**VALENTINE HARDIN AND MARGARET CASTLEBERRY**

A good deal of information is found about **Valentine Hardin** and **Margaret Castleberry** in the book *Historic Georgia Families* by J.W. Rigsby (Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969). Not all information on the Hardin family branches in this volume is totally provable or reliable. However, it provides enough to begin a few steps ahead in one’s own search. There are two histories of Valentine and Margaret in that book. One states that Valentine, by tradition, was born in 1770. It would appear from accounts of family members who lived in the early 1900’s that Valentine was the son of John Hardin and that he had brothers Adam, John, Nicholas, Mark and William Hardin as well as a sister Eve Hardin (who married a Clay) and possibly a sister Lois (who married Turnel or Tunnel Haden/Hayden). Records in Washington County, GA conclusively establish that Adam Hardin and Valentine were brothers: there is a July 30, 1794 conveyance from David Castleberry to Hugh Bell for 145 acres on Sandhill Creek in Washington County in which reference is made to an agreement between Adam Hardin and his brother Valentine. [Note that David Castelberry was either a brother or a cousin to Margaret Castleberry Hardin.] Both accounts in Rigsby’s book agree that Valentine and Margaret married about 1790 and that they lived in Washington County, Georgia. The name “Vall. Harden” is found on a list of tax defaulters for Washington County, GA in Capt. Irwin’s District for 1791. One account states that Valentine had the first shingled house in that county. How anyone would know or remember this is not at all known. It appears that Valentine died in late 1799/early 1800, as his wife, Margaret, applied to administer his estate on February 24, 1800.

Per the 1850 census record for Margaret, she was born in 1767 in Georgia. This place of birth is most probably mistaken as her father David died in North Carolina prior to the family’s move to Georgia. After Valentine died, his widow Margaret was remarried to William Warren. I have not determined if they married in Washington County or Jackson County, Georgia. Margaret and her children had moved to Jackson County, GA by the year 1808. In that year, her daughter Martha (“Patsy”) was married in Jackson County to John Barton. There is a listing in the 1810 Tax Digest of Jackson County for the heirs of Val. Harden. William Warren (Margaret’s second husband) appears in the tax records for Jackson County, GA as guardian of the heirs of Valentine Hardin.

Margaret and her second husband William Warren, her son and daughters all moved to Henry County, GA in the 1820’s. A deed on record in Henry County suggests that they moved after 1823: the deed is dated November 12, 1823 from William Hardin (Margaret’s son) of Henry County to William Warren of Jackson County for Lot 241 in the 7th District of Henry (a lot that ultimately was owned by John Barton, Margaret’s son-in-law). Margaret and William relocated to Carroll County, GA in the 1830’s. By 1840, William had died. Margaret is listed twice in the 1850 census of Carroll County (as “Peggy” Warren): one listing has her living alone, aged 83, born in GA; the other has her in the household of Thomas Warren (her son by William Warren). Her date of death is recited to be 1850 in Rigsby’s Historic Georgia Families, which if true would mean she died between September 7, 1850, the date of her listing in the 1850 census for Carroll County, and December 31, 1850.

Detailed information about Margaret and her children can be found in the research data located after biography number 8 regarding John Barton.

Known **children** of Valentine Hardin and Margaret Castleberry:

**Martha (“Patsy”) Hardin** (Direct ancestor – married John Barton; see biography number \_)

**Sarah (“Sallie”) Hardin**

Notes on Sarah: She married William Dowdy in Jackson County, GA on January 22, 1811. William was listed in the 1817 tax list for Jackson County, GA. Sallie was a drawer in the 1827 Georgia land lottery which indicates that she was a widow by that year. The 1830 census of Henry County, GA lists the household of Sally Dowdy – in the household are three males and one other female, all of ages suggesting that they were her children, and thus that her husband had died. She is listed in the 1831 tax digest of Henry County, GA as owning 50 acres, being lot 240, District 7, near the Tusahaw Creek.[[1]](#footnote-1) Some sources recite that Sallie was married again, the second time to a Thomas W. Stephenson, but I have located no primary source proof for this. Sally and William supposedly had a son James Dowdy, born in 1815, who married in Floyd County, GA – this is most likely the James Dowdy listed in the 1840 Floyd County census next door to J. Barton.

**Rhoda Hardin**

Notes on Rhoda: She was born between July and December, 1795, per 1850 and 1860 censuses of Paulding Co., GA; and she married Carter Crew in 1825 in Henry County, GA. They had two daughters, Margaret (B. ca. 1833) and Martha (b. ca. 1837), and a son William Harvey (there was a William. H. Crew, aged 21, and family living in Paulding County in the 1850 census and a W. H. Crew and family, aged 30, living next to Carter and Rhoda in the 1860 census), and maybe more children. Carter Crew is listed in the 1831 Henry County, GA tax digest as owning 303-1/2 acres near Tusahaw Creek, the same neighborhood or area as where Sallie Hardin Dowdy owned property (see Sallie’s biography above). In the 1840 census, Carter and Rhoda were living in Carroll County, GA. “Sister Rody Crew” is listed as a member of the Tallapoosa Baptist Church in Carrollton, Carroll County, GA from April of 1838 through December of 1845. Rhoda and Carter were living in neighboring Paulding County in 1850. It appears that she died after the 1860 census, but prior to the 1870 census of Paulding County - Carter Crew is listed in the 1870 census with what seems to be a new (and younger) wife, Permelia.

