
Slave Hires, 1775-1865

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ICPSR 7422

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November 1999

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August, 1976

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ASSISTANCE

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The data (and tabulations) utilized in this (publication) were made available (in part) by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research. The data for Slave Hires, 1775-1865 were originally collected by Robert W. Fogel and Stanley L. Engerman under a grant from the National Science Foundation. Neither the original collectors of the data nor the Consortium bear any responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here.

In order to provide funding agencies with essential information about the use of archival resources, and to facilitate the exchange of information about ICPSR participants' research activities, each user of the ICPSR data facilities is expected to send two copies of each completed manuscript or thesis abstract to the Consortium. Please indicate in the cover letter which data were used.

STUDY DESCRIPTION

This dataset contains information on slave hiring transactions in eight states in the southern United States from 1775 to 1865. The data were originally collected by Robert W. Fogel and Stanley L. Engerman (both of the University of Rochester); the collection of these data was included in the project on "The Relative Efficiency of Slave and Free Agriculture in 1850 and 1860," financed by the National Science Foundation.

Included in the dataset are variables documenting 20,253 slave hiring transactions in the south. These data were obtained from a non-random sample of probate records for southern counties, located on microfilm at the Genealogical Society Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The dataset contains fifteen variables for each of the 20,253 hiring transactions. Variables 2 and 3 identify the state and county in which the hire was recorded, and variable 5 records the year in which the hiring transaction occurred. The remainder of the variables describe the slave being hired out and the conditions of the transaction itself.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

In addition to the preparation of this documentation for the slave hires file, ICPSR performed several data processing tasks intended to facilitate use of the data file. As originally received from the principal investigators, the slave hires data were stored in eight physical files, corresponding to the eight states in which these hiring transactions were originally recorded. ICPSR staff merged the eight files into one physical file. In addition, certain variables which were stored in the original version of the data files as alphabetic code values were recoded to numeric values. The frequencies which appear in the following codebook were also calculated by ICPSR.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Robert W. Fogel and Stanley L. Engerman, Time on the Cross: The Economics of American Negro Slavery [Volume 1] and Evidence and Methods-A Supplement [Volume 2] (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1974).

Larry T. Wimmer and Clayne L. Pope. "The Genealogical Society Library of Salt Lake City: A Source of Data for Economic and Social Historians," Historical Methods Newsletter, Volume 8, No. 2 (March, 1975), p.p. 51-58.

SLAVE HIRES, 1775-1865

<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Identification number (a four-digit numeric code identifying owners within county)
2	State in Which Transaction Occurred

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Code Value</u>	<u>State Name</u>
7082	00	North Carolina
2599	01	Maryland
3407	02	Virginia
6	03	South Carolina
187	04	Louisiana
6350	05	Tennessee
467	06	Georgia
155	07	Mississippi
<u>20253</u>		

3 County in which Transaction Occurred
 This variable must be used in conjunction with Variable 2 (state in which transaction occurred), since the county codes utilized are unique only within state.

North Carolina

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Code Value</u>	<u>County Name</u>
134	001	Anson
1123	002	Duplin
1196	003	Edgecombe
440	004	Franklin
1297	005	Halifax
1574	006	Johnstone
283	007	Mecklenburg
1014	008	Nash
21	009	Greene
<u>7082</u>		

Maryland

14	001	Anne Arundel
2585	002	Queene Annes
<u>2599</u>		

<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
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3 (continued)

County in which Transaction Occurred

Virginia

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Code Value</u>	<u>County Name</u>
865	001	Essex
44	002	Lynchberg
216	003	Greensville
63	004	Prince George
438	005	Southampton
424	006	Sussex
793	007	Norfolk
526	008	Henrico
<u>38</u>	009	Albemarle
3407		

