

Use of the Surname Golden/Golding/Gaulden/Gaulding Among African Americans in Liberty County, Georgia

These surname studies are a TheyHadNames.net project designed to provide an overall look at the formerly enslaved men who adopted a particular surname in Liberty County, Georgia, following the Civil War, to try to determine if there was a family relationship among them, and why they might have taken that surname. First a spreadsheet is built that tracks the families using that surname between 1867 and 1940, using census, voter, marriage, probate and other public records. Then the 1870 census names are checked against the "Hargis list," which provides the names of 275 African Americans equated with their former enslavers, and against the antebellum deed, probate, and church records on TheyHadNames.net that document references to African Americans. The hope is that these studies will help descendants find links to their ancestors' antebellum lives.*

Warning: *Even though there are many references to enslaved African Americans in antebellum Liberty County records, these references only occur during some event in their enslavers' lives: marriage, death, gifts from parents/grandparents, use of enslaved people as collateral, etc. In addition, many of the enslaved people's names were very commonly used. For that reason, it is important to document carefully each person's progress through time to make sure that the record makes sense and to maintain an open mind to the possibility of being wrong.*

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African-American Men Who Adopted the Golding/Golden Surname After the Civil War

A spreadsheet was constructed to track African American men* who took the surname Golding or Golden (or other variations) in Liberty County, Georgia, following the Civil War. Analysis of the spreadsheet made it clear that the two names were used interchangeably, with various spellings of each. The same family would have the name Golden in one census and Golding in the next.

Following is a list across the federal censuses of many of the African American men who took one of these surnames in Liberty County and how the name changed. [Family data has been compared to make sure these are the same people across time.] It is not clear whether the spelling variations were what the people actually used or the work of the census enumerator.

1870	1880	1900	1910	1920
Elbert Golden (m. Princess)	Elbert Golding	Albert Golden	Elbert Golden	(deceased)
Jessie Golden (m.)	Jesse Golding	(deceased)		

* Because women normally adopted the surnames of their husband at that time, only men are studied here.

Caroline)				
William Golden (m. Eleanor, then Patsey)	William Golding	William Golding	(deceased)	
William Golden (m. Harriet)	Wm. A. Golding			
Joshua Golden	Joshua Golding (m. Bina)	Joshua Golding	Joshua Golding	Joshua Golden
Joe Golden (m. Emily)	Joseph Golding	Joe Golding	Joe Golding	(deceased)
Jacob Golding (m. Cretia)	Jacob Golden			
Stephen Golding	Stephen Golden	Stephen Golding	Stephen Golden	
Nevins Golding	Nevins Golding	Nevings Golden	(deceased)	
Patrick Golden	not found			
Robert Golding	Robert Golding (m. Venus)	Robert Golding	Robert Golding	
Major Golding (m. Phillis)	Major Golding			
Peter Golding (m. Charlotte)	Peter Golden (m. Sallie but same children)			
Abram Golding (m. Hannah)	apparently deceased			

Identifications of Former Slaveowners

The table below lists the African American men who took the surname Golden or Golding in the 1870 and 1880 censuses along with the possible slaveowner, based on records from TheyHadNames.net. Below the table is analysis of the information.

Abbreviations used in the "Slaveowner" Column:

(H) == the list compiled by Dr. Peggy Hargis of Liberty County formerly enslaved persons and their previous slaveowners from the Southern Claims Commission petitions, 1771-1880. See explanation of the list below the table.

TM-#1-#2 == Thomas Mallard 1861 Estate Appraisal & Division. #1 is the individual's age (if listed). #2 is the lot number the enslaved person was placed in.

