

## Determining Family Relationships Among The Slaves of Agness & Andrew Boyd

By Anita Boyd ©2010

### **Prologue: Winfield, IL -- Thursday, November 1, 2007**

I had always thought of Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi as the ancestral home of my father's family. I had just assumed that when my slave ancestors were taken from Africa that they had gone directly to Mississippi. Since then, with the help of land records, I've been able to pinpoint the arrival of Andrew Boyd, Jr. and his-father-in-law, John McDowell, to Northeast Mississippi to about 1834.

After posting a message board query at Ancestry.com, Nancy Hoy, a local South Carolina researcher contacted me. I learned from Nancy that Fairfield Archives and History had copied pages from a Boyd Family Bible that matched several of my family's given names. Unfortunately, the scanned pages she e-mailed me were barely legible.

During the Spring of 2009, several members of the Afro-American Genealogical & Historical Society of Chicago (AAGHSC) and I talked about visiting the "Palmetto State", including Fairfield County. Wednesday, June 24, 2009, we did just that. After introductions, Linda Malone, the Director of Fairfield Archives and History, handled me her Boyd Family file.

Sure enough, I recognized several distant family members; but, it was the other names that made gasp. On pages 678 and 679, under two additional "Births" columns, someone had added the words "of Negroes" and proceeded to list names and birthdates of some slave children belonging to the Boyd Family of Fairfield County, South Carolina.

I was immediately concerned for their welfare and wanted to know what became of them. Who belonged to whom? Who was sold to pay for a family debt? Who stayed in South Carolina? Who was removed to Mississippi? Who died before the end of the Civil War – not knowing that one day there would be a better day for all of them? Several weeks after returning home, they continued to haunt me.

It is because of them that I began compiling, comparing, and extracting data from previously obtained documents from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH).

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Will of Andrew Boyd (undated; recorded March 30, 1825)

be to God for all his mercies to me and calling to mind the uncertainty of life and Surety of death, do now think it fit to make this my last will and testament...

#1 – I give and bequeath to my son Samuel my negro woman named Harriett and her son Nelson.

#2 – I give and bequeath to my son John my negro girl named Eliza...

#3 – I give and bequeath to my daughter Margaret my negro woman named Mimy, and negro girl named Charlotte

#4 – Also my fourth part of negro Lewis I give to my son Samuel.

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The Samuel Boyd/Malinda Boyd Keith, née Coleman Family Bible (1866)

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|---|---|
| 1. Willis...born 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug <sup>t</sup> 1813 | 10. Stephen...born 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec <sup>r</sup> 1826 |
| 2. Jemima...25 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 1813                | 11. Nelson...born Oct 21 <sup>st</sup> 1827               |
| 3. Lewis...born 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec <sup>r</sup> 1813  | 12. Sarah...born November 12 <sup>th</sup> 1828           |
| 4. Caleb...born 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 1815            | 13. Charlote...born 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan? 1829            |
| 5. Jane...born 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec <sup>r</sup> 1818   | 14. James...born 17 <sup>th</sup> May 1830                |
| 6. Enoch...born 24 <sup>th</sup> June 1820              | 15. Elihu...born 6 <sup>th</sup> day of July 1830         |
| 7. Eliza...born 18 <sup>th</sup> Aug <sup>t</sup> 1820  | 16. Mary...born 6 <sup>th</sup> day of July 1830          |
| 8. Winna...born April 9 <sup>th</sup> 1821              | 17. Sophie...born March 20 <sup>th</sup> 1831             |
| 9. Jacob...born May 15 <sup>th</sup> 1824               |   |

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- 1) Matilda, mother of
  - Willis...born 27<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1813
  - Jemima...born 25<sup>th</sup> Sept., 1813 > Charlote...born 27<sup>th</sup> Jan? 1829
  - Caleb... born 24<sup>th</sup> Sept., 1815
  - Jane ...born 25<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1818
  - Jacob...born May 15<sup>th</sup> 1824
- 2) Phillis, mother of
  - Lewis...born 15<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1813
- 3) Harriett, mother of
  - Eliza...born 18<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1820
  - Nelson...born Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 1827
  - James...born 17<sup>th</sup> May 1830
- 4) Unknown mother(s)