THE DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL BOYD AND
SUSANNAH ASHLEY, OF CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA

By

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Preface

Let me begin this family history by mentioning its limitations. First, the study isn’t as comprehensive as the title suggests. Currently, it focuses on the descendants of Samuel Boyd’s youngest son, Robert T. Boyd, through the second marriage of Robert’s son, George Stanislaus Boyd. Some details regarding the siblings of Robert T. and George S. Boyd, their immediate families and descendants, and George S. Boyd’s first wife and children are also provided.

Second, I wish I could tell you how we connect to the earliest known Boyd, Robert Boidh, who lived in or near Ayrshire, Scotland during the late 12th and early 13th centuries. Unfortunately, I can’t do that because, at the moment, I have no solid information as to the origins of our Samuel Boyd—who is not to be confused with the dozens of other Samuel Boyds running around the American colonies in the late 1700s. A big problem with researching Scottish and Scots-Irish families is their annoying habit of naming offspring after parents and grandparents. Add to this the fact that the Boyds tended to procreate like hamsters and you get some sense of what we’re up against. Also, of the several Samuel Boyds who lived in Georgia during the first few years of the 19th century, ours left without doubt the smallest paper trail. You’d think he was a charter member of the federal witness protection program!

I can say—educated guess—that our branch of the Boyd family tree is probably not the one that enjoyed several hundred years of Scottish and English nobility, complete with titles, lands, and Dean Castle in Kilmarnock, Scotland. Sorry, cousins, but I doubt we are in line to inherit the British throne if Prince Charles gets kicked in the head by his polo pony and Queen Elizabeth dies laughing. Rich and powerful people don’t usually give up their castles and vassals to go live in an underdeveloped country swarming with seriously ticked-off Indians!

We don’t yet know when or from where our Boyds came to these shores. There are at least three possibilities currently being explored by me and a few descendants of Robert T. Boyd’s brother, James. All three “schools of thought” are highly speculative and full of holes and dead ends. It may turn out that none of them is right, and for this reason I’m a little reluctant to get into them. But for those who are interested, I’ve given some details in the final section of this document.

Next, I want to express my thanks to all of you cousins and assorted relatives, in-laws, and outlaws who have graciously provided information for this history. I hope your kids and grandkids will care enough to keep their part of it up to date and that every few years someone will try to pull it all together. Here’s a suggestion: Starting right now, if you haven’t done so already, SAVE your legal documents—deeds, wills, birth certificates, passports, marriage licenses, fishing licenses, wanted posters, eviction notices—anything that will help someone a hundred years from now prove WHERE you were, and WHEN. (Unless, of course, you really have something to hide.) And you know all those faded old pictures in that roach-eaten photo album? Please, folks, write down on the back of
each one just WHO those old timers are and WHEN and WHERE the picture was taken. In all likelihood, your descendants won’t be mind readers!

Finally, a special word of thanks to my aunt, Madelyn Grace Boyd, who is my partner in digging up bones. Much of the information in this document is due to her hard work. I often think of a December day—the first of two—that we spent together in the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History at the University of Florida (one of several “special collections” areas of the George A. Smathers Libraries), going through boxes of personal papers of Robert T. and Mary E. Boyd. That’s where we first saw the handwritten court order dated 7 January 1833 making Robert, “orphan of Samuel Boyd deceased,” a ward of his brother, James (see Exhibit 1, page 26). That single sheet, crumbling and patched with tape, was our introduction to Samuel!
THE DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL BOYD AND
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T1 Samuel Boyd, son of and (nee ) Boyd, born mid-to-late 1700s ( , County, ), probably died 17 August 1830 (at or near Jacksonville, Telfair County, GA), burial place unknown, married sometime between 16 April 1804 and 7 June 1808 (probably at or near St. Marys, Camden County, GA), Susannah (Susan) Caroline Ashley, daughter of Nathaniel and Jane (nee Williams) Ashley, born mid-to-late 1700s ( , Anson County, NC), died before 1830 ( , County, ), burial place unknown.

Samuel and Susannah Ashley Boyd lived in coastal southeast Georgia in the early 1800s. Susannah’s father and two brothers, William and Lodowick Ashley, were three of the founders of the town of St. Marys in 1788. (Source: Camden’s Challenge: A History of Camden County, Georgia, compiled by Marguerite Reddick and published by the Camden County Historical Commission.) Samuel Boyd was Susannah Ashley’s second husband. She was earlier married (ca. 21 April 1797, in Camden County, GA) to a local desperado named Daniel (“Dangerous Dan”) McGirt (sometimes spelled McGirth and McGirtt), who died—possibly of unnatural causes—prior to 16 April 1804. (A legal advertisement in The Columbian Museum & Savannah Advertiser states that on that date, Mrs. Susannah McGirt and Lodowick Ashley applied for administration of Daniel McGirt’s estate.) It is not currently known if Susannah was Samuel’s first wife or a subsequent one.

While Samuel’s first appearance in Camden County has not been established, the Camden County Court of Ordinary’s Minutes Book shows that on 7 June 1808, he and Susannah Boyd were administrators engaged in closing out McGirt’s estate. (We have not found a date when, apparently, Boyd replaced Lodowick Ashley in this task. Also somewhat conflicting with the 7 June 1808 record is one dated 8 January 1806, in which “. . . William Ashley was appointed Admr. Of Daniel McGirt, replacing Mrs. Susannah McGirt, resigned.” Maybe Susannah and Samuel, sometime after their marriage, jointly replaced her two brothers. But we have found no court record to verify this. Secondary sources indicate that their oldest child, James, was born in Camden County in April of 1807 (see U1, below). This suggests that their marriage occurred by the middle of 1806.

Samuel moved his family inland to Louisville, Jefferson County, GA, at the outbreak of the War of 1812, in order to avoid living in a war zone. (Source: Masonic obituary of Samuel’s oldest son, James Boyd - see below.) There is some evidence that this may actually have been a return to Jefferson County for Samuel Boyd, as someone by that name is listed as a participant there in the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery. Other records indicate that a Samuel Boyd had been granted 200 acres in Burke County in 1790 (Jefferson County was originally a part of Burke County) and 95 acres in nearby Columbia County in 1794.
There is further evidence that Samuel migrated to Irwin County, GA, which was formed in 1818, prior to living in Telfair County. The 1820 U.S. Census of Irwin County lists a Samuel Boid (sic) as a Head of Family. In his household are shown a free white male under 10 years of age, another between 10 and 16 years of age, a free white female under 10, and another between 10 and 16. These conform to the genders and ages of Samuel’s four known children. However, this census does not list an adult female in the household, suggesting that Susannah Ashley Boyd may have died before 1820. Further evidence of a Samuel Boyd in Irwin County at this time is found in Chalker’s book, Pioneer Days Along the Ocmulgee, which says that an election for county officers was held on 25 May 1820. Among those chosen was “Senator, Samuel Boyd” (p. 154). (This fact is also noted in Huxford’s Pioneers of Wiregrass, Georgia, vol. II, p. 10.) According to Chalker, part of the Ocmulgee River section of Irwin County was ceded at an early date to Telfair County. This could have been the manner by which Samuel Boyd’s place of residence “moved” from the one county to the other, although it is by no means certain.

