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Grant Strauss
Furman University

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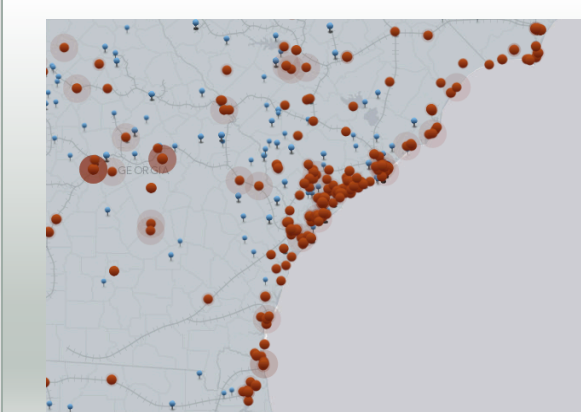


Image C: Concentration of Emancipation events in the Southeast at the peak of reconstruction, post Civil War. The highest concentration of emancipation events occur along the east coast, where the majority of the sample soldiers were recruited for the USCT 33rd.

USCT 33rd Regiment: Their Journey

Flowline Visualization of Birthplace to Enlistment for the 33rd USCT Regiment during the Civil War

Grant Strauss

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Abstract

This study conducts an exploratory analysis of the travel patterns of troops in the 33rd United States Colored Troop (USCT) during the Civil War using flowlines created via Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software. Doing so creates a visual representation of the routes the colored troops of the 33rd regiment took from their birthplaces to where they were enlisted into the Union army. Information on seventy records of individual soldiers were documented into an excel file, which included their age, occupation, birthplace, place of enlistment, term of service, date of enlistment, and any other additional notes on them. By visualizing the birthplaces of these soldiers compared with their enlistment locations, historians are better equipped to examine the historical records and accounts of these troops in a nuanced way. Historians may look at patterns that emerge from the data, and juxtapose them with answers to the questions of how and why these colored soldiers ended up where they did as well as what might they have encountered both during and after the war. This study finds that by in large the USCT 33rd regiment was a southeastern troop, which likely played a major factor in the experiences of these men both during and after the war.

Introduction / Lit Review

The American Civil War took place during the years of 1861 to 1865. The events that transpired in this war defined what was to be the trajectory of development into the United States we see today. Many soldiers were lost in the fighting between the Union and the Confederacy, each of whom have their story to tell. Of the stories that are of particular interest are those of the colored regiments. Where did they enlist, where did they come from, what were their occupations, how old were these men, how did they end up where they enlisted, and most of all how did they come to be involved fighting in a war centered around their very enslavement?

Of particular interest for this study is the USCT 33rd regiment (initially known as the 1st South Carolina Regiment). According to Wilson, the 1st Carolina regiment initially consisted of ex St. Augustine and St. Johns County slaves, headed and organized by General Hunter in May of 1862. This however was organized without the approval of President Lincoln, and eventually dissolved August 10th. Later in November 1862, the 1st Carolina was reconstructed into the USCT 33rd under Col Wentworth Higginson. The regiment consisted of 10 companies each comprised of about 86 men. Wilson states, "On January 1st, 1863 at the Camp Saxton Emancipation Proclamation Celebration the regimental colors were given to the 33rd Regiment. The troops were official and paid" (n.d.).

The USCT 33rd presents an interesting case due to its geographic location in the southeastern United States, practically within Confederate territory. Colored regiments such as the 33rd during the American Civil War played an intriguing and influential role in the war between the Union and Confederacy. Of additional interest is their role in reconstruction efforts post war, and how previous social hierarchies and norms factored into this. While prior to the war, men of the 33rd were laborers and field hand's, in an subservient position to their white, free neighbors. After the war, these men returned to the southeast as free men, enforcing reconstruction initiatives with other Union soldiers. As such, it is important for historians to examine where these soldiers came from and attempt to find patterns that may shed light on the stories of these men. By visually representing where these soldiers enlisted against where they were born, historians are more equipped to contemplate the stories behind these soldiers. and reflect upon the experiences of the colored soldiers fighting for the 33rd colored regiment of the Union army.

