

**BOYLE GENEALOGY. JOHN
BOYLE OF VIRGINIA AND
KENTUCKY. NOTES ON LINES OF
DESCENT WITH SOME
COLLATERAL REFERENCES. [1909]**

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Boyle Genealogy. John Boyle of Virginia and Kentucky. Notes on Lines of Descent with Some Collateral References. [1909] by John Boyle

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JOHN BOYLE
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NOTES ON LINES OF DESCENT,
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COMPILED BY JOHN BOYLE, OF ST. LOUIS.

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INTRODUCTORY

The following compilation originated in a wish to support, by historic reference, a petition to enter a Social Order founded upon a Revolutionary War basis. The requisite evidence being supplied, a suggestion was made to collect the genealogic *data*, and show the lines of descent from that common source, and the inquiries began in December, 1905.

It soon transpired that others sought some of the same facts. In April, 1906, I received from Honorable George Du Relle, a prominent member of the Louisville bar, a letter stating that he was preparing a life of John Boyle, late Chief Justice of Kentucky, for publication in a series to be entitled "Great American Lawyers," and asking the communication of such appropriate facts as I might know. Another letter, received the same day from Mrs. Margaret Oldham Doty, informed me that she was connected through marriage with the Boyle kindred, and contemplating the preparation of a genealogic volume which might include, to some extent, collaterally related families, she wished to know whatever I could impart in that behalf.

I gave to each a narration of the principal facts within my knowledge, and from them derived material assistance in my own researches.

In collecting the facts compiled herein, many contributed—Mrs. Gay, Mrs. Cornelius, Mrs. Bourne, Mrs. Moss, Mrs. Guitar, Mrs. McGuire, Miss Bacon, Miss Harvey, Messrs. G. W. Adams, Marshall Gordon, Geo. M. Adams, Dr. David Gordon, Benj. G. Webster and others, to a less extent—indeed, nearly all to whom I applied gave me information. To Mrs. Doty I was especially indebted—her diligence and patient perseverance, were most admirable and effective.

The labor of collecting, arranging and verifying the facts, exceeded my early anticipations, and I now thank all who aided in this effort.

A few conflicting dates were found, which, after such a lapse of time, probably can never be wholly, or satisfactorily, explained. Only one fact as herein alleged, rests upon conjecture in opposition to evidence usually accepted in law as imputing verity. Ellen

Boyle Banton was buried at the side of her mother. Her tombstone bears an inscription showing her birth in November, 1780. That stone is unlike any other found in the burial lot, or elsewhere in that vicinity. She had lived in Knox county, and I conclude that she died there, and the quality of the monumental stone suggests that it may have been carved there. Her sister, Jane Boyle Gordon, was, according to record evidence, born in November, 1780, while her brother John was born in October, 1774. Ellen died in 1814—Jane survived until 1840.

I presume the inscription was ordered at a point remote from those who could have authoritatively established the date of her birth, which, I believe, occurred in the comparatively long interval between that of her brother John and her sister Jane.

The imperfections of this little volume are numerous. I might have pursued inquiries to a greater extent in some lines—I may have misunderstood the correlation of some facts, or found additional *data* by greater diligence, and the employment of more time, but what appears now, may, perhaps, aid a future investigator to correct, or to add to the compilation, if such may ever be desired.

In a rare instance, or two, a refusal to impart information, blocked further search in that special line—occasionally, total silence was the response to a courteous inquiry, while once or twice the questions, though explained, were evidently suspected as springing from an unavowed motive.

The facts alleged herein were chiefly collected within the period from 1906 to 1909. The continually occurring incidents of life—the births, marriages and deaths—render it impossible to form a record more than momentarily complete—even under the most favorable conditions. Under all the circumstances, I may fairly claim that this record states the facts as they were thought to exist at some date within that period.