Slaveowner	1870	Subdivision	1880	Subdivision-Enumeration District
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See analysis below	Elbert Golden (30) (m. Princess)	176	Elbert Golding	17-068
	Jessie Golden (20) (m. Caroline)	176	Jesse Golding	17-069
Mallard, Thomas (H)	William Golden (40) (m. Eleanor, then Patsey)	181	William Golding	15-066
Mallard, John Boyd (H)	William Golden (57) (m. Harriet)	181	Wm. A. Golding	15-067
(TM-12-8-Joshua) (TM 10-5-Harry, next to Joshua) (TM-50-5-Chloe)	Joshua Golden (19) with mother Chloe (60) & probable brother Harry (15)	181	Joshua Golding (m. Bina)	15-066
(TM-14-2)	Joe Golden (25) (m. Emily)	181	Joseph Golding	15-066
	Jacob Golding (40)(m. Cretia)	181	Jacob Golden	15-067
	Stephen Golding		Stephen Golden	
Way, Edmund B. (1863 inventory)	Nevins Golding (23) (m. Rose)	181	Nevins Golding	(not found in 1880 census but is in 1900 census)
	Patrick Golden (50) m. Clarissa	181	Clarissa	15-067
	Robert Golding (12) (living with Warrick & Hagar Wilson)	181	Robert Golding (m. Venus)	15-066
Mallard, John L. (H) (also TM-70)	Major Golding (75) (m. Phillis)	181	Major Golding	
see note - wife Hannah came from estate of Edmund B. Way	Abram Golding (65) (m. Hannah)	181	Hannah Golding	15-066

	Peter Golding (50)(m. Charlotte)	180	Peter Golden (m. Sallie but same children)	15-067
	James Golding (25) (m. Elizabeth)	180	James Golding	15-066
Mallard, Thomas (H) (also TM-30)	Mack Golden (40) m. Chloe	181		
(TM-16-5) (could be Chloe's son, brother of Joshua & Harry)	Peter Golding (25) m. Ritta	181	Peter Golding	15-066
(TM-55-will)	Stepney (70) (m. Tola)	181		
	Joseph (75) (m. Peggy)	181		
Mallard, Thomas (H) (also TM-42-10)	George Gould (55) (m. Binah)	181		

Analysis of the Slaveowner Information

Dr. Peggy Hargis List

Dr. Peggy Hargis, Georgia Southern University (retired), compiled a list of the enslaved African Americans named in the Southern Claims Commission petitions. These petitions included people, both white and African-American, who made claims against the U.S. government for reimbursement for property stolen from them by Union soldiers during the Civil War. Liberty County had an unusually high number of African-American petitioners. The petitions contain detailed information to document the claim, usually including the name of the petitioner's enslaver.

In the Southern Claims Commission petitions, there were seven African Americans using the surnames Golding or Golden, formerly enslaved, who submitted claims for restitution for items stolen by Union Army soldiers¹. They named their enslavers in the petitions, as follows:

Rose Golden	Samuel Jones Quarterman
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¹ List of Formerly Enslaved People and Their Enslavers, Liberty County, Georgia, compiled from Southern Claims Commission Petitions, approved and disallowed claims, 1871-1880, by Dr. Peggy Hargis, Georgia Southern University (ret.) and put online by Stacy Ashmore Cole at TheyHadNames.net (<https://theyhadnames.net/post-war-surnames/>).

Jacob Golding	Col. Joseph Quarterman
Mack Golding	Thomas Mallard
Major Golding	John L. Mallard
William Golding	Thomas Mallard
William Anthony Golding	John Boyd Mallard
Samuel Gaulden Jr.	Charlton Hines

Hannah Golding (wife of Abram Golding)

Abram Golding's wife Hannah and his children were apparently owned by Edmund B. Way in 1863, as in his estate inventory², the following are listed in order: Hannah (age 49), Amanda (27), Hagar (24), Katy (21), Matilda (14), Mariah (12), Collins (10), Corine (8), John (6), Alice (4), Caroline 2). In the 1870 census³, Abram and Hannah (56) were listed with the following children: (Matilda (17), Marion (17), Collins (16), Corine (15), John B. (14).

Nevins Golding

Nevins is listed also in Edmund B. Way's 1863 inventory, which confirms the Southern Claims Commission records mentioned in the table above.

Mack, Major, William, and William A.

Mack, Major, William, and William A. were all named in the 1861 estate inventory and appraisal for Thomas Mallard⁴, which confirms the Hargis list.