III. Methodology

Information about colored troops in the USCT 33rd regiment was obtained through the library edition of ancestry.com. Names were chosen at intervals of 100 within alphabetical categories in the regiment ordering from A-Z. Information regarding each soldier was entered into an excel file. Details included their first and last name, age, occupation, birthplace, enlistment location, term of service, date of enlistment, and any additional notes provided for individual soldiers. Individual's birthplaces and enlistment locations were then geocoded using Business Analyst, and then added to the GIS software. The XY to line (spatial analyst) tool was then used to create flowlines depicting the connections between birthplaces of soldiers and their locations of enlistment.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	Iname	fname	regiment	enlist_city	enlist_state	doe	birth_city	birth_state	age	occ	term	notes
2	Abbott	Randolph	USCT 33rd	St. Simmons	GA	12/19/1862	Durham	GA	30	Laborer	3	
3	Adams	Braddock	USCT 33rd	Savannah	GA	04/24/1865	Augusta	GA	40	Laborer	3	
4	Adams	David	USCT 33rd	Beaufort	SC	01/01/1863	St. Mary's	GA	17	Laborer	3	
5	Anderson	Jerry	USCT 33rd	Savannah	GA	03/01/1865	Edgefield	SC	31	Laborer	3	
6	Billy	Paul	USCT 33rd	Beaufort	SC	10/19/1862	Jones Island	SC	25	Farmer	3	
7	Bird	Daniel	USCT 33rd	Beaufort	SC	10/20/1862	Beaufort	SC	25	Farmer	3	
8	Bram	David	USCT 33rd	Beaufort	SC	12/19/1862	Savannah	GA	49		3	Discharged on account of physical disability
9	Brown	August	USCT 33rd	Beaufort	SC	10/19/1862	Georgetown	SC	24	Laborer	3	
10	Brown	James	USCT 33rd	Beaufort	SC	04/23/1863	Beaufort	SC	18	Field Hand	3	
11	Brown	Phillip	USCT 33rd	Beaufort	SC	11/12/1862	Georgetown	SC	25	Field Hand	3	
12	Brush	Henry	USCT 33rd	Hilton Head	SC	01/12/1865	Liberty	GA	22	Farmer	3	
13	Campbell	Parson	USCT 33rd	Beaufort	SC	11/09/1862	Beaufort	SC	41	Driver	3	
14	Canada	Hampus	USCT 33rd	Beaufort	SC	11/01/1862	Georgetown	SC	25	Laborer	3	
15	Chaplin	Abram	USCT 33rd	Beaufort	SC	10/26/1862	Pine Ridge	SC	17	Laborer	3	Not free, paid for enrollment.
16	Dixon	Martin	USCT 33rd	Beaufort	SC	06/01/1863	Lake Worth	FL	13	Drummer	3	
17	Doe	Joseph	USCT 33rd	Beaufort	SC	11/12/1862	Georgetown	SC	41	Cook	3	
18	Drayton	Benjamin	USCT 33rd	Beaufort	SC	11/03/1862	Beaufort	SC	30		3	
19	Dunham	Caesar	USCT 33rd	Savannah	GA	03/20/1865	Darien	GA	36	Engineer	3	
20	Dunham	Charles	USCT 33rd	Hilton Head	SC	01/12/1865	Darien	GA	25	Farmer	3	
21	Farmer	William	USCT 33rd	Port Royal	SC	06/06/1863	Nassau	FL	20	Farmer	3	
22	Floyd	Ceaser	USCT 33rd	St. Simmons	GA	10/18/1862	Cameron	GA	30	Field Hand	3	
23	Floyd	Jerry	USCT 33rd	Port Royal	SC	11/11/1862	Chatham	GA	29		3	
24	Frazier	George	USCT 33rd	Savannah	GA	05/30/1865	Macon	GA	21		3	
25	Fripp	Thomas	USCT 33rd	St. Helena	SC	10/19/1862	St. Helena	SC	26	Laborer	3	
26	Goodwin	Wingo	USCT 33rd	Beaufort	SC	07/06/1863	Hilton Head	SC	14	Laborer	3	
27	Grant	Abram	USCT 33rd	Beaufort	SC	10/28/1862	Darien	GA	38	Laborer	3	

Image A: Excel spreadsheet containing soldier information. A sample of 70 names were recorded. Information was gathered from Ancestry.com (Library Edition), and includes first and last name, birthplace, enlistment location, date of enlistment, occupation, age, and any additional notes about the soldier given.

