

Sand Creek & Beyond

Oktibbeha County, Mississippi

Anita Boyd, Editor

Mission Statement:

1) To leave a written legacy of our voices for future generations of family members, extended family, neighbors, and family friends;

2) To reestablish family & community ties to Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi;

3) To make history come alive by getting to know our ancestors and our ancestors' families;

4) To make their lives meaningful by preserving & publishing their stories, too.

MERRY



CHRISTMAS

"...We didn't exist in the other papers. We were neither born, we didn't get married, we didn't die, we didn't fight in any wars, [and] we never participated in anything of a scientific achievement. We were truly invisible unless we committed a crime. And in the BLACK PRESS, the Negro press, we did get married. They showed us [-] our babies when born. They showed us graduating. They showed our PhDs."

—Vernon Jarrett

(The Black Press: Soldiers without Swords)

Our First Newsletter

December 2013

Volume 1, Issue 1

Help Wanted:

Seeking Columnists & Correspondents, especially from:

- Atlanta
- Chicago
- Cleveland
- Dallas
- Minneapolis
- Saint Louis
- Starkville

Recently, the Alabama Study Group Chair of the Afro-American Genealogical & Historical Society of Chicago (AAGHSC), Janis Forté, challenged me to create a family newsletter. With your help, I hope that this endeavor continues for many years to come. In fact, in 2009, while researching the **High Family**, of the **New Light** community and home to **Uncle William High's** family (husband of **Gladys Boyd**), I learned that his grandmother, **Katie L. (Vaughan) High**, was appointed newspaper agent and his grandfather's brother, **Dock High**, was appointed traveling correspondent for the Mound Bayou Dispatch!

EDITOR WILSON PAYS ABBEVILLE A VISIT.

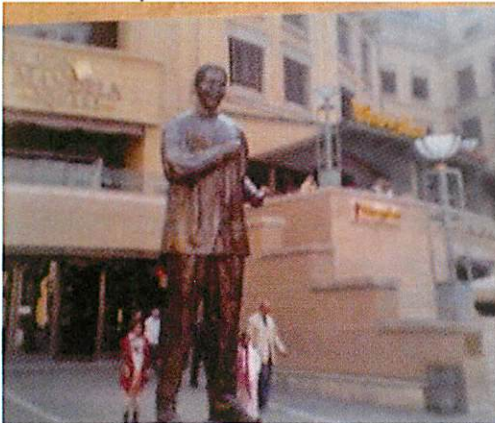
By J. L. McCullin.
Aberdeen, Miss., Jan. 7, 1916.—Mr. Asberry Buchanan is heading the list as a promoter. * * * The dance given Thursday night in honor of Messrs. Roble and Coleman was highly enjoyed by all who attended. * * * Mr. Elanders Roble of Birmingham is the guest of Mr. Asberry Buchanan. * * * Messrs. Eulker Hursey, Andrew Cunningham, and Cooper Conwell of Okolona, Miss., spent a few hours in our city last Friday night. * * * Editor Lot of Mound Bayou, Miss., was in the city last week in behalf of his paper "The Mound Bayou Dispatch." While here he appointed Mrs. Katie L. High, agent and Mr. Dock High travelling correspondent. * * * Editor Wilson of Okolona is here soliciting for his paper, The Weekly News. * * * Mrs. Lola Rathers left last Saturday for home in West Point after spending a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Nabos. * * * Prof. Ben Johnson and Prof. Adolph Bell left for schools Saturday. * * * After spending a happy week with her cousins Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Barnes, Mrs. Polly Stroud of Memphis, Tenn., left for Sturgis, Miss., Saturday. * * * Rev. J. M. Marsh of West Point, Miss., and Miss Dixie Bell of Holly Springs, were the guests of Mrs. Ida Barnes last week. * * * Misses Ida and Katie L. Gordon have returned home. * * * Mr. Will E. Coleman left for Nashville, Tenn., Saturday morning. Mr. Coleman is a student of Fisk University. * * * Misses Ella, Louise and Vivian Blanchard have returned home after a week's stay with their uncle, 7 miles south of Aberdeen. * * * Mr. Payton Hawthorne left for Birmingham, Ala., Wednesday. * * * Mr. Nelson Whitfield has returned from West Point, Miss.

Chicago Defender:
January, 8, 1916

HAMBA KAHLE, TATA MADIBA

On December 5, 2013, South Africa's greatest son, **Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela**, the father of democracy in our torn and divided nation, took his last breath after a long period of ill health.

