

Description of Data: Physical and Socio-economic Characteristics of Boys Recruited into the Marine Society, 1770-1873

[this document was created by the History Data Service based on information supplied by the depositor]

Data Collection

The data was punched on cards from a microfilm of the original registers. For the sample (see below) the numeric data was copied from print outs of msyoall and msyqall and the socio-economic data was added from microfilms. Names were included in some of the data. The data collectors were instructed to record the data in fields corresponding to the columns in the registers. A copy of the instructions are included with this study as "method.pdf" as the entries in the registers are sometimes rather unsystematic.

Further information in the society's registers which were not recorded include the boys' progress, to whom they were apprenticed, etc.

Fields in Data

Files msyoall and msyqall contain data on the height and age of all boys recruited to the Marine Society from 1770 to 1873. The files osam, osam2, qsam, and qsam2 contain a sample of approximately 14 percent of the data in selected time periods. These files include socio-economic as well as physical data. The files osam, osam2, qsam, and qsam2 contain this data in alphabetic and numeric form, well the file oqsort contains the data in a coded form.

The data were sampled for time periods in which the Society did not change the height standards for recruitment: 1770-75, 1780-83, 1792-93, 1800-04, 1811-1813, 1816-17, 1818-20, 1821-23, 1824-25, 1826-28, 1829-31, 1838-39, 1842-44, 1845-47, and 1860-61. It was intended to get samples of about 500 cases for each date period (if that number were recruited in the period), and a systematic sample was taken of the msyoall and msyqall datasets, keeping the proportion of each the samples the same as in the total population. The samples also, however, incorporate some early samples of msyo birth cohort data, for dates of birth 1756-57, 1778 and 1798 (a random sample of a quarter of the data were taken for the last two dates).

In the registers the values for fields "read", "write" and "smallpox" are indicated by an appropriate letter - "R", "W", or "P" - but in the data a positive entry is indicated by the value 1. For a very short period a code of "I" was used in the registers to indicate that a boy had been inoculated against smallpox, this is coded as a value of 2. At one period the order was changed to "PRW" in the registers, but the order in the data is consistently "read", "write", "smallpox". In some of the register books this information is not recorded.

File msyoall

| Field Name | Description |
|------------|---|
| volref | Public Record volume reference |
| boysid | boys ID |
| ageyears | years portion of age |
| agemnths | months portion of age |
| heightft | height in feet |
| heightin | height in inches (to one decimal place) |
| read | able to read |
| write | able to write |
| smallpox | had smallpox |
| daterecr | date of recruitment |

File msysqall

| Field Name | Description |
|------------|---|
| ageyears | years portion of age |
| agemnths | months portion of age |
| heightft | height in feet |
| heightin | height in inches (to one decimal place) |
| read | able to read |
| write | able to write |
| smallpox | had smallpox |
| daterecr | date of recruitment |

File oqsort

| Field Name | Description |
|------------|---|
| oqcode | OQ code |
| boysid | boys ID |
| age | age in years |
| heightft | height in feet |
| heightin | height in inches (to one decimal place) |
| read | able to read |
| write | able to write |
| smallpox | had smallpox |
| daterecr | date of recruitment |
| nearester | nearest relative |
| placode | place code |
| relaoccu | relative's occupation |
| boyoccod | boy's occupation |

File osam

| Field Name | Description |
|------------|-------------|
|------------|-------------|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| oqcode | OQ code |
| boysid | boys ID |
| age | age in years |
| heightft | height in feet |
| heightin | height in inches (to one decimal place) |
| read | able to read |
| write | able to write |
| smallpox | had smallpox |
| daterecr | date of recruitment |
| name | name |
| nearester | nearest relative |
| relaoccu | relative's occupation |
| boysoccu | boy's occupation |
| parentloc | whereabouts of parent |
| wethrec | whether recommended by magistrate or etc. |
| resprish | parish of residence |
| restown | town of residence |
| rsconty | county of residence |
| rescntry | country of residence |
| reloccod | relative's occupation code |
| boyoccod | boy's occupation code |

File osam2, qsam, qsam2

| Field Name | Description |
|------------|---|
| oqcode | OQ code |
| boysid | boys ID |
| age | age in years |
| heightft | height in feet |
| heightin | height in inches (to one decimal place) |
| read | able to read |
| write | able to write |
| smallpox | had smallpox |
| daterecr | date of recruitment |
| name | name |
| nearester | nearest relative |
| relaoccu | relative's occupation |
| boysoccu | boy's occupation |
| doappind | date of apprenticeship indenture |
| placode | place code |
| resprish | parish of residence |
| restown | town of residence |
| rsconty | county of residence |
| rescntry | country of residence |
| reloccod | relative's occupation code |
| boyoccod | boy's occupation code |
