Person Metadata

Record and Fields

Version 2
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Record Background

The following metadata fields capture information about any **PERSON** involved in an **EVENT** that captures information about the historical 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 baptized, 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 historical slave trade (as identified in an historical document or a secondary source)

* Strongly Recommended Fields

Name Identifier
Name
Role within Event
Person Status within Event

Fields for Enslaved.org Linked Data Platform (Discovery 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 discovery hub, this will be represented as a Birth Event with Role within Event = Newborn. That is, birth will be included in an **EVENT** record.

    b. Formatting recommendation: specific dates (YYYYMMDD) or more general dates (such as month year: YYYYMM or year only: YYYY)

7. **Deathdate** — Date when a person died; records year of death and may also include the month and day of the person's death
    a. In the Enslaved.org discovery hub, this will be represented as a Death Event with Role within Event = Deceased. That is death will be included in an **EVENT** record.
    b. Formatting recommendation: specific dates (YYYYMMDD) or more general dates (such as month year: YYYYMM or year only: YYYY)

8. **Sex** — Sex of the named person as designated in or derived from source document(s), often based on observations by a third party of the person's body, comportment, or self-presentation, and reinforced by gendered naming practices. Sex or gender is imputed in many datasets.
    a. See the current version of the **Enslaved.org Controlled Vocabularies** documentation for the most up to date terms and definitions

9. **Race or Color** — Color or racial designation of the named individual
    a. *Verbatim* from source document; use the term exactly as written in document
    b. No controlled vocabulary is currently used for this field

10. **Occupation** — Skills or trade of the named individual (multiple term selection allowed)
    a. See the current version of the **Enslaved.org Controlled Vocabularies** documentation for the most up to date occupational terms and definitions.

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 relationships like enslaved-enslaver/owner 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 (see the current version of the **Enslaved.org Controlled Vocabularies** documentation for the most up to date relationship types) 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. See the current version of the **Enslaved.org Controlled Vocabularies** documentation for the most up to date relationships and definitions.

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

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 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. See the current version of the **Enslaved.org Controlled Vocabularies** documentation for the most up to date age group terms and definitions.

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: **Captured Person** | **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 historical 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): See the current version of the **Enslaved.org Controlled Vocabularies** documentation for the most up to date terms and definitions
    b. In rare cases, a person could be an Enslaved Person who is also an Enslaver or Owner or Guardian 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

Change Log V.2

The following list describes changes made to the Enslaved.org Person Metadata between Version 1 (July 19, 2019) and Version 2 (March 24, 2023).

Strongly Recommended Field designation

- **Name and Name Identifier** - moved into Strongly Recommended Field designation (from Required Fields)

Sex

- Modified the definition to align with changes made to version 2 of the **Enslaved.org Controlled Vocabularies** documentation adopted in May 2021.

Replaced lists of controlled terms with a recommendation to consult the current version of the **Enslaved.org Controlled Vocabularies** documentation.