I write this article only a few minutes after the funeral of our beloved **Madiba**, in his ancestral village of **Qunu** in the Eastern Cape, some 500 miles away from **Johannesburg**, where I live in Norwood, less than a mile from Madiba's Houghton home. As I drive through the city, Johannesburg is strangely quiet,



*Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton, Johannesburg
Ferial High, left (Haseenah Ebrahim photo).*

except for the sound of singing from nearby churches. It has been an emotional, but also at times quite noisy, week -- but today is an emotional day in a very different kind of way. We are stilled by the momentousness of this day – the day we say our last goodbyes and lay to rest,

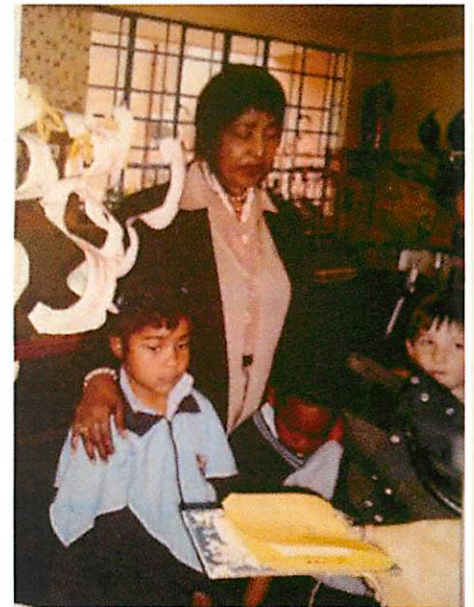
among the rolling hills of Qunu, a man who united a country so deeply divided that bloodshed seemed inevitable, a man who went from prisoner to peacemaker to President.

The moving tributes paid to Madiba at his funeral, with 95 white candles burning inside a grand white marquee attended by over 4000 mourners including family, dignitaries and close friends of Madiba, reminded us of a complex man who was The Great Reconciliator but also a Revolutionary.

Nandi Mandela shared memories of her *Tata Mkhulu* (grandfather) as a family man, of his storytelling at the dinner table as he reminisced about his childhood, of his humour, and sometimes mischievous nature, a man who was strict but also fun to be around -- evoking very personal memories of the man rather than the public figure we all know. She also reminded us of his humility and caring for all people, regardless of their station in life, recounting one moment when he stopped proceedings at a formal banquet, hosted by big business, to go to the

kitchen, thank the staff who had prepared the meal, and to shake hands with each person.

His loving and devoted widow, **Graça Machel** – whom he married at the age of 80 and herself a former first lady of **Mozambique** and **Winnie Madikizela-Mandela**, his former wife, have been seen all week, walking hand-in-hand, comforting each other.



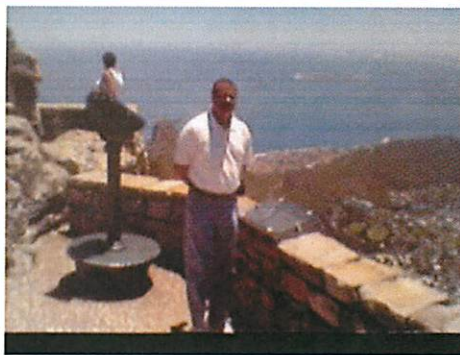
Ferial High, age 6, with Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, as her honorary grandmother on Grandparents Day, at The Wold Pre-Primary School in Saxonwold, Johannesburg, 2004, (Haseenah Ebrahim photo).

During the funeral procession, they walked side by side and, at the funeral, they sat on each side of the current South African President, Jacob Zuma, as the Presidents of Malawi, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and former President of

Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda, reminded us of Madiba's commitment and gratitude to the African continent as a whole.

Joyce Banda, the President of Malawi, spoke of how only few months after she visited Mr. Mandela, at his home in Johannesburg, she was elected president, and survived an assassination attempt soon afterwards – but was able to forgive those who tried to take her life by drawing on lessons learned from Mandela – a man who made partners of his enemies. *Tata Madiba* was able to do this because he was motivated by a selflessness that drove him to do what was necessary for the good of our nation - no matter how hard it was for him personally. He pointed out, to those who asked him how he could forgive those who had wronged him so cruelly, that if he held on to his bitterness and hatred, he would forever remain a prisoner.

Ahmed Kathrada, his long-time and close friend (Kathrada stated he did not think of Mandela as a friend, but as an older brother) who served 26 years on **Robben Island** with Madiba, joked that he was given a year's discount (referring to



Jeff High on Table Mountain, Cape Town, with Robben Island visible in the background, 2007 (Haseenab Ebrahim photo).