**William Henry Hardin** – SEE EXCURSIS BELOW.

**EXCURSIS ON WILLIAM HENRY HARDIN AND HIS DESCENDANTS**

**William Henry Hardin** was the only son of Valentine and Margaret Castleberry Hardin (and was thus an uncle of Septimus Barton). He became quite a prominent citizen of his time, and the course of the lives of his siblings and other members of his family seemed to coalesce around and stem from his own activities and successes. For this reason, a detailed biography is provided:

William Henry Hardin was born on January 29, 1798 in Washington County, Georgia. His father Valentine supposedly died in 1800, and sometime soon thereafter his mother and silblings (William Henry, Martha/Patsy, Rhoda and Sallie/Sarah) moved to Jackson County, GA. His mother was remarried to William Warren; and Mr. Warren appears on early tax records of Jackson County as guardian for the orphans of Valentine Hardin. Some of Williams’ biographies state that he served for a short time in the War of 1812; however, given his birth year of 1798, this sounds dubious. However, those same sources indicate that in the War of 1812, he formed alliances with Cherokee Indians who were fighting on the side of the Americans. This, if true, would be an important factor in explaining how he became involved in negotiating treaties with the Cherokees in northwest Georgia later in his life.

In 1821, he married Nancy Cloud in Putnam County, GA. She was the daughter of Ezekial Cloud, a revolutionary soldier. Nancy is said to have been a pupil of William H. Seward (later Secretary of State - think “Seward’s Folly”) in his early years when he was a teacher in that county.

Around 1821, William moved to McDonough, Henry County, Georgia where he had secured a position as the first clerk of court for that county (see *Historical Collections of Georgia* by Rev. George White). He was one of the earliest settlers of that city and county. His name is on an historic marker on the courthouse square in McDonough as the first clerk of court for Henry County (see photo that follows).



McDonough was incorporated by an Act of the legislature approved December 17, 1823 in which William was named as one of the commissioners for that town. He was a Trustee of The Henry Academy in Henry County per a notice in the *Macon Messenger* on 12/19/1826. It is said that he built the first house in McDonough and that it was located on the courthouse square in that city. In a History of McDonough by Scip Speer in 1921, written as part of the 100th anniversary celebration for Henry County, is found the following: “As far aback as 1825 the residences [in McDonough] were rudely furnished with home-made furniture. For a long time, William Hardin owned the only furniture of any consequence in the town. The set was purchased in Charleston, SC for $1000 and hauled by wagon from there to this place.”

**An on-line source provides a bill of sale for a slave (note that it is witnessed by John Barton, thought to be brother-in-law of William H. Hardin, and that the seller of the slave was Ezekiel Cloud, father-in-law of William H. Hardin): Goodsen ..age.. 16 ..slave #.. 0114 Co. Henry ..Date of Record.. 07-01-1823 ...Seller... Ezekiel Cloud ..Co. of Seller.. X ..Buyer: William Hardin ..Co. of Buyer.. X ..Price of Slave(s).. 600 ..Witness(es).. John Barton & (James Silley) ..Document: Bill of Sale Form: Original ..Identification: File: Slave Bills of Sale, 1823-1852 Folder 10 ..Institution: GDA ..Collection: William Hardin . A copy of this bill of sale follows this excursis.**

William’s siblings and his mother and their spouses all relocated to Henry County at about the same time as William. In addition, William’s in-laws, Ezekiel Cloud and his wife Elizabeth, located there. William’s sister Rhoda married Carter Crew in Henry County. Another of William’s relatives who seems to have followed him to Henry County was Atkinson Tabor Hardin, William’s first cousin who was son of Adam Hardin (Adam having been the brother of Valentine Hardin, William’s father). Atkinson Tabor Hardin is also found in the public records of Henry County as clerk of court, and perhaps succeeded or assisted his first cousin William Henry in this position.[[2]](#footnote-2) Atkinson later held public positions in Floyd County, GA. All of these members of William’s family are found in the 1830 Henry County census except for John and Martha/Patsy Barton.[[3]](#footnote-3)

One of William’s enterprises while in Henry County was the operation of a tavern and boarding house called Macdonough Hall. A newspaper ad datelined from Macdonough, Henry County, January 24, 1827 and headlined “Macdonough Hall,” reads as follows: “This large and commodious HOUSE, formerly in the occupancy of Thomas C. Russell, Esq. as a TAVERN, is now in the possession of the Subscribers who are making several Improvements, as to convenience and neatness, which will render it every way desirable both for TRAVELLERS and BOARDERS. The Business will be under the entire direction of Mr. Hendley Varner, from whom every attention may be relied upon to make comfortable those who patronize the above Establishment. Families will be accom-modated with separate rooms if necessary. Rates as common. Signed Hendley Varner and William Hardin.”

