

**A FAMILY HISTORY**

**Boyd**

and

**Connected Families**

*Early Settlers*

*Central Savannah River Area*

*of*

*Georgia and South Carolina*

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The name of BOYD is derived from the Gaelic word buide or boldh meaning "fair" or "yellow haired." It is evidently derived from the appearance of its original bearer or bearers. It is also occasionally found in the forms of Boyt, Boide, Bold, and Boyde, but the spelling given at the beginning of this article is that most generally accepted today, both in England and America.

Simon, brother of Walter, first High Steward of Scotland, in the year 1160, was the father of one Boyd, who was the progenitor of the Lords Boyd, Earls of Arran and Lords of Kilmarnock.

Sir Robert Boyd, probably the son of Simon, was living in the year 1205. He was the father of Robert, who distinguished himself in the Battle of Largs in 1263 and was the holder of large grants of land in the County of Ayrshire, Scotland. He left a son, also named Robert, who took the oath of allegiance to King Edward the First of England in the year 1296 and was the father of Sir Robert Boyd, who fought for King Robert the Bruce in 1314 and, as a reward for his services, was given the lands of Kilmarnock, Bondington, Hertschaw, and others, in Ayrshire. This Sir Robert was the father of Sir Thomas, Alan, and James, of whom the first was the father of Sir Thomas, William, and Robert, of whom the first married Alice, daughter of Sir John Gifford, and had a son, Sir Thomas Boyd, who was the father by his wife Joanna, daughter of Sir John Montgomery, of Sir Thomas and William, of whom the former was the father of Robert, Sir Alexander, Janet, and Margaret, of whom the first was created Lord Boyd by King James the Third of Scotland before 1459. He married Marjota, daughter of Sir Robert Maxwell, and was the father of Thomas, Alexander, Archibald, Elizabeth, and Annabella, of whom the first was the first Earl of Arran, Thomas, Earl of Arran, married Mary, eldest daughter of King James the Second, and was the father of James, Earl of Arran, who, however, died without issue.

Alexander Boyd, second son of Robert, Lord Boyd, married a daughter of Sir Robert Colvill and had issue by her of Robert, Thomas, and Adam, of whom the first was restored to the title of Lord Boyd and married Helen, daughter of Sir John Somerville. He was the father of Robert, Lord Boyd, who married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Colquhoun, and died in 1589, leaving issue of Robert (died young), Thomas, Robert, and others (see footnote a.), of whom Thomas became Lord Boyd and left issue by his wife Margaret, daughter of Sir Matthew Campbell, of Robert, Sir Thomas of Bedlay, Adam, John, and others (see footnote b.), of whom the first (Robert) married the Lady Jean Ker, eldest daughter of Mark, 2nd Earl of Lothian, and had two sons, Robert and James. The male descent from Robert died out in the next generation (see footnote c.) and James became Lord Boyd. He was the father by his wife, Catherine Craik, of William, who was the 1st Earl of Kilmarnock and the father by his wife, the Lady Jean Cunningham, daughter of William, ninth Earl of Glencairn and High Chancellor of Scotland, of William, Earl of Kilmarnock, James, Charles, Robert, Mary, and Catherine (see footnote d.). Of these, the first (William) married Lettice Boyd, of Dublin, Ireland, and was the father of William and Thomas (see footnote e.), of whom the former married Eupheme, daughter of William, Lord Ross, and died in 1717, leaving as only son, William Boyd, Earl of Kilmarnock, who married the Lady Anne Livingston, daughter and heiress of James, Earl of Linlithgow and Caendar, and was the father by her of James, Charles, and William, of

THE NAME AND FAMILY OF BOYD

Many accounts have been written concerning the origin of the name and family of Boyd. The account compiled by the Media Research Bureau in Washington, D.C. is presented here with some additional information (see footnotes) derived from personal research in the National Libraries of Edinburgh, Scotland and Dublin, Ireland and from the Halls of Records in those cities. Research in Belfast, North Ireland is incomplete due to the political unrest in that city at the present time. It is hoped that further investigation can be continued in the future as time and conditions permit.

