

Oddly enough, the 1840 record above shows that only 58 persons (including the slaves) of the Richard Holding household were “Engaged in Agriculture”. He must have used many of his slaves as household servants and in other occupations, such as operating a mill or other enterprise. The 1850 slave schedules show that Richard Holding owned 158 slaves, while the 1860 slave schedules show the Holding family owning 221 slaves. The slaves were divided among Richard Sr., Richard Jr., and William Holding in 1860, with William owning 89 of the 221 slaves.

From the perspective of owning many slaves, and knowing that the Holding family was buried in their own family cemetery where the International Airport is now located, it appears that the cemetery in the SW/4 of Section 14 almost certainly is the old slave cemetery of the Holding family, as a minimum. It may have already been established from 1818 for the slaves of earlier owners of the land, but the large majority of those buried in the cemetery are most likely Holding slaves and their descendants. Accordingly, it would seem appropriate to rename this cemetery as the **Scruggs – Holding Slave Cemetery, 61-1**.

Prepared by John P. Rankin, March 17, 2003; [Revised July 24, 2005](#)