In connection with his move from Henry County, William obviously disposed of Macdonough Hall, as evidenced by this notice from the *Federal Union* newspaper which reads: “MACDONOUGH HALL… The subscriber begs leave to inform his friends and the public generally that he has taken that large and commodious House formerly occupied as a TAVERN by William Hardin, and hopes from his long experience in business, to be able to give the most decided satisfaction to all who may favor him with their patronage. His Bar will be supplied with the best of Liquors – and his table furnished with everything the country affords. His stable will be supplied with the best of provender and attended by an experienced and attentive Osler. Signed Francis A. Huson”

The Henry County GA tax digest for 1831 lists William Heardin (sic) as owning 13 slaves and 1950 acres of property, much of the acreage located in Randolph County, GA[[4]](#footnote-4) and other acreage located in Muscogee, Coweta, Carroll, Pike and Henry Counties, plus town lots located in the town of McDonough worth $3,000.

In 1831, William received a commission from Lewis Cass, US Secretary of War, to go to New Echota in Murray County, GA to persuade the Cherokee Indians to relinquish their lands throughout northern Georgia in exchange for other lands. A notice in the Georgia Journal edition of March 7, 1833 posted by William states that he had relocated to New Echota by that date. In 1833, he was appointed as an enrolling agent in which capacity he would sign notices such as the following which can be found in the executive minutes of the State of Georgia: “To his Excellency Wilson Lumpkin [governor of Georgia]: I certify that William Hicks, a Cherokee occupant of Lot No. 182 (now in Floyd County) in the 15th District and Third Section of the Cherokee Territory has enrolled for Arkansas and agreeable to the late enrollment, he is bound to give possession after the early part of the winter ensuing. I, however, anticipate no difficulty in the Grants issuing instanter. Given under my hand this 17th day of October 1833. Wm. Hardin, one of the Enrolling Agents for Emigration.” (This quote is as set forth in *The History of Bartow County, Formerly Cass* by Lucy Jospehine Cunyus, Tribune Publishing Company, no date or city of publication provided in the book.)

He was also, on January 3, 1833, appointed colonel of the 7th Division Georgia Militia by Governor Lumpkin. While in New Echota negotiating with the Cherokees, he lived in a house formerly occupied by Moravian missionaries.

One of the stories that appears in various histories of William Henry Hardin is that Governor Lumpkin wanted to name a county in honor of William because of his work in negotiating early treaties with the Cherokee. The story goes that Hardin asked that it be named for Secretary of War Cass instead, and thus was Cass County named/formed instead of Hardin County. Cass County was later renamed Bartow County.

From “Early Indian Wars with Henry County Connections” found on-line at [www.crghenry.org/creek\_indian\_sites/early\_indian\_wars/early\_indian\_wars/html](http://www.crghenry.org/creek_indian_sites/early_indian_wars/early_indian_wars/html):

“Henry County was originally Creek land and there had never been any hostile conflicts with the Creeks and the settlers here in Henry.  But our county does have a connection to the Cherokee Nation.

“William C. [sic] Hardin was the son-in-law of Ezekiel Cloud.  Mr. Hardin was born in 1798 and died in 1850 [sic – he died in 1854].  He had friends in the Cherokee Nation that he had made in the War of 1812.  Mr. Hardin was the first Clerk of the Superior Court of Henry County and he was also a diplomat for the United States Government in dealing with the Cherokee between 1823 to 1838. He personally knew Chief John Rogers.  These Rogers were ancestors to comedian Will Rogers.  Mr. Hardin brought some of the Cherokee children to Henry County to be educated in McDonough.  He also knew the editor of the Cherokee paper.

“William Hardin received a commission of Colonel as the enrolling Agent for the United States Government in 1831.  This was granted by Lewis Cass the Secretary of War under President Jackson.  To take this position Mr. Hardin resigned his Clerk of the Court job with Henry County.  He moved from McDonough to New Echota which was the Capitol of the Cherokee Nation.  Mr. Hardin helped to create the Treaty of Echota in 1835. In May 1838, the United States Army gathered the 14,000 Cherokee's and their 1300 slaves into camps. Then they marched to the west to Oklahoma in what was known as the ‘Trail of Tears.’”

In the 1830’s, William H. appears frequently in the real estate and other public records of Floyd, Bartow and Cass Counties – all counties formed from the Cherokee lands.

An interesting notice appears in the Federal Union edition of May 28, 1834, providing a very detailed discussion of a meeting, and resolutions passed at such meeting, with regard to the formation of the Union Party in Cass County, Georgia. The Union Party seems to have been formed as a counterforce to the Nullification Party in South Carolina and the States’ Rights Party in Georgia, and was founded in a belief in the importance of both the federal and state governments. William Hardin was elected as first president of this Union Party and his (soon-to-be) son-in-law Dr. Swan P. Burnett was elected secretary.

