Ohio University  
Robert E. and Jean R. Mahn Center for  
Archives & Special Collections  

Boyd Family Collection  
MSS# 15  

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION  

**Author:** Daniel, Jane, John, Hugh, Mary Ann, Richard, Robert Sr., Robert R., Margaret, and William Boyd, Robert J., Black, George, James, and Samuel Elliot, and C.H. Warren  

**Title:** Boyd Family Collection  

**Date:** 1821 – 1881  

**Abstract:** Correspondence and a diary  

**Quantity:** .3 cu.ft.  

BIOGRAPHY OF THE BOYD FAMILY  

Daniel Boyd was born in Donegal County, northern Ireland in 1794. He came to America in 1819 and walked over the mountains to Steubenville, OH where he found employment as a teacher and weaver. In 1825 he married Jane Elliot, sister of the Rev. Charles Elliot who was a widely known Methodist minister, editor, and author. In 1827 Daniel Boyd moved to Coshocton County, OH where he went into business for himself. The business failed and having acquired large debts he moved to Athens County, OH where he settled on a farm in Carthage Township. He worked to repay his debts for the next 30 years until his death in 1867.  

Daniel and Jane Boyd had nine children: John Elliot, a physician who died in Columbus in 1855; Mary Ann, who died in 1867; Jane, a prominent teacher in Athens County; Kate, Principal of Athens High School; Hugh, who graduated from Ohio University in 1859; Lucy, a teacher in Nelsonville; William Fletcher, who graduated from Ohio University in 1866 and an attorney in Cincinnati; Francis Blair, wife of Charles Lawrence of Carthage Township; and, Margaret, the first woman to graduate from Ohio University in 1873.  

After the death of their father in 1867, the Boyd family sold the farm and moved to Athens.
SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

This collection contains 36 letters written by members of the Boyd family, 11 letters written by friends or associates, and a diary kept by Margaret Boyd. The collection is arranged by correspondents.

The letters span the period 1821 to 1881 and cover a wide range of topics, from Robert Boyd Sr.'s attempt to emigrate to America (1821) by trying to sell property in Ireland, to Daniel Boyd's views on the Civil War (1865). Margaret Boyd's diary, which she kept from January 1873 to November 1874, contains many entries concerning her course of study at Ohio University.

Letters written by Mary Ann Boyd, John E. Boyd, Robert Boyd Sr. and Daniel Boyd himself, contain many references to Sunday school and prayer meetings, indicating that the family had strong religious ties.

Most of the letters deal with family members writing to keep up with the affairs surrounding the Boyd household.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

These records are organized into the following series:

Series I: Correspondence
Series II: Diary

Abbreviations with in content list:
ALS - autograph letter, signed

RELATED MATERIALS

Additional materials on the following members of the Boyd family can be found in the Biographical Vertical File: Margaret Boyd, Robert Boyd, William Fletcher Boyd, and Hugh Boyd.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Sources:
Restrictions: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Ohio University Libraries.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to cite the collection name, collection number, and the Ohio University Libraries, in all footnotes and bibliographical references.

Accession Number: Unknown

Provenance: The Ohio University Archives received the collection prior to 1962 except the Margaret Boyd diary which was a gift from Mrs. Wesley Boyd Lawrence in 1962.

Property Rights: Ohio University retains all property rights to the collection.

Copyrights: Ohio University retains all copyrights unless retained by the donor, other correspondents, or other artists.

Photoduplication: Ohio University will entertain requests to photocopy reasonable amounts of material from the collection for the convenience of individual researchers.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

CONTAINER LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Series I Correspondence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 / 1</td>
<td>Boyd, Daniel. ALS, March 28, 1865. 1p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Boyd, John.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- ALS, April 27, 1840. 2p.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- ALS, December 2, 1840. 2p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- ALS, June 8, 1843. 2p.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4 Boyd, John Elliot. (Son of D.B.)
- ALS, November 30, 1843. 1p.
- ALS, February 7, 1850. 1p.
- ALS, July 11, 1850. 2p.
- ALS, August 20, 1850. 1p.
- ALS, November 6, 1850. 1p.
- ALS, December 12, 1850. 1p.
- ALS, December 30, 1850. 1p.
- ALS, January 18, 1851. 2p.
- ALS, January 19, 1851. 1p.
- ALS, December 17, 1852. 1p.

5 Boyd, Hugh. (Son of D.B.)
- ALS, December 21, 1847. 2p.
- ALS, September 3, 1850. 2p.

6 Boyd, Mary Ann. (Daughter of D.B.)
- ALS, March 23, 1849. 2p.
- ALS, May 1, 1849. 2p.
- ALS, September 9, 1850. 1p.
- ALS, March 1, 1851. 1p.
- ALS, April 22, 1851. 2p.
- ALS, June 13, 1851. 1p.
- ALS, October 17, 1851. 1p.
- ALS, November 11, 1851. 1p.
- ALS, October 12, 1852. 1p.
- ALS, December 30, 1855. 1p.

7 Boyd, Richard. (Brother of D.B.)
- ALS, May 16, 1832. 2p.
- ALS, March 11, 1839. 2p.
- ALS, February 8, 1840. 2p.
- ALS, September 10, 1840. 2p.
- ALS, July 19, 1844. 2p.
- ALS, June 18, [?]. 2p.

8 Boyd, Robert Sr. (Father of D.B.)
- ALS, June 12, 1821. 2p.
- ALS, June 13, 1822. 2p.

10 Boyd, William. ALS, June 27, 1881. 2p.
11 Black, Robert J. ALS, December 15, 1852. 2p.
12 Elliot, George.
- ALS, February 2, 1839. 2p.
13 Elliot, James.
- ALS, April 11, 1842. 2p.
- ALS, January 6, 1847. 2p.
14 Elliot, Samuel.
- ALS, July 3, 1840. 1p.
- ALS, June 16, 1842. 2p.
- ALS, December 19, 1846. 1p.
- ALS, October 30, 1865. 1p.
Miscellaneous correspondence, authorship unknown.
- ALS, November 6, 1843, addressed to Mrs. Jane Boyd. 1p.
- AL, April 15, 1834. 2p.
- AL, June 17, 1841, addressed to Daniel Boyd. 2p.
- ALS, Samuel Elliot. 1p. Diary. Boyd, Margaret. (Daughter of D.B.)

Series II Diary
17 Boyd, Margaret. Diary, January 1873–November 1874.
18 Boyd, Margaret. Transcript of diary. 32p.

Supplement: Also included in the collection is a student paper written during the fall quarter, 1994, and titled 'Troubled Pioneer: The Diary of Margaret Boyd.' The gift of the author, Frank Robinson.