Mandela's 27 years in prison). His closing statement was particularly touching: "My life is now a void. I don't know who to turn to" – reminding us all that only three of Madiba's fellow Rivonial trialists remain: Ahmed Kathrada, Andrew Mlangeni and Dennis Goldberg.

I do not want to recount the stories of Madiba's life and struggles --- these have been documented and told in numerous books, documentaries and films, including the latest film, *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* (starring British actor, Idris Elba as Mandela), released in South Africa less than a week before Mandela's passing on December 5.

Madiba (which is his clan name, and used as a designation of respect according to traditions of the *AbaThembu* nation to whose royal family Mandela belonged) was a man best known for his selflessness,

dignity, courage and determination. He gave up his freedom so that South Africa could be free. No other person could have brought the country back from the brink of a bloodbath when Chris Hani, his likely successor, was assassinated, in 1993, on the eve of the country's first democratic election.

Mandela never wavered from the **Freedom Charter**, which states that South Africa belongs to all who live in it. As someone recently said, in Madiba, we saw a glimpse of who we could be (for most of us, with a lot of effort). Today, even white South Africans are grieving the loss of a man so principled and resolute; he was able to forgive those who took away a huge chunk of his adult life.

Even big businesses closed their stores on the day of his funeral, just 10 days before Christmas, willing to lose millions in profit in order to show their respect. And how appropriate that the day after, **December 16**, is a holiday in South Africa - **Day of Reconciliation**. During this past week, on the international news channels, among them the BBC, CNN, Al Jazeera and

Survey said...!

About a family newsletter, here's what you had to say...

Question # 1:

Which publication time frame best suits you?

Semi-annually	6	30%
Quarterly	14	70%
Other	0	0%

Question #2:

What newsletter content interests you most?

Family Events*	20	14%
Health & Wellness	11	8%
Informational/How-to	4	3%
Vacation/Getaways	12	9%
Family Recipes	12	9%
Interview/Profile	6	4%
School Days	3	2%
Arts & Crafts	3	2%
Book/Movie Reviews	4	3%
Family History	15	11%
Church news	2	1%
Pet News	2	1%
The Digital Divide	4	3%
Humor/Fun & Games	5	4%
Poetry/Prose	4	3%
Get Well Soon	11	8%
Family Photo/Document spotlight	15	11%
Business/Legal	5	4%
Other	0	0%

Family Events include

- Anniversaries,
- Births,
- Graduations,
- Local News,
- Marriages,
- Memorials,
- Promotions,
- Retirements

Question #3:

What would you name the newsletter?

Starkville Sun	6	30%
Clayton Village Crier	1	5%
Sand Creek Sentinel	2	10%
Oktibbeha County Observer	0	0%
Other*	11	55%

“Other” responses:

- Family Times (2)
- Boyd Times (1)
- Boyd Tribune (1)
- Something w/Boyd (1)
- Boyds: Sand Creek & Beyond (1)
- Starkville Roots (1)
- Boyd Family (3) Newsletter
- Boydtown Crier (1)

Question #4

Which of the following reunions have you previously attended?

Starkville: 2008	11	28%
Minneapolis: 2010	11	28%
Chicago: 2012	15	38%
I have not attended a recent reunion	3	8%

Question #5:

I am a descendant of...

George Boyd, Sr.	3	15%
Garfield Boyd, Sr.	0	0%
Robert Boyd, Sr.	12	60%
Boyd cousin, in-law, family friend	5	25%
Member of First John M.B. Church	0	0%

Question #6:

I am...