William’s associations with the Cherokee Indians also brought him public rebuke at times as is evidenced by this letter from him published in the February 12, 1836 edition of the *Federal Union*, a newspaper published at that time in Milledgeville, GA:

“To the Public. – In the Recorder [another newspaper] of the 26th ult. I see in the editorial an article in relation to the late Creek Indian depredations, which self-respect demands of me to notice, believing that I am the individual alluded to. It is this – ‘In addition we learn, in violation of the late law of the Legislature, Col. Wm. Hardin invited the Indians, among whom was a chief, over the river, to help him pick out his cotton, against which his neighbors seriously remonstrated without effect. Upon which they collected together to drive them off, when a recontre ensued, in which it is said the chief and another Indian were killed.

“Nothing could be more destitute of truth.—That I ever invited an Indian over the river to help me pick out cotton, is wholly false; and I hesitate not in saying, that I can obtain the certificate of every citizen within five miles of my farm to sustain me in the statement. I do not reside within two hundred miles of the farm, but I know it has been the practice for both residents and overseers residing on either side of the river to employ Indians to pick out cotton; and that this has been done on my plantation, is admitted. But that it has ever been done in violation of the law, is wholly unknown to me. If the law of the last legislature, forbidding the Indians to cross the Chattachoochee, is alluded to, the editor will find, by reference to that law, that it did not go into operation until the first day of February instant. Some weeks past, there was an Indian shot and wounded, and afterwards died from the wound, at the road leading round my plantation, who had picked out cotton there and at other places on the river. This was done by the spies while in search of depredating Indians. They had taken him prisoner, and were going to turn him over the river. While the spies were conveying him for this purpose, they say he struck one of them, and then attempted to escape, which led to the shooting of him. I repeat, if there has been any violation of law upon my plantation, it is wholly unknown to me.

“I will also add, that that part of the same editorial which states that the public arms destined for Early and the adjoining counties were taken by Indians, is equally false.

“I hope the editors of that paper will do me the justice to publish this statement, and correct the error they have fallen into by unfounded reports.

Columbus, GA February 2, 1836 signed: William Hardin”

In 1835 William was elected as a senator to the state legislature from Cass County. He is listed as a justice of the inferior court of Bartow County in 1835-1837 and 1849 -1854. He appears in the 1840 census of Floyd County. In *The Macon Messenger* of 2/10/1842, William Hardin also listed as postmaster at Hardin’s Mills in Floyd Co., GA. In the 1850 census of Bartow Co., GA, William is listed at 52 years of age with his wife, Nancy, and four children, with William owning real estate valued at $21,000.

A biography of William Hardin found in *The History of Bartow County*, cited above, also states that William brought the first mahogany furniture into northern Georgia. The story goes that the furniture was ordered by Governor George Gilmore, and was made in England, for use in the governor’s mansion. By the time the furniture reached Charleston from England, Gov. Gilmore was out of office. Hardin, on his way to deliver his cotton to Charleston, found out about the furniture and somehow acquired it. The furniture later became the property of Hardin’s daughter Josephine Hardin Beck. It is also said that John Howard Payne, author of “Home Sweet Home” was a visitor at William’s home for several days after his release in 1835 from arrest by Georgia state troops.

Further from the biography of William Hardin in *The* *History of Bartow County* is the following: “Col. Hardin was president, 1837-1845, of the Western Bank of Georgia in Rome. He had plantations in Randolph County, but in 1837 sold it to his son-in-law, Dr. Burdett [sic - should be Burnett, as his son-in-law was Dr. Swan P. Burnett], and the Armuchee mill plantation in Floyd County. After a short residence in Rome he settled in Cass in 1847 in the 17th district, near what is yet known as Hardin’s ferry and bridge on the Etowah River.” A notice in the *Federal Union* of May 26, 1840, published in Milledgeville, lists William as a shareholder of the Western Bank of Georgia, owning 295 shares valued at $10,325.

On January 10, 1854, an Act to Incorporate the Cassville Female College, Cassville, Georgia named William Hardin as an original Trustee of that school.

William’s will was executed on May 10, 1854. He died on August 7, 1854. His will is recorded at Book A, pp. 110 – 113 in Bartow County, GA. In the will are named his children John F., Josephine Hortense, Isabella, Ada Ann Frances, Elizabeth Amanda Spullock, Mary Johnson (dec’d) and a grandson William Burnett, son of Swan P. Burnett, with Marcus A. Hardin [Marcus being a son] and James Milner named as Executors.

From *The Standard*, a newspaper in Cassville, Georgia, edition of January 8, 1857 is found this notice of an estate sale for William's estate:

“Valuable Plantation in Cass Co.  
FOR SALE!

