

## The Boyd Family Part 5- Mutt and Jeff

Margaret's brother Andrew Anderson Boyd was born on May 7, 1872 in Colchester. He married Lillian Wilson, the daughter of Albert Wilson and Margaret Holbert on July 28, 1901 in Amherstburg. The *Amherstburg Echo* shared a few more details on August 2, 1901, reporting "On Sunday last Rev. J.D. Holbert united in marriage Andrew Boyd to Miss Lilly Wilson. The bride was attended by Miss Rebecca Holbert, while Ernest Boyd looked after the groom's interests. The Echo extends congratulations." According to the 1911 Census, Andrew and Lillie had at least four children: Marguerite (born February 13, 1902 in Amherstburg), John T. (born March 8, 1903 in Amherstburg), Andrew (born February 11, 1906 in Amherstburg) and Joseph (born January 7, 1909 in Amherstburg). There is also a death record for Esther Valeein Boyd, who is listed as the child of Andrew and Lillian Boyd. She passed on March 4, 1914 in Amherstburg and was under the age of 2.

Additionally, a marriage announcement was published in the *Amherstburg Echo* on October 16, 1936 for John T. Boyd and Leitha Johnson which says "Two Town Weddings – The Echo extends hearty congratulations this week to two local couples who were united in marriage Wednesday evening. Chester Harris, son of Mr. Jerry Harris, and Juanita, daughter of Mr. Neil Wilson, ... at the Church of God in Christ, Windsor, with Elder Morton officiating. At the same time and place John Boyd, son of Mr. Andrew Boyd, and Miss Leitha Johnson, daughter of Mr. Joseph Johnson of Sandwich West, were also united in marriage by the same paster. Both young couples are well known in Amherstburg and everyone wishes them happiness and success.

I came across several references to Andrew's friend and co-worker, Walter Mann. The *Amherstburg Echo* refers to them on August 12, 1921 writing "Insurance adjustment has been made on the town pavilion, recently burned, and the wreck has been given to Mann & Boyd for

cleaning the place.” A month later the newspaper reports “The Mullen Coal Co. presented a steel safe, worth a considerable sum, to Andrew Boyd, of Boyd & Mann, to keep this contracting firm’s papers in. It was part of the salvage from the pavilion fire wreck.” The *Echo* mentions the pair again on August 23, 1935 and says “The other afternoon while at the town hall had a chat with Walt Mann and Mutt Boyd. These two men, outside of Engineer McCaffrey, probably know more about the sewerage and water systems in the municipality than any other person and in spite of the fact that their work is hard, they seem to be able to keep with it day after day – In fact both of them have been working for the town for over 30 years – These two colored gents are more than mere workmen, they are an institution – All power to them.” Years later, on June 23, 1982, the *Echo* shared a memory of Boyd and Mann, long after they had passed. The article says “when we were young the Amherstburg board of works gang consisted of two men Mutt (Andrew) Boyd and (Jeff) Walter Mann. They worked under the direction of Freeman McCaffrey who was also in charge of the Amherstburg waterworks on the river at the western end of Rankin Avenue. These two men, with the occasional help of one or two others, did all the servicing of the underground water mains and sewer s in the town. They worked hard and long hours. But always seemed to be in the best of humour.”

Andrew’s partner Walter Mann passed away on April 17, 1936 which mentions “he and his partner on the job, Andrew Boyd, were responsible for installing and maintaining the water and sewer main system of the town. They worked under the direction of Freeman McCaffrey and because of their difference in stature were often called ‘Mutt and Jeff.’” Andrew acted as a pallbearer at the service.

Andrew appears in the *Echo* again on January 12, 1940 in the article titled “Faithfulness of Andrew Boyd is Recognized.” The article says “Reeve Bertrand told the council that Andrew

Boyd, a faithful town employee, had been ill for some weeks and unable to work. He had paid him his wage until the end of the year, he said, and wished to know if he should continue. 'Mr. Boyd has been a faithful servant of the town for years,' Mr. Marra said: 'and now he is ill due to his declining years. I think the council would be well advised to continue his weekly salary. It isn't a great deal and it might help to make him happier and free from worry. The municipality owes something to Mr. Boyd for his faithful service and I think it will be agreeable to the council that his salary continue, at least until later on in the year.'" I could not find an obituary for Andrew, but five years later, on January 18, 1945, the *Echo* reported the passing of Andrew's wife Lillian at the Home of the Aged in Leamington at the age of 63.

Andrew's brother Anthony is next. He is mentioned in the *Amherstburg Echo* on March 2, 1888 because of a fundraising activity. The newspaper reported "One of the most successful entertainments held in Pleasant Valley for some time took place on Thursday evening of last week, under the management of a committee of young men who were Buddie Johnson, Perda Dennis, Frank Dennis and Anthony Boyd. Quite a number of people were present and spent a most enjoyable time. The net proceeds amounted to \$13.25, which was handed over immediately to James Johnson, the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the Central Grove A.M.E. burial ground. Success to those young men. Try again."

The *Amherstburg Echo* mentions a marriage between Anthony Boyd and Hattie Turner on January 6, 1899 in New Canaan (Colchester North) and says "A very quiet but pretty wedding took place at the residence of James Turner, J.P., when his daughter Hattie was united in marriage to Anthony Boyd of Montpelier, Ohio. The bride was tastefully attired in white silk mull over taffeta. After the ceremony all sat down to a sumptuous repast. Mr. and Mrs. Boyd will make their future home at Montpelier, Ohio. Mrs. Boyd will be greatly missed by her friends but

New Canaan's loss will be Montpelier's gain." Because this announcement does not mention Anthony's parents, I could not confirm if this is the correct Anthony, but John Boyd's son Anthony was a former resident of New Canaan which would explain how he met Hattie. If this is the correct Anthony, his wife Hattie was the daughter of James Turner and Melissa McCurdy. I also found a birth record for Maud Garnet Boyd, the daughter of Anthony Boyd and Hattie Turner who later married George Henry Coates, the son of William Coates and Adline Mulder on December 25, 1918 in Essex County.

On August 25, 1916 it was reported in the *Amherstburg Echo* that "Andrew Boyd received word Saturday of the sudden death in Detroit that day of his brother Anthony, aged 54 years. The funeral took place Sunday afternoon. He was a former resident of Colchester North."

Anthony's brother Alfred was born on December 1, 1873 in Colchester. He passed away at age 4 on April 3, 1877 in Colchester. Alfred's brother Emmanuel L. Boyd passed away on December 6, 1894 in Detroit at age of 30. At the time, Emmanuel was single and worked as a cook.

**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 where we will celebrate another amazing family.**