The probable date of Samuel’s death is inferred first from an eyewitness account of a Jacksonville, Georgia, preacher, the Reverend Elder Wilson Connor. Connor posted in his diary on August 18, 1830: “Rode 19 mile and preached in the Courthouse in Jacksonville. The congregation was respectable and attentive, but no special excitement.” Of this entry, Julian Williams writes in his “Articles of Old Jacksonville, Georgia – No. 127”: “While on this visit to preach at the courthouse, I thought it interesting that Reverend Connor noted that he walked to the house of the dying Capt. Boyd. From the dates, we think this was Samuel Boyd, father of James Boyd. Rev. Conner further noted that he found Capt. Boyd ‘struggling with the last throes of man.’ He also noted that he died 20 minutes after 2 p.m. on Tuesday.” (Source: Julian Williams’s Internet page: http://hometown.aol.com/jgphoto3/myhomepage.)

Since Rev. Connor apparently did not supply a first name for “Capt. Boyd,” Williams’s inference about the identity is not absolute proof of the date of Samuel Boyd’s death. But it is believable, as we have a copy of the Telfair County probate court’s appointment, dated December 13, 1830, of Charles I. Shelton, James Boyd, and James P. Scarborough as administrators of Samuel’s estate.

If Rev. Wilson Connor’s diary and Williams’s inference are both correct, then we can further say that Samuel died on August 17th, since that is the first Tuesday prior to the entry date of August 18th, which was a Wednesday.

Children of Samuel Boyd and Susannah Ashley:

U1 James W. (Warren?) Boyd, born 14 Apr 1807 (near St. Marys, Camden County, GA), died 1 January 1884 (*, Montgomery County, GA*), buried in Lumber City Cemetery, Lumber City, Telfair County, GA, married 23 December 1830 (*, Laurens County, GA), Mary Ann Monroe (sometimes spelled Munroe or Munro), daughter of (__) and (nee ____) Monroe, born 5 November
1811 (                 , Laurens County, GA), died 25 March 1885 (Boyd Plantation, Coffee County, GA), burial place unknown.

*In Ward’s History of Coffee County, by Warren P. Ward, James Boyd’s granddaughter, Ella Boyd Dickey, says that her grandfather died “at his Telfair County home” (p. 262, italics added). The Montgomery County location provided above is taken from his obituary and an accompanying resolution of Lumber City Lodge, No. 199, F.A.M., dated 17 May 1884, published in the Eastman Times and Wesleyan Christian Advocate. Reprinted in Telfair County Extracts, 1810-1892.

Children of James W. Boyd and Mary Ann Monroe:

V1  Augustine Monroe (Munro) Boyd, born 183x (near Lumber City, Telfair County, GA), died 21 July 1886 (                 , Mexico), buried in                  , Mexico, married 3 October 1854 (Cave Spring, Floyd County, GA), Eva Fitzgerald, daughter of and                     (nee                    ) Fitzgerald, born 18xx (                  ,                   County, GA) died 18xx (               , County, GA), burial place unknown.

Dr. Augustine Monroe Boyd was a physician who received his medical education at Shorter College, which was originally a medical school for men, located at Cave Spring. During the Civil War, he served as a surgeon for the Confederate forces.

V2  Julius Warren Boyd, born 17 February 1834 (near Lumber City, Telfair County, GA), died 9 May 1896 (at or near the Boyd plantation, formerly the Jonathan Ashley plantation, Coffee County, GA), buried in Oak Grove United Methodist Church Cemetery, Pridgen, Coffee County, GA, married 31 March 1870 (William Ashley Plantation, Coffee County, GA), Marcella Smith, daughter of and (nee                     ) Smith, born 22 November 1847, (                  , County, GA), died January 19, 1930 (probably in Coffee County, GA), buried in Oak Grove United Methodist Church Cemetery, Pridgen, Coffee County, GA.

According to one of the two markers on his grave, Julius Warren Boyd served the Confederacy in the War Between the States as a Captain in Company H, 20th Georgia Infantry. Ella Boyd Dickey writes in Ward’s History of Coffee County, “He served throughout the war without coming home, and was paroled at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, April 9th, 1865” (p. 263).

Children of Julius Warren Boyd and Marcella Smith:

According to Ella Boyd Dickey, Julius Warren Boyd and Marcella Smith, who were her parents, had 11 children, all born at the Boyd Plantation in Coffee County. However, my knowledge of them is very sketchy at this point. Ward’s History of Coffee County identifies only two:

Leila Boyd m. (October 1891) Miles Wilson “Tony” Howell.
Ella Boyd m. (date ?) H. A. “Lon” Dickey.
Two other Boyds mentioned briefly in the Ward book are:

Rhoda Boyd m. (28 November 1874) John Metts.
Asbury Boyd m. (date?) Ellen Dedge d/o C. W. Dedge and Eliza Ann Meeks.

I have not yet been able to establish their relationship, if any, to James Boyd and his descendants.

Finally, the following information comes from headstones in the Julius Warren Boyd family burial plot in Oak Grove Cemetery in Pridgen, GA:

Julius Maxey Boyd b. 7 December 1874, d. 10 August 1914, buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.
Mary C. Boyd b. 13 March 1880, d. 6 March 1900, buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.

In all likelihood, they are two more of that family’s 11 children. But this has not been confirmed.

V3 Robert Samuel Boyd, born ca. 1835, died 3 October 1843, Telfair County, GA.

V4 Thomas Cooper Boyd, born 16 April 1838 ( , Crawford County, GA), died 14 May 1913 (Bartow, Polk County, FL), married 17 October 1871 (Jacksonville, Duval County, FL), Theresa Patience Elvira Martin, daughter of Kinchen and Ester (nee Wilson) Martin, born 18 April 1849 ( , Twiggs County, GA), died 14 May 1933 (Bartow, Polk County, FL), buried in Bartow, Polk County, FL.

This information on Thomas and Theresa Martin Boyd and the following data on their children and descendants were provided by Gordon Michael Allen, of Kissimmee, FL.

Children of Thomas Boyd and Theresa Martin:

W1 Eugene Martin Boyd, born 9 November 1872 ( , County, ), died 13 January 1940 (Winter Haven, Polk County, FL), buried in Blakely, Early County, GA, married (date unknown) (Winter Haven, Polk County, FL), Ethel C. Swearingen, daughter of and (nee ) Swearingen, born 18xx ( , County, ), died 21 December 1942 ( , County, ), burial place unknown.

W1 Eugene Martin Boyd, born 9 November 1872 ( , County, ), died 13 January 1940 (Winter Haven, Polk County, FL), buried in Blakely, Early County, GA, (second marriage) married 26 October 1902 (Blakely, Early County, GA), Myrtice Beatrice McMichael, Daughter of James and Nannie (nee Bailey) McMichael, born ca. 1878 (Jackson(?), Butts County(?), GA), died 28 August 1925 (Asheville, Buncombe County, NC), buried in Blakely, Early County, GA.
Children of Eugene Boyd and Myrtice McMichael:

X1 Thomas McMichael Boyd, married Bessie McCormick (Winter Haven, Polk County, FL).

X2 William Gordon Boyd, born 10 April 1908 (Baldwin, Duval County, FL), married Virginia Ware.

X3 Nan Theresa Boyd, born 16 May 1911 (Jackson(?), Butts County(?), GA), died February 1922 (Orlando, Orange County(?), FL), buried in Osceola Memorial Gardens, Kissimmee, Osceola County, FL), married 11 July 1937 (location unknown) Horace Buford Allen, son of and (nee ) Allen, born 18 December 1910 (Dawson(?), Terrell County(?), GA, died 26 April 1994 (Winter Haven, Polk County, FL), buried in Lakeview Cemetery, Winter Haven, Polk County, FL.