The undersigned, Executors of the last will and testament of Col. William Hardin, deceased, offer for sale in accordance with the provisions of said will, that VALUABLE PLANTATION ON the Etowah River, In Cass county, on which the deceased lived at the time of his death, consisting of about Eight Hundred Acres. This is one of the most desirable and one of the very best farms in this county.  There are some Four Hundred Acres or more of cleared land, and in a high state of cultivation, with a good dwelling, out-houses, gin-house and barn, all of which are in good repair, most of them new.  
This is the best farm in Cass County, And can be purchased at a reasonable price.  
Terms can be made easy.

James Milner,  
M. A. Hardin  
Ex’rs.”

And another estate sale notice from *The Standard* reads as follows:

“May 21, 1857  
Executor’s Sale.

Will be sold before the court house door in Cassville, Cass county, by virtue of an order from the Ordinary of Cass County, on the 1st Tuesday in July next, within the usual hours of sale, the following property, to-wit:

Frank, a man about 45 years old; Tom, about 35 years old; Comfort, about 40 years old; Eliza, and her child, about 3 years old; Dilsey, about 35 years old.  All sold as the property of Wm. Hardin, deceased.

M. A. Hardin, Ex’r”

By the 1830’s, it appears that William’s influence had affected the lives of several of his relations:

1. William H. Barton (nephew of William Henry; son of John and Martha Barton; brother of Septimus) moved to newly formed Randolph County, GA ca 1830 where he served as the first clerk of the inferior court for that county. One is led to speculate whether his uncle William had any influence in securing this position for his nephew, particularly in view of the fact that WH Barton was only 21-22 years of age when he assumed this position. Further, William H. Barton’s brothers John and Andrew J. also relocated to Randolph County in the 1830’s and his brother Septimus followed suit between 1840 –1850. Additionally, Hudson Hardin (brother of Atkinson Tabor Hardin and first cousin to William Henry Hardin and a cousin to the Barton brothers) also moved to Randolph County, GA where he lived next door to William H. Barton in the 1830 census and was in the 1840 census. (Hudson and his family later moved to Coffee County, Alabama.)
2. William Henry’s first cousin Atkinson Tabor, in addition to being in Henry County with William Henry, also relocated from Henry County to the Cass, Bartow, Floyd County area where William Henry ultimately settled. Atkinson served as postmaster in one of those counties.
3. John Barton and his wife Martha Barton (William’s brother-in-law and sister, and parents of Septimus) are thought to have moved to Floyd County, GA prior to 1840, based on a J. Barton who appears in the 1840 census for that County. Next door to the J. Barton family in that census is the family of James C. Dowdy, who is thought to be the son of Sally Dowdy (sister of Martha Hardin Barton). Several houses away is found the A. T. (Atkinson Tabor) Hardin family. John and Martha and family had also been in Henry County at the time William Henry lived there. There is a James C. Dowdy who married Rachel Miller in Floyd County, GA on August 6, 1837. There is also a James C. Dowdy who is mentioned as a private in Col. William Bishop’s Company, Murray County on 9/13/1835 – in Whites Among the Cherokees. James C. and family later lived in Gordon County, GA and in Whitfield County, GA.

William Henry Hardin had nine children. Two of them will be highlighted here:

**Martha Hardin**, daughter of William Henry Hardin and first cousin to Septimus Barton, was born December 3, 1821 (most probably in Henry County, GA) and married Dr. Swan P. Burnett in Cassville, GA. Note that Dr. Burnett had been a public official in Cass County and thus was no doubt friendly with Martha’s father. He was about 20 years older than Martha. They moved to Randolph County, GA and lived on a plantation supposedly owned originally by William Henry Hardin and sold to Dr. Burnett. This was the site of the old Burnett place that was visited by me, Mother and Daddy in the 1970’s, a very beautiful old home. The home has since been moved near Albany, GA and totally restored. Martha Hardin Burnett died in 1841. It is not known for sure whether she died in childbirth or from other causes, but she thus died in her 20th year. Septimus and Martha Hardin Burnett would have been first cousins. Per a notice in the *Columbus Daily Enquirer* edition of February 14, 1880, Dr. S. P. Burnett died in Quitman County on February 10, 1880.

**Marcus (Mark) Anthony Hardin**, son of William Henry Hardin and first cousin to Septimus Barton, was, like his father, quite a prominent man of his times. The following biography of Mark, in relevant part, is found in this on-line from Representative Georgians. Biographical sketches of men now in public life by H. W. Ham:

:

“…The subject of this sketch was born in McDonough, Henry County, September 21, 1830. His education began in the county schools, after which he attended for four years the Couaseen High School. In 1848 he was appointed to West Point, but after eighteen months in that institution he resigned and returned home. In 1851, he was married to Miss Emma Sullivan, of Greenville, SC. …

Mr. Hardin was elected to the General Assembly [of Georgia] and served during the sessions of 1859-60. In 1862 he entered the Confederate army as a Captain in the famous Morgan’s cavalry. He was captured in 1863 and sent to Fort LaFayette, and subsequently transferred to Fort Warren, where he remained until the close of the war, being the first prisoner discharged from that institution after the cessation of hostilities.

