

# Sand Creek & Beyond

Oktibbeha County, Mississippi

Anita Boyd, Editor  
2<sup>nd</sup> edition

## 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 our ancestors lives meaningful by preserving & publishing their stories, too.*



## THINK SPRING!

March 2014

Volume 2, Issue 1

I don't know about you but I'm tired of this white stuff. For the last couple of years, we've been spoiled with Spring-like winters. This time of year, we're supposed to have this kind of weather but enough is enough. Earlier this year, I called myself heading south, to Mississippi, for a week's respite and just as I was heading to the airport (Chicago/Midway), I received a text message: **SWA Flight 3561 on January 29 from MDW is cancelled.** True to form, *Winter Storm Leon* was wrecking havoc here

and there. The text message gave me the option to rebook or cancel. I had half a mind to rebook, for the next day, when it occurred to me that I would have to deal with traffic accidents anew and I decided to pass.

Each year, after the first major snow fall, we have to contend with drivers who have inconveniently forgotten how to drive under these conditions. Along the I-88 toll way, in the far west suburbs of Chicago, as I'm driving to work, I take

a deep breath. I tell myself to think about the dyeing of the Chicago River for the St. Patrick's Day parade. Think March Madness. Think Spring Cleaning. Think Easter and Easter Egg Hunts. Think April showers that bring May flowers.

Most importantly,  
**Think Spring!**



By Hulis Mavruk

**Get-well wishes are extended to the following family members who are sick, shut in, or hospitalized.**

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.  
Take care: may God bless and keep you.

Please send your letters & cards to:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Robert Ballentine</b><br/>4064 Finney Avenue<br/>St. Louis, MO 63113-3426</li> <li>• <b>James Ivory</b><br/>c/o Charlevoix Health Care Center<br/>1221 Boones Lick Road<br/>St. Charles, MO 63301<br/>636-946-6140</li> <li>• <b>Tommy C. Boyd</b><br/>1851 Engelholm Avenue<br/>St. Louis, MO 63133-1809</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gladys High</b><br/>5820 Superior Street<br/>Berkeley, IL 60163-1036</li> <li>• <b>Arthur Burnside, Jr.</b><br/>404 Frederick Avenue<br/>Bellwood, IL 60104-1442</li> <li>• <b>Margaret Bishop</b><br/>c/o Carrington Nursing Center<br/>307 Reed Rd<br/>Starkville, MS 39759</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

**GET  
COVERED  
AMERICA**  
#GETCOVERED

(Thanks Alice!)

Dear Family,

The **March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline**, for a new health insurance plan, is only 9 days away. It's more affordable than you think. How much will it cost? Go to:

[https://www.getcoveredamerica.org/calculator/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20140319\\_GCA\\_supporter\\_share\\_forward&utm\\_campaign=email](https://www.getcoveredamerica.org/calculator/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20140319_GCA_supporter_share_forward&utm_campaign=email)

## Comments from Volume 1, Issue 1

- I really enjoyed the article about Nelson Mandela. I was especially impressed by the love, respect and honor paid to Madiba and his entire family, including Winnie Mandela [Editor's Note: Triumph over turmoil. Wasn't Haseenah's insight amazing? I felt like I was right there in South Africa witnessing history in the making].

Katie McMurtrey, El Paso, TX

(researching the Hamptons & Muldrows of Oktibbeha County, MS)

- **That's my family!!!** That Chicago Defender article, January 8, 1916, that mentioned your Uncle William High's family mentioned mine, too. "Mrs. Lola Rathers left last Saturday for home in West Point after spending a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Nabo[r]s."

-Evelyn (Nabors) Cole, Chicago, IL

(AAGHSC member: researching Aberdeen, Monroe County, MS)

## Healthcare Corner: **Think F.A.S.T.** About Stroke

According to the National Stroke Association (stroke.org), one half of all African American women will die of heart-disease or stroke. Here’s why.

**1) Hypertension, high blood pressure,** affects one in three African Americans and is the number one risk factor for a stroke.

**2) Diabetes** disproportionately affects the African American community. Have you had your A1C level tested?

**3) Sickle Cell Anemia,** which once protected our African ancestors from malaria-carrying mosquitoes, is the most common hereditary disorder among African Africans.

