Codebook for Black Civil War Recruits from Missouri (1863-1865)

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Introduction

The file `recruits` contains information on all 5,455 Black recruits enrolled in the Union Army from Missouri between 1863 and 1865. The underlying data comes from descriptive recruitment lists (National Archives and Records Administration 2002). The data was partially transcribed by Hunter (2008). Undergraduates at Brown University manually transcribed the remaining variables (height, occupation, complexion, and year) based on images publicly available on the ancestry website FamilySearch.com (2022). Figure 1 displays a representative image of the tables that officers filled out for each recruit.

Variables

In the variable list below, the name of each variable in the dataset is followed by a description of the variable. For all variables the value -99 represents missing data.

- `recruit_first`: The first name of the recruit. If the recruit gave a middle name or initial, it is seperated from the first name by a space. For example, if the recruit's name was John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the value of `recruit_first` would be "John Fitzgerald."
- `recruit_last`: The last name of the recruit.
- `owner_first`: The first name of the owner. Sixty-nine recruits in the sample were explicitly mentioned as free, in which case the value for `owner_first` is "Free." As with `recruit_first`, middle names and initials are followed by a space. Often, the recruit only gave the initial of his owner's first name.
- `owner_last`: The last name of the owner. If the recruit was free, then the value for `owner_last` is "Free."
- `age`: The age of the recruit in years.
- `owner_county`: The county where the recruit was enslaved; or, if the recruit was free, the county where he resided. Spelling errors and other discrepencies were manually corrected by comparing raw enteries to a list of counties enumerated by the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (2022a).

- `owner_state`: The two-letter abbreviation for the state where the recruit was enslaved; or, if he was free, the county where he resided.
- `county_birth`: The recruit's county of birth. Unlike `owner_county`, spelling errors are not corrected and the raw enteries are left as is.
- `birth_state`: The two-letter abbreviation for the recruit's state of birth.
- `feet`: The height of the recruit in feet rounded down to the nearest integer.
- `inches`: The remaining height of the recruit in inches.
- `complexion`: The recruit's skin color, such as light, coffee, dark, and mulatto. The enteries are corrected for obvious spelling errors and are in all lower-case.
- `occupation`: The occupation of the recruit before enlisting, as originally written. The enteries are corrected for obvious spelling errors and are in all lower-case.
- `occ_ipums_desc`: The occupation from the IPUMS 1880 occupation classification, used in the 1850-1900 IPUMS samples, that most closely matches the recruit's raw occupation (IPUMS 2022b).
- `occ_ipums_code`: The occupation code from the IPUMS variable `OCC` that corresponds to `occ_ipums_desc` (IPUMS 2022b).
- `year`: The year of enlistment.
- `recruiting_station`: The city where the recruit was enlisted.
- `roll`: The roll of microfilm that contains the recruit's information.
- `frame`: The frame of the roll that contains the recruit's information.

References

[1] FamilySearch.com. 2022. "United States, Missouri, Recruitment Lists of Volunteers for the United States Colored Troops, 1863-1865." https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3459909 (accessed November 20, 2022).

[2] Hunter, Julius K. and Friends African American Research Collection St. Louis County Library. 2008. "Descriptive Recruitment Lists of Volunteers for the United States Colored Troops for the State of Missouri, 1863-1865." The St. Louis County Library. https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/mo_recruits_m1894.pdf (accessed September 14, 2021).

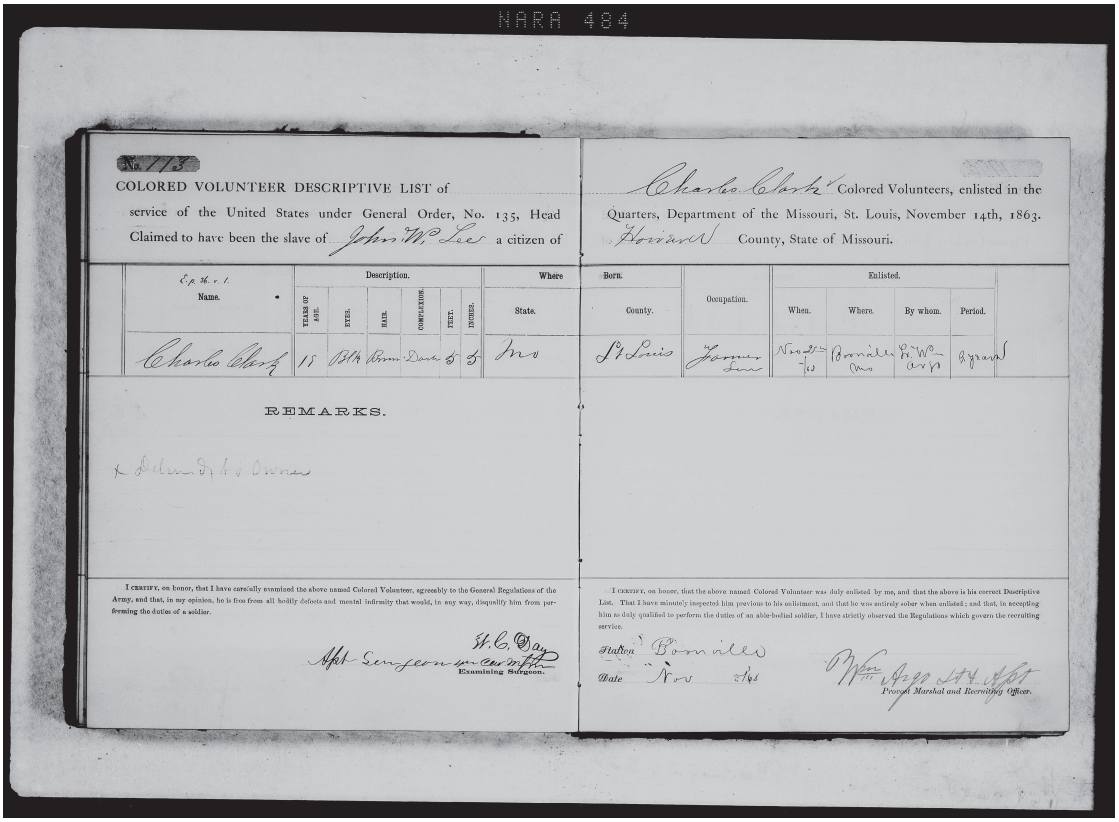
[3] IPUMS. 2022a. "ICPSR County Codes." https://usa.ipums.org/usa/volii/ICPSR.shtml (accessed November 20, 2022).

[4] IPUMS. 2022b. "1880 Occupation codes." https://usa.ipums.org/usa/volii/occ1880.shtml (accessed November 20, 2022).

[5] National Archives and Records Administration. 2002. "NARA Micofilm Publication M1894: Descriptive Recruitment Lists of volunteers for the United States Colored Troops for the State of Missouri, 1863-1865." College Park, MD.

Figures

Figure 1: Representative Enrollment Table



Notes: This figure displays the image of the enrollment information for Charles Clark. The image was collected from FamilySearch.com (2022).