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**Slave Trials in Anderson and Spartanburg  
Counties, South Carolina, 1818-1861**

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Michael S. Hindus

ICPSR 8674

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SLAVE TRIALS IN ANDERSON AND SPARTANBURG COUNTIES,  
SOUTH CAROLINA, 1818-1861

(ICPSR 8674)

Principal Investigator

Michael S. Hindus

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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 TRIALS IN ANDERSON AND SPARTANBURG COUNTIES, SOUTH CAROLINA, 1818-1861, were originally collected by Michael S. Hindus. Neither the collector of the original data nor the Consortium bear any responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here.

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Michael S. Hindus

SLAVE TRIALS IN ANDERSON AND SPARTANBURG COUNTIES, SOUTH CAROLINA,  
1818-1861 (ICPSR 8674)

SUMMARY: This dataset is part of a larger data collection effort conducted by the principal investigator to study crime, justice, and penal reform in Massachusetts and South Carolina from 1760 to 1880. Data are presented in this file on over 600 slave trials in two counties of ante-bellum South Carolina from 1818 to 1861. The data were obtained from the Anderson and Spartanburg counties surviving public records of the Courts of Magistrates and Freeholders. Included are variables documenting the accused crime, verdict, punishment, and item stolen (if applicable), as well as the defendant's name, sex, status, owner, and date of the trial. CLASS IV

UNIVERSE: Male and female slaves tried for accused crimes in Spartanburg and Anderson counties, South Carolina.

NOTE: The data contain blanks and undefined codes, which are explained in the codebook.

EXTENT OF COLLECTION: 1 data file

DATA FORMAT: Card Image

File Structure: rectangular

Cases: 1,086

Variables: 16

Record Length: 80

Records Per Case: 1



Michael S. Hindus

Code for "Study 323"

Slave Trials in Anderson and Spartanburg Counties, South  
Carolina, 1818-1861

Column #

1-3	Number of Trial
4-6	Number of Defendant (trials often contained several defendants)
7-16	Names of defendant (if free black, then last name up to eight letters, then first initial)
17	Status (SPSS VAR001) 1 -- slave 2 -- free
18	Sex (VAR002) 1 -- Male 2 -- Female 9 -- Unknown
19-20	Month of trial (VAR003) (conventional notation used) 99 -- missing
21-22	Day of trial (VAR004) (actual day of month) 99 -- missing
23-24	Year of trial (VAR005) (last two digits of year) 99 -- missing
25	County (VAR006) 1 -- Anderson 2 -- Spartanburg
26-27	Crime (VAR007) 1 -- larceny, stealing 2 -- animal stealing 3 -- grand larceny 4 -- petty larceny 5 -- receiving stolen goods 6 -- destroying property 7 -- breaking and entering 8 -- arson 9 -- burglary 10 -- murder 11 -- assault; assault and battery 12 -- assault and battery with intent to kill 13 -- drowning a child 14 -- poisoning 15 -- killing cattle 16 -- highway robbery 17 -- robbery 18 -- attempted assault 19 -- murder of a Negro

20 -- lying  
21 -- profanity  
22 -- scandalous words  
23 -- slander  
24 -- insulting language  
25 -- slander against white  
  
30 -- gambling  
31 -- drinking  
32 -- Sabbathviolation  
  
40 -- rape  
41 -- attempted rape  
42 -- assault with intent/rape  
43 -- breaking and entering with intent to rape  
44 -- soliciting illegal intercourse  
45 -- attempted seduction of a white woman  
46 -- indecency  
  
50 -- vagrancy  
51 -- misconduct  
52 -- misdemeanor  
53 -- felony  
54 -- malicious mischief  
55 -- disorderly conduct  
  
60 -- harboring runaway  
61 -- trading with a Negro  
62 -- retailing spirits  
63 -- forgery  
64 -- slavestealing  
65 -- trespass  
66 -- leaving state and then returning illegally  
67 -- conspiracy  
68 -- contempt of court  
69 -- selling goods  
  
70 -- riot  
71 -- fighting  
79 -- threatening a white  
  
80 -- resisting patrol  
81 -- runaway  
82 -- insurrection  
83 -- attempted insurrection  
84 -- carrying firearms  
85 -- impudence  
86 -- striking white  
87 -- threatening  
88 -- insolence and abuse to a white  
89 -- insolent behavior (general)

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90 -- accessory to grand larceny  
 91 -- " " murder  
 92 -- " " assault and battery  
 93 -- " " larceny  
 94 -- attempted burglary  
 95 -- accessory to felony  
 96 -- accessory to breaking and entering  
 97 -- " " petty larceny  
 98 -- misc.  
 99 -- missing

28 Verdict (VAR008)

1 -- Acquitted  
 2 -- Convicted  
 9 -- Unknown

29-31 Number of Lashes (VAR009)

Actual number sentenced up to 998  
 999 -- unknown

32 Jail Term (VAR010)

1-6 -- actual term in weeks  
 7 -- indefinite, term unknown [0 = undefined by principal investigator]  
 8 -- longer than 6 weeks  
 9 -- missing (used when entire punishment is unknown, therefore columns 29-33 will all read '9' in such cases)

33 Other punishment (VAR011)

1 -- Death  
 2 -- Banished from state  
 3 -- Set free because of age  
 4 -- Sold as slave [0 = undefined by principal investigator]  
 5 -- Fined  
 6 -- Forced to return item stolen

34-43

Owner's Name [\*\*]

Last name up to eight letters, then first initial

44-45

Item Stolen (VAR012)

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1-- cotton      | 19-- trunk         |
| 2-- bacon       | 20-- poultry, fowl |
| 3-- clothes     | 21-- meat          |
| 4-- leather     | 22-- pins          |
| 5-- guns        | 23-- mattress      |
| 6-- spoons      | 24-- nails         |
| 7-- iron        | 25-- wagon         |
| 8-- cornmeal    | 26-- ax            |
| 9-- money       | 27-- shovel        |
| 10-- washpot    | 28-- ham           |
| 11-- watermelon | 29-- wood          |
| 12-- cloth      |                    |
| 13-- corn       |                    |
| 14-- wheat      |                    |
| 15-- watch      |                    |
| 16-- fiddle     |                    |
| 17-- pocketbook |                    |
| 18-- boots      |                    |

[\*\*] For this variable, the data has zero and nine codes which are not defined. In this case, the zero codes appear to correspond to defendants listed as free and the nine codes appear to represent unknown names of owners.