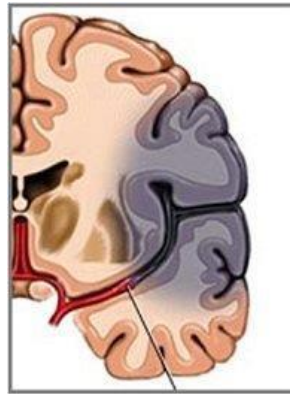
**4) Smoking** doubles one’s risk for a stroke.

**5) Obesity:** physical activity when combined with a lower-salt/lower-fat diet could reduce your high blood pressure and your risk for stroke.

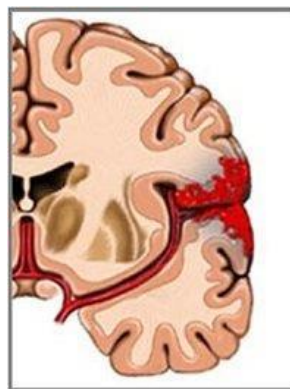
**During a stroke, an estimated 32,000 brain cells dies every second**

### The FACTS:

- **Ischemic Stroke,** the most common stroke, is caused by a blood flow blockage.



- **Hemorrhagic Stroke,** the less common stroke, is caused by a bleeding into the brain.



- **Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA),** the “mini stroke”, does not cause permanent damage and is not considered a stroke.

TIA’s should be considered a warning that you may have a stroke. **Go to the doctor!**

\*\*\*\*

So, is it a stroke or isn’t it?

## Think F.A.S.T.

<b>F</b>	acial Dropping
<b>A</b>	rm Weakness
<b>S</b>	peech Difficulty
<b>T</b>	ime to call 911

**NOW!**

Short Stories from *Big Foot Country Tales***'The Early Years' By Geraldine Boyd Foster**

Most of my childhood was spent growing up in the south. It was the most pleasant *part of my life and, to this day, I still look back and fondly recall those memories.* My earliest memories are from the age of 4 and 5 years, just as the 50's were beginning.

It was during the 50's: a time when there was racism, turmoil, hatred and disdain for the south (if you were an outsider). In spite of all that was happening, there was nothing happening in my world that made me even vaguely aware of so much evil at my young age. Looking back, I think it was because we did not have TV, we were shielded by our parents, or maybe it was the way we were completely absorbed in the day-to-day activities and relationships of family, friends and events going on in our little community.

I can remember my mother, Elizabeth (Jackson) Boyd, subscribing to the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* and either reading it to us or having us read it to her.

We were amazed when we knew most of the words; yet, never interested or amazed at the paper's content. It always seemed to be about the south somewhere else. So, in my small 4 and 5 year old world, life was almost perfect.

My earliest memory is of my sister, Jean, and me running down the road and through the field to meet my dad who was coming home from work at the state college laundry. We would wait on the porch until we would see him turning on the road to our place, and then run down the road to meet him. At age 4 and 5 we could barely see him over the tall grass that flanked the curves in the road. How we found our way to him was from his whistling and him following the movements he could see. When we reached him, he would pick us up and carry us home. It was perfect.

My dad's last name, of course, was Boyd. That is what my mother called him all his life. Until we were about school age, that's what we called him.

Later, we called him "daddy", which stayed with us until we were in high school when it became "dad".

My mother had been a school teacher as early as I can remember. She taught in the three-room Sand Creek School with two other teachers. If I remember correctly: the rooms were divided by grades 1-3, grades 4-5, and grades 6-8 (or along those lines). I often heard it said that children in this country school setting often progressed beyond their grade because of the exposure to lessons going on in the higher grades within the same room. They could not help but listen and learn.

One of the momentous events in the lives of children graduating from Sand Creek School and other county schools was to participate in the graduation ceremonies at OCTS (Oktibbeha County Training School). This was the high school for colored children in Starkville. I can still remember how all the county teachers practiced and prepared for this day.

When it finally came, nothing could compare to the graduates marching down the aisle to “War March of The Priests”. I could not wait until I could make this march. It was perfect.

My mother would take us to school with her even before we were school age. I guess she thought it beneficial and opted for this instead of a babysitter. In those days, my mother drove a 1949 light blue Buick Special. Each morning she picked up my cousins and they rode to school with us. Willie Pearl Jr. (Sonny) would walk to our house from up in back to ride. Ossie Dell would get picked up at the turn in the road to her house, and Mary Janice (“Jency”), and sometimes “Cat”, would be picked up near the cut off to Jim and George Boyd’s place. This was the daily routine. On certain occasions, my mother would have to go into Starkville after school. On those days, she hauled all of us to town with her. She would give each of us a penny to go to the bakery and purchase cookies while she tended to her business. Those were good memories that Ossie Dell and I share to this day. It was perfect.