South Carolina

6	001	Charleston
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Louisiana

64	002	DeSoto
53	003	St. Helena
21	004	Ouchita
<u>49</u>	012	Union
187		

Tennessee

1279	001	Ruth
584	002	Madison
3568	003	Williamson
<u>919</u>	004	Maney
6350		

Georgia

37	002	Dekalb
18	007	Oglethorpe
<u>412</u>	008	Troup
467		

Mississippi

29	001	Wilkinson
<u>126</u>	003	Hinds
155		

Variable
Number

Description

4 Data Type
For this file, the constant SH (for Slave Hire) appears here
in all records

5 Year in which Hiring Transaction Occurred

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Code Value</u> <u>(Year)</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Code Value</u> <u>(Year)</u>
13	0000 (year unknown)	91	1826
3	1785	52	1827
5	1786	133	1828
6	1787	229	1829
7	1788	141	1830
9	1789	105	1831
2	1790	117	1832
2	1791	122	1833
6	1792	47	1834
3	1795	99	1835
8	1796	70	1836
21	1797	101	1837
17	1798	129	1838
24	1799	571	1839
33	1800	658	1840
35	1801	709	1841
27	1802	676	1842
26	1803	717	1843
30	1804	809	1844
39	1805	914	1845
32	1806	804	1846
30	1807	896	1847
33	1808	878	1848
30	1809	837	1849
32	1810	910	1850
45	1811	991	1851
55	1812	812	1852
39	1813	652	1853
33	1814	879	1854
61	1815	743	1855
42	1816	711	1856
65	1817	390	1857
96	1818	437	1858
82	1819	320	1859
65	1820	419	1860
40	1821	488	1861
87	1822	328	1862
81	1823	397	1863
80	1824	285	1864
73	1825	169	1865

20253

Variable
Number

Description

6 Initials of Owner of Slave
Two alphabetic characters representing the initials of the slave owner (Occasionally the first initial is missing.)

7 Sex of the Slave

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Code Value</u>	<u>Description</u>
12642	1	Male
7333	2	Female
273	3	Unknown
5	9	[Wild Codes]
<u>20253</u>		

8 Age of the Slave
(Frequencies are presented for ranges of code values)

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Code Values</u>	<u>Age in Whole Years</u>
19693	00	Age unknown or unrecorded
96	01 to 10	One to ten years
220	11 to 20	Eleven to twenty years
101	21 to 30	21 to 30 years
44	31 to 40	31 to 40 years
43	41 to 50	41 to 50 years
40	51 to 60	51 to 60 years
12	61 to 70	61 to 70 years
4	71 to 75	71 to 75 years
<u>20253</u>		

9 Monetary Unit Designation
This variable identifies the type of monetary unit in which the Price per Hiring Period (Variable 10) is recorded.

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Code Value</u>	<u>Description</u>
417	1	Price per hiring period is recorded in pounds sterling
<u>19836</u>	9	Price per hiring period is recorded in dollars
<u>26253</u>		

Variable
Number

Description

10

Price per Hiring Period

This variable records the price per hiring period listed in the transaction. Prices are recorded in dollars and cents (or pounds sterling and fractions thereof; see Variable 9), with no decimal point represented. For example, the value \$75.50 is recorded as 0007550. Frequencies appearing below are presented for ranges of code values.

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Code Values</u>	<u>Price</u>
242	-200000 to -1	[Wild codes]
1938	0000000	No price reported
205	0000001 to 0000050	\$0.01 to \$0.50
162	0000051 to 0000100	\$0.51 to \$1.00
159	0000101 to 0000200	\$1.01 to \$2.00
886	0000201 to 0000500	\$2.01 to \$5.00
1515	0000501 to 0001000	\$5.01 to \$10.00
3071	0001001 to 0002000	\$10.01 to \$20.00
2253	0002001 to 0003000	\$20.01 to \$30.00
2018	0003001 to 0004000	\$30.01 to \$40.00
1839	0004001 to 0005000	\$40.01 to \$50.00
1126	0005001 to 0006000	\$50.01 to \$60.00
953	0006001 to 0007000	\$60.01 to \$70.00
983	0007001 to 0008000	\$70.01 to \$80.00
507	0008001 to 0009000	\$80.01 to \$90.00
686	0009001 to 0010000	\$90.01 to \$100.00
543	0010001 to 0012000	\$100.01 to \$120.00
680	0012001 to 0015000	\$120.01 to \$150.00
308	0015001 to 0020000	\$150.01 to \$200.00
135	0020001 to 0050000	\$200.01 to \$500.00
<u>44</u>	0050001 and above	Over \$500.00
20253		