W2 James Gordon Boyd, Sr., born 4 December 1874 (Lumberton(?), County, GA), died 28 August 1939 (Jacksonville, Duval County, FL), married 16 April 1902 (Blakely, Early County, GA), Annie Kate Fort, daughter of and (nee ) Fort, born 26 August 1880 ( , Robeson County(?), NC), died 19xx (location unknown), buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Jacksonville, Duval County, FL.

Children of James G. Boyd, Sr., and Annie Fort:

X1 Charles Fort Boyd

X2 James Gordon Boyd, Jr., born 19 August 1904 (Blakely, Early County, GA), died 1985 (St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, FL), buried 15 August 1985(?) in Evergreen Cemetery, St. Petersburg (Jacksonville(?)), FL, married Virginia Pristine.

X2 James Gordon Boyd, Jr., born 19 August 1904 (Blakely, Early County, GA), died 1985 (St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, FL), buried 15 August 1985(?) in Evergreen Cemetery, St. Petersburg (Jacksonville(?)), FL, (second marriage) married Augusta Stockton.

X3 Annie Kate Boyd, married Peter Otey Ward.

X4 Jack Martin Boyd

X5 Marion Elizabeth Boyd

X6 Randolph Wilson Boyd, born 29 December 1906 (Bartow, Polk County, FL), married Margaret Muriel McMillan, born 25 November 1912 (Ashburn, Turner County, GA).
W3  Marie Elta Boyd


Children of John Newman and Willie Boyd:

X1  Elizabeth Boyd Newman, born 11 November 1905 (Valdosta, Lowndes County, GA), married Stuart Davies.

X2  John Boyd Newman, married Margaret Jones.

X3  Edna Earle Newman, birthdate unknown (Valdosta, Lowndes County, GA), married Lane Bradford.


X4  Joy Juliette Newman, birthdate unknown (Valdosta, Lowndes County, GA), (second marriage) married Ralph W. Holsclaw.

W5  Charles Thomas Boyd, Sr., born February 1883, married Mary Emma Ewing.

Children of Charles T. Boyd, Sr., and Mary Ewing:

X1  Charles Thomas Boyd, Jr., married Bunny Poole.

X2  Virginia Theresa Boyd, married Howard Staats.

X3  Mary Ewing Boyd, married Bernard Stamps.

W6  Robert Franklin Boyd

W7  Edna Earle Boyd, married Bradley Wilson.

Child of Bradley Wilson and Edna Earle Boyd:

X1  Edna Earle Wilson

V5  Susan Boyd

V6  (boy)

V7  Ella Jane Boyd, married (Mt. Vernon, Montgomery County, GA), (Capt.) Archibald Hughes, died 28 December 1929 (probably Montgomery County, GA).
In Ward’s History of Coffee County, Ella Boyd Dickey provides this interesting insight about the aunt for whom she was named, and her uncle, Dr. Augustine Monroe Boyd:

At the close of the [civil] war, [Dr. Boyd] bitterly declared that the United States was no place in which to rear a family, with its free negroes, carpet baggers, and other undesirable conditions brought on by the war, so he took his family of several sons and a daughter to New Orleans, thence to Tuxpam Bay, in Mexico, and at one time lived in Tampico. He died there July 21st, 1886. Although he tried to persuade the other members of his family to accompany him, my aunt Ella Jane Boyd . . . was the only one who went, having married Captain Archibald Hughes . . . She lived there eight years, but returned and died the last member of her family, December 28th, 1929 (p. 263).

V8 R. Edwin “Eddie” Boyd

Aside from Augustine Munroe, Julius Warren, and Thomas Cooper, little is currently known about the children of James and Mary Ann Boyd. One of James’s obituaries, which refers to him as Col. James Boyd, reports that he had five boys and two girls, all of whom married and had children. (Source: Obituary dated 10 January 1884, published in the Eastman Times. Reprinted in Telfair County Extracts, 1810-1892.) The Census of 1850 for Telfair County lists James, age 41, his wife, age 40, and the following five children: Munro 20, Warren 16, Thomas 14, Susan 6, and one boy, 4. The listing of James’s age as 41 at mid-century conflicts slightly with what we can infer from his obituary. According to the latter document, he was born in April of 1807, which would have made him either 42 or 43 at the time the 1850 census was taken.

A letter from James to his brother Robert T. Boyd dated 1 June 1869 refers to daughter Susan as well as to Ella, who was apparently born after the 1850 census. This letter and other private correspondence make it clear that James’s youngest child was his son Edwin, often referred to as R. E. or Eddie. The 1869 letter’s final paragraph is enlightening: (unedited) “My wife’s health & my ow is veary delicate we are bouth declineing veary fast from age the reast are well. We have nary child at home but Ella. Susan is mared & Edwin our youngest is off gowing to school” (Source: The Robert T. and Mary E. Boyd Papers, P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida.)

Another son, Robert Samuel (p. 4), died of snakebite in Telfair County, GA on 3 October 1843, at the age of 8. (Source: Southern Recorder, 17 October 1843, as compiled in Georgia Newspaper Clippings, 1810-1892.) Note: This source refers to Robert Samuel as having been the “third son” of James Boyd. Had he lived until the time of the 1850 census, he would have been 15, placing him between Warren and Thomas in the list above. If Robert Samuel is one of the five sons referred to in James’s obituary, then the obit is wrong in saying that all seven of James’s children married and had children.
Another possibility is that it meant surviving children, and that James had an eighth child (sixth son) whose name we have not discovered.

James Boyd lived most of his life in Telfair County, where he served at age 21 as sheriff, and later as tax collector and as a representative to the lower house of the state legislature. (Source: Obituary and resolutions of Lumber City Lodge, No. 199, F.A.M., dated 17 May 1884, cited above.)

U2 Jane Ashley Boyd, born 8 May 1809 (near Darien, McIntosh County, GA), died 7 November 1894 (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), buried in Peniel Cemetery, Palatka, Putnam County, FL, married 2 October 1826 ( , Telfair County, GA), Rev. Charles Irby Shelton, son of Crispin and Susannah (nee Irby) Shelton, born 16 November 1787 ( , Pittsylvania County, VA), died 19 July 1871 ( , Telfair County, GA) buried in Blockhouse Cemetery, near Jacksonville, Telfair County, GA.

According to “Sketches of Shelton’s Chapel—Lumber City, Ga.”, by Tommy Brewer, Charles Shelton was a Methodist minister who volunteered for service in the War of 1812 at Richmond, VA. As an army major, he served in both Virginia and Georgia. Captured by the British, he was imprisoned in England until exchanged after the war. Prior to his marriage to Jane Ashley Boyd, Shelton was married to Eliza Jane Boyd, who died 9 August 1822. It is possible that Jane Ashley Boyd and Eliza Jane Boyd were half-sisters. The minutes book of the Camden County Court of Ordinary shows that on 11 January 1813, Eliza Jane Boyd, “daughter of Susannah Boyd,” was placed under the guardianship of Susannah’s older brother, William Ashley. No mention was made of Eliza’s father, and the implication is that he was deceased. On 18 June of that same year, the McGirt estate, under the administration of Samuel and Susannah Boyd, was divided among Samuel, Susannah, and Eliza Jane Boyd. All of this leads us to think that Eliza Jane Boyd was probably the child of Susannah Ashley and Daniel McGirt, who subsequently took her stepfather’s surname even though she did not live in his household.