Looking back, I reflect on how different it was growing up in Sand Creek (Starkville) compared to other places we heard about in the south. I think of Wier’s drug store and how they conducted business with my mother. Also, there was a dress store in town called Rossoff’s. It was owned by a Jewish woman. It was only until I was older that I found out in many places in the south, colored could not try on clothing in the store.

My mother shopped in this store quite often. I can remember her and my sister trying on the clothing they contemplated buying. I heard from other cousins that they also tried on clothing in this store. I guess this was “our changing room” or was it for all “coloreds”. I’m not sure. I often wonder if the memory of my early experiences reflects the reality of Sand Creek and Starkville, or did I live in a protected, “rose colored” world. Perhaps it was my parent’s way of shielding me from the harsh realities of the south in the 1950’s.

The community where we lived (Sand Creek) consisted mostly of the Boyd clan, my dad’s side of the family. It got its name from the sandy bottom creek that ran through the community. Scattered over the hills and around the creek were other family groups; but mostly, they were all the Boyd clan.

We all attended the First John Baptist church where my mother was the pianist. She also played the piano for services at Black Jack and Ebenezer churches. In my childhood, everyone called our church “I John” as in “eye” John. For most of my childhood, the pastor was the Reverend O.D. Bryant. He came from Columbus to preach one or two Sundays a month when the church had full service. It was the custom for someone in the church to have him for dinner on those Sundays. See the short story ‘*A Funeral at I John*’ for more about my experiences at the Sand Creek church.



Principal sub-sets of the Boyd clan that were big in my life belonged to Robert Boyd ((Uncle Robert), George Boyd (Uncle George), and Garfield Boyd Sr. (Uncle Garfield). Just a note: all my dad's life in Sand Creek, for whatever purposes, he was addressed as Garfield Boyd Jr. He never changed this in spite of not being Garfield Boyd Senior's son. Everyone in the community called my dad "Man", or "Uncle Man". I guess it was a way to differentiate the two in business matters. Everyone got their mail in the same mailbox that stood down on the gravel frontage road that ran along side Hwy 82. You simply went through all the mail and took out what was yours. I don't think I'll ever forget my first address: Rural Route 4 Box 43, Starkville Mississippi.

Perhaps the oldest member of the Boyd clan was Mariah (Winfield) McCottrey Bingham. Everyone called her "Big Mama". I won't elaborate on "Big Mama" here. She is the subject of the short story, *A Sleep-Over at Big Mama's*.

I never knew my dad's parents, Mary (Glenn) and Robert Boyd, Sr. Fannie & Jerry Jackson, my only biological grandparents that I knew were my mother's parents in Brooksville, Mississippi. However, my sister and I had adopted grandparents that were all any children could wish for. They loved us and we certainly loved them. They were Will and Cora Hudson and lived up in back of our place. My first memories of them were when they were in their 70's. My mother, by Mississippi state law, was allowed to teach in the colored school with a certain amount of college but she had to go to school each summer to complete her degree. She went each summer to Tougaloo College in Jackson. During this time, we were left with our dad. Only in Sand Creek could you get left on your own to wonder and take care of yourself during the day without interference. So, I ran wild. This, of course was not unthinkable for my dad. On those occasions when we were left, we would bother Uncle Robert to bring us moon pies and such on his trip to Gregg's Store. He did.

Usually, we were left with Cora and Will (Ma and Pa), as we called them. One of my really precious memories is remembering spending the nights and eating dinner with them. There were mostly garden vegetables, such as greens or beans and smoked meat. My absolute favorite was the hot water bread made on top of the stove with syrup. If she made a treat, it would be bread pudding, tea cakes, or some kind of cobbler. On special days, she would ring a chicken's neck and make chicken and dumplings. During the day we had chores. We would help Pa hitch up the wagon to go into town and wrestle with the most stubborn gray mule that ever lived. At night we would sit out on the porch (Pa called it the gharry) and talk or catch lightening bugs and frogs. One favorite memory of Cora (Ma) was her dislike of snakes. That old woman would kill a snake, or die trying. She taught me to kill them. Whenever there was a snake around, my mother would call me to kill it. I loved killing snakes and hanging them on the barbed wire fence, belly up. It was perfect.



**WELCOME TO THE 2014 BOYD FAMILY REUNION  
"WE ARE ABOUT FAMILY"**

•First let me say... KUDOS to the Chicago, Illinois crew for an outstanding job well done!!! I have to admit that if you missed out on the Chicago Reunion, you missed out on sooo much fun!