11

Ownership Designation

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Code Value</u>	<u>Ownership Designation</u>
9037	1	Slave was "hired out" by his/her owner
141	2	Slave was "hired out" by a lessee of the slave
10527	3	No ownership status reported
<u>548</u>	9	[Wild codes]
20253		

Variable
Number

Description

12

Period of Hire Reported for this Transaction

The period of hire is recorded in months; frequencies for hire periods of over twelve months are presented for ranges of code values.

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Code Values</u>	<u>Period of Hire</u>
468	00	Period of hire not reported
341	01	One month
140	02	Two months
189	03	Three months
87	04	Four months
45	05	Five months
183	06	Six months
74	07	Seven months
60	08	Eight months
284	09	Nine months
232	10	Ten months
149	11	Eleven months
17934	12	Twelve months
50	13 to 24	13 to 24 months
4	36 to 80	36 to 80 months
13	99	[Wild codes]
<u>20253</u>		

13

Hiring Rate per Year

Prices in this variable are recorded in dollars and cents (or pounds sterling and fractions thereof; see variable 9), with no decimal points represented. Frequencies appearing below are presented for ranges of code values.

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Code Values</u>	<u>Rate</u>
66	-200000 to -000001	[Wild codes]
15481	0000000	No rate reported
11	0000001 to 0000050	\$0.01 to \$0.50
5	0000051 to 0000100	\$0.51 to \$1.00
22	0000101 to 0000200	\$1.01 to \$2.00
195	0000201 to 0000500	\$2.01 to \$5.00
511	0000501 to 0001000	\$5.01 to \$10.00
1167	0001001 to 0002000	\$10.01 to \$20.00
561	0002001 to 0003000	\$20.01 to \$30.00
526	0003001 to 0004000	\$30.01 to \$40.00
633	0004001 to 0005000	\$40.01 to \$50.00
284	0005001 to 0006000	\$50.01 to \$60.00
126	0006001 to 0007000	\$60.01 to \$70.00
199	0007001 to 0008000	\$70.01 to \$80.00

Variable
Number

Description

13 (continued)

Hiring Rate per Year

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Code Values</u>	<u>Rate</u>
69	0008001 to 0009000	\$80.01 to \$90.00
114	0009001 to 0010000	\$90.01 to \$100.00
105	0010001 to 0012000	\$100.01 to \$120.00
115	0012001 to 0015000	\$120.01 to \$150.00
42	0015001 to 0020000	\$150.01 to \$200.00
21	0020001 to 0050000	\$200.01 to \$500.00
<u>20253</u>		

14

Skill of the Slave

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Code Value</u>	<u>Skill</u>
13	02	Blacksmith, forgeman
17	03	Carpenter, Cabinet maker
1	13	Cooper, barrelmaker
1	17	Tools
1	26	Miller
1	34	Laborer, worker, field slave
1	38	Midwife
7	47	Shipbuilder
1	57	Nurse, baby sitter, child attendant
<u>20210</u>	99	No skill reported
20253		

15

Defect Reported for the Slave

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Code Value</u>	<u>Defect</u>
7	01	Unhealth, afflicted
1080	02	Boy
1	06	Frosted (sic.)
627	07	Girl
33	09	Sick, ill, infirm, disabled, delicate, weak
2	12	Lame
2	14	Sore leg, injured, swelled knee
112	15	Old, aged
4	16	Cripple
6	18	Crazy, idiot, insane, occasionally deranged, incapable

Variable
Number

Description

15 (continued)

Defect Reported for the Slave

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Code Value</u>	<u>Defect</u>
2	19	Short
3	22	Blind
1	23	Wench
38	25	Youth, lad, young
2	33	Rheumatizm
4	35	Diseased
3	36	Subject to fits, fits
4	38	Unsound, defective
266	40	Woman
346	41	Man, fellow
22	42	Child, little, small
2	43	Pregnant
<u>17686</u>	99	No defect reported
20253		