“For several years after the war Mr. Hardin devoted himself to agricultural pursuits. In 1868 he was the Davis-Hall caucus nominee for Clerk of the House of Representatives [Georgia], and was elected, but was turned out in 1870, under the reorganization had under the reconstruction acts. In 1877 he was Assistant Secretary of the Constitutional Convention [State of Georgia], and in 1878-9 was Assistant Clerk of the House of Representatives. In 1880 he was elected Clerk of that body, and has held the position continuously since that time. Few men in the State have as wide a personal acquaintance (sic), and none have more friends.”

In A Standard History of Georgia and Georgians by Lucian Lamar Knight (1917, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago/New York), is found the following notation regarding Marcus (in connection with a discussion of the Georgia Legislative session that convened on July 4, 1868): “Mark A. Hardin, a democrat, was elected clerk [of the Georgia House of Representatives], an office which he afterwards held continuously for more than sixteen years; and there was not a legislative gathering nor a political assemblage of any importance at the state capital during this long interval in which the stentorian voice of Mark Hardin was not heard. He became a familiar figure in state politics, almost an essential part of its mechanism.”

The card catalogue (on-line version) for the GA Department of Archives lists Mark as having served in the House of Representatives from Cass County from 1859-1860 and as clerk of the House of Representatives from 1868 – 1869, clerk pro tempore in 1870 and clerk again from 1880 – 1897. (Obviously, there are discrepancies amongst these sources as to how many years he served as clerk.)

Mark A. Hardin died on May 9, 1914. His obituary, found in the Monday, May 11, 1914 edition of *The Augusta Chronicle*, reads as follows:

“**COLONEL HARDIN DIES IN ATLANTA** –

FOR MANY YEARS IDENTIFIED WITH GEORGIA

POLITICS IN THE PAST. WAS 84 YEARS OLD.

The Warwick of Georgia politics in the days long past fell yesterday at the ripe age of 84 years.

Colonel Mark Hardin, for half a century actively identified with Georgia politics, until his retirement several years ago, died Saturday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John H. Mecaslin, on Baltimore Place, following a long illness.

When news of his passing reached the capitol, many officials there who knew, and some of whom had been closely identified with Colonel Hardin in years past, expressed sorrow. He served as a clerk in the state senate in his earlier days and was for eighteen years, nine consecutive terms, 1880 – 1898, clerk of the house of representatives.

He resigned that position to run for secretary of state, and was defeated by Phil Cook, now secretary of state. Colonel Hardin was succeeded as clerk of the house by Colonel John T. Roifeuillet, who still is holding that position, and probably will so long as he desires.

Colonel Hardin was born in Henry County in 1830; but his father, William Henry Hardin, was named Indian commissioner to enroll the Cherokees and moved to north Georgia to do this work. That section was inhabited then solely by the Indians, and the Hardin family moved into the old Moravian mission house. Later the family resided near Rome, GA. Colonel William Hardin founded the first bank north of the Chattahoochee. Finally he moved to Cass, now Bartow County. Mark Hardin was elected to represent Cass County in the legislature, serving both before and after the war.

Colonel Hardin was secretary of the constitutional convention of 1877, and one of the secretaries of the national convention of 1880. He was calling the roll when Hancock\* was nominated. He served as a captain of cavalry in a Kentucky organization, was captured the latter part of 1862 and served two years at Fort Walker. He is survived by five children.”

\*Note: Hancock referred to was General Winfield Scott Hancock, the Democratic nominee for president in 1880, who was defeated in the general election by Garfield.

INFO ON CHILDREN OF JOHN AND SARAH HARDIN OTHER THAN VALENTINE:

**Adam Hardin**

Notes on Adam: Born ca. 1750-1760 per his age range of 60-69 y/o in the 1830 census of Putnam County, GA. Some sources name Sarah Tabor as his wife but no proof has been discovered. He received a 200 acres headright grant in Washington County, GA in 1785, a grant of 290 acres in Washington County on Sandhill Creek in 1788 and a grant of 200 acres in Wilkes County on Rocky Comfort Creek in the same year. Adam and his brother Nicholas were both living in Washington County, GA at the time of the 1805 land lottery. By 1817, Adam was in Putnam County where a tax listing shows him to have owned 504 acres in Putnam County. In an 1824 tax listing for Putnam County residents, Adam is listed as owning 490 acres in Irwin County and 202 ½ acres in Houston County, GA. Adam died in Putnam County, GA. His children (named in his will) were Atkinson Tabor (married Rebecca Cloud), John (married Elizabeth Spivey), Adam Jr. (married first to Priscilla Adams and second to Ann Elizabeth Flemming), Hudson, Mary (married to Abraham Roberts), Linney Stevenson (married Moore Stevenson), Sarah (married Moses Spivey, he died prior to 1828 year of his brother Henry’s will), William (married Sally Brewer, some say he was killed by Indians in Florida) and Sandlin (married Polly Stevenson). Adam’s son Hudson Hardin lived for a while in Randolph County, GA, with his home being close to that of his Barton cousins located in that County. A Hudson Harden (born in 1808), and wife Catherine E. A. Hardin, and family, lived in Heard County, GA in the 1850 census and in Coffee County, AL in the 1860 census; and this would seem to be Adam’s son Hudson. Atkinson Tabor Hardin lived in Henry County and Floyd County, GA, in both cases with his residence being close to that of his Barton and other Hardin cousins who lived in those counties. Atkinson Tabor also served in several public offices in Floyd County. Adam’s Will was dated 11/19/1836 and is recorded in Will Book A, page 109, Putnam County, GA. His wife is not mentioned so it is assumed she was deceased as of the date of his will. The Will contains leaves all his property to his son Atkinson T. with confirmations of gifts made to all of this other children during his lifetime. Witnesses to his will were Robert Roby, James Robert, and P. E. Ward, Jr.

