

Nashville Slave and Free People of Color Database Metadata



Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

What's in this dataset?

Information regarding the movements of enslaved African-Americans in Nashville before Emancipation, based on records found in Davidson County will books from 1780 to 1865.

Category:	Genealogy
Keywords:	slave, slavery, slaveholder, emancipation, african, african american, family, history, genealogy, will, emancipation, people of color, poc, archives
Data Provided By:	Metro Archives
Source:	Davidson County government records
Time Period:	1780-1865
Update Frequency:	Approximately quarterly

Additional Information

How is this data collected?	The data was compiled from information found in Davidson County deeds, wills, loose papers, and court minutes from 1780 to 1865 and transcribed by Metro Archives staff into a digital form.
What does each record represent?	A person
What are the limitations of the data?	Information transcribed from original will books may not be correct or complete. Commonly missing fields are age and relationship. Genealogical information for formerly enslaved populations is often incomplete. The staff who transcribe the information do not make assumptions and do not fill in information that is unavailable.
Additional comments:	Original documents relating to the information found in this dataset can be obtained by contacting Metro Archives. Please include the book and page number in your request.

Data Dictionary

Data Field Name	Format	Description
Slaveholder	Text	Person in the record that transferred the slave from one person to another via will, etc.
Slaveholder's Residence	Text	County where the slaveholder lived (usually)
Name of Slave	Text	First name of the enslaved person
Gender	Text	Gender of the enslaved person, denoted as M or F
Age	Text	Age of the enslaved person

Relationships	Text	Denotes familial relationships between enslaved persons
Date of Entry	Date & Time	Date information was entered in the original source document
Will Book	Number	Number of the will book where information about the enslaved person was found
Page No.	Text	Page number in the will book where information about the enslaved person was found
Type of Entry	Text	Describes the kind of record in the will book, such as will, estate inventory, manumission, deed of mortgage, bill of sale, etc.
Transferred to	Text	Receipt of the will or sale
Second Party's Residence	Text	County where the "Transferred to" recipient lived
Notes	Text	Additional information about the formerly enslaved person that may be useful for genealogical research, including directions to other will books that contain related information