•However, I have some great news. Wanna' hear it? Sure you do! Well family, a fabulous family reunion awaits you in the "Show Me State"!

•On behalf of the Boyd family committee, here in St. Louis, I would like to first give glory to God for allowing us to celebrate our 4th biennial family reunion and heritage. Our goal, as your host city, is to give you a reunion that reflects the beauty and love that we as a family share. With that in mind, our theme for this year's reunion is: "WE ARE ABOUT FAMILY"

•This is a reunion you don't want to miss!! Reunion planning is well underway!! **The date of our reunion will take place July 25 - 27, 2014.** This family reunion will be a time to reflect on the past, enjoy the present, and inspire the future. Our committee is working diligently to design a reunion that is lasting and memorable for all generations. We hope and pray that your entire family and you will come and experience the fun and excitement St. Louis has to offer.

•Now that I have said all of that, I am asking that everyone respond to this email with the following information ASAP:

- Name:
- Address:
- Phone Number:
- # of family members attending:

•Please pass along this email to family members who may have been excluded from this email, as we are attempting to update all contact information so that all family members will have an opportunity to attend. So LETS SHOW UP, SHOW US, and LET US AS A FAMILY SHOW OUT!!

• Lots of Love,

Corey Boyd

**•Your St. Louis Committee**

<b>Corey Boyd</b>	<b>boydcorey@yahoo.com</b>	<b>314-814-1846</b>
<b>Robin Britton</b>	<b>rbrittorr@gmail.com</b>	<b>314-497-3368</b>
<b>Ethel Miller</b>	<b>emiller15@msn.com</b>	<b>314-690-1487</b>
<b>Glynis Bailey (Doll)</b>	<b>jammyb121@gmail.com</b>	<b>314-494-5426</b>





# Digital Divide: Spring Cleaning



Does your iPhone or iPad look like this? Do you have screens of downloaded icons just begging to be organized?

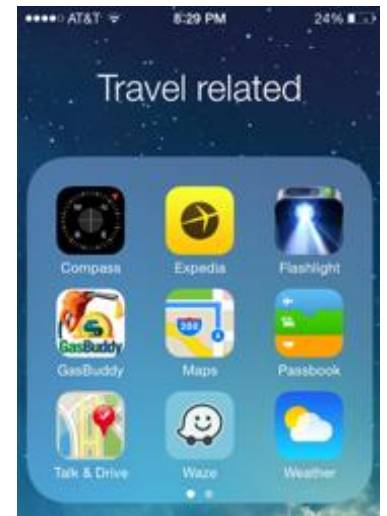
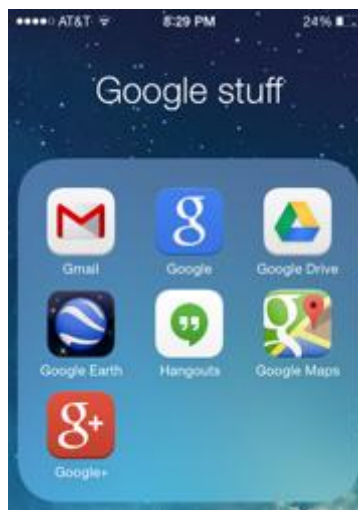
Getting organized is a piece of cake.



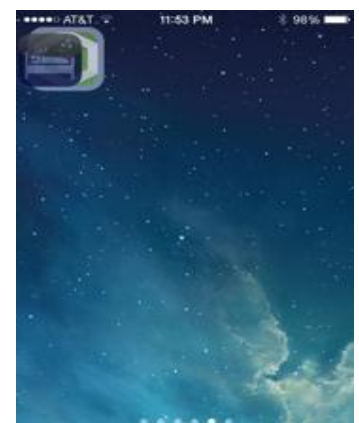
I created several folders for myself, including:

- Apple Stuff
- Education
- Games
- Google Stuff
- Productivity
- Research Tools
- Travel related

Let's look at a few of them.



To create a folder, drag and drop an app (aka application) on top of another one: preferably a like item. When you move an app on top of another app, you should see a square, when done properly, and then a bigger square where you can drag more icons into it.