Name	Value	Age	Inherited By:	Description
Mack	\$750.00	30	B.A. Busby	
Major	\$150.00	70	L.J. Mallard	"Old Major"
William	\$700.00	18	Rev. R.Q. Mallard	"Little William"
William A.	\$700.00	40	Miss Louisa Mallard	"Big William"

2 Liberty County Court of Ordinary, Old General Book "C", 1850-1853, p. 505, Estate Appraisement of Edmund B. Way; digital image, Ancestry.com, "Georgia Probate Records, 1743-1990," Liberty County, within "Miscellaneous Probate Records 1850-1853 vol C and L," image #302. Record summarized and put online by Stacy Ashmore Cole at TheyHadNames.net (<https://theyhadnames.net/2019/03/22/liberty-county-estate-inventory-edmund-b-way/>)

3 1870 U.S. Census, Liberty County, Georgia, population schedule, Subdivision 181, p. 44, dwelling #422, family #422, line numbers 32-38 enumerated on November 23, 1870, by W.S. Norman, Abram Golding, digital image, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 9/17/2019).

4 Liberty County Court of Ordinary, Old General Book "C", 1850-1853, p. 433, Estate Appraisement of Thomas Mallard; digital image, Ancestry.com, "Georgia Probate Records, 1743-1990," Liberty County, within "Miscellaneous Probate Records 1850-1853 vol C and L," image #266. Record summarized and put online by Stacy Ashmore Cole at TheyHadNames.net (<https://theyhadnames.net/2018/07/08/liberty-county-estate-inventory-division-thomas-mallard/>)

In the 1870 census, William (age 40) & Eleanor (21) lived next to Chloe (60), Joshua (19, and Harry (15). In Thomas Mallard's 1861 estate inventory referred to above, the following were listed in order:

Name	Age in 1861	Inherited by
Chloe	50	Mrs. R.E. Mallard (wife of Thomas Mallard)
Mack	30	B.A. Busby (married to the daughter of Thomas B. and Rebecca Mallard)
Adam	19	B.A. Busby
William	18	Rev. R.Q. Mallard (son of Thomas Mallard)
Peter	16	Mrs. R.E. Mallard
Joshua	12	Thomas J. Mallard
Harry	10	Mrs. R.E. Mallard

The evidence suggests that Chloe is the mother of the six young men following her name in the table, given that the last two were living with her in 1870, and she was next door to William. Peter Golding, listed as 25 in the 1870 census and married to Ritta (Henrietta), may be her son Peter. Mack Golding was in the 1870 census but passed away before the 1880 census, and his widow Chloe remarried to Abram Houston, who was also from the Thomas Mallard estate.

The only potential son not accounted for in the 1870 census was Adam. He had been inherited from Thomas Mallard by Bartholomew A. Busby in 1861, but was not listed in Busby's own estate inventory in 1863 nor in the 1870 census (at least not with the name Golding or Golden). There is an Adam, valued at \$750 (in the range for a healthy young man), listed in Cyrus Mallard's 1862 estate inventory.

Stepney Golden

Elbert Golden

It appears that many of the African Americans who were using the surname Golding or Golden by the time of the 1870 census had been enslaved by either Thomas Mallard or Edmund B. Way. They all lived in subdivisions 180 or 181 in the 1870 census. Was Elbert Golden related to them? There is an Albert listed in the 1861 Thomas Mallard inventory. There is no age listed for him, but his value was \$125. In the 1870 census, Elbert Golden was listed as 30 years old, and in the 1880 census as 47, so he would have been in the age range 21-26 in 1861. A young enslaved man that age would not normally have been valued as low as \$125. For example, among people who were listed with ages in the Mallard inventory, men in that age range were all valued in the range of \$550-750, so it appears unlikely that this Albert was actually Elbert. In addition, Elbert lived the rest of his life in subdivision 176 (the Willie

community).

The Albert named in the 1861 Thomas Mallard estate appraisalment was left to Miss Louisa Mallard. An Albert also valued at \$125 is named in Mrs. Rebecca E. Mallard's 1862 estate appraisalment and division. (Mrs. Mallard was Thomas Mallard's wife.) Albert was allotted to Louisa Mallard, which may indicate that the division of Mallard's estate had not been finalized by the time his wife died.

There is an "Albert" valued at \$500 in Bartholomew Busby's 1863 estate inventory, and we have seen that Busby was connected to the Mallard family. This is merely speculation, though; Albert was not a common name for enslaved people in Liberty County, but it was also not rare.