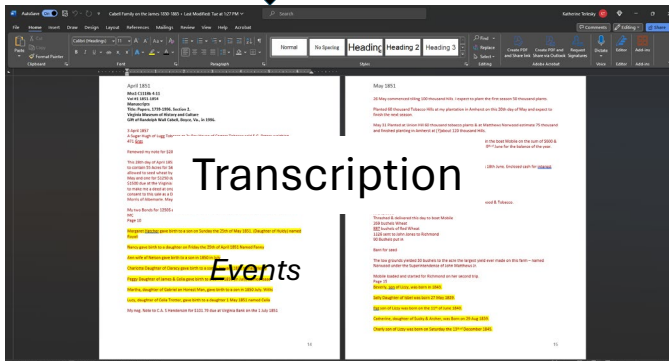
# Tool Selection for Managing Data on Enslaved Persons for journal submission

- 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)

# Transcribing methodology



Source



Transcription

Events

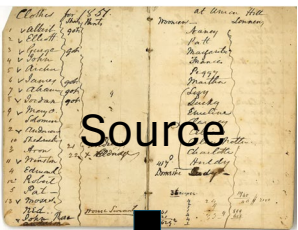
## 1. Visit Repository

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.

# Enslaved Data Preparation for JDSP Publication

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)

Requires knowledge of RootsMagic genealogy software and python for Jupyter Notebooks



Source

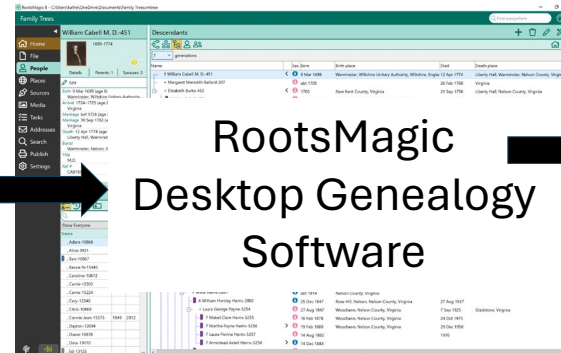
Transcription

Events

Event	Place	Enslaver	Date	Source	Page	Description	Final
EVE-ALT-001	Norwood	857	1857-12-03	36			EVE-ALT-001;Norwood;857;1857-12-03;36;;"Negro Lucy and Negro Ann had a quarrel":

Columns- Event ID, Place, Enslaver, Date, Source, Page, Description, Final  
'Final' field is all data combined with semi colon separator. Added to RootsMagic Event on 'Description' field.

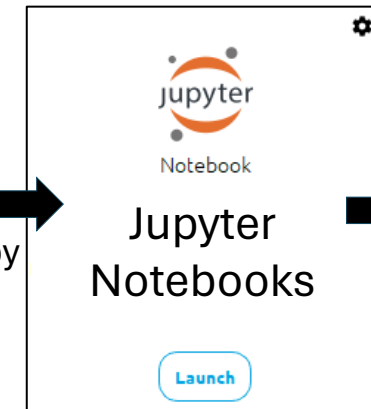
EVE-ALT-002;Norwood;857;1857-12-03;36;;"Negro Lucy and Negro Ann had a quarrel":



1. Add Person and data from event
2. Estimate birth date
3. Update with new events
4. Add enslaver and spouse data
5. Add overseer data
6. Add relationships
7. Update birth date estimate

Export CSV data tables

1. Person Data by Unique ID
2. Event Data by Unique ID



Align events to person. Perform data quality checks. Add sources. Add enslaver ID overseer ID associations. Add JDSP unique ID prefix. Perform descriptive analytics. Prepare final csv file.

CSV

JDSP-ready format

# 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.

Event	Place	Enslaver	Date	Source	Page	Description	Combined	Final
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
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"
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
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
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
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
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
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
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)"
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)"
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)"
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

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 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: 0

Media: 0

Tasks: 0

Shared: 0

Sentence: [NEED TO DEFINE SENTENCE: Necessities]

Event types: Necessities, Hiring, Agriculture, Residence, Hiring, Transfer

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



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

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	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6	Col 7	Col 8	Col 9	Col 10
Header	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