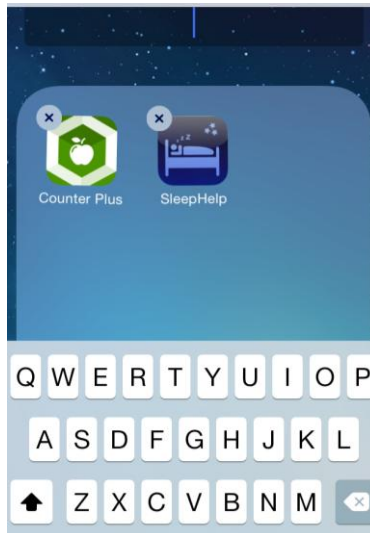


Be warned, it does take practice. Based on the app's subject matter, Apple will try to name the folder accordingly.





If you don't like the title, put your finger on top of the encircled "x" (to the right of the current one) and it will disappear. At the same time, the keyboard will appear. Next, all you need to do is rename it and hit Done.



Because the above image is a screenshot, the bottom row of characters is not shown. The Done key is on the bottom right. Lastly, click the "Home" button, below your screen to stop the icons from wiggling.

### -Multi-tasking-

Double click your "Home" button to find out just how many apps you have opened (and are also draining your battery).



Close the apps by swiping up and they will disappear.

## 'The Early Years', continued

Another pleasant memory is going into Gregg's store. It was the only store in the area for quite a while and was located up on Hwy 82 next to the school. They carried everything in that store. I looked forward to the times when my mother would get gas and give me a penny to buy something. I also remember the horrible day 'Old Lady Gregg' was involved in an accident just at Clayton's farm on Hwy 82. She was trapped in the car and her leg cut off. People heard her screaming for her husband to help her while

trapped in the car. She struggled for many months until she was well and able to get around. Since her leg could not be saved, she wore a prosthetic leg. Everyone said she was lucky to be alive. Others whispered she was too mean to be taken.

*(As I have gotten older, many of my childhood memories have faded. I dare say some of these may be blurred and or downright correctable. Gentle readers, if you see where corrections,*

*insights, or additions are needed; please forward these to me at [iluvepar5s@gmail.com](mailto:iluvepar5s@gmail.com) ).*

Geraldine Boyd Foster  
January 2013



## Making History Come Alive: The War Against the States

January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2015 marks the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the American Civil War.

### How well do you know your Civil War History?

- Which state was the first to secede from the Union on December 20, 1860?
  - Mississippi
  - South Carolina
  - Virginia

2. Delaware, Kansas, Maryland, & Missouri remained a part of the Union and were exempted from the Emancipation Proclamation?

- True or False?

3. Which city was a Confederate States of America capital?

- Birmingham, AL
- Montgomery, AL
- Selma, AL

4. Before it became a national cemetery, Arlington was home of which general?

- Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson
- James E. Longstreet
- Robert E. Lee

5. What action did President Lincoln take after the Union victory, at Antietam, September 1862?

ANSWERS found on page 7



A steamer on the Tombigbee River at Columbus, Mississippi:  
The Tombigbee River joins the Alabama River 45 miles above Mobile; from there, it is called the Mobile River.

On board R B Taney<sup>1</sup> Ala[bama] River  
Aug 9<sup>th</sup> 1862

To Surgeon Hospital at Selma Ala

Private W.J. Richey<sup>2</sup> is left  
here sick. Private Boyd to attend him.  
They are to report at Richmond, Va<sup>3</sup>

Recreated Document

Making History  
Come Alive:

[The Civil War](#)

F.H. Duquerçon  
Lt. Com[man]d[in]g Co[mpanie]s A & B  
(under orders for Rich<sup>d</sup> Va)

In case W.J. Richey dies - the surgeon  
will please give the necessary transportation  
for Private Boyd to take the body – to  
Oktibbehaw [sic] Co. Miss - & also transportation  
from Miss – to Richmond – where he will  
report to Gen Lee – Col Wilson<sup>4</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> Miss Bat<sup>l5</sup>  
-- by so doing a favor will  
be conferred--

F.H. Duquerçon  
Lt. Com[man]d[in]g Co[mpanie]s A & B  
(under orders for Rich<sup>d</sup> Va)

<sup>1</sup> The R B Taney was a steamer named for Roger B. Taney (1836 – 1864), the fifth Chief Justice, of the United States. Taney also delivered the Supreme Court decision, of March 6, 1857, against Dred Scott who maintained that he had been emancipated as a result of having lived with his master, in the free state of Illinois, and in federal territory where slavery was forbidden by the Missouri Compromise. NB: President Abraham Lincoln was sworn in by Justice Taney.

