

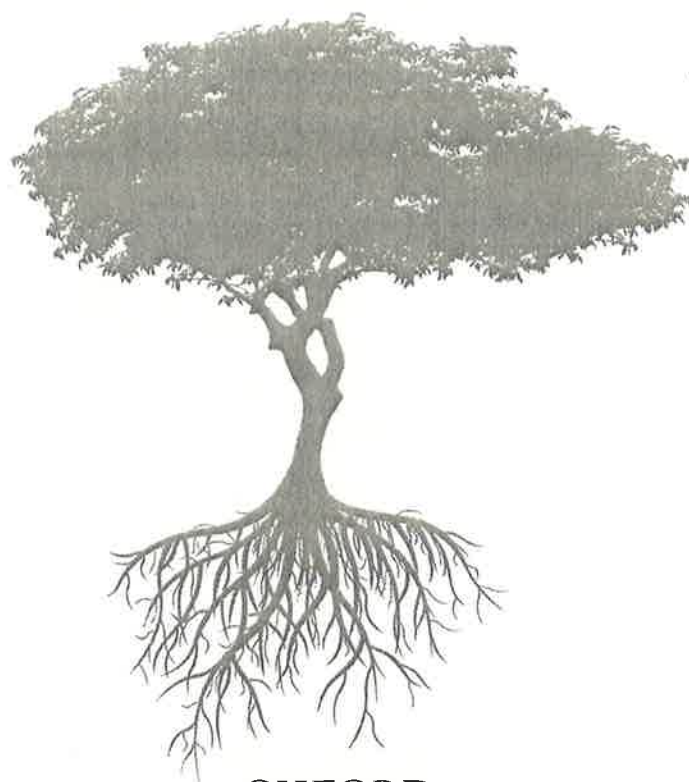
African American National Biography

SECOND EDITION

HENRY LOUIS GATES JR. EVELYN BROOKS
HIGGINBOTHAM

Editors in Chief

VOLUME 5: GAYLE, ADDISON, JR. - HITE, LES



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Published in the United States of America by
Oxford University Press
198 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
African American national biography / editors in chief Henry Louis Gates Jr., Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. – 2nd ed.
p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-19-999036-8 (volume 1; hdbk.); ISBN 978-0-19-999037-5 (volume 2; hdbk.); ISBN 978-0-19-999038-2 (volume 3; hdbk.);
ISBN 978-0-19-999039-9 (volume 4; hdbk.); ISBN 978-0-19-999040-5 (volume 5; hdbk.); ISBN 978-0-19-999041-2 (volume 6; hdbk.);
ISBN 978-0-19-999042-9 (volume 7; hdbk.); ISBN 978-0-19-999043-6 (volume 8; hdbk.); ISBN 978-0-19-999044-3 (volume 9; hdbk.);
ISBN 978-0-19-999045-0 (volume 10; hdbk.); ISBN 978-0-19-999046-7 (volume 11; hdbk.); ISBN 978-0-19-999047-4 (volume 12;
hdbk.); ISBN 978-0-19-992077-8 (12-volume set; hdbk.)

1. African Americans – Biography – Encyclopedias. 2. African Americans – History – Encyclopedias. I. Gates, Henry
Louis. II. Higginbotham, Evelyn Brooks, 1945-
E185.96.A4466 2012
920'.009296073 – dc23
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2011043281

1 3 5 7 9 8 6 4 2
Printed in the United States of America
on acid-free paper

next night, he managed to get himself to the hall, only to collapse again beforehand. His condition steadily deteriorating over the next three weeks in the stifling Rio heat, Gottschalk was taken inland on 8 December 1869 to the more temperate hillside town of Tijuca, where, ten days later, he died at the age of forty. Although the death certificate cited the cause as "incurable galloping pleuropneumonia" arising from an abdominal abscess stemming from an earlier bout with yellow fever, the likely culprit was a ruptured appendix (Starr, 435–436).

Thousands of Brazilians joined the funeral cortege the next day from the Philharmonic Society to São João Baptista Cemetery, where the pianist's coffin was installed in a donated private vault. After a year of legal maneuvering, Gottschalk's sister, Clara, arranged for her brother's remains to be shipped back to New York. A memorial service on 3 October 1870 at the Church of St. Stephen in Manhattan was followed by reburial at Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery in a plot shared by Gottschalk's brother, Edward, who had died in September 1863. In the intervening years the sculpted angel atop the grave's once magnificent marble tombstone and the lyre-decorated iron fence surrounding it vanished. The marker's carved lettering has been virtually erased by time.

So ended the distinguished career of a seminal figure in American music. Louis Moreau Gottschalk was perhaps the first American artist to draw upon both highbrow and lowbrow, multicultural sources, and the first in a trio of African-American-inspired nineteenth-century pianist-composers (among them, the Georgia slave pianist BLIND TOM and his Midwestern musical descendant BLIND BOONE) whose works would have an enormous influence on the development of twentieth-century popular music in the United States.

