The Greenbrier Line

Motto:
Tough - Tenacious - Enduring

(Depicted by The Wild Boar)
BOGGS
“The Greenbrier Line”
Since 1754
By: Maj. USA Ret. John Andrew Boggs, M.Ed. - Ed. S.

It is somewhat unclear as to precisely how the name “Greenbrier” first originated. A land speculation company called “The Greenbrier Company,” was formed about 1751 by a group of “Virginia Gentlemen,” in which a John Lewis was a member. They were “granted” 100,000 acres of land located on the waters of the “Greenbrier River,” in an area called “Trans-Allegheny Virginia.” (C. H. Ambler, shows this company as being formed in 1745 & A. S. Withers, shows 1751) John Lewis, was a personal friend of the governor. More specifically, their land was located within the region of present day Greenbrier County, West Virginia. This grant of land by Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia, was given with the understanding that, the Greenbrier Co, would settle families upon these lands. These settlers were to be the early warning & first line of defense for Virginia, against the Indians & French. The first recorded white men to attempt living in the area was in 1749 & were Stephen Suel and one other unnamed man.

John Lewis & his son Andrew, (later to become a General & to command at the “Battle of Point Pleasant, on 10 October,1774) began to survey the Greenbrier grant after 1751. The war between England & France in 1754 checked this survey work. In 1761, the English king issued a Proclamation against further settlement in the region & commanded all settlers to leave the area. Those whom remained were all destroyed by Indians in 1763. From 1763-1769, Greenbrier was altogether uninhabited. Sometime in 1769, one “Capt. John Stuart” (later to commanded a Regiment, at the Battle of Point Pleasant) & a few other young men began to settle in the area. The Indians attempted to displace them, but were subsequently unsuccessful. This then is the backdrop for our Charles Francis Boggs, (also at the battle of Point Pleasant, with at least 3 brothers). He was born in 1754, Chester County, PA, later moving with his parents to Augusta Co, VA, & then to Greenbrier County. The ancestors of Charles Francis Boggs were: his parents, James Charles & Margaret Jane (Sharp) Boggs; Grandparents, Francis & Agnes (? ) Boggs; and Great Grandparent, James Boggs, “The Immigrant”, born about 1667, Londonderry, Ireland.

Charles Francis, (AKA) “Charlie” & “Old Charlie” Boggs, was married about 1776 to Mary Clendennin, a daughter of James & Margaret (Anderson) Clenden(n)in, in Greenbrier County, VA now WV. The first child of this “The Greenbrier Line” of Boggs’, was James Clenden(n)in Boggs, born 20 February 1778, the same year that Greenbrier county was formed from the VA counties of Botetourt & Montgomery. The original source for the “The Greenbrier Line” name being associated with the Boggs name, was found in the publications and private files of Mr. Edward L. Woodyard of Armonk, NY. The spelling of the Clendennin name with two N's are used, as found in Mr. Woodyard’s, private research files on the Clendennin Family. Other research by this author, has found the name spelled as Clendenin. Charles Francis, along with 5 other Boggs’ appear in the 1787, Virginia Census of Greenbrier County.
The following is a quote from the Woodyard files: “Charles Francis and Mary (Clendennin) Boggs had 12 (but only lists 11) children and were the progenitors of a branch of the Boggs family that became rather renown and celebrated in the mountains of West Virginia. Their sons and grandsons were described as ambitious, penny pinching, heavy drinking, womanizing, sharp-minded, shrewd, lively and attention seeking. They were also known to value land over gold, wanting to own as much land as possible since “you can’t eat gold or money,” and to cause a commotion when their intelligence had been insulted. The Boggs women from this family were equally ambitious, beautiful, sensual, hard working, and “born mothers.” They also were tolerant of misbehavior by their husbands and children and would rarely shirk their responsibility to their home and family.”

Charles Francis and Mary Boggs, had at least eleven children, one of which, Andrew Boggs, Sr., born 1790, married in 1813 to Christina Shock. This marriage produced six children, of which three were male. These three brothers played similar as well as differing roles within their communities. Two of them, Andrew “Big Andy” Jr. & Wesley, followed their fathers craft & trade as blacksmiths and gunsmiths, & farming. Andrew, engaged in the milling of grain at his mill (Boggs’ Mill) on the Back Fork of the Little Kanawha River in Webster County, VA now WV. One of “Big Andy’s, supposedly singular feats of strength, was the moving & placement of a huge millstone, which is still visible at the former mill site. Wesley, operated a gunsmith-blacksmith shop in the vicinity of Rock Cave, near Buckhannon, Upshur County, VA now WV. Their “Boggs Rifles”, were and still remain highly prized as collectibles and are rare items. One is known to be in the possession of Mr. Boyd Glenn Lowther, of Wildcat, Lewis County, WV. Glenn is a 2d great grandson of “Big Andy”. These “Boggs Rifles”, were known for their craftsmanship and accuracy.