Children of Charles I. Shelton and Jane Ashley Boyd:

Charles and Jane Ashley Boyd Shelton had ten children, of whom the Census of 1850 for Telfair County, GA, lists the following eight: Susan E. age 23, Columbia 18, Martha Ann 17, Nathaniel 14, Mary 12, James R. 9, Cowper 6, and Bascom 3 (misspelled “Barcom” in the census transcript).

A few details of the lives of all ten of the Shelton children have been provided to me by Charles and Jane Shelton’s 4g-granddaughter, Amy A. Munroe, of Falls Church, VA. Much of this information comes from a book, The Sheltons, published in 1962 by Z. F. Shelton with supplemental pages by Louis P. Shelton. (Additional sources: Pioneers of Wiregrass, Georgia, v. 4, p. 373; History of Telfair County, by Mann; “The Shelton Tree,” family newsletter, January 1984.)
Susan Elizabeth Shelton, born 29 October 1828 (this according to the Shelton book; her headstone gives the year as 1827), died 21 October 1905, buried in Peniel Cemetery, Palatka, Putnam County, FL, married 21 January 1855, Peter Munroe, son of and (nee ) Munroe, born ca. 31 October 1823 ( , County, GA), died 6 November 1887 ( , County, FL), buried in Peniel Cemetery, Palatka, Putnam County, FL.

Peter Munroe was the business partner of Susan Shelton’s uncle, Robert T. Boyd, in Palatka, FL (see U4, below). Together they owned and operated the Boyd Munroe Lumber Company, a timber cutting enterprise on the St. Johns River.

My information on the children and descendants of Peter and Susan Shelton Munroe is, at the moment, very incomplete. They had at least two sons. One of them, Charles Munroe, was born in Palatka, married Marea Therese Meginniss, worked for the Florida State Treasurer’s office, and is buried in Tallahassee, Leon County, FL. Amy Munroe, mentioned above, is descended from Charles Munroe through his son, Charles Ivan Munroe, born in Tallahassee, and Charles Ivan’s wife, Mildred Andrick. Charles Ivan Munroe was a pilot and flying enthusiast for whom, in February 2000, the terminal building at Tallahassee Regional Airport was named.

Peter and Susan Shelton Munroe had another son, Tomie, who died 20 October 1865 at the age of 16 months. He is buried beside his parents in Peniel Cemetery, Palatka, Putnam County, FL.

Samuel Crispin Shelton, born 30 May 1830, died in infancy.

Columbia Shelton, born 24 March 1831, , Telfair County, GA, died ( , County, FL) 12 December 1901, buried in Peniel Cemetery, Palatka, Putnam County, FL, married William Zeigler.

Martha Ann Shelton, born 3 June 1833, , Telfair County, GA, died in 1915 ( , County, FL), buried in Peniel Cemetery, Palatka, Putnam County, FL, married Peter Harrison Coffee in 1864.

I don’t know how many children Peter Coffee and Martha Ann Shelton had, but among them (according to my notes) was a daughter named Idella Coffee. Idella was married to James Harley Hickenlooper, of Palatka, FL.

Nathaniel Ashley Shelton, born 14 April 1836 ( , Telfair County, GA), died 4 December 1861.

Nathaniel Ashley Shelton reportedly died of pleurisy while serving in the Confederate armed forces.
V6 Mary Elizabeth Shelton, born 27 October 1838 (                 , Telfair County, GA),
made Jonthan Maxey Ashley.

V7 James Robert Shelton, born 26 March 1841 (                 , Telfair County, GA),
died 13 September 1861 (Fairfax, Fairfax County, VA).

James Robert Shelton also died in service of the Confederate armed forces.

V8 Cowper Irby Shelton, born 6 June 1844 (                 , Telfair County, GA), died 8
April 1918 (                 , County, GA), buried in Sunset Hill Cemetery,
Valdosta, Lowndes County, GA, married 7 October 1874 (Valdosta, Lowndes County,
GA) Sarah Annie (“Ann”) Howell, daughter of William and                   (nee                  )
Howell, born 18XX (                 ,                   County, GA), died 19 January 1931
(Valdosta, Lowndes County, GA), buried in Sunset Hill Cemetery, Valdosta, Lowndes
County, GA.

Cowper Shelton joined the Confederate Army on 4 August 1863 and served as a corporal
in Company F of the 28th Battalion, Georgia Siege Artillery. He was captured by Union
forces on 6 April 1865, three days before the end of the Civil War.

Children of Cowper Shelton and Ann Howell (all presumably born in or near Valdosta,
Lowndes County, GA):

W1 Irby Elizabeth Shelton, born 10 October 1876, died 31 October 1957(?), married
31 October 1898, James Lasseter.

W2 Janie Ashley Shelton, born 24 January 1878, died 19 January 1897.

W3 William Howell Shelton, born 18 October 1879, died 2 September 1912.

W4 Charles Bascom Shelton, born 24 July 1881, died 24 October 1958, married 24
June 1912, Nora Bell Rosser.


W6 Cyrus Irby Shelton, born 14 January 1885, died 31 August 1955, married 24 June
1912, Gladys Eulalia West.

W7 George Lang Shelton, born 3 June 1887, died 20 February 1963, married 10 April
1912, Eula Cone Davis.

W8 Louis Payne Shelton, born 13 June 1889, died 19 November 1979, married June
1941, Nancy Hartfield.

W9 Annie May Shelton, born 16 May 1893, date of death unknown, married 4 June
1919, John Burton Parramore.
W10 Mary Frances Shelton, born 29 February 1896, died in infancy.

W11 Natalie Shelton, born 2 December 1899, date of death unknown, married George Francis Gramling.

V9 Bascom Shelton, born 8 August 1847 (                 , Telfair County, GA).

Bascom Shelton was the third of Charles Irby and Ann Boyd Shelton’s sons to die in service to the Confederacy during the Civil War (date and place unknown).

V10 Charles Edward Shelton, born 7 September 1850 (                 , Telfair County, GA), died 13 February 1870.

Charles Edward Shelton reportedly died in a wagon accident. After having lost three sons to war, Charles Irby Shelton was reportedly devastated by the death of his nineteen-year-old namesake.

U3 Ann Elizabeth Boyd, born 10 December 1811 (                  , Camden County, GA), died 8 May 1874 (St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN), burial place unknown, married 6 (or 16) July 1830 (                 , Telfair County, GA), James J. Scarborough, son of and (nee                  ) Scarborough, born 6 July 1806 (                 , Burke County, GA ), died 28 November 1875 (St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN ), burial place unknown.

Children of James J. Scarborough and Ann Elizabeth Boyd:

Among the four children of Samuel Boyd and Susannah Ashley, fewest details are known about Ann Boyd Scarborough and her family. A letter from James Scarborough to his wife’s sister-in-law, Mary Emily Dunham Boyd (see U4, below) indicates that James Scarborough was an attorney who practiced litigation. As of the letter’s date, 21 June 1869, the Scarborouighs had three daughters, to whom the letter refers as Sophie, Carrie, and Annie. (Source: The Robert T. and Mary E. Boyd Papers.)