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- The largest archive of Gottschalk materials, including copies of his published scores and autograph manuscripts, is housed in the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, New York City.
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JOHN DAVIS

Gould, William B. (18 Nov. 1837–23 May 1923), Union navy sailor in the Civil War and journalist, was presumably born into slavery, in Wilmington, North Carolina, to Elizabeth "Betsy" Moore of Wilmington, a slave, and Alexander Gould, who was white. William had at least one sibling, Eliza Mabson, who acquired her last name by virtue of a publicly acknowledged relationship with George Mabson, a white man in Wilmington. She eventually became the mother of five children by Mabson, including her son **GEORGE L. MABSON**, the first black lawyer in North Carolina.

Little is known about William B. Gould's early life. As a young man he acquired skills as a plasterer or mason, and he learned how to read and write, although those skills were forbidden by law to slaves. His initials are in the plaster of one of the Confederacy's most elegant mansions, the Bellamy Mansion in Wilmington. Among his young friends were **GEORGE WASHINGTON PRICE JR.**, eventually to represent New Hanover County in the state house of representatives and the senate at the conclusion of the Civil War, and **ABRAHAM HANKINS GALLOWAY**, the black "Scarlet Pimpernel" of North Carolina who escaped from slavery in 1857 and returned during the war as a spy for Union forces. Galloway also served in the North Carolina legislature after the war.

On 21 September 1862 Gould and seven other "contraband" (as escaping slaves were characterized during the Civil War) from Wilmington made a dramatic dash to freedom, departing from the dock at Orange Street and rowing down to the Atlantic Ocean at the mouth of the Cape Fear River. The eight "contraband" were picked up by USS *Cambridge*, part of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron. Five days later, Gould began keeping a diary—apparently the only diary of any former slave who joined the United States Navy. On 3 October 1862 the eight contraband joined the navy by "takeing [*sic*] the Oath of Allegiance to the Government of Uncle Samuel" (Gould, *Diary*, 3 Oct. 1862). Classified as a "boy," the lowest occupation—and the only one then open to blacks—in the navy, Gould would ultimately progress to wardroom steward.

In the fall of 1862 the *Cambridge* was assigned to inshore blockade duties. Gould described the shots coming from Fort Fisher on the North Carolina shore as "too close to be at all agreeable" (Gould, *Diary*, 17 Jan. 1863). There were other engagements. "In a brief five days [in November–December '62], she [the *Cambridge*] and two other ships in company took four blockade runners and chased a fifth ashore" (Navy Department, *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*, 2 [1963]). In the spring of 1863 the *Cambridge* was given a respite and came north to dock at Newport News in Virginia, New York, and Boston.

From the beginning of his service Gould corresponded with a wide variety of colleagues from North Carolina: Galloway, Price, Eliza Mabson, and her son George Mabson, who would serve in both the army and the navy. He also wrote to his future wife, Cornelia Williams Read, whom he had known since childhood in Wilmington. She had been purchased out of slavery in 1857 by JAMES CRAWFORD. Gould eventually reunited with her in Nantucket.

In Massachusetts, Gould, ill with the measles, left the *Cambridge*, and in October 1863 joined USS *Niagara*, one of the navy's most formidable wooden frigates. The *Niagara* proceeded first to Nova Scotia to recapture the steamer USS *Chesapeake*, which had been taken by the Confederates off Cape Cod and was being held by the British authorities in Canada. On 11 December the *Niagara* departed Gloucester, Massachusetts, in search of the *Chesapeake*, following it into LaHave and Halifax, Nova Scotia. The *Chesapeake* was taken by USS *Ella* and *Annie*. The *Niagara* returned to New York on 20 December. It remained there for approximately six months, during which there was a dramatic rescue of the Italian ship *Galantoumo*, in which the crewmen of the *Niagara* delivered the Italian crew and passengers from "the very jaws of death" ("Perilous Voyage of the *Niagara*," *New York Times*, 5 Apr. 1864).

During this stay in New York City, Gould reunited with Abraham Galloway, attended meetings on the future suffrage of North Carolina, and in June 1864 became a correspondent for the *Anglo-African*, describing his escape in that paper. Meanwhile he began a correspondence with the *Anglo-African's* editor, ROBERT HAMILTON. Finally, Gould encountered rank discrimination against a Maryland black regiment that boarded his ship and was treated roughly by the crew. Gould characterized the crew as "scoundrels" who treated blacks "shamefully" (Gould, *Diary*, 18 May 1864).

On 1 June Gould departed for Europe, looking for CSS *Florida* and other ships, and on 24 June, while running up the English Channel, they learned of the sinking of CSS *Alabama*. The crew were as "proud of the deed as if they had done it themselves" (Gould, *A Portion of the Cruise of the U.S. Steam Frigate "Niagara,"* 1911). Active engagements followed in Spain and Portugal.