Their middle brother Washington, applied himself as a farmer and part time blacksmith. There appears to be no record or mention of his being connected with the gun making trade. His connection with fire arms is during his service in the Civil War.

Washington “Wash” (no middle name known) Boggs, the second son of Andrew and Christina (Shock) Boggs, was born 26 August, 1823, in Webster County, VA now WV and died in November 1905, at the home of his youngest son Andrew Jackson & Mary Ann (Kelley) Boggs, near Duffy, Lewis County, WV. Washington married Barbara Loudin, a daughter of William and Sarah (Davis) Loudin. Barbara was born in VA, 15 October, 1826 and died 24 May, 1882, in Lewis County, WV. Both are buried in the Lowther Cemetery, near Duffy, Lewis County, WV. Their marriage produced two sons and three daughters. The second son, Andrew Jackson Boggs, is the grandfather of the author.

The military record for Washington Boggs, shows him as being of Bennets Mills, Upshur County, WV formerly VA and being Mustered at Beverly, Upshur County, WV, 13 March, 1862. He was 39 years old when he entered Company “A” 10th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment. This was at almost twice the average age of soldiers entering the ranks of the Union Forces during the Civil War! Prior to his entry into the 10th WV Inf. Regt, Washington was listed as being a member of an Independent Militia, comprised of local people to protect local communities and were subject to “call” in other groups.. These militias were commissioned by Governor
Francis Pierpont, of the Reorganized State of Virginia. Washington’s, militia unit was known as “Captain William Tomlinson's Company”.

The first home base for Company “A” was at Fort Pickens, located near what is now Duffy, Lewis County, WV. The fort was constructed by the members of Company “A”. There are markers: which list the Battles of Company “A”; which denote the Fort’s former location; and a National Flag, which flies continually at the site.

Washington, entered as a Private of Infantry and was mustered out with the same rank 12 March, 1865, in the vicinity of the Appomattox Surrender. His Regiment, the 10th WV Vol. Inf. Regt., was involved in the battles of Beverly, WV; Droop Mountain, WV; Harpers Ferry, WV; Opequon or Opequon Creek, AKA as The Battle of Winchester, VA; Leetown, VA; Kernstown, VA; Cedar Creek, VA; Berryville, VA; Petersburg Siege, VA; and the Appomattox Surrender. The 10th Inf. Regt. was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel (later promoted to Major General) Thomas Maley Harris and by Captain (later promoted to Colonel) Morgan A. Darnall. The 10th had the reputation as being one of the most dependable units in the Union Army, with Company “A” being recognized as one of the best companies, if not the best, within the regiment.

Washington, was most certainly confronted with the problem of which side to support. The people from the area in which he lived were divided over the issues at hand. This division resulted in the killing of former neighbors, relatives and even brother killing brother. One example of many was Perry Conley, a guerrilla leader, being killed by his brother James, a Union Home Guard member. Shortly after this incident, James was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. This incident occurred at Sutton, Braxton County, VA now WV, 5 May 1861. Many inhabitants of Upshur, Braxton, Gilmer, Webster, and Pocahontas Counties of VA now WV, were driven from their homes. Men that were in sympathy of the Union Cause, were afraid to leave their families to join the Union Forces. A number of county courthouses, towns & villages in western Virginia, were burned or destroyed. This loss of so many public record, has made genealogical research somewhat difficult. Some single men did join but the guerrilla warfare that was underway in the area caused many to stay at home to protect their families.