Reproduced below is the account as given by the Media Research Bureau:

f.). whom the first became fourteenth Earl of Eryol, through right of his mother. (see footnote

Footnotes

- (a). Other children are Edith, m. Hugh, 4th Earl of Eglinton and was mother of the 5th Earl; Agnes, m. Sir John Colquhoun of Innes; Christina, m. Sir James Hamilton, of Ewaldale; Elizabeth, m. John Cunningham. (Bourke - A Genealogical History of the British Empire, London, 1883, pp. 68.)
  - (b). Marion, m. James 1st Earl of Abercorn; Isabel, m. to John Blair of Blair; Agnes, m. to Sir George Elphinstone of Blythswood. (Bourke - A Genealogical History of the British Empire, London, 1883, pp. 68.)
  - (c). Robert 6th Lord Boyd m. 1st Margaret, daughter of Robert Montgomery, of Giffen, and relict of Hugh, 5th Earl of Eglinton, but by her had no issue. His lordship m. 2ndly, Lady Christian Hamilton, eldest dau. of Thomas, 1st Earl of Haddington, and relict of Robert, 10th Earl of Lindsay of Byres, and by her left at his decease, in 1628, a son and six daus. viz. (1) Robert, 7th Lord Boyd; (2) Helen, who d. unm.; (3) Agnes, m. to Sir George Morrison, of Dalryle, in Flie; (4) Jean, m. to Sir Alexander Morrison, of Preston-grange Co., Haddington; (5) Marion, m. to Sir James Dundas of Armistown; (6) Isabel, m. 1st to John Sinclair, of Stevenston; and to John Grierson, Flar of Sagi; (7) Christian, m. to Sir William Scot, of Harden. The eldest son, 7th Lord Boyd, who m. Lady Anne Fleming, 2nd daughter of John, 2nd Earl of Wigton, and by her (who m. 2nd George, Earl of Dalhousie) he left no issue at his decease which occurred 17th November, 1640, when he was succeeded by his uncle, James. (Bourke - A Genealogical History of the British Empire, London, 1883, pp. 68-69.)
  - (d). James - Capt. in Sir Charles Graham's Regiment of Foot in Scots Dutch Brigade 1692; Charles, Capt. died in Sept. 1737; Robert, claimed as an ancestor by several families but nothing appears to be known about him; Alexander; Mary, m. Sir Alexander Maclean; Catherine, m. Alexander Porterfield (d. 14 Nov., 1743) - children; Margaret. (The Scots Peerage - A History of the Noble Families of Scotland, Vol. 5, p. 174.)
  - (e). Thomas, an advocate, m. Eleanor, dau. of Sir Thomas Nicolson, Bart. of Carnock, Co. Stirling; and that lady m. 2ndly, John Craufurd, Esq. of Craufurdland and was by him, mother of Lieut. Col. John Walkinshaw Craufurd of Craufurdland, who attended Lord Kilmarnock to the scaffold; and held, according to tradition, a corner of the cloth which received the Earl's head. (Bourke - A Genealogical History of the British Empire, London, 1883, p. 69.)
  - According to the Scots Peerage - A History of Noble Families of Scotland, Vol. 5, p. 174, the 2nd son was named Robert, b. in Edinburgh, 13 Sept. 1689, admitted to faculty of Advocates, 30 Dec. 1710, or 2 Jan. 1711, m. Eleanor, d. and co-heir of Sir Thos. Nicolson of Kernay, 1st Baronet, by his wife Margaret, d. and eventual co-heir of Sir Thos. Nicolson of Carnock, 2nd Baronet, and died, Feb. 1716. One daughter Margaret, died unmarried in Edinburgh, 7 May, 1781. 3rd child, Mary, daughter of William and Letitia (Letlice) Boyd, died unmarried.
  - (f). William Boyd, 4th Earl of Kilmarnock, engaging in the uprising of 1745, was taken prisoner at Gulloden, conveyed to London, convicted of high treason, and executed on Tower Hill, 1 August, 1746, when the honours and estates of his family were forfeited. (Bourke - A Genealogical History of the British Empire, London, 1883, pp. 69.)
- The Boyds of Ireland are a branch of the Boyds of Scotland, who removed because of the persecution of the Presbyterian faith, to which they had adhered, in Scotland and England. Members of the family settled in the Counties of Antrim, Down, and Londonderry, in the North of Ireland. The Reverend Thomas Boyd, of Aghadowey, County Antrim, organized and led a company of soldiers, many of whom bore the name of Boyd, in 1689, in the famous siege of Londonderry. (see footnote g.)