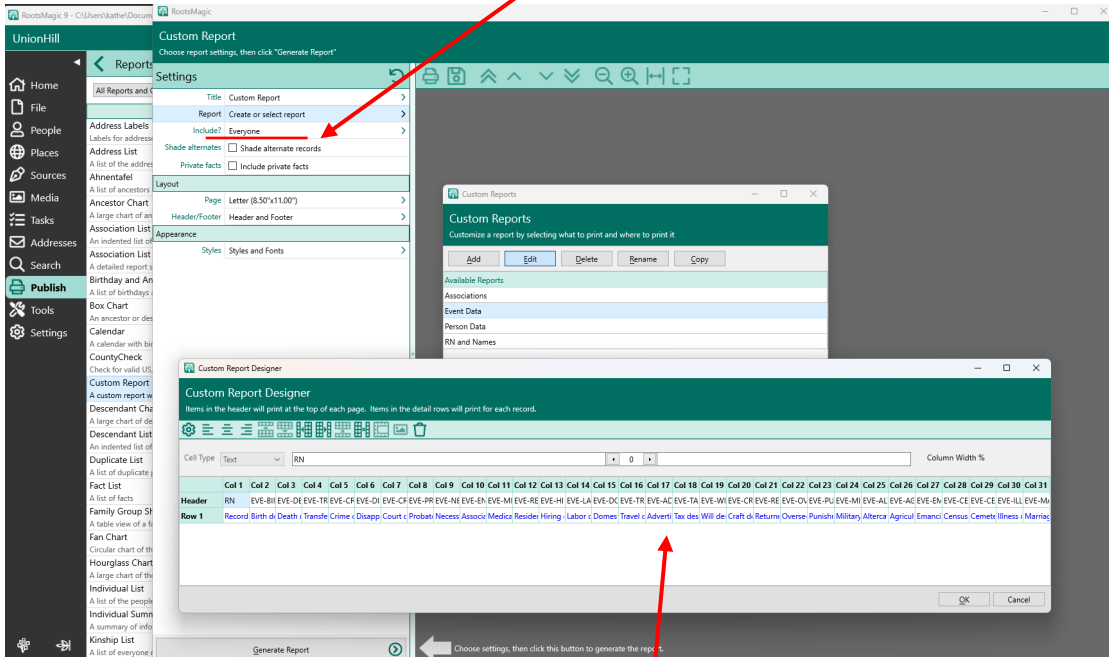
For groups that may have more than one spouse- split these out in Excel into separate columns prior to uploading into Jupyter notebooks.

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

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.



## First



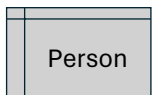
All Enslaved Person Data by RN

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

## Second



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

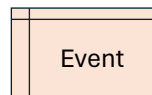
Use wide-to-long to stack  
event types by row

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

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

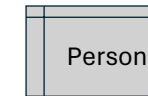
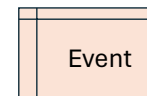
Break apart using “;” separator  
into new columns (Event ID’,  
‘Place’, ‘Enslaver ID’, ‘Date’,  
‘Source’, ‘Page’, ‘Description’)

Data Clean up steps

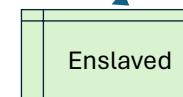


Event  
DataFrame

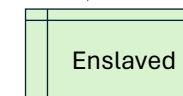
## Third



Bring Event data into  
Person data making  
‘Enslaved’ DataFrame



Add source data  
to each row

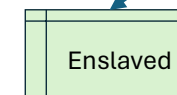


## Fourth

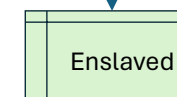
Repeat steps 1-3 for  
Overseer data

## Fifth

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



Descriptive Analytics in  
python

**Export to csv for JDSP**

jupyter

Notebook

6.5.4

Web-based, interactive computing  
notebook environment. Edit and run  
human-readable docs while describing the  
data analysis.

Launch

# Final csv file

25 columns

3100 rows

705 people total

- 568 enslaved
- 90 enslavers and spouses
- 47 overseers

% Complete	Heading	Column	Definition
705 persons	<b>PERSON DATA</b>		
100%	Person	A	Unique Identifier for Individual
95%	Given Name	B	Given name
9%	Alternate Name	C	Alternative spellings of given name
30%	Surname	D	Surname if available
98%	Sex	E	Sex if known
100%	RN	F	Record Number in the genealogy data file
100%	Birth date	G	Exact or approximate date of birth
15%	Death date	H	Exact or approximate date of death
22%	Father	I	Unique identifier of Father
30%	Mother	J	Unique identifier of Mother
28%	Spouses	K	Unique identifier of Spouse(s)
15%	Children	L	Unique identifier of children
% Complete	Heading	Column	Definition
594 events	<b>EVENT DATA</b>		
100%	Event ID	M	Unique Identifier of an event
100%	Event Type	N	Type of event based on Enslaved.org controlled vocabulary
100%	Place	O	Place of event either plantation, town or city
97%	lat	P	latitude of event place
97%	long	Q	longitude of event place
100%	Status	R	status of individual (enslaved, free, enslaver, overseer)
100%	Enslaver ID	S	Unique ID of enslaver for event
100%	Date	T	Date of event
100%	Description	U	Description of event using narrative directly from source
			Unique Identifier of overseers under the enslaver that may have been associated with the enslaved person
78%	Overseers	V	
79%	Source Description	W	Source Reference
44%	Page	X	Page in source document for event
79%	Repository	Y	Repository name and location