As this little volume is not for the public, I trust those who see it will allow for its imperfections, and regard it as the result of an unaffected effort, pursued with no idea of personal gain (with the direct reverse, indeed), to preserve in collected form some family traditions, anecdotes and *data*, with no wish to prejudice the views, or to wound the feelings of any.

John Boyle

BOYLE GENEALOGY.

JOHN BOYLE

OF

VIRGINIA AND KENTUCKY.

"The formation of counties of Virginia, unless one be perfectly familiar with the dates of the formation, and of the exact locality of the home * * * makes it difficult, at this day, to state, with exactness, the county in which was located the home of a person one hundred and fifty to seventy-five years ago."—
Miller, *History and Genealogies*, 65, Richmond (Ky.), 1907.

In 1634 Virginia was first divided into shires—later called counties—there being eight. One was called Lancaster, and one Charles River. The name of the latter, in 1643, was changed to York, and below the confluence of the Mat-ta-po-ny, the stream thus formed, and bounding its eastern side, was also called York river.

In 1654, New Kent was formed from York. Old Rappahannock county—formed from Lancaster in 1656—ceased to exist in 1692, Richmond and Essex counties being then formed from it. It is not to be confounded with the later Rappahannock taken from Culpeper county in 1833.

King and Queen county was taken from New Kent in 1691—and King William from King and Queen in 1701. Spottsylvania was taken from Essex, King and Queen, and King William, in 1720; Orange from Spottsylvania, in 1734, and all of it west of the Blue Ridge, was, in 1738, formed into Augusta and Frederick counties.

In 1768 the House of Burgesses divided Augusta, calling the

on that river, the same year.—Indian Wars in Augusta county.
Data collected by the late Lyman C. Draper.

William Beverly, son of Robert Beverly, the Virginia historian, and grandson of Robert Beverly, who commanded the royal forces during Bacon's Rebellion, in a letter of April 30, 1732, claimed certain land west of the Blue Ridge, on the James river, by right of discovery and survey. Benjamin Borden, a native of New Jersey, who lived in Virginia, and became secretary to Governor Gooch, obtained a grant for land intended to amount to 100,000 acres, but measured out 90,100 acres, in what became Orange and Augusta counties, for which he was to receive a patent when he should locate thereon one hundred families. It seems that Beverly and Borden united their interests, and the tract is sometimes called the Beverly Grant. They introduced many families from Europe, and from the other Colonies. One hundred acres was given to anyone who should build a cabin upon it, with the privilege of purchasing more at fifty shillings per hundred acres. Many who became well known in subsequent frontier history, both of Virginia and Kentucky, thus obtained homes. Among them was Ephraim McDowell, then quite old, who came from Pennsylvania, but as a lad of sixteen he had been one of the heroic defenders of Londonderry, where, as Macauley says, "the imperial race stood at bay." Many families described in Miller's *History and Genealogies*, 704 *et seq.*, then came to Virginia, and it is probable that the greater number of the settlers upon the Beverly Grant, came from the north of Ireland, or from New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Among these settlers were several named Boyle. Borden obtained his patent November 8, 1739. To the earlier settlers, he gave obligations, that deeds should be executed to them. Dying in 1743, he gave, by will, authority to his son to adjust the unsettled accounts. The latter was an upright man, and won the general confidence. The saying "as good as Ben Borden's bill," became a proverb. He died in 1753. Afterwards, in 1767, the executor of his will, executed a deed to Mary Boyle, for two hundred acres, as shown by the record thereof, in deed book 14, page 162, in Augusta county. Also, in deed book 16, page 17, there is recorded a deed executed in 1769, conveying to Charles Boyle one hundred and eighty acres. The recitals in these deeds declare they were executed pursuant to bonds given by the elder Borden.

During the Revolution, John Boils was a soldier in the Virginia State line, while Charles Boils, and George Boyle, were soldiers of the Virginia line, Continental Establishment, all being from Orange county, as appears from the archives preserved there. And later, in 1796 and 1798, deeds appear of record, conveying to

William Boyle lands lying near Newcastle, in what is now Craig county.