(g). "There are families of Boyd settled in Ireland, all claiming descent from the Scottish House of Boyd; the Boyds of Ballycastle, Co. Antrim; the Boyds of Ballynacool, Co. Donegal; the Boyds of Rosselan, Co. Wexford; and the Boyds now of Middleton Park, Co. Westmeath.

Burke, Landed Gentry of Ireland, 4th Edition, 1958, pp. 105 - in National Library, Dublin, Ireland gives the lineage of the Boyd family—formerly of Ballynacool as follows:

(1) John Boyd - built family mansion of Ballynacool in 1672. Claimed descent from a younger branch of ancient Scottish family of Boyd, Earls of Kilmarnock.

(2) John Boyd of Letterkenney

(3) John Boyd of Letterkenney, m. 1736, Ann Gamble of Derry, d. 1764.

Children: (a) John (eldest); (b) Robert; (c) William Stewart; (d) Mossum; (e) Archibald; (f) Alexander.

Although it is not definitely known from which of the many lines of the family in the British Isles the first emigrants of the name to America were descended, it is generally thought that most, if not all, of the Boyds derive from a common European ancestor of a remote period. Records show, however, that the greater number of the early colonists of the name came from Ireland.

Perhaps the first of the family in America were James Boyd, who was living in Virginia in 1650, and John Boyd or Boid, who is on the records of the town of Rye, N.Y., for the year 1678. Of the first of these nothing further is known; but John of Rye is known to have had at least one son, also named John.

The largest group of Boyds to emigrate came with the Reverend William Boyd to Massachusetts in the early part of the eighteenth century. The Reverend William presented to the Governor of New England a petition for a grant of land on which to form a settlement. Among the signers of this petition were ten Boyds, the names of Robert, William, John, and Samuel each occurring several times. This group was granted land in New Hampshire and there founded the town of Londonderry, so called for their native town, in Ireland.

Captain William Boyd, who brought over fourteen ship-loads of Scotch-Irish to the colonies, first came over in 1718, but did not make his permanent home here until 1751, when he married Alice Hunter, of Londonderry, N.H. Their children were Joseph, William, John, Alice, James, and Isaac, of whom the first two made their homes at Antrim, N.H., and left numerous issue in that place, while the others remained and raised their families at Londonderry.

In 1723 Adam Boyd came from Ballymorney, Ireland, and settled first in New England, whence he removed at a later date to Delaware and Pennsylvania. By his wife, Janet Craghead, he left issue of Margaret, John, Janet, Agnes, Thomas, Mary, Adam, Andrew, Hannah, Elizabeth, and Samuel.

George Boyd and Abigail Hoyt, of the New Hampshire Hoyts, married in Boston, Mass., in the year 1730 and had a son, whom they named for his father.

One Hugh Boyd was living in Franklin, Mass., in 1731 and was the father there by his wife Mary of a son named John, who fought as a captain in the War of the Revolution. Sometime before 1731 another William Boyd came from County Antrim, Ireland, to Pennsylvania and settled at Derry. He was the father of, among others, Robert, Alexander, Jemmett, William, and John.

Yet another William is said to have settled in Chester County, Pa., in 1732 and to have left issue there of James, John, William, Jane, Mary, and Hannah.

Thomas Boyd, who was born in Ireland in 1710, came to America in early manhood and settled in York County, Pa. By his wife Rebecca, he was the father of William, Elizabeth, Jean, Rebecca, and Andrew.

About 1735 John Boyd settled in Maryland and there married Susannah Baldwin, William, son of John, was the father of a large family by his wife, Charity Talbot. It was the proud boast of William that every one of his many sons fought in the service of the colonies in the Revolution. (Note: The author researched the Maryland Boyds and

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found that William Boyd (wife Charity) and John Boyd (wife Susannah) were brothers. See further comments of author concerning Maryland Boyds in Chapter 15.)

Another John Boyd came from Ireland to Pennsylvania before 1744 and was married in that year to Sarah de Vane, a Huguenot. Their children were John, Thomas, and William and were born in Lancaster County.

In 1748 yet another John Boyd died in Halifax County, Va. He left a wife named Margaret and four sons: John, James, George, and William.

