

The Boyd Family Part 1 – The Settler

This month's family history features the Boyd family, who were mentioned briefly in last month's Holbert family history. The Boyd family history begins with Harden and Charity Boyd. Their son John Boyd lived in Malden and Colchester North and married twice. His first marriage was to Ellen/Elinor Nolan, the daughter of Thomas and Harriet Nolan, and his second marriage was to Rebecca Holbert, the daughter of Joseph and Sarah Holbert. There is less information about John and Rebecca's union, so I will start with them and then discuss Ellen Nolan. John and Rebecca married on June 17, 1891. At the time, John was 65 and Rebecca was 55 years old. According to Rebecca's death record, she passed away on December 28, 1921 in Amherstburg. A very brief mention of her passing appeared in the *Amherstburg Echo* which says "Rebecca Boyd, one of the town's oldest women, died on Wednesday at the home of Newton Bell. She was near 90." Before marrying John, Rebecca had a daughter named Margaret who was born in Colchester on March 9, 1865. Margaret married Albert Wilson, the son of Washington Wilson and Mary Elnora Starks, on August 9, 1880 in Detroit (See Holbert family history <https://amherstburgfreedom.org/holbert-family/>).

As mentioned, John Boyd's first marriage was to Ellen Nolan, the daughter of Thomas and Harriet Nolan. Ellen was born in Malden on March 2, 1835 and later married John on December 19, 1850. The couple's children include William, Ernest, Walter Trueman (also spelt Tryman), Maria, Rachel, Esther, Ellen Nellie, Margaret, Authora, Lewis, Andrew, Thomas, George, John, Edward, Anthony, Alfred and Emmanuel. Before discussing their children, I'm going to share more information for Ellen.

Ellen's death record states that she passed away on April 3, 1890 in Detroit. The Museum's family history binders include an obituary for Ellen Nolan Boyd and says "In this

week's notices from 1890 there is mentioned the death in Detroit of Mrs. Ellen Boyd. A further obituary elsewhere in the May 9, 1890 paper indicates that she was born March 2nd, 1835 in Malden, daughter of Thomas and Harriet Nolan. The Nolans later moved to Colchester North (New Canaan). On the 19th of December 1850 Ellen (also called Elinor) Nolan married John Boyd, who was born in the United States around 1824. They lived and raised their family in Colchester North next to the farm of Thomas Nolan. John and Elinor had a very large family, eleven of their children being alive when the mother died in 1890. They were William, Ernest, Trueman lived in Pleasant Valley; Maria married a Baylis and lived in Malden; Mrs. Rachel Brown, Mrs. Esther Freeman and Miss Ellen Boyd lived in Detroit; Margaret was living in Toledo in 1890; Authora, in Jackson, Mich.; Lewis, Andrew, Thomas and George all lived in New Canaan. Mrs. John Boyd was buried at Central Grove Cemetery, Detroit."

Now that I've discussed John and Ellen, I will move on to share information about their children. There was no information available for William, Ellen, Authora, Lewis, Thomas, George, John, and Edward, but there was information for Ernest, Walter, Maria, Rachel, Esther, Margaret, Andrew, Anthony, Alfred, and Emmanuel. I'll start with Ernest.

Ernest married Grace Wilson, the daughter of Albert Wilson and Margaret Holbert, on December 9, 1900 in Amherstburg. The December 20th issue of the *Windsor Evening Record* also shared "Boyd-Wilson- At the residence of J. Boyd, Amherstburg, on December 9, by Rev. Joseph Holbert, Ernest Boyd to Miss Grace Wilson, daughter of Albert Wilson, all of Amherstburg." Ernest also appears in the *Amherstburg Echo* but for a different reason. The March 3, 1933 issue published "Will Debate – A debate will be held at Central Grove A.M.E. church under the management of Mrs. Wiley Grayer on Friday, March 10th, between Harrow and Windsor. Those debating from Windsor are the Misses Ellen Green and Velma Browning and

Mr. Ernest Boyd. The debaters from Harrow are Miss Beulah Harding, Mr. Virgil Grayer and Mr. Russell Matthews. The subject is ‘Resolved that poverty more than riches tends to develop character.’”

Ernest’s wife Grace passed away on March 3, 1952 in Detroit. Her obituary, printed in the *Amherstburg Echo* on March 6th shares further details and says “Mrs. Grace Wilson Boyd who was born in Detroit, 60 years ago daughter of the late Albert and Margaret Wilson, died in Harper Hospital, Detroit on Monday, after a lengthy illness. The early years of her life were spent in Amherstburg where she attended public school. In 1900 she moved to Detroit when she married William Boyd of that city. He predeceased her many years. To them was born one son, Ernest who survives and lives in Detroit. She also leaves her mother, Mrs. Margaret Wilson, Windsor, one sister, Rebecca, Mrs. Bert Kersey, also of Windsor and eight brothers, Bert, Neil, Norvel, and Ira of Harrow, Arked ... and William, Simon, Norman of Amherstburg. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at the time of going to press.”

What we publish is not a complete history of any family and is based on the documents that are available. We welcome photos and information to fill in the gaps. See you next week for part 2.