Sophie Scarborough was married to a Dr. Wade (the letter provides no first name) and lived in Macon County, GA, 31 miles above the town of Americus. According to History of Macon County, Georgia, by Louise Frederick Hays, Dr. John Daniel Wade, born 13 May 1834 near Abbeville, SC, was the son of Daniel Franklin and Katherine (nee Treutlen) Wade. This source indicates that John Wade attended Emory University before going to medical college in Charleston. After completing his medical degree, he returned home to Georgia and “married Augusta Scarborough, the daughter of Judge Scarborough of Americus” (p. 378, italics added). It seems reasonable to infer from these sources that Sophie and Augusta were the same person. John and Augusta (Sophie) Wade had a daughter, Annie, who grew up to marry a George Harris. They made their home in Macon, GA. Augusta (Sophie) Scarborough died in the early 1880s, after a long illness.
James Scarborough’s 1869 letter to Mary E. Boyd tells us that his daughter Carrie was married and had two sons, Horace Egbert, born 13 April 1855, and Charles, born 15 March 1864. Annie was also married (18 September 1866 in St. Paul, MN) and had a daughter. According to the letter, the daughter was “Carrie Thomas (last name illegible), named for his sister Carrie and her husband.” It is likely that James meant to say “her sister Carrie.” The letter does not say whether Thomas was Carrie’s husband’s first name or his last.

U4 Robert Talbot Boyd, born 25 April 1816 (probably in Louisville, Jefferson County, GA), died 21 January 1879 (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), buried in Westview Cemetery, Palatka, Putnam County, FL, married 16 October 1851 (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), Mary Emily Dunham, daughter of David and Mary Caroline (nee Gibbs) Dunham, born 5 December 1830 (Scituate, Providence County, RI), died 25 August 1917 (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), buried in Westview Cemetery, Palatka, Putnam County, FL.

A handwritten list of Robert’s family compiled by one of his granddaughters (Thelma Marguerite Boyd, see W1, below) is our original source for his birth date, shown above. However, two recently discovered letters add credence to it.

The first one, dated 10 July 1812, is from Sarah G. Williams, one of Susannah Boyd’s cousins in St. Marys, GA, writing to her mother, Mrs. Hannah Williams, in Rockingham, NC. In it she says (unedited), “Cousin Boyd is a living very near Aunts she has three children by her last husband, they are all well.” Clearly this reference is to James, Jane, and Anne.

The second letter, dated 20 April 1816, is to Sarah Williams, now in North Carolina, from Susannah Boyd’s sister Elizabeth W. Ashley, in Louisville, Jefferson County, GA. She writes: “Sister Boyd still continues in the up country they live near us Sister Boyd expects to be confined in a few weeks they are all well and Ann’s back is as broad as ever . . .” It seems likely that at this point in time, Ann is still the “baby” in the Boyd household, as there is no mention of Robert. However, the reference to Sister Boyd’s expected confinement could signal Robert’s impending birth, which according to Thelma Boyd’s list would turn out to be just five days later.

After the death of his father, Samuel, Robert T. Boyd, a minor, was placed by the Telfair County Court under the guardianship of his older brother, James. There is some question as to exactly when this guardianship began. A Telfair County Court document dated 7 February 1833 indicates the guardianship began on 30 December 1830, the year in which Samuel is known to have died. However, the court’s one-page letter of appointment to James that was referenced in the preface to this history was dated 7 January 1833. (This original document is among The Robert T. and Mary E. Boyd Papers.) In any case, in August 1836, James Boyd petitioned the court to have the guardianship dissolved—even though our best evidence suggests that Robert was just 20 at the time. (Source: The Georgia Journal, Tuesday, August 14, 1836. Reprinted in Genealogical Abstracts from the Georgia Journal (Milledgeville) Newspaper, 1809-1840, compiled by Tad Evans.)

Among the early members of this Boyd family, Mary E. Dunham Boyd was one of the most colorful. She became a local legend in Palatka during the Civil War when, in October of 1862, she single-handedly saved the town from being attacked by a Union gunboat, the *U.S.S. Cimarron*. In the process, she also prevented the arrest of former Florida governor William Dunn Moseley by Federal troops. This story was told firsthand in her 1903 memoir, “Reminiscences of Palatka,” which is among her papers at the University of Florida. It has been recounted over the years in various newspaper articles and historical documents. The day before she died, her hometown newspaper described her as “without doubt the oldest living pioneer citizen of Palatka.” (Source: “Palatka’s Oldest Citizen Nears Death,” *Palatka News and Advertiser*, 24 August 1917, p. 1.)

Robert T. and Mary E. Boyd’s life together was not a happy one. Her memoir tells of his violent temper and of his abusiveness toward her and their children. On 10 February 1876, she filed for divorce, a rare occurrence in those days. When Robert died three years later, Mary allowed him to be buried in the family plot at Palatka’s Westview Cemetery, but in an unmarked grave.

Children of Robert T. Boyd and Mary Emily Dunham:

V1 Robert Samuel Boyd, born 12 August 1852 (Palatka, Putnam Co., FL), died 4 May 1854 (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), buried in Westview Cemetery, Palatka, Putnam County, FL.

It is interesting that Robert T. Boyd’s first son was given the same name as older brother James’s third son, who had died of snakebite almost nine years earlier. It may be that this later child was simply named for his father and grandfather. But it’s tempting to wonder if a dead cousin might have factored into the choice.

V2 Walter Everett Boyd, born 15 June 1854 (Palatka, Putnam Co., FL), died 15 May 1857 (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), buried in Westview Cemetery, Palatka, Putnam County, FL.
V3 George Stanislaus Boyd, born 20 March 1856 (Palatka, Putnam Co., FL), died 25 April 1940 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), buried in Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL, married 13 March 1878 (                    , Sumter County, FL), Mary Elizabeth Goldsby, daughter of                    and                    (nee                    ) Goldsby, of Yalaha, Sumter (now Lake) County, FL, born in 18xx (                    , County, ), died ca.1870s (                    , County, ), burial place unknown.

Children of George S. Boyd and Mary Elizabeth Goldsby:

This was the first of two marriages for George S. Boyd. Information is very sketchy. George S. Boyd and Mary E. Goldsby had four children: Zadie Boyd, a daughter, married John Hilliard and they had two female children, Edriss and Ora, and may also have had a son named Jack. Dates and locations are unknown at this time. The second child of George S. and Mary E. Goldsby Boyd was Effie Louise, who for reasons that no one in the family can remember was later called “Marguerite.”

According to a second list compiled by Thelma M. Boyd (W1), Effie Louise Boyd was born 17 March 1879 and died in 1952 (no locations given, although Effie Louise is known to have lived in New Orleans). She had three successive husbands whose surnames were Jones, Barclay, and Frick. The list provides no first names, nor are any children listed for Jones or Frick. It is known, however, that Effie Louise had a son named Purcell C. Jones, that Purcell married a Honduran woman named Juana (last name unknown), and that they, in turn, had a daughter named Lily Grace Jones and a son named Edward Purcell Jones (“Eddie”), both born in Honduras. While the children were still quite young, Purcell Jones and his family moved to Tampa. Upon reaching adulthood, Lily moved to New Orleans and married a man by the name of Bourne. Some years later, Eddie returned to Honduras to live, before finally settling in New Orleans.

[Update: Eddie, Lily, and their mother, Juana, were living in New Orleans when hurricane Katrina hit. They all evacuated safely, though their homes were destroyed. They have since returned to pick up the pieces. Eddie is reportedly living in a FEMA trailer. Until recently, Lily was staying at a New Orleans hotel with her mother, who is now 99 years old.]