One James Boyd settled in Bedford County, Va., before 1750 and left issue there of a son named Abraham, who removed to Kentucky.

George Boyd, who came from County Antrim, Ireland to Boothbay, Me., in 1750, was the father by his wife Margaret of Thomas and George.

Samuel Boyd, brother of the immigrant George, settled at Bristol, Me., in 1750 and left issue there of a son named Thomas.

Thomas, brother of the immigrant George, settled at Boothbay, Me., in 1750 and left at least one son, named Adam.

James Boyd, who was probably another brother of the three last-mentioned immigrants, first settled at Bristol, Me., and later removed to Worcester, Mass. By his wife Jean, he was the father of Samuel, John, James, Andrew, Margaret, William, Thomas, Joseph, and Eliza.

James Boyd, of Kilmarnock, came to America in 1756 and is said to have had a patent from George the Second for sixty thousand acres of land in New Brunswick, N.d. The story runs that he lost this land because of his open sympathy with the colonists in the War of the Revolution. His son was named Robert.

Sometime before 1760 one Boyd (Christian name unknown) came from the North of Ireland and settled in Virginia. His children were William, Margaret, and John, of whom the first removed to Mississippi and later to Missouri.

Another John Boyd, who came to America before 1767 and settled in Pennsylvania, married Mary Fulton and was the father by her of the Reverend John, the Reverend Benjamin, the Reverend Abraham, Margaret, the Reverend James, Robert, Henry, Mary, and Joseph.

The offspring of these and other branches of the family in America have scattered over every part of the United States and have contributed substantially to the advancement of American civilization.

Much has been handed down to the present generation of Boyds of the traits and characteristics of the past members of the family. They are said to be slow to anger but firm in any duty once it is undertaken. They have been known for their unusual physical beauty, exceptional longevity, and for their courage and capable leadership. Among those of the name who fought as officers in the War of the Revolution were Lieutenant Colonel Abraham, Lieutenant Thomas, and Lieutenant Walter Boyd of Maryland; Lieutenant Adam and Surgeon Hugh Boyd of North Carolina; Captain John and Lieutenant William Boyd, of Massachusetts; Captain Lieutenant John, Lieutenant Mathew, Surgeon Robert, Lieutenant Thomas, and Lieutenant William Boyd, of Pennsylvania; and Lieutenant Nathaniel Boyd, of New Hampshire.

John, Adam, Thomas, Robert, James, Alexander, Joseph, Samuel, Andrew, William, Hugh, and George are some of the Christian names preferred by the family for its male progeny.

A few of the many members of the family who have distinguished themselves in all parts of the world at various times are:

Adam Boyd (nineteenth century), of New Jersey, Congressman.  
 Alexander Boyd (nineteenth century), of New York, Congressman.  
 John Parker Boyd (1764-1830), of Massachusetts, officer in both the army and navy of the United States.

Linn Boyd (1800-1859), of Tennessee and Kentucky, statesman.  
 Andrew Kennedy Hutchinson Boyd (1825-1899), Scottish clergyman and author.  
 Sir John Alexander Boyd (1837-1916), Canadian judge.  
 Thomas Duckett Boyd (b. 1854), of Virginia, educator.  
 Byron Boyd (b. 1864) of Maine, Secretary of State for the State of Maine.

One of the most ancient and most frequently used of the coat of arms of the Scottish and Irish families of Boyd is that described as follows (Burke, General Armory, 1884):  
 Arms. — "Azure, a fesse chequy argent and gules." Crest. — "A dexter hand erect, pointing with the thumb and two fingers proper."

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END OF MEDIA RESEARCH ACCOUNT

The Parochial Register - County of Ayr, Kilmarnock, Scotland (1640-1740) was examined for the period from 1690-1713. The records of all baptisms by the name of Boyd were copied verbatim. Only those bearing the name of Robert will be reproduced here as the ancestor, Robert, of our line of Boyds very likely was born during the period of 1690-1713.  
 1691 - Robert, son of Robert Boyd and Marlon Lamont  
 1691 - Robert, son of Robert Boyd and Margaret Connell  
 1709 - Robert, son of William Boyd and Mary Finlay  
 Similar records from the town of Irvine, Scotland for the period of 1690-1741 showed one Robert, son of Robert and Ann Boyd, baptized in 1713.

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