IV. Results and Discussion

Recruitment of colored soldiers for the United States 33rd Colored Troop came primarily from three states. These were Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida. One exception came from an individual named William Noble, who was born in Fredericksburg Virginia. Of the seventy troops, the majority of enlistments came from South Carolina with thirty-four recruits, second was Georgia, with twenty-three, third was Florida, with twelve, and fourth was Virginia, with our friend William, their one recruit representative. Occupations for the seventy troops included Field Hand, Laborer, Driver, Farmer, Cook, Waiter, and Drummer. The majority of troops were recruited as Laborers and Field Hands. All recruits served for three years. Most recruits of the seventy soldiers were recruited during 1862, with the fewest recruited during 1865. The highest concentration of recruitment occurred along the east coast of Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina and the Sea Islands off of South Carolina. Savannah Georgia, Port Royal South Carolina, Beaufort South Carolina, and Hilton Head South Carolina show the highest concentration of recruitment for colored troops for the 33rd. Most troops were under the age of 25.

Many of the soldiers in the 33rd are listed as laborers. In the context of this era, this makes sense as the majority of populations, black and white, served as both skilled and unskilled laborers. A fair portion of recruits also listed their occupations as field hands. Depending on what region of the United States one worked in dictated the title of occupation for physical workers, but the occupation is essentially the same. In essence the titles boil down to the distinction between what the occupation would be called in the country vs. in town.

Many men of the 33rd regiment were potentially what are called hired out laborers. Their owners would rent out their slaves to other properties that were willing to pay for their service when it was not needed on their own property. Practices such as this were most common in Savannah Georgia and Beaufort South Carolina. After the war, newly free colored soldiers who were hired out in such a way prior to the war faced the challenge of getting a fair wage. For instance, many could recall their owners receiving up to \$600.00 per year for their services, but when they went back to the same locations asking for the same wage, they would be refused and often offered a significantly lower amount for their work as a field hand or laborer. This illustrates one of the many difficulties faced by post war African American soldiers.