**Nicholas Hardin**

Notes on Nicholas: He was born prior to 1767 based on his receipt of a 200 acre headright grant in Washington County, GA in 1785 (assuming he would have been at least 18 years old to qualify for the headright). In 1806, a Nicholas Hardin acquired Lot 363 in the 3rd land district of Wilkinson County, a lot which seems to straddle the Oconee River which is part of the border between Washington and Wilkinson County, per an index to Wilkinson County property tax records at georgiagenealogy.com. From the *Georgia Journal* of April 13, 1814: “Elizabeth Hardin and William Smith has [sic] applied for letters of admr' on the estate of Nicholas Hardin [applied as of March 8, 1814]...signed John Irwin, Clerk, Washington County.” From Genealogical Abstracts from *Georgia Journal* (Milledgeville) by Fred Hartz, Vol. 1, p. 281. From the *Journal* edition of June 1, 1814: William Smith and Elizabeth Harden, adm’ors advertise a sale to be held at the residence of Nicholas Harden, Deceased, in Washington County, on Sand-Hill Creek, on the 4th of August next, all personal property of the deceased. Nicholas’s chidren are said to have been James Monroe (married Polly Reeves), John (served as clerk of the Ohoopee Baptist Church in Washington Co., GA and later moved to AL), Thomas, William (died a bachelor), Nicholas (died a bachelor), Adam, Mary (Polly; married William Monroe Clay), Elizabeth (Betsy; married a Glenn), and Sally (married Richard Smith).

**Valentine Hardin** (direct ancestor, see number \_\_)

**Mark Hardin**

Notes on Mark**:** No further information – it is a largely unproven tradition that there was a son named Mark.

**John Hardin**

Notes on John: \*See above information on Adam. It is unproven “tradition” that there was a child named John. There was a John Hardin in Washington County, GA for the 1805 lottery, but it is not known for certain if that John was a brother to Adam and Nicholas or a son of one of them. There is a John Hardin who appears in Twiggs County, beginning around 1811, though some sources indicate that this John was a son of Mark Hardin, and thus in another branch of the Hardin family. A John Hardin in Twiggs County in 1811 per a January 1811 Augusta Chronicle notice and in 1813 per a March 1813 Georgia Journal notice, both naming Hardin as a commissioner appointed for the county. A John Hardin is on the 1818 Twiggs County, GA tax list with 202-1/2 acres as well as a “house and lot in Marion.” A John Hardin was Trustee of Marion Academy in 1819 in Twiggs. April 4, 1833 – Lodoiski Hardin, daughter of Major John Hardin of Twiggs Co. marries Alexander Bellamy, per a notice from the Georgia Telegraph of April 10, 1833; and October 31, 1833 – Matilda Hardin, daughter of Major John Hardin of Twiggs County, marries Benjamin R. Montgomery, attorney of Tennessee, per a notice from The Georgia Telegraph of November 7, 1833. (A James Hardin in also on the Twiggs Co. tax digest for 1818.)

**William Hardin**

Notes on William**:** No further information – it is largely unproven tradition that there was a son named William.

**Lois Hardin**

Notes on Lois: *Historic Georgia Families* lists Lois as a daughter of John and Sarah Hardin, who married Turnel Hayden (both Turnel and Hayden have many spelling variations over the years). There was a Tarnel Haden family in Wilkinson County, GA in the 1820 census (1 m 16-26; 1 f 16-26; 1 f 26-44). This configuration of the household/family makes it difficult to align it with Lois and Turnel, unless the census taker just forgot to enter Turnel. Also, an unusual listing is found in Wilkinson County in the 1830 census for the household of Tunnel Haden – the household contains 4 children (ages 0-14) but no adults. There are also 6 slaves listed for the household. My speculation is that the adults were in the process of moving to Stewart County, GA and had left the children in the care of the slaves until they could have the children sent to Stewart County – just a theory – or the census taker just forgot to enter the adults. Minutes of the Georgia legislature prove that Tunnel (perhaps Tunnel, Jr.) moved from Wilkinson to Stewart County in 1830:

“The Senate took up the following preamble and resolution : Whereas, some time in the year 1830, Tunnel Haden, then of Wilkinson county, but now Stewart county, became the security of Carrol Ursury, in a recognizance of $500, conditioned for the appearance of the said Carrol, at the succeeding term of Wilkinson Superior Court, to answer to a charge of horse stealing that the said Ursury failed to attend the court; whereupon, the recognizance was forfeited, and scire facias issued, returnable to April term, 1831. That before the term to which said writ of scire faciar was made returnable, the said Tunnel Haden, became uneasy in consequence of his principal, and acting by the advice of his councel [sic], made as he thought a proper surrender of his principal to the then sheriff of Wilkinson county, but in fact it was an improper surrender; whereupon, said scire facias judgment was obtained against the said Tunnel Haden, at the April term of the Superior, court of Wilkinson county, 1831, for the sum $500, besides interest and cost; whereupon, execution has issued against the said Tunnel Haden for the said sum of $500. It is therefore resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia, in General Assembly met, that a certain execution issued from the rendition of a judgment in Wilkinson Superior Court at April term, 1831, against Tunnel Haden, for the sum of $500, besides interest and cost, on the forfeiture of his recognizance for the appearance of Carrol Ursery at Wilkinson Superior court, be suspended and not levied, nor collected until the 25th of December, 1832, thereby giving the said Tunnnel Haden an opportunity of bringing the said Carrol Ursery to justice.” A Tunnel Hayden is mentioned in the application dated May 4, 1834 of Nathan Grantham, of Stewart County, for a pension for revolutionary service, as being a person who can attest to certain matters set forth in the application.

By 1840 there is a Tullen (sic) Hayden household in the census for Stewart County, GA. The ages of members of the household suggest that this may be Tunnel Haden, Jr. and family, along with his mother Lois (there is a female in the household of age 60-70). The family is listed in the 1850 Stewart County census, in an area known now as the town of Richlands: Tunnel Haden (age 51, $4000 property value), wife Jane (age 47), children Jasper (22), Newton (20), Marion (14), George W. (12) and Mildred (9), and also a female named Lovicey Haden (sp? -Census taker’s handwriting is difficult to read) at age 76. I speculate that Lovicey was Lois – either Lovicey was a nickname for Lois, or perhaps her real name was Lovice and not Lois. By 1860, this family (listed as Hayden) had moved to Choctaw County, AL, though Lois/Lovicey is not listed, so it is presumed she had died by then. The family was prosperous with Tunnel (Jr.) having land worth $2500 and personal property worth $10,060. By 1870, Tunnel and wife Jane, along with many of their children, had relocated to Texas.

**Eve Hardin** -

Notes on Eve: Born ca. 1770 per her age of 80 in the 1850 census of Wilkinson County, GA. Her son Peyton Clay’s listing in the 1880 census of Wilkinson County states that his mother was born in North Carolina. In her application for a pension as a widow of a revolutionary soldier, she stated that she was married to David Clay on the twenty sixth day September A.D. 1792 by one **John Hatcher** a Justice of the Peace in Warren County,[[5]](#footnote-5) Georgia, and that her said husband the aforesaid **David Clay** died in Wilkinson county State of Georgia on or about the (blank) day of August, 1818. Information in the pension application also indicates that David and Eve moved to Washington County, GA and then to Wilkinson County, GA. Robert, Pearce, Sarah (who supposedly married James Hatcher, son of John Hatcher who married her parents) and Paton [Peyton?] are children of Eve and David’s that are mentioned in the pension documents. Clay family researchers identify other children of Eve and David Clay to have been Lewis, Edmund B., Adam and Mahany. She provided an affidavit dated March 29, 1855 in support of her pension claim but has not been located in the 1860 census records, so it is presumed she died between those years. Eve was evidently quite a colorful character. To identify Eve further, she would have been Septimus Barton’s great aunt. About Eve, directly

1. Note that one of the properties acquired by John Barton in Henry County was lot 231, District 7, which would have been very close to this lot owned by Sallie Dowdy. John acquired that lot in January of 1828. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. It is possible that Atkinson served as clerk of the Inferior Court (probate judge) for Henry County. William was clerk of the Superior Court. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. As pointed out in the biographies of John and Martha Barton, there is a listing for the household of a John Barton in the 1830 census of Butts County, GA, which lies adjacent to Henry and was formed partially from Henry County in 1825, but it is not known at this point if this is “our” John Barton. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Some of William’s Randolph County property was located in the part of Randolph that became Quitman County, and more specifically was located in the part of Randolph where Septimus Barton and son ultimately lived. Also, some of this property was supposedly sold by William to his son-in-law Swan Burnett, most likely where Burnett’s home was located on the Ft. Gaines Highway. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Warren County was not formed until 1793. It appears that Eve and David were probably married in a part of Wilkes County, GA that became Warrne County. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)