Still working	16	80%
Retired	1	5%
Somewhere in between	3	15%

How to survive Scandal's Winter Hiatus

- Read the pilot for Shonda Rhimes's 2010 Untitled Project (aka Scandal) at [http://www.zen134237.zen.co.uk/Scandal_1x01 - Pilot.pdf](http://www.zen134237.zen.co.uk/Scandal_1x01_-_Pilot.pdf).
 - Test yourself: What were Quinn Perkins and Olivia Pope's original surnames in the script?
- Rewatch each episode and then watch the corresponding Scandal review by Afterbuzz TV crew (i.e., Emile Ennis, Jr., Sofia Stanley, Bamm Ericson, and Kennelia Stradwick). Google "playlist, Afterbuzz TV, Scandal". I promise you that each review/recap gets better and better. Also, not to be missed are Tangel Ekhoﬀ's Youtube.com channel for Scandal recaps.
- Subscribe to the official Scandal podcast, Scandal Revealed, featuring Scandal producer Betsy Beers and a variety of guests from the hit TV show.
- Review Scandal Season Three episodes at abc.com.
- "Gladiators" should check out the following websites
 - Sabiacoruja.com
 - Scandalmoments.tumblr.com
 - Iluvolitz.tumblr.com
- Can't get enough of Kerry and Tony? Rewatch Django Unchained, for Kerry, and the Mechanic, for Tony. Be advised that The Mechanic does have graphic/violent content as does Django Unchained.
- Talk about Scandal: get to know your family history!
 - Ten years after returning from "the War", James L. Boyd, a former slave owner, began a love affair with one of his grandfather's former slaves. A wealthy planter, he could have had any woman in town and yet he openly defied convention. SCANDAL in Oktibbeha County...
- **The first one, to correctly answer the quiz on page 10, wins a gently-used Season Two DVD plus Target's elusive-content DVD and "M" magazine featuring Tony Goldwyn.**
- Will Joe Morton, aka Rowan aka Eli Pope, return?
 - Can we just talk about that "You are a boy..." monologue???
- **Stay tuned: Scandal returns Thursday, February 27, 2014!**

Survey said..., continued

No doubt about it, from the survey, the clear winner for the name of this newsletter should have been "Boyd-something", but consider the following...

Exhibit A -- How many of us were already familiar with the **Bingham** and **McDowell** surnames and their relationship to the Boyd Family prior to our family reunions?

Exhibit B -- In three generations, we've taken the idea of the **Great Migration**, which occurred between 1900 and 1970, to a whole new level, and we are now spread across this nation, "from sea to shining sea."

Exhibit C -- Some of us have no children or will daughter-out (meaning that we have no sons to carry on our surname). Rest assured that some of our descendants will eventually face a situation where the name Boyd will mean nothing to them -- unless we provide context to our family history with names, dates, and places.

Moreover, according to **Aunt Ruby**, Starkville has three sets of Boyd families (the **Barry Hill** (sp?) **Boyd**s, the **Rock Hill Boyd**s, and, the **Sand Creek Boyd**s), which presents a

unique genealogical challenge.

Exhibit D -- Let's re-examine the Chicago Defender article. "...After spending a happy week with her cousins, **Mr. & Mrs. Sylvester Barnes, Mrs. Polly Stroud**, of Memphis, Tenn, left for Sturgis, Miss. *** **Rev. J.M. Marsh** of West Point, Miss., and **Miss Dixie Bell** were the guests of **Mrs. Ida Barnes**. *** **Misses Ida & Katie L. Gordon** have returned home..."

Note: **Sylvester Barnes** married **Ida High**. **Rev. J.M. Marsh** married **Ida and Dock High's** younger sister, **Ellnora High**. What are the chances that **Ida and Katie L. Gordon** are also related to **Uncle William**?

The point that I'm trying to make here is that we have to look beyond the immediate family for additional family members and I hope to see future articles from our in-laws, our cousins, our play-cousins, our friends & neighbors, our fellow church members, and the larger community.

Incidentally, **Ida and Sylvester Barnes** would later relocate to Cleveland, Ohio, between 1940 and 1950.

Exhibit E -- Long before there was a **Clayton Village**, the area where our family's homestead is located was called **Sand Creek**.

Aunt Ossie has told me several times that area residents, including **Granddaddy (Robert Boyd, Jr.)**, were sorely disappointed when the city of Starkville renamed the area for a poetry professor at **Mississippi State University, Edgar Pomeroy Clayton**. He was also the only white man in the area, according to **Tommy C. Boyd**, who remembered his older brother, **Edward**, being chased by a black snake, during mating season, in the month of May, and while trying to escape it, happened upon **E.P. Clayton**, who was chopping weeds in his front yard, and used his hoe to kill the snake with one swift blow.

So, in honor of our loved ones and the larger Sand Creek community, I'd like to rephrase the immortal words of the late **Governor George Wallace**, of Alabama:

**Sand Creek today;
Sand Creek tomorrow;
Sand Creek forever!**

The Digital Divide

-AcademicEarth.org-

Move over Youtube.com, there's a new kid in town called AcademicEarth.org. Founded in 2009, this website just might be the great equalizer of educational opportunities for those who are economically-challenged.

For parents of high school or junior college students, it's definitely worth a look. Free online video lectures, ranging from Art History to Engineering and so much more, are available from the world's most prestigious

institutions, including 20+ Ivy League universities.

