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THE GOLD (GOULD) FAMILY

Helen Gold Stone Gardner

William Monroe Gold, usually known as Monroe, from whom the members of the Kentucky branch are descended, was born in Cleveland (formerly part of Rutherford) County, North Carolina, on February 27, 1843. He was the son of William Moore Gold and Catherine Washburn Gold.

He was a grandson of Daniel Gold, who came to Rutherford County, North Carolina, from Mecklinburg County, Virginia, about 1798, and through Richard Gold, who emigrated from England to Virginia in 1651, was descended from John Gold, the Crusader, who lived in Seaborough, Somersetshire, England, in 1220.

At the age of eighteen, William Monroe Gold volunteered in the Confederate Army and served throughout the War. After returning home from the conflict, he left Cleveland County in the autumn of 1865 and moved to Kentucky, settling in Marshall County. He was then twenty-two years of age.

He was one of the first officers of the Bank of Marshall County that was organized on September 26, 1903, with resources of \$16,011.98 and by June 30, 1913, had climbed to \$114,022.97. He was the original Vice-President and one of the first Directors.

The word "gold," from which the family derives its name, is from Anglo Saxon and Old English meaning a "precious metal." The word appears in no other language. Its use as a family name by others than English descent is an adoption and this sketch does not relate to them.

The earliest record of the word "Gold" used for family designation is found in the *Libre de Wintonia*, more commonly known as the *Domesday Book*. This was published in 1085 by order of William the Conqueror as a census of the Saxon freeholders living in England at the time of the Norman conquest in 1066.

In this record "Gold" is listed as the "Key Name" of the family of Anglo Saxon freeholders living in England in 1066 and before. Following the name "Gold" are the other forms of spelling used by the families: "Golde," "Goll," "Gol," and "Guld." Other forms of spelling than "Gold" and "Gould" have disappeared but the fact that "Gould" is not in the *Domesday Book* appears to be conclusive proof that "Gold" was the original family name.

Following the *Domesday Book*, fragmentary records are found of the family in various parts of England. In Yorkshire in the North, Willemus Gold and Richardus Golde were found, as was the name Adam le Gold. In Northumberland lived John Gould and his wife Grace, who came to America in the "Defence" in 1635 and settled in New England. Another branch appears in North Ireland, having emigrated from South England following the Duke of Monmouth's Rebellion. From this area Thomas Gold is recorded as having emigrated in 1750 to Delaware. He later moved to Virginia and from him were descended the Golds of the Upper Shenandoah Valley.

There are two main branches of the family from which the largest number of American families are descended. One of these branches was in Somersetshire in the South of England, the other in Hertfordshire in Central England, north of London. In the records, the spellings Gold, Gould, and Goold are found continuously used in the same family in line of descent.

Of the two branches, Somersetshire records show the earliest beginning of a direct line which was established by John Gold in 1220. From this branch the Gold families of Virginia, North Carolina, and the south and west are descended. A direct line of the Hertfordshire branch was not established until late in the fifteenth century though scattered records are found as early as 1235. From this branch many of the New England families of Golds and Goulds are descended.

The Somerset branch of the Gold (Gould) family appears to have been generally loyal to the Crown, although in the Duke of Monmouth's Rebellion they were divided, and several of the family were sentenced to penal servitude in the West Indian plantations in 1685. In 1649, in the downfall of Charles I, many of his followers in South England, known as Cavaliers, emigrated to America.

The ancestral Coat of Arms of the Gold family is the design authorized and granted to the South England branch from which the thirteen branches in America are descended. It is described as follows:

Gold on a chevron between three roses, azure or blue. As many pineapples of gold. Crest, an Eagle's head erased, azure or blue. In the beak a pineapple, gold.

The absence of a motto is a sign of early authorization.

It was during the reign of Henry III that John Gold, returning from a Crusade in 1220, was granted an estate in Seaborough, Somersetshire. From John Gold, the Crusader, a direct line of descent has been traced to the thirteen branches in America.

Much of this information was taken from Pleasant Daniel Gold's *Gold Generations in England and America*, published in 1946, where we find:

Though centuries mark the lapse of time,
And links of lives be lengthened,
Ancestral pride shall never die.
But family ties be strengthened.