After returning to Wilmington, another of his contributions to the *Anglo-African* observed that the local black citizens were "well satisfied" with the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-ninth regiments of Colored Troops and that "the *Anglo-African* takes well" (*Anglo-African*, 1865). He also wrote an article, "Our Noble Tars Speak—How They Feel for the Freedman," which was published on 29 July 1865, in which he recounted donations by the sailors on the *Niagara* and said that they "see the necessities of thousands of our own people liberated by the victorious march of the armies of the Union through the would be Confederacy." Gould returned to Nantucket, Massachusetts, to marry Cornelia Read on 22 November 1865 in the African Baptist Church.

The couple had eight children—six boys and two girls—and made their home in Dedham, Massachusetts. There, Gould became a tradesman and contractor who worked on the construction of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. He was also active in the Union veterans' organization, the Grand Army of the Republic (where he served as commander of the Dedham chapter), and in the 1870s was a founder of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Dedham, where four generations of Goulds were baptized. One son, William B. Gould Jr., served in the Spanish-American War, and five others served in World War I. In June 1918 the *Dedham Transcript* quoted a speech by William B. Gould in which he commented on his sons' service in World War I: "I have ever tried to set them a good example ... and I expect to hear some good things from those boys."

William B. Gould died on 23 May 1923, predeceased by Cornelia in 1906. The following headline appeared in the *Dedham Transcript* on 26 May 1923: "East Dedham Mourns Faithful Soldier and Always Loyal Citizen: Death Came Very Suddenly to William B. Gould, Veteran of the Civil War."

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WILLIAM B. GOULD IV

Gourdin, Edward Orval (10 Aug. 1897–22 July 1966), athlete, scholar, soldier, and judge, was born in Jacksonville, Florida, one of nine children of Walter Holmes Gourdin, a meat cutter and part Seminole Indian, and Felicia Nee, an African American woman who was a housekeeper. Little is known about his early school career, other than that he was valedictorian of his high school class in 1916. Although poor, Gourdin's parents recognized their son's talents and educational potential and, following his high school graduation, moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to further his career. There, Gourdin attended Cambridge High and Latin, which helped prepare him for the high academic demands of an Ivy League education.

By the time he enrolled in his freshman year at Harvard in 1917, Gourdin appears to have been a conscientious and responsible student. To pay tuition, he supported himself by working as a postal clerk. He also became a member of the Student Trainings Corps as a sophomore. It was his athletic ability, however, that distinguished him from many other students. Some sources even appear to see Gourdin's main achievements in the athletic arena, neglecting or even disregarding his high accomplishments in the field of law and in politics. Gourdin's athletic career started at Harvard, when he became the National Amateur Athlete Union's junior one-hundred-yard dash champion in 1920 and the national pentathlon champion in 1921 and 1922. At a track meet between a Harvard–Yale selection and a combined Oxford–Cambridge team in 1921, Gourdin set a new world record (twenty-five feet, three inches) in the broad jump. In 1924 he went to the Paris Olympic games and won a silver medal

in the broad jump. In that same year he received his law degree, an LL.B., from Harvard.

Gourdin married Amalia Ponce of Cambridge in 1923 and with her had three daughters and a son. While continuing to work as a postal clerk until 1927, he began his career as a Massachusetts lawyer in 1925 and also enlisted in the National Guard that year. In 1929, he passed the federal bar exam. Jobs were hard to come by during the Depression Era, but particularly hard for an African American law graduate. All the Boston law firms he applied to rejected Gourdin, who increasingly turned his attention to politics. Briefly a member of the Republican Party like many African Americans, he decided to switch his allegiance to the Democrats in the early 1930s. His political career led to many relationships with politicians and lawyers in the Boston area. Among his associates were Francis J. W. Ford, an influential lawyer whose classmate, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, had named him U.S. attorney for the district of Massachusetts in 1933. Three years later Roosevelt appointed Gourdin as an assistant U.S. attorney, a position he held until 1951.

During World War II Gourdin became the commanding officer to the 372d Infantry from 1941 until 1945. In the 1950s his appointments as a special justice of the Roxbury District Court and then as judge of the Massachusetts Superior Court made him famous as one of the first African Americans in such a position. He continued his work as an assistant U.S. attorney in Boston and had been promoted to the chief of the civil division before his promotion to the bench in 1951. In 1952 Governor Foster Forulo appointed Judge Gourdin as the Special Justice of Roxbury District Court.

The crowning moment of Gourdin's professional career was in 1958, when he was elected as the first black judge on the Massachusetts Superior Court.

Gourdin rejoined the National Guard after his discharge and retired in 1959 with the rank of brigadier general, becoming the first African American to reach that position. During the civil rights era Gourdin was at pains to maintain a position of judicial neutrality. This did not preclude his membership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He was also active in the New England Olympians (serving as its president in 1966) and in promoting social programs for youths in the predominantly African American Roxbury community. He spent his final years with his wife in Quincy, Massachusetts.

In 1999 the Jacksonville, Florida, *Times Union* ranked Gourdin as one of the one hundred

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