<sup>2</sup> William James Richey, brother-in-law of James L. Boyd, was married to Nancy Yonge [sic] Boyd on January 13, 1862, in Starkville, Mississippi.

<sup>3</sup> Richmond, Virginia was the location of the second Confederate White House

<sup>4</sup> William S. Wilson (Featherston's Brigade, Anderson's Division, Longstreet's Corp) was promoted to Major about December 13, 1861.

<sup>5</sup> The 2<sup>nd</sup> Mississippi Battalion was later reorganized as the 48<sup>th</sup> Regiment Mississippi Infantry. On January 19, 1861, Capt. Joseph M. Jayne, promoted to Colonel, was assigned command of the regiment.

Source: Richie [sic] Family papers, University of Virginia, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, Microfilm Reel M-1211.

Note: In 1983, Homer Richey donated Boyd, McDowell, and Keith family papers to the University of Virginia.



## Also Known As & Nicknames (1): How Well Do You Know Your Family?

(Make sure you have different colored pens)

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Cuff                      | A. Anita Boyd                |
| 2. (born) Gladys Mary        | B. Garfield Boyd, Jr.        |
| 3. Jency                     | C. Geraldine Foster          |
| 4. Kate                      | D. Jennie Mae (Everett) Boyd |
| 5. Lem Taylor <sup>1</sup>   | E. Juarez Boyd               |
| 6. Man                       | F. Lacie Dell (Hill) Boyd    |
| 7. Maybelle                  | G. Lawrence Boyd             |
| 8. Miss Cora <sup>2</sup>    | H. Mary (Glenn) Boyd         |
| 9. Nudy                      | I. Mary Janice Reid          |
| 10. Penny <sup>3</sup>       | J. Myrtle (Boyd) Banks       |
| 11. Roy Chester <sup>4</sup> | K. R.C. Boyd                 |
| 12. Sode                     | L. Ruby Burnside             |
| 13. Tear <sup>5</sup>        | M. Vivian (Boyd) Anderson    |

ANSWERS found on page 7

<sup>1</sup> Lemon Taylor was an actual resident of Sand Creek.

<sup>2</sup> Cora Hudson, resident of Sand Creek, is featured in 'The Early Years' by Gerri Foster (see page 4).

<sup>3</sup> Pennies from Heaven, a 1936 American Musical comedy with a theme song of the same name, featured Bing Crosby.

<sup>4</sup> "When he enlisted in the Army, they told him he had to choose a name." Ethel Miller (2007)

<sup>5</sup> "She used to cry all the time." Doris (Boyd) Seward, 1933 - 2013

**For the June 2014 newsletter, all articles are welcomed, especially those focused on:**

- **Family events** (e.g., Anniversaries, Local News, Marriage, Promotions, Retirements)  
Starting with our next newsletter -- Birthdays (MONTH & DATE only please).
- **Memorials/Memories of...**
- **Mother's Day & Father's Day**
- **Reunion Photos & Reunion Stories (long ago and more recently)**
- **School Graduations**
- **Technology How-to**
- **Known & Unknown family/friend photos**

• George Boyd, Sr. descendants

- 10 Feb (1922) Martha Boyd & L.C. Boyd
- 02 Mar (1957) Martha Ann Boyd & Jesse Gillespie

• Robert Boyd, Sr. descendants

- 06 Feb Juarez & Lawrence Boyd
- 07 Feb (1926) Lacie Dell Hill & Robert Boyd, Jr.
- 07 Feb Sandra & Bill Farrow
- 06 Mar (1904) Mary Glenn & Robert Boyd, Sr.

Wedding Anniversaries!



Bill & Sandra Farrow,  
Evanston, IL (2014)  
Happy 33<sup>rd</sup>!



Lawrence & Juarez Boyd  
Maywood, IL (picture taken in 1965)  
Happy 54<sup>th</sup>!

Want to know more about the Afro American Genealogical & Historical Society of Chicago (AAGHSC)? Newsletters are available at the following locations:

- Maywood, IL Public Library
- St. Louis, MO County Library
- Starkville, MS Public Library (Stark Annex)

If you do not find them there, please let me know.

Harriett M'DOWELL (ca. 1785 - aft. 1870) &		Unknown &			Jean YONGUE (d. 1825?) &		Agness (d. 1829) &
Unknown		Unknown			John M'DOWELL (1770 - 1861)		Andrew BOYD, Sr. (d. 1818)
			<b>BOYD Family</b>				
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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