Effie Louise Boyd’s second son is listed as James Edward Barkley, Jr., born in 1917. From this, we can infer that Effie Louise’s second husband was James Edward Barclay, Sr. Most of the space in Thelma Boyd’s one-page list is taken up with the children and grandchildren of this line. But the information is so brief and so muddled that it is probably best not to try to decipher it in this history.

Thelma’s list gives no information about Effie Louise Boyd’s third husband beyond his last name, Frick.

The third child of George S. and Mary E. Goldsby Boyd was a boy named Chester. Their fourth child, a girl, died at birth in or near Yalaha, FL, an event that also claimed the life of the mother. They are probably buried at Yalaha.
V3 George Stanislaus Boyd, born 20 March 1856 (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), died 25 April 1940 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), buried in Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL, (second marriage) married 15 November 1893 (St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, FL), Mary Hautense Moseley, daughter of Clement T. and Cornelia (nee Clark) Moseley, born 15 July 1874 (Taylor's Creek, Liberty County, GA), died 11 February 1951 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), buried in Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL.

Children of George S. Boyd and Mary Hautense Moseley:

W1 Thelma Marguerite Boyd (“Auntie”), born 15 October 1894(?) (St. Petersburg(?), Pinellas County, FL), died 2 December 1986 (Balfate, Honduras, C.A.), buried in Balfate Cemetery, Balfate, Honduras, C.A., married ca.1916 (Tela, Honduras, C.A.), Cecil Chadwick Miller, son of William Frederick and Martha (nee Chadwick) Miller, born ca.25 July 1887 (Elysian, LeSueur County, MN), died in 19xx ( , County, ), burial place unknown.

Children of Cecil Chadwick Miller and Thelma Marguerite Boyd:

X1 Jacqueline Mae Miller, born 4 January 1923 (St. Louis, St. Louis County, MO), married 12 July 1941 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), Nathan Whitford Benjamin, son of Jerry Stuart and Emma Delia (nee McCain) Benjamin, born 1 September 1919 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), died 16 February 1981 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), buried in Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL.

Children of Nathan Whitford Benjamin and Jacqueline Mae Miller:

Y1 Nelson Miller Benjamin, born 6 July 1947 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), married 19xx ( , , County, ) Cathi (last name unknown), daughter of and (nee ) , born 19xx ( , , County, ).

Child of Nelson Miller Benjamin and Cathy __________________:

Z1 Leon McCain Benjamin, born 12 May 1976 ( , , County, ).

Y2 Gregory Russell Benjamin, born 24 January 1950 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), married 11 December 1993 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), Cynthia Dale Williams, daughter of Bob Fred and Alice Clotee (nee Lloyd) Williams, born 19xx ( , , County, ).

Y3 Douglas McCain Benjamin, born 20 November 1952 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), married 10 August 1975 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), Eileen Diane Chernoff, daughter of Martin and Mindell (nee Moskowitz) Chernoff, born 19 November 1953 (Orlando, Orange County, FL).
X1  Jacqueline Mae Miller, born 4 January 1923 (St. Louis, St. Louis County, MO), (second marriage) married 29 August 1982 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), Leonard Brown, son of Meyer and Laura (nee Brandon) Brown, born 18 January 1918 (Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA).

W2  Vivien Belle Boyd ("Mimi"), born 7 May 1897 (La Crosse(?), Alachua County, FL), died 26 November 1947 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), buried in Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL, married 20 July 1921 (New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA), Bernard Peter Martinez, son of and (nee ) Martinez, born 6 October 1896 (New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana), died 23 February 1958 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), buried in Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL.

W3  George Earl Boyd, Sr., born 29 August 1899 (La Crosse, Alachua County, FL), died 28 July 1996 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), buried in Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL, married 28 July 1921 (New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA), Mary Maude Laiche, daughter of Fernand and Mary Uranie (nee Laurent) Laiche, born 6 April 1902 (Lutcher, St. James Parish, LA), died 8 December 1985 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), buried in Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL.

Children of George Earl Boyd, Sr., and Mary Maude Laiche:


Children of George Earl Boyd, Jr., and Elsie Grace McElvy:

Y1  George Michael Boyd, born 24 November 1942 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), married 25 September 1964 (Brewton, Escambia County, AL), Jean Ann Jernigan, daughter of Elbert Clyde and Amelia Mary (nee Broskie) Jernigan, born 1 April 1944 (Detroit, Wayne County, MI).

Children of George Michael Boyd and Jean Ann Jernigan:


Children of Fred Pearson Taylor and Bonnie Jean Boyd:

AA1  Michael Boyd Taylor, born 21 July 1992 (Fayetteville, Cumberland County, NC).


Geo (also spelled Jo) Christopher Boyd, born 27 October 1944 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), married 26 November 1969 (Temple Terrace, Hillsborough County, FL), Vance Shelby Jennings, son of Reedy Vance and Bess Lorene (nee Cudd) Jennings, born 10 August 1925 (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, OK).

On 25 October 2001, Geo Christopher Boyd legally changed her name to Julia Michelle Jennings.

Children of Vance Shelby Jennings and Geo Christopher Boyd (Julia Michelle Jennings):

Terri Lorene Jennings, born 15 July 1971 (Norman, Cleveland County, OK).

Child of Terri Lorene Jennings and Edward James Randall:


Terri Lorene Jennings, born 15 July 1971 (Norman, Cleveland County, OK), married 11 December 2003 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), Marcos Edgardo Figueroa, son of Marcos and Ruthgally (nee) Diaz-Menendez Figueroa, born 29 May 1970 (San Juan, Puerto Rico).

Vance Julian Jennings,* born 14 June 2004, (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL).

*In a refreshing break with tradition, Marcos Figueroa took wife Terri’s last name.

Sherri Janelle Jennings, born 9 January 1975 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL).


Children of George Earl Boyd, Jr., and Maria Teresa Oliva:

Yadira Yamileth Oliva Boyd (adopted), born 16 September 1977 (La Ceiba, Honduras, C.A.), married 4 February 1997 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), Samuel
Fernando Solorzano Carbajal, son of Julio Solorzano and Guillermina Carbajal, born 24 August 1969 (Puerto Cortes, Honduras, C.A.):

Child of Samuel Fernando Solorzano Carbajal and Yadira Yamileth Boyd:

Z1 Samantha G. Solorzano, born 16 June 1998 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL).


X2 Robert Fernand Boyd, Sr., born 4 April 1924 (La Ceiba, Honduras, C.A.), died 22 June 1998 (Leesburg, Lake County, FL), remains donated to University of Florida College of Medicine, ashes later interred in Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, Sumter County, FL, married 3 June 1946 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), Dorothy Hazel Neeld, daughter of Paul Sawrie and Clyde Margaret (nee Powell) Neeld, born 3 October 1922 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL).

Children of Robert Fernand Boyd and Dorothy Hazel Neeld:

Y1 Barbara Alice Boyd (“Ally”), born 3 February 1948 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), married 196x (Macon, Bibb County, GA), Donald Ray Millwood, son of Herbert Clay and Rosie Lee (nee Brewer) Millwood, born October 19xx (Macon, Bibb County, GA).

Child of Donald Ray Millwood and Barbara Alice Boyd:

Z1 Mary Margaret Millwood (“Missy”), born 6 May 1966 (Macon, Bibb County, GA), married 17 June 1989 (Macon, Bibb County, GA), Charles Leslie Brooks, Jr., son of Charles Leslie, Sr., and Dorothy Ann (nee Molton) Brooks, born 3 December 1962 (Macon, Bibb County, GA).