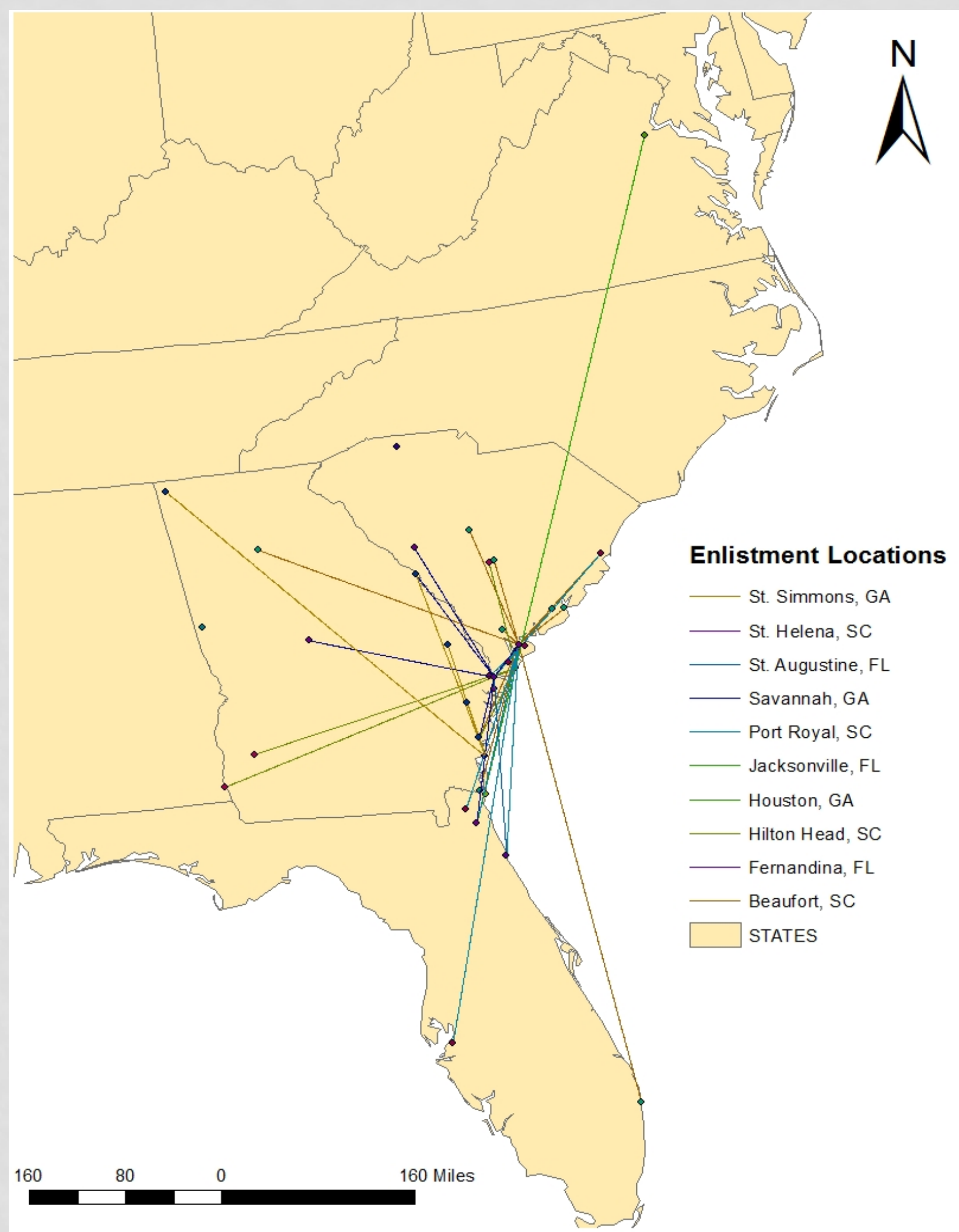


Image B: Flowline map depicting soldier paths from birthplace to enlistment locations. Various colors show differing enlistment locations that recruited soldiers for the USCT 33rd Regiment. Enlistments likely occurred as the 33rd passed through these locations during the Civil War.

V. Conclusions

To the question of how and why these soldiers ended up so far south, the simple answer is that they arrived through the internal slave network present in the southeastern United States during their time. Of particular interest, are those who arrived to the Sea Islands off the coast of South Carolina. While still involved in the slave trade, it is likely they were brought from someplace else either from Africa or in other regions of the U.S. from domestic slave trade. The commander of the 33rd, Thomas Wentworth Higginson states, "I had not allowed for the extreme remoteness and seclusion of their lives, especially among the Sea Islands. Many of them had literally spent their whole existence on some lonely island or remote plantation, where the master never came, and the overseer only once or twice a week" (244). As mentioned before, many men of the 33rd likely arrived in the southeast as hired out labor, where in essence these slaves were leased to other landowners to work on their land.

As shown by the map, the USCT 33rd regiment was dominantly a southern army. The majority of troops were recruited within the southeastern United States. It is likely that these men were recruited as the 33rd passed through areas such as Beaufort, Port Royal, Savannah, etc. for their duties with the Union army. This presents an interesting dynamic for the troop both during and after the war. These soldiers were pitted against their neighbors, friends, and possibly even kin over the struggle between the Union and Confederacy. In the early stages of Union occupation of South Carolina, an intriguing dynamic existed between the soldiers of the 33rd Union regiment and their ex-confederate neighbors. Prior to the war, the existing social dynamic was very one sided in that those who were recruited for the USCT 33rd had little to no authority in the southeastern regions of the United States. Once the war ended, these newly freed African American soldiers came back to live amongst those men they fought against. Union soldiers of the 33rd regiment were in a position of authority for the first time, enforcing reconstruction efforts in regions previously built upon social hierarchies that had them at the bottom.

V.I. Future Research

Future research opportunities may focus on examining other regiments in a similar manner. By visually comparing the enlistment locations of U.S. troops to their birthplaces, historians may better observe enlistment patterns during the Civil War. Additionally, a supplemental analysis of the 33rd or other colored regiments of the Union could be conducted to determine if other colored troops follow similar trends in occupation, age, distance traveled, and other patterns observed in this study.

