

## Person Metadata

### Record and Fields

Version 1

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## Record Background

The following metadata fields capture information about any **PERSON** involved in an **EVENT** that captures information about the historic slave trade. The **PERSON** record can also be used for an organization or group of people acting as a single entity.

The **PERSON** record will be tied to an **EVENT** in which the individual participated. This **EVENT** will be described in a source document(s) (primary or secondary).

Metadata for the **EVENT** record and data about the **PLACE** or location where an **EVENT** occurred are described in other documents. Provenance information about the primary and/or secondary documents that are the sources for the extracted data is in the **SOURCE** record.

There is a subset of fields in the *Enslaved.org* **PERSON** metadata that captures information about an individual at a specific point in time. These **PERSON-EVENT** fields include: Age, Age Category, Role within Event, and Person Status within Event. Data in two of these fields, Age and Age Category, will change over the course of a person's lifetime. Data in the other two fields, Role within Event (role), and Person Status within Event (status), will change based on an individual's involvement in an event. For example, at an event when a person was enslaved, this individual would have the *role* Captured Person and the *status* Enslaved Person; at a subsequent event, when this same person was baptised, the individual would have the *role* Baptized Person and the *status* Enslaved Person; and at an even later event, when this same person was

manumitted, this individual would have the *role* Emancipated Person with the *status* Freed Person.

*Enslaved.org* recognizes that **PERSON-EVENT** data could be captured in a **PERSON** record OR in an **EVENT** record. Depending on the project, either approach makes sense.

*Enslaved.org* decided to include **PERSON-EVENT** fields in the **PERSON** metadata documentation. It is one approach among many that we could have used to group together and define similar fields. Your dataset might align with the *Enslaved.org* structure or could be configured differently. Irrespective of your arrangement, *Enslaved.org* will accommodate your approach.

## **PERSON Record**

Biographical and identifying information about an individual or organization or group of people acting as a single entity who participated or was involved in the historic slave trade (as identified in an historical document or a secondary source)

### **\* Required Fields**

Name

Name Identifier

### **\*\* Strongly Recommended Fields**

Role within Event

Person Status within Event

### **Fields for *Enslaved.org* Linked Data Platform (Hub)**

1. **Name Identifier\*** – Unique reference to a named individual who participated in an event
2. **Name\*** – Name of person or individual or organization/group of people acting as a single unit who participated in an event. Record all parts of the name including given/first name and last name/surname
  - a. Use “Unnamed” when source identifies a person but does not include a name
  - b. Organization or corporate bodies might include, for example, Convent of Santa Maria for apprenticeships and concessionaires or Brotherhood of St. Joseph for manumissions
  - c. Record interpreted name data or spelling variants in Alternate Name field
  - d. *Enslaved.org* strongly recommends using the *verbatim* name found in the source document
3. **Given Name** – Part of a personal name that differentiates that person from other members of a group, such as a family or clan, with whom that person shares a common

surname; sometimes known as first name or forename (although these do not capture the full range of personal naming styles found world-wide)

- a. This might duplicate data that is included in the Name field
  - b. Record interpreted name data or spelling variants in Alternate Name field
  - c. *Enslaved.org* strongly recommends using the *verbatim* name found in the source document
  
4. **Surname** – When applicable, the name a person has in common with other members of a group, such as a family or clan, as distinguished from given name; sometimes known as last name or family name (although these do not capture the full range of personal naming styles found world-wide).
  - a. This might duplicate data that is included in the Name field
  - b. Record interpreted name data or spelling variants in Alternate Name field
  - c. *Enslaved.org* strongly recommends using the *verbatim* name found in the source document
  
5. **Alternate Names** – Other names or name variations, including
  - a. African names (i.e. Olaudah Equiano)
  - b. Christian or classical names, especially with compound given names
  - c. Variant spellings of African and Christian names
  - d. Compound or hyphenated surnames
  - e. Muslim names – often a person's name followed by his father's name, and made more complicated by the use of patronymics like Cisse, Ture/Toure, and many others, which are not surnames
  - f. Maiden names for married women where the maiden name is known
  - g. Nicknames
  - h. Aliases
  - i. Assumed names
  - j. Honorifics or titles
  - k. Suffixes – e.g. "Baronet" for Bt.
  - l. Interpreted name – if no *verbatim* data is recorded in Name field
  - m. Alternative spellings with abbreviations or initials
    - i. For example, the name Green, James William, under such variations as Green, J; Green, J. W.; Green, Jas W.; Green Jas. Wm.; or Green, James W. (example from familysearch.org)
  
6. **Birthdate** – Date when a person was born; records year of birth and may also include the month and day of the person's birth. This can be directly noted in the document or imputed/assigned based on other data in the document including date of the document and a person's age.
  - a. In the *Enslaved.org* Hub, this will be represented as a Birth Event with Role within Event = Newborn. That is, birth will be included in an **EVENT** record.



- xv. Marketing and Trading
- xvi. Police and Military
- xvii. Religious
- xviii. Slave Trade
- xix. Teaching
- xx. Writing and/or Publishing
- xxi. Other Occupation