Children of Charles Leslie Brooks, Jr., and Mary Margaret Millwood:

AA1 Blake Christian Brooks, born 9 April 1992 (Macon, Bibb County, GA).


Y1 Barbara Alice Boyd (“Ally”), born 3 February 1948 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), (second marriage) married 196x (Macon, Bibb County, GA), John Larry Horne, son of James and Mary (nee ) Horne, born 19 January 1948 (Macon, Bibb County, GA).
Children of John Larry Horne and Barbara Alice Boyd:

Z1 John Larry Horne, Jr., born 10 January 1970 (Macon, Bibb County, GA), married 26 December 1989 (Macon, Bibb County, GA), Shayne Michele Highsmith, daughter of Larry Edwin and Michele Lee (nee Sherman) Highsmith, born 25 March 1970 (San Pedro, Los Angeles County, CA).

Children of John Larry Horne, Jr., and Shayne Michelle Highsmith:

AA1 Caitlin Michele Horne, born 25 July 1990 (Macon, Bibb County, GA).


AA3 John Ryan Horne, born 14 November 1994 (Tomah, Monroe County, WI).


Children of Patrick Steven Harbin and Melissa Dawn Horne:

AA1 Bryan Steven Harbin, born 25 September 1992 (Macon, Bibb County, GA).

AA2 Corey Alexander Harbin, born 31 March 1995 (Macon, Bibb County, GA).

AA3 John Daniel Harbin, born 12 September 1996 (Dublin, Laurens County, GA).

Y2 Robert Fernand Boyd, Jr., born 5 April 1956 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), married June 19xx (Columbus, Muskogee County, GA), Frances Mary Shorkey, daughter of Kenneth and Barbara (nee ) Shorkey, born 7 April 1957 ( , County, ).

Children of Robert Fernand Boyd, Jr., and Frances Mary Shorkey:

Z1 Robert Fernand Boyd, III ("Chip"), born 19 April 1986 (Miami, Dade County, FL).

Z2 Allison Nicole Boyd, born 6 April 1987 (Miami, Dade County, FL).

Y3 Richard Alan Boyd, born 18 September 1957 (Macon, Bibb County, GA), married 20 July 2002 (Miami, Dade County, FL), Cheryl Ann Doyle, daughter of Travis Dale Doyle and Lila Fern (nee Kerbo) Doyle, born 22 July 1947, (Mangum, Greer County, OK).

X3 Madelyn Grace Boyd, born 4 May 1926 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL).
Carl Edward Boyd, born 29 October 1932 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), married 1957 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), Patricia Ann Schneider, daughter of and (nee ) Schneider, born 30 August 1940 ( , County, MO), adopted daughter of John and Leola Peterson, of St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, FL.

Children of Carl Edward Boyd and Patricia Ann Schneider:

Y1 Cynthia Elaine Boyd, born 24 March 1958 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), married 1 September 1980 (Winnweiler, Federal Republic of Germany), Stephen M. Bloom, son of Kenneth and Patricia (nee Swengel) Bloom, born May 1951 (Altus, Jackson County, OK).

Y1 Cynthia Elaine Boyd, born 24 March 1958 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), (second marriage) married 9 May 1992 (Snoqualmie Falls, King County, WA), John Hill, son of George and Vivian (nee Jarmer) Hill, born January 1947 (Seattle, King County, WA).

Y2 Cherie Elizabeth Boyd, born 26 June 1961 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL).

Sylvia Ann Boyd, born 31 August 1934 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), married 15 October 1957 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), Charles Harold Fetter, son of Harold and Dorothy (nee Corbin) Fetter, born 23 May 1938 (Ironton, Lawrence County, OH).

Children of Charles Harold Fetter and Sylvia Ann Boyd:

Y1 Catherine Ann Fetter, born 31 July 1958 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), married 15 June 1979 (Lee, Madison County, FL), David Emanuel Studstill, III, son of David Emanuel, Jr., and Mary (nee Dill) Studstill, born 4 September 1951 (Homerville, Clinch County, GA).

Children of David Emanuel Studstill, III, and Catherine Ann Fetter:

Z1 David Scott Studstill, born 23 June 1980 (Valdosta, Lowndes County, GA).

Z2 Daniel Boyd Studstill, born 12 January 1982 (Valdosta, Lowndes County, GA).

Y2 Russell Harvey Fetter, born 2 November 1960 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL).

W4 Walter (Robert?) Boyd, born ca.1903 (La Crosse, Alachua County, FL), died of thrush ca.1903 (lived four months) (La Crosse, Alachua County, FL), burial place unknown.
W5 Robert Boyd, born 1904 (Balfate, Honduras, C.A.), died 1910 of head injuries from a fall (Balfate, Honduras, C.A.), buried in Balfate Cemetery, Balfate, Honduras, C.A.

W6 Mary Boyd, born 1905 (Balfate, Honduras, C.A.) (stillborn) (Balfate, Honduras, C.A.), buried in Balfate Cemetery, Balfate, Honduras, C.A.

W7 Harold Boyd, born 1912 (Balfate, Honduras, C.A.), died 1912(?) (lived six months) (Balfate, Honduras, C.A.), buried in Balfate Cemetery, Balfate, Honduras, C.A.

W8 Hortense Adora Boyd ("Tensie"), born 27 January 1914 (Roatan, Honduras, C.A.), died 22 September 1972 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), buried in Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL, married 29 October 1945 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), Leonard Brown, son of Meyer and Laura (nee Brandon) Brown, born 18 January 1918 (Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA).

Children of Leonard Brown and Hortense Adora Boyd:


X2 Carl Robert Leonard Brown, born 6 October 1950 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), married 7 December 1976 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL), Janice Lyn DeCamp, daughter of Arnold Evans and Effie Fay (nee Rochelle) DeCamp, born 7 April 1953 (Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL).

V4 Mary Nichols Boyd ("Minnie"), born 7 July 1858 (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), died 15 November 1905 (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), buried in Westview Cemetery, Palatka, Putnam County, FL.

V5 Emily Dunham Boyd, born 19 April 1860 (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), died August 1918 (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), buried in Westview Cemetery, Palatka, Putnam County, FL, married 18xx (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), Samuel H. Bass, son of and (nee ) Bass, born 18xx (Palatka, Putnam County, FL).

No information is available at this time as to children of Emily Dunham Boyd and Samuel H. Bass.

V6 May Alice Boyd, born 5 May 1862 (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), died 1949 (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), burial place unknown, married 18xx (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), Leslie N. (or W.) Wilkie, son of and (nee ) Wilkie, born 18xx (Palatka, Putnam County, FL).

Child of Leslie Wilkie and May Alice Boyd:*
W1 Charlotte Emily Wilkie, born 25 August 1888 (                 ,                   County,  )
died 26 January 1889 (                 ,                   County,  ), buried in Westview Cemetery,
Palatka, Putnam County, FL.

*Although we have no direct evidence, her burial in the Boyd family plot leads us to
think that Charlotte Emily Wilkie was the infant daughter of May Alice Boyd and Leslie
Wilkie. In all likelihood, she was born and died in Palatka, FL. No other information is
available at this time regarding her or any other children of this family, and no other
Wilkies are buried in the Boyd plot at Westview Cemetery. At the time of Mary Emily
Dunham Boyd’s death in 1917, May Alice Boyd Wilkie lived in Jacksonville, FL.
(Source: Mary E. Boyd’s obituary, Palatka News and Advertiser, 31 August 1917, p. 1.)