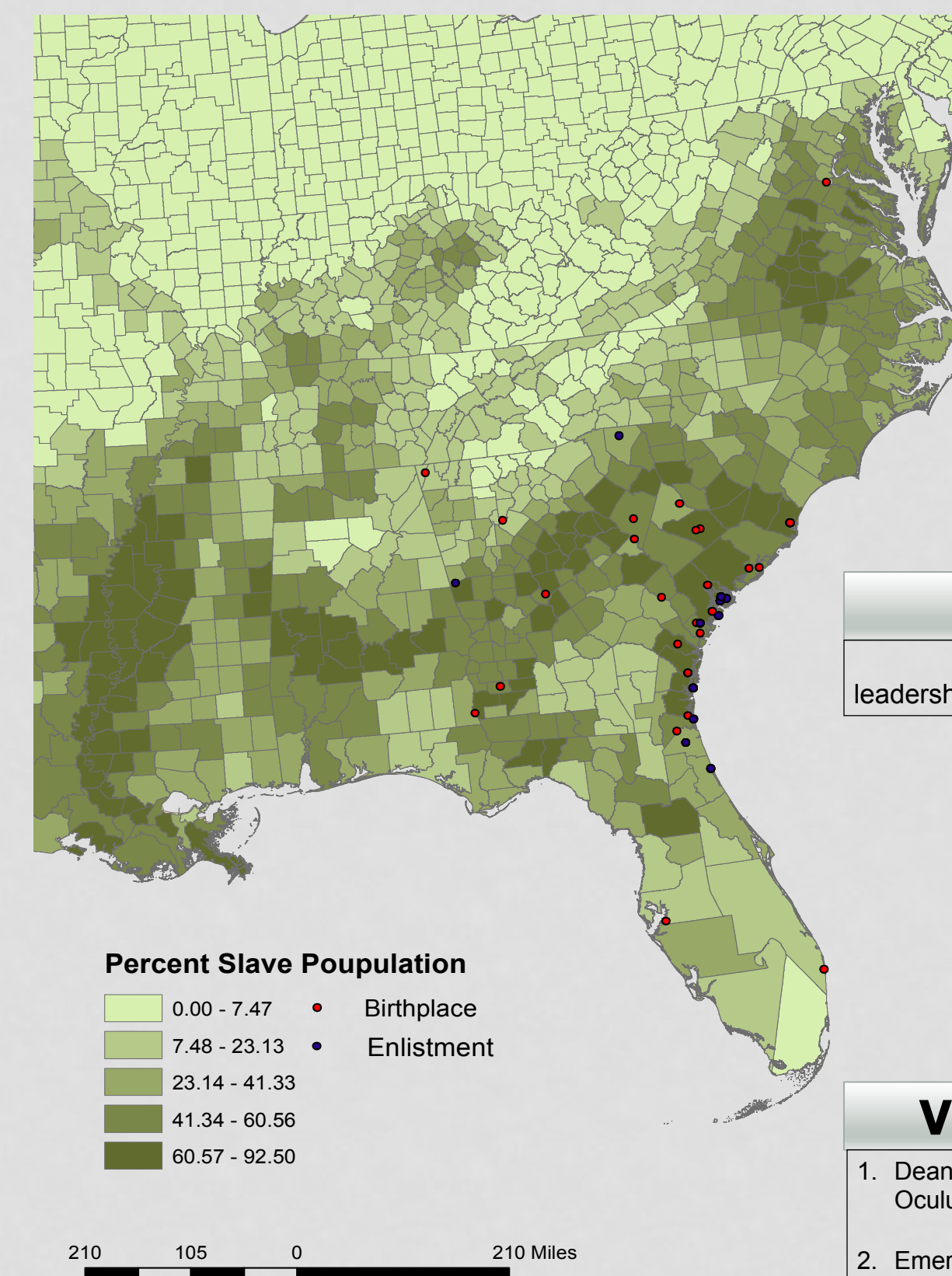


Image D: Chloropleth map showing slave population as a percentage of total population obtained from the 1860 census.

VIII. Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Mike and Dr. Lloyd Benson for their guidance and leadership to make this project become a reality.

VII. References/ Data Sources (GSA)

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