Not only does it expose your student to college-level course work but imagine them having CLEP-ed out of one or more classes as a result and the money that you'll save furthering their education!

-Word Clouds-

Teachers are my inspiration! I'm always going to Youtube.com for visual how-to videos, from how to improve PowerPoint presentations to how to turn on an iPod

(Yes, it's true). Several times, I've gone to my favorite free university for teacher-inspired ideas. Word cloud templates are a great way to express your creativity. For children, try [http://www.abcya.com/word clouds](http://www.abcya.com/word_clouds). For teenagers, be as sophisticated as you dare at <http://www.tagxedo.com/app.html>.

**

Technology is nothing. What's important is that you have a faith in people, that they're basically good and smart, and if you give them tools, they'll do wonderful things with them.

--Steve Jobs

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HAMBA KAHLE, TATA MADIBA, continued

Sky News, commentators wondered why South Africans were singing and dancing when Mandela passed on but for us, his life - a gift to our nation and, as it turned out, to the world - was to be celebrated. But, also because we as South Africans express deep emotion through song and dance - not just joy, but also pain and grief, anger and protest, sadness and longing. And what else but song and

dance can capture a week of celebration of an amazing life as well as the grief that South Africans - and many around the world - feel at the passing of a remarkable man?

In Paris, France, the Eiffel Tower displayed Mandela's name in lights and the colours of the South African flag.

Madiba's passing has united the nation in mourning. But for those who understand African

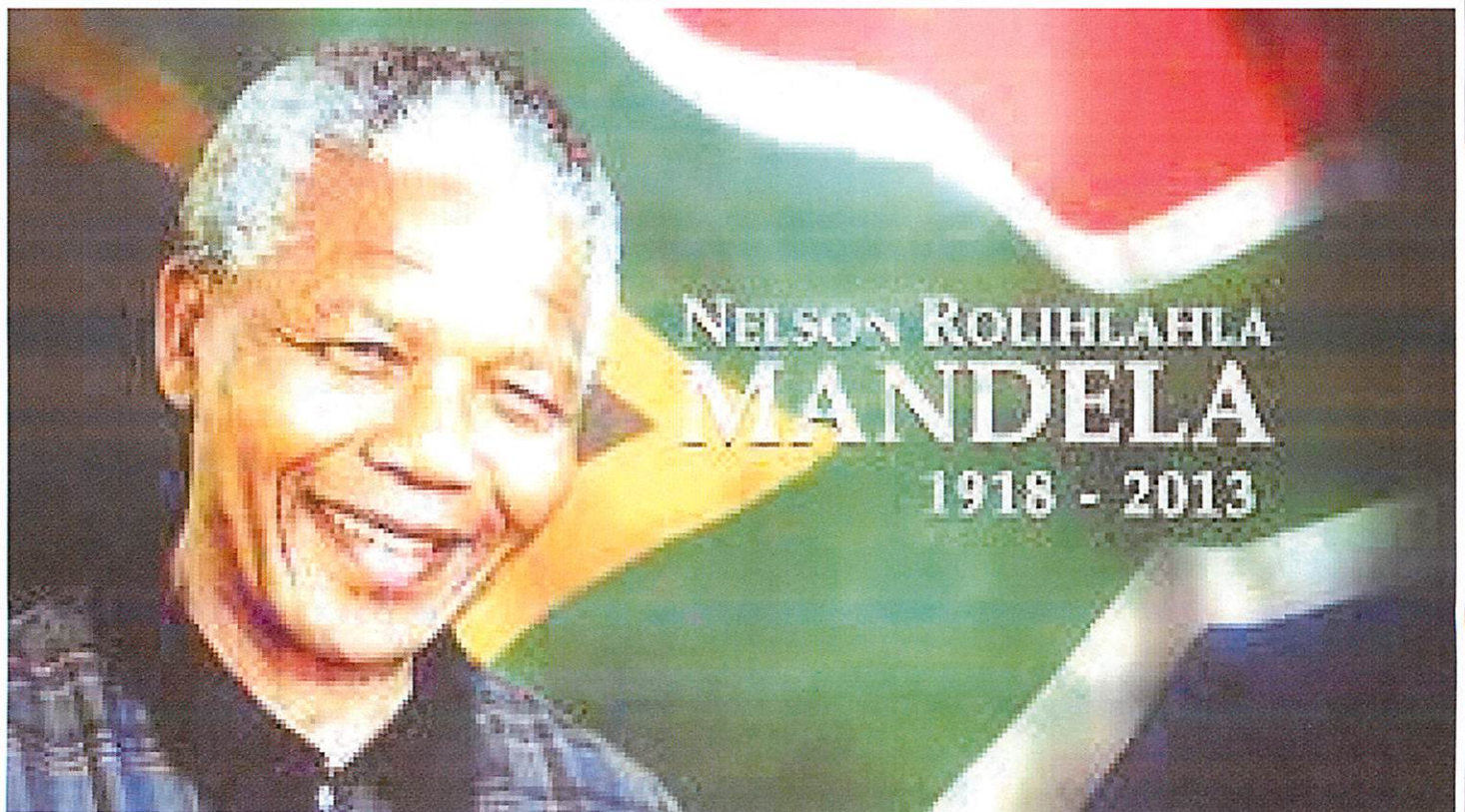
spirituality, there is consolation in the belief that South Africa may have lost a living legend, but has gained a venerated ancestor.