V7 William Manning Boyd, born 7 May 1865 (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), died
August 1912 (                 ,                   County,  ), buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Palatka,
Putnam County, FL, married 18xx (                 ,                   County, FL), Joe Howell,
daughter of                   and                   (nee                  ) Howell, born 1865 (                 ,
County,  ), died 1909 (                 ,                  County,  ), buried in Oak Hill Cemetery,
Palatka, Putnam County, FL.

Child of William Manning Boyd and Joe Howell:*

William M. (Manning?) Boyd (Jr.?), born 18xx, (probably in Palatka, Putnam County,
FL), died after August 1912, (                 ,                   County, FL), burial place unknown.

*The main evidence we have pointing to a child of William Manning Boyd and Joe
Howell is family recollections of a “Little Willie,” apparently a first cousin to my
grandfather, George Earl Boyd, Sr., and a source of much of the latter’s hand-me-down
clothing. In addition, the Putnam County, Florida, Archives list probate files for a W. M.
Boyd as well as a William M. Boyd. The file numbers are 1400 and 1414, respectively.
They could be father and son. The closeness of the numbers indicates that their deaths
occurred within a short time of each other. We have no other information regarding
descendants from this family line.

V8 Ruby Susan Boyd, born 26 (?) April 1867 (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), died 1
October 1867 (Palatka, Putnam County, FL), burial place unknown.

Anyone with information to add to this family history is encouraged to contact:

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22
The big unanswered question: Who were Samuel’s ancestors?

Three possible answers: (Multiple choice, anyone?)

While we know a lot about Susannah Ashley’s pedigree, ol’ Samuel is what genealogists call a “brick wall.” One possibility—and this is pure speculation on my part—is that he may be descended from a George and Isabella Boyd, of County Antrim, Ulster, Ireland. This George Boyd was born there in 1691, and died in Compass, Pequen Township, Pennsylvania, in 1731. I’ll explain why I think this link is a possibility. But please don’t accept any of it as fact. It’s just a theory I’m pursuing!

George and Isabella’s sons include the names James, Robert, and George, all names that are prominent in our 19th-century line. According to one undocumented source, while the younger George stayed in Pennsylvania, James and Robert relocated to Granville County, North Carolina. The life spans of these brothers were such that any one of them could have been our Samuel’s father. (George junior appears also to have had a son George, as well as a Walter, both of whom, according to this source, migrated to Boyd Ferry, Halifax County, Virginia. As we know, Robert T. Boyd’s second son, who died before age 3, was named Walter.)

Another unverified source contains somewhat conflicting dates on the life spans of the three brothers mentioned above. But it offers an even stronger speculation: It shows James as moving to Lunenberg, Virginia, where a son, Samuel, was born in 1750. This might have been our Samuel, since a third researcher who posted information at the same web site about our Samuel and his wife, Susan (Susannah) Ashley, claims they were both born prior to 1757. So the date “fits.” But this “information” is also unsubstantiated.

In contrast, I’ve seen references to Susannah Ashley that put her birth date as late as the 1770s. This seems to square better with the birth years of Robert T. Boyd and his siblings, which range from 1807 to 1816. It is hard to imagine her having children into her late 50s, even though we know that Samuel was her second husband. The bottom line is that I’m not yet sure if there is a connection to George and Isabella of County Antrim. But it’s possible, and I am trying to contact the people who posted that information.

A second, even sketchier, theory is found in a 1909 letter from James Boyd’s fourth son, Thomas Cooper Boyd. It claims that Samuel Boyd’s parents (names unknown) “came to Philadelphia from Europe with two boys, Samuel and Robert” (no date mentioned). Robert, according to the letter, became a doctor and remained in Philadelphia, while Samuel became a sea captain who lost his vessel in a storm off Charleston, South Carolina, then moved inland to Columbia where he “was married to a Miss Ashley,” and that they “went from there to St. Mary’s, Ga., and there my father (James) was born.”

And a third theory, endorsed by Ella Boyd Dickey, cited earlier for her chapter in Ward’s History of Coffee County, is that Samuel’s line comes from John Boyd and his wife,
Mary (last name unknown), of Ayrshire (possibly Kilmarnock), Scotland. These Boyds settled in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, in the early 1680s, subsequently moving to Prince George’s County. One of their grandsons, William, married a Charity Talbott (Talbot), which provides a convenient name connection to our Robert Talbot Boyd.

(Note: Some researchers, including Thomas C. Boyd, above, claim that Samuel’s middle name was also Talbot, though others say it was Crispen, and still others Clements. The name “Crispen” might be a misplaced reference to Samuel Crispin Shelton, the second child and first son of Jane Ashley Boyd and Charles Irby Shelton, who died in infancy around the time of Samuel’s death in 1830 (see p. 9). It seems likely that this baby was named after both of his grandfathers, Samuel Boyd and Crispin Shelton. In any case, in all of the official papers I’ve seen, including places where he signed his name as a grand jury foreman, court litigant, witness, etc., I’ve found no evidence that our Samuel Boyd ever used a middle name or initial.)

The main problem with this last theory is that I can’t find documentation of the alleged link between William and Charity—supposedly by way of a son Robert—and Samuel. And of course it is just as plausible that Robert T. was named not for Charity Talbot, but for one of the early Georgia Talbots (perhaps even Gov. Matthew Talbot, who was a contemporary of Samuel’s and who lived in nearby Wilkes County when the Boyds were in Louisville). But I can find no proof of this, either.

One final fly in the ointment is that I’m not 100 percent sure that Susannah Ashley was the mother of Robert T. Boyd. We do know she was the mother of his older brother, James, and older sisters, Jane and Ann. And the Ashley/Williams letter of April 1816 mentioning Sister Boyd’s “confinement” is a strong clue that she was about to give birth to Robert T. But at the moment, we ought to regard her as a probable ancestor that, as genealogists say, is “unproven.” Still, I’m pretty confident that she is my great-great-great-grandmother. I’ve seen no indication that she died or was divorced from Samuel prior to Robert’s birth. Nor is there is any record of Samuel’s having been married to someone else. (The recording of marriages in Georgia became law in 1806.)

Ah, well. Such is life in the field of genealogical research. The good news is there’s a lot of information out there, especially since the creation of the Internet. The bad news is that much of it is undocumented, most of it pertains to someone else’s family, and all of it conflicts with something else! (It’s good to remember, as I used to tell my students, that the Internet is the Information Superhighway, not the Super Information Highway!)
Exhibit 1. Telfair County court order dated 7 January 1833 making James Boyd guardian of his younger brother, Robert T. Boyd. This appointment was dissolved in August 1836.
Exhibit 2. Robert T. Boyd and Mary Emily Dunham’s marriage license, dated 16 October 1851. They were married the same day. The clerk of court who drew up the license was Stanislaus Glinski, a personal friend of the Boyds, who named their third son, George Stanislaus Boyd, after him. Glinski later became the second husband of Mary Emily’s mother, Mary Caroline Gibbs Dunham.
Exhibit 5. Letter to James Boyd dated 23 April 1883 and signed by the children and heirs of Robert T. Boyd (along with their mother), requesting that deeds to Robert’s Georgia property be handed over to them. The following January, James died without having relinquished the property. Other correspondence between Mary Emily Boyd and her nephew Eddie indicates that as late as 1887 she was still fighting this legal battle.