

**GILBERT EVERETT BOYD AND  
MEDA FLORENCE ALLISON AND  
THE FIRST BOMA CHURCH OF GOD (#624)**

**Source:** Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee – 2008 by Putnam County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage Inc.

Pg. 234 & 235 – The first time Gilbert saw Meda she was sitting on a wall with her friend Ruth Hooten after a singing lesson. She asked him his name. He said she could call him “Anything.” It was October 19, 1939, a date he’d remember for the rest of his life.



Later there was a revival at Roy’s chapel, which met in a storehouse down by the turnoff to Smellage Graveyard. They both attended. He asked to walk her part of the way home. She lived a mile and a half from Baxter and he lived across from Buckner school house so it was too far to walk her all the way. On the last night of the revival he told her he wouldn’t be seeing her anymore since he heard she was engaged. She told him, “I’ll break my engagement for a penny.” “I’ll five you a nickel,” he replied, although he said he didn’t have either one in his pocket.

He said he worried what they’d talk about on their first date but all for nothing since all he had to do was just listen.

Marrying November 22, 1941, they bought a 32 acre farm and donated a half acre at the end of their pasture for a church to be built to replace the storehouse. That little white church was the first Boma Church of God.

Gilbert, son of John Boyd and Mary Shanks Boyd, was born March 13, 1921. He served during WWII. Returning home, he realized he couldn’t make a living farming so he moved his family to Detroit to “make enough money to go back home.” He worked at U. S. Rubber Co. and then as a mail carrier. Like so many others, he never made it “home.” He died August 20, 1999 and is buried in Mt. Clemens, MI in Cadillac Memorial Gardens East.

Meda, daughter of Arthur Allison and Maggie Cole Allison, was born March 14, 1921. She loved taking care of her home, yard and family. She was an excellent cook whose recipes are still being used all across this country. She died January 10, 2000. She is buried in Mt. Clemens, Cadillac Memorial Gardens East Cemetery.

They had two daughters, Linda Gail Boyd Wells, born in Boma, TN, November 19, 1942 and Rhonda Lou Boyd Austin, born in Detroit, MI, May 25, 1955.

For over 15 years Meda suffered from Alzheimer’s disease. Christmas, 1997 was the last visit the family had where she recognized all of them. Linda told her she looked beautiful. With a twinkle in her eye she pointed her finger at her daughters and told them it was natural not like them. Rhonda said, Lennie, we must be ugly sisters.”

Today Linda, a watercolor artist and writer, living in Porter, IN, and Rhonda, a fiber artist who also works for Ursuline College, and lived in Chagrin Falls, OH, have a business called UgliSisters in memory of their mom.

*Story submitted by: Rhonda Lou Boyd Austin, 16555 Wren Rd., #1-D, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023; Written by Linda Gail Boyd Wells.*

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**GILBERT EVERETT BOYD OBT.**

**MICHIGAN** - Funeral services for Gilbert Everett Boyd, 78, of Eastpointe, MI, formerly of the Boma Community of Putnam County, were held at 10 a.m. today, Monday, August 23, at Clyne Funeral Home in Eastpointe. Burial was in Cadillac Memorial Gardens in Clinton Township, MI.

Mr. Boyd died on Friday, August 20, 1999, at his home in Michigan.

He was born on March 13, 1921, in the Boma Community to the late John Calvin Sr. and Mary Lou Shanks Boyd. Mr. Boyd moved to Detroit, MI, in 1949. He worked for the Uniroyal Tire Company of Detroit for 20 years and then worked for 21 years as a mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service in Warren, MI. He served in the Army during World War II.

His family includes his wife, Meda Allison Boyd of Eastpointe; two daughters and a son-in-law, Dean and Gordon McDonald of MI; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by a brother, Ralph Thomas Boyd; and his grandparents, Van and Ellen Maynard Shanks and Thomas and Malissa Jared Boyd, all formerly of the Boma Community.

Information provided by the Baxter Chapel of Hooper & Huddleston Funeral Home.

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: 23 August 1999.

**MEDA (ALLISON) BOYD OBT.**

**MICHIGAN** - Funeral services for Meda Allison Boyd, 78, of Mt. Clemens, MI, formerly of Baxter, were held Thursday, January 13, at 10 a.m. from the chapel of Clyne Funeral Home in Eastpointe, MI. Burial was in Cadillac Memorial Gardens in Clinton Township, MI.

Mrs. Boyd died Monday, January 10, 2000, at the Church of Christ Care Center in Mt. Clemens.

She was born in Baxter to the late Arthur and Maggie Cole Allison.

Mrs. Boyd was a homemaker.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Gilbert Everett Boyd, who died on August 20, 1999; and her father-in-law and mother-in-law, John C and Mary Lou Shanks Boyd.

Her family includes two daughters and a son-in-law, Linda and James Wells of Porter, IN, and Rhonda Austin of Chagrin, OH; a sister, Minnie Lowe of Cookeville; two brothers, Arnold Allison of Baxter and Travis Allison of Prescott, AZ; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Rev. Stan Clanton officiated at the service.

Information provided by the Baxter Chapel of Hooper & Huddleston Funeral Home.

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### GILBERT EVERETT BOYD (#954)

**Source:** Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee – 2008 by Putnam County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage Inc.



Pg. 336: Gilbert, son of John and Mary Boyd, was in the army in WWII. During the Persian Gulf Command, he was in Iran, a mechanically challenged private, putting together Russian tanks. Seven months later he was sent to Pisa, Italy.

(Picture:

He left 19 November, 1943, my first birthday, and was discharged in 1946. Waiting for the train in Nashville, a woman asked him to watch her baby. He worried his train would come before she got back. It didn't.

Meda, daughter of Arthur and Maggie Allison, wrote him letters every day. Arriving in Iran, 72 letters were waiting for him.

*Story submitted by: Linda Gail Boyd Wells.*

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