Perhaps it may never be definitely traced, that our ancestor was of kin to any of those thus named, but he came from the same country in which they lived. Like most of his line, he must have been careless of his personal history. His early life was passed on the frontier, subject to all its privations and hardships, with few facilities for intercourse between remote branches of his family, enduring several removals, and in prolonged struggles with the savages, all of which may sufficiently account for the total want of autobiographic information.

We know that he had at least one brother, and one sister.

His warfare with the Indians may have found a natural provocation, if he had suffered from the captivity to which some of the name were subjected. His sturdy character may indicate a strain of kinship to one manly enough to denounce an irritating court, even at the cost of fine and imprisonment.

We know that he was born not earlier than 1749, that his wife, Jane Black, was born in 1751, that they lived in Castle's Woods, where on April 5, 1774, he filed a surveyor's certificate for two hundred and sixty-two acres of land, there situated, the certificate being made out in the name of John Boles.—Summers Southwest Virginia, 811.

In Thwaites and Kellogg's "Dunmore's War," page 2, a letter dated March 22, 1774, is published, beginning: "Dear Sir: Yours by Mr. Boles came to hand," etc.

In that work, on page 400, also appears a "Fragment of Muster Roll of Capt. Wm. Campbell's Co., July, 1774." "There were with me upon Clinch, and there engaged to go along," etc., and among the names is John Boles.

That company participated in the Point Pleasant campaign, which culminated in the severest defeat sustained by the Indians during our Colonial wars. The battle of Point Pleasant was fought at the mouth of the Great Kanawha, October 10, 1774.

In the same volume, on page 406, also appears "a list of John Murray's Company of the Volunteers from Botetourt, Sept. 10, 1774." In the list appears "Sergt. Barney Boyls."

Barney Boyle and John Boyle were brothers.

In a sketch of the life of Judge Boyle, published by his successor, Chief Justice Robertson in his "Scrap Book," it is said that the family came to Kentucky in 1779. This view is adopted by Honorable George DuRelle, late a distinguished associate Justice of the Court of Appeals of Kentucky, in his *Life of John Boyle*, published in volume 2 of "Great American Lawyers."

Yet they are mistaken.

"The first peach stones were planted in the fall of 1775, about three miles south of Richmond, by John Boyle (father of the late Chief Justice John Boyle.)"¹

The eldest son of Chief Justice Boyle, who survived to maturity, was my father, Dr. James M. Boyle. He told me that he had frequently heard both his father and grandfather say they were at Boonesborough, when it was besieged, August 8, 1778, by four hundred Indians, led by Blackfish and their dreaded allies, the Canadians, all under Captain Dagniaux Du Quendre.²

They told him an incident of the siege, which I have not read in any printed narrative. The defense was directed by Boone and others skilled in savage cunning. Fully appreciating their wily foes, the garrison was warned against exposure above the pickets. One bright morning, when no hostile gun had been heard for hours, a negro incautiously raised up, to glance around. Instantly he fell back, an Indian bullet having pierced his brain. He was the only person killed within the fort during the siege, which continued for thirteen days. Yet the bombardment was so keen that after the siege was raised, the heroic defenders picked up more than one hundred and twenty-five pounds of lead—the balls had flattened, innocuously, against the pickets and cabin walls, and furnished a welcome supply to the garrison, whose stock of ammunition was nearly exhausted, in its spirited defense.

At that date, the son who became Judge Boyle, was but four years old.

¹ I Collins, *History of Kentucky*, 513.

²The name of the Canadian leader was formerly given as Duchesne or Duquesne, but the eminent archeologist, Colonel R. T. Durritt, and the Filson Club, of Louisville, after investigation, give it as above. DuQuendre was born in Montreal, in 1743, and died in Detroit, April 16, 1784.