

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).

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

“In the name of God Amen I Andrew Boyd of Fairfield District in the State of South Carolina being sick and weak of body, but perfect and Sound in mind and memory thanks be to God for all his mercies, and calling to mind, the mortality of the body, and that it is appointed for all men once to die...

...I apoint as my lawfull executrs my wife agness Boyd and my sons Samuel and David Boyd — all my lawfull debts to be paid out of my Esteat and all my property both reail and personal to remain together as usual until some of my family mareys, or the death of my loving wife which of the two sircumstances first tiaiaks pleaisd...

1 – I wish my Negros as folows with their Incraises¹ Say Metilda and her three Children named Willas and Calleb and Jain

#2 – fillis and her Child Lewis...be Equaley divided betwixt my Children Named as follows Hugh Samuel and Margaret andrew and John and David by three men of their own choise.

#3 – I also leaive and bequeath to my loving wife...a negro girl named Jemima with her increaise² said Jemima is the oldest daughter of the above named Matilda.”

Inventory of the Estate of Andrew Boyd (January 24 1825)

1 Negro	Wench & Child	Named	Til & Jacob	\$375
1 do	Boy	do	Willis	300
1 do	do	do	Caleb	300
1 do	Girl	do	Jane	175
1 do	Boy	do	Enoch	150
1 do	Girl	do	Winna	125
1 do	Wench	do	Phillis	175
1 do	Boy	do	Lewis	350
1 do	Wench & Child	do	Harriett & Eliza	450

Will of Agness Boyd (March 30, 1829; proved July 27, 1829)

“In the name of God Amen I Agness Boyd of Fairfield District in the State of South Carolina being weak and infirm of body, but of perfect soundness of mind and memory thanks to

¹ unborn children

² unborn child

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.

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

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

Family Relationships Among The Slaves of Agness & Andrew Boyd

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

Enoch...born 24th June 1820
 Winna...born April 9th 1821
 Stephen...born 15th Dec^r 1826
 Sarah...born November 12th 1828
 Elihu...born 6th day of July 1830}
 Mary...born 6th day of July 1830
 Sophie...born March 20th 1831

Epilogue: Winfield, IL – Monday, March 29, 2010

Saturday, January 23, 2010, I had the absolute pleasure of meeting Pelham Lyles, Director of the Fairfield County Museum. At one time, the Fairfield County Museum was also the home of Priscilla Boyd Ketchin, the younger daughter of Malinda Coleman and Samuel Boyd (son of Agness and Andrew Boyd). There, Ms. Lyles graciously allowed me to review the contents of the original Boyd Family Bible. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Biography: Anita Boyd is the great-great-great-great granddaughter of Agness and Andrew Boyd. She has been researching her family history since August 2006. Researching this branch of the family tree has taken her to Mississippi, Washington D.C., Virginia, Indiana, Missouri, Arizona, Texas, Utah, and South Carolina.

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