- 11. Description** – Brief description of the named individual for general contextualization
- a. Could include information about physical condition, health or general well being of the named individual; account of individual's appearance or overarching life experience
- 12. Relationships** – Connection or link to other named individuals. Can include non-familial relationship like owner-enslaved depending on the project. Other associations, for example those between people who embarked on the same Middle Passage ship or priests at a baptism, will be connected through participation/involvement in the same **EVENT** (include as many as needed)
- a. This field includes the following 2 pieces of information for each relationship
    - i. Type of relationship, from the controlled vocabulary (below) AND
    - ii. Name Identifier OR Name of related person
      - 1. If no other information is known about the Person, a Name may be listed, for example:
        - a. Godparent | Agostinho; Godparent | Vitoria
      - 2. If there is other information known about the individual and recorded in another record, list the unique Name Identifier so a connection to the person's full record can be made, for example:
        - a. Cousin | FN32183; Godchild | MISDPER90572
  - b. Relationships controlled vocabulary options (defined in ***Enslaved.org* Controlled Vocabularies**)
    - i. Parent <--> Child
    - ii. Grandparent <--> Grandchild
    - iii. Sibling <--> Sibling (includes ½ siblings)
    - iv. Spouse <--> Spouse
    - v. In-law <--> In-law
    - vi. Cousin
    - vii. Aunt
    - viii. Uncle
    - ix. Owner <--> Enslaved
    - x. Employer <--> Employee
    - xi. Godparent <--> Godchild
    - xii. Other relationships can be added later when representative data comes into *Enslaved.org*

- 13. Place of Origin** – Physical location of a person’s family or ancestors; a person’s place of birth; where someone comes from originally; inferred or stated home or homeland; answer to questions such as “Where are you from?”, “Where is she/he from?”, and “Where are they from?”; scale could be large (e.g. a continent or region) or small (e.g. a village, town, or city)
  
- 14. Ethnolinguistic Descriptor** – An identity that is stated by a person or attributed to her/him and that is sometimes linked to the language that the person speaks; in historical records, often interpreted as an African ethnic group/language (e.g. Mandinka), Native American tribe/nation/language (e.g. Cherokee), and New World identity/language (e.g. Creole); in some historical documents, a person’s “nationality” or “naturalidade”; can sometimes be used to infer a person’s origin
  - a. Development of controlled vocabularies for this field will continue in Phase 2 of the *Enslaved.org* to promote search and data retrieval
  
- 15. Event Associator** – Connection, link, or reference to the **EVENT** in which the named individual or organization participated or was involved
  - a. Creates a direct link from a **PERSON** (or Corporate Name) record to an **EVENT** record that captures data about the overarching event that occurred
  - b. *Enslaved.org* strongly recommends listing the Event Identifier from the related **EVENT** record
  - c. A **Person** record may only list 1 Event Identifier per Role within an Event (1:1); see Role within Event field below for more context.

## **PERSON-EVENT Fields**

The following fields contain biographical and identifying information but are attached to the construct of a **PERSON** *within an EVENT*. *Enslaved.org* includes these fields in the **PERSON** metadata because they describe an individual. However, these fields may be included in other records within a dataset (especially **EVENT**), depending on the organization and complexity of the dataset. For more information on **PERSON-EVENT** fields, please see the *Record Background* section above.

- 16. Age** – Number of years the named individual has been alive, based on on observed or recorded age at the time of an event. For partial years, use decimals, for example .5 for 6 month old
  
- 17. Age Category** – General age class of the named individual imputed/assigned based on the number of years the individual has been alive
  - a. Age Category controlled vocabulary options (defined in *Enslaved.org* **Controlled Vocabularies**):

- i. Infant Age Category
- ii. Child Age Category
- iii. Adult Age Category
- iv. Older Person Age Category

**18. Role within Event\*\*** – How the named individual was involved in one specific **EVENT**

- a. A **PERSON** can have 1 Role within Event (Role) per **EVENT** record
- b. The type of **EVENT**, designated as Event Type in the **EVENT** record, determines possible Role options (see samples below)
- c. Role is granular for the primary or main **PERSON**(s) involved in the **EVENT**
- d. Other **PERSON**s will be connected to the **EVENT** as a generic “Participant.”
- e. “Participant” asserts that **PERSON** is involved in an **EVENT** in an unspecified way
- f. Some contributors to *Enslaved.org* might prefer to connect all **PERSON**s to an **EVENT** without interpreting or stating the function of that Role, i.e. everyone is involved in the **EVENT** in an unspecified way. For such cases, every **PERSON** will be connected to the **EVENT** as a generic “Participant”
- g. Sample Event Type followed by Role within Event controlled vocabulary options in bold
  - i. Voyage: **Enslaved | Participant**
  - ii. Birth: **Child | Parent | Participant**
  - iii. Baptism/Naming Ceremony: **Baptized Person/Initiate | Participant**
  - iv. ...
- h. All Roles within Event controlled vocabulary options are listed and defined in ***Enslaved.org* Controlled Vocabularies**
- i. Suggested formatting: include the following 2 pieces of information for each Role
  - i. Type of Role within Event, from the controlled vocabulary AND
  - ii. Event Identifier of connected event
    - 1. Captured Person | MSIDEVE3278

**19. Person Status within Event\*\*** – Category identifying the “freedom” standing of an individual involved in a slave trade event -- determined at the *outcome* of the event

Broad groupings often of interest to researchers of the historic slave trade and more general public audiences. Sometimes this “status” is implicit in the way a scholar collects dataset, for example focusing on manumissions, freed person registries, or Middle Passage manifests.

- a. Person Status within Event controlled vocabulary options (defined in ***Enslaved.org* Controlled Vocabularies**) (multiple term selection allowed):
  - i. Freed Person
  - ii. Person with Liminal Status
  - iii. Enslaved Person
  - iv. Free Person

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- v. Master or Owner (includes previous Master or Owner)
  - vi. Indentured, Apprentice, or Pawn (include cortado)
- b. In rare cases, a person could be an Enslaved Person who is also a Master, Guardian, or Owner of another person. In this case, record 2 statuses.
- c. If Status is not known, do not record any data.
- d. Suggested formatting: include the following 2 pieces of information for each Status
  - i. Type of Person Status within Event, from the controlled vocabulary AND
  - ii. Event Identifier of connected event
    - 1. Enslaved Person | MISDEVE3278