*Haseenah Ebrahim
Johannesburg, South Africa*

As we say in South Africa:

***Hamba kahle, Tata Madiba. Lala ngoxolo.
(Go well, Father Madiba. Rest in peace)***





Someone you should know:
John McDowell (1770 -1861)

James L. Boyd's maternal grandfather was one of Oktibbeha County's relatively smaller slaveholders.

According to the Bureau of Land Management's website, at <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/search>, **John McDowell** and his son-in-law, **Andrew Boyd, Jr.**, purchased a combined total of 373 acres of federal land, from the United States government, at the **Columbus, Mississippi** Land Office, in 1841, as a result of the first **Indian Removal** of the **Choctaw Nation** to **Indian Territory** (now, the state of **Oklahoma**), in 1830.

With further research, a headstone was located in the **Odd Fellows Cemetery**, in **Starkville, Mississippi**, for Andrew Boyd, Jr., indicating that he died in 1839. How could Boyd purchase land in 1841 if he died in 1839? With more research still, land records, obtained from the **National Archives**, in **Washington, D.C.**, showed that Boyd and McDowell obtained land in **Oktibbeha County, Mississippi** as early as 1834. As a result of McDowell's death, in 1861, his estate (worth more than \$500, 000 today) would need to be inventoried.

Scan the QR Code, above, with your smart device camera to find out more about the estate of John McDowell and answer the following questions.

Free QR readers are available in the app store of your Smartphone or tablet.

- Name the four oldest "girls" owned by McDowell.
 -
 -
 -
 -
- In addition, several "boys" were owned by McDowell who were worth a \$1000.00 each (or, \$20,000 today). To have this kind of value, these "boys" would have had to have special skills. Name these seven men.
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
- Based on the inventory of his McDowell's "tools", can you name at least two of the seven men's occupations?
 -
 -
- What are the names of Joe & Margaret's children?
 -
 -
 -
 -
 - (BONUS) s/b Mary Lue
- Based on Question 4, can you name the Boyd Family matriarch?

African Countries**Candidates/First Ladies/Presidents**

Malawi

Joyce Banda, President, p. 3

Mozambique

Graça Machel, Former First Lady, p. 2

South Africa

Chris Hani, Candidate, p. 3

Graça Machel, Former First Lady, p.2

Jacob Zuma, President, p.2

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Zambia

Kenneth Kaunda, President, p. 3

Afro-American Genealogical & Historical Society of Chicago**Alabama Study Group**

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Eastern Cape (province), p. 2

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Ahmed Kathrada, p. 3

Andrew Mlangeni, p. 3

Dennis Goldberg, p. 3

Nelson Mandela, p. 3

Stroud

Polly, p. 1, 6

Harriett M'DOWELL (ca. 1785 - aft. 1870) &	Unknown &			Jean YONGUE (d. 1825?) &	Agness (d. 1829) &
Unknown	Unknown	BOYD Family		John M'DOWELL (1770 - 1861)	Andrew BOYD, Sr. (d. 1818)
Margaret M'DOWELL (ca. 1833 - ca. 1907)	Joseph BINGHAM (1827 - 1899)			Mary M'DOWELL (d. 1847)	Andrew BOYD, Jr. (d. 1839)
	Caroline BINGHAM (ca. 1853 - aft. 1885)				James Lawrence BOYD (1824 - ca. 1902)
		Lillie (1877 - bef. 1885)	George, Sr. (1880 - 1961)	Garfield, Sr. (ca. 1882 - 1960)	Robert, Sr. (ca. 1885 - 1938)

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