The initial & primary mission of the 10th Regiment and Co “A” in particular, was counter-guerrilla warfare. These “guerrillas” were Washington’s & his fellow soldiers of the 10th Regiment; relatives, neighbors, probably friends and the like. The very mission of his unit; the suppression (killing) of guerillas and his public stance, (his act of enlistment) placed Washington’s family in very real danger. His youngest child Sarah Estaline, was under the age of two years at the time of his enlistment in “Captain William Tomlinson’s Company”. A house divided best describes the family of Andrew and Christine (Shock) Boggs. Their oldest son, Andrew “Big Andy” Boggs, Jr.’s son, Henry Richard Boggs, joined Company “G” 62nd Inf. Regt (CSA) and wore the rank of Corporal. Richard, served in this unit from 1861-1865. At the time of their enlistment, Richard was 19 years old and his Uncle Washington, was 39 years old.

“Big Andy” was a pro-active, CSA, sympathizer. He was a wanted person by Federal Troops throughout the war. An on going effort was made to capture or to kill him, by Federal Forces in the area.

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THE HONOR MEDALS STRUCK BY THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA IN 1866

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Class III - For Liberty - Died from Disease & Battle Wounds (In Line Of Duty & Presented to next of kin)
Class II - Killed in Battle (Presented to next of kin)
Class I - Honorably Discharged (Washington Boggs’ Medal)

Picture of Medals was obtained from the WV Div. of Culture & History, Charleston, WV by: Maj. William J. Boggs, USA Ret. Salem, WV.
FORT PICKENS, AT DUFFY, LEWIS COUNTY, VA now WV.
Artist’s depiction of how it may have looked after its construction by Company “A’
10th WV. Vol. Inf. Regt. in 1861 - Sketch By, Aubrey Crawford. This sketch used in
the Fort Pickens Markers Dedication Ceremony, on 23 August 1964. The Fort no
longer exists. In its place are two markers, one of which is a double marker giving an
account of the many battles in which the builders of the fort were engaged. A Flag
which flew over the Nation’s Capitol, was flown on a pole at the former site of the fort.
A flag continues to fly on a 24 hour basis. This sketch and data, provided to the author
by his first cousin, Shirley Gay (Boggs) Webster, a great grand-daughter of
Washington Boggs.
Washington Boggs-Abt. 1865
Contributed by: Shirley G. (Boggs) Webster
Huntington, WV. (g. g. dau.)

Washington Boggs-Abt. 1885
Contributed by: Shirley G. (Boggs) Webster

Washington Boggs
Before 1905 - Wearing Honor Medal
Contributed by: Col. Alan Duane Mills, USAR Ret
In Henderson, KY. (3d g. g. son)

Andrew Boggs Jr. "Big Andy"

Washington’s Older Brother,
CSA sympathizer and Gunsmith “extraordinary.”
Known as “The Strongest Man in Central WV.”
Contributed by Shirley G. (Boggs) Webster (gr.grand niece)
It is difficult to describe the field & battle conditions endured by the common soldier during the Civil War in “Western Virginia”. The terrain, coupled with any type of severe weather conditions made for a hellish situation at best. Add to that an age of 39 years in 1862-put that body through three years of Light Infantry (foot mobile) warfare and it is a marvel that Washington survived this ordeal. This author has had some experience as a Combat Infantryman, this coupled with his personal knowledge of the mountainous terrain over which Washington and his fellow soldiers fought, makes him proud to have this man as his Great Grandfather. What a tough & enduring “Scots-Irish Patriot”. He was a definite minority - Pro Union - in a sea of largely Pro-CSA relatives. Most students of the Civil War, concede that Western Virginia, played a critical role in the outcome of the Civil War. Had she not formed a new state and fought a Fratricidal War, at best the War would have been prolonged; the worst, a Nation Divided.

There were few individual awards or decorations presented to the individual soldier during the Civil War. In 1866, a Medal of Honor of West Virginia, for the presentation to every soldier who served honorably in the Union Army was struck. There were three categories: (Class I) for those Honorably Discharged; (Class II) for those Killed in Battle; (Class III) for those who Died from other Causes, while in the Line of Duty. The Class II and III medals were presented to their next-of-kin. The duty for the medal distribution was charged to the State Adjutant General, and ex-officio Quartermaster General, for the state of West Virginia, Major General, Thomas Maley Harris. MG. Harris, was the prime mover in having this medal struck. Washington’s medal would have been the “Class I medal-Honorably Discharged”, which comprised the category of the greatest number of medals struck. This medal is described as having the “figure of Liberty, scantily draped, to the right, with both arms extended. In the right-hand is a laurel wreath which she is about to place upon the head of a soldier who is stepping forward to be crowned; and in the left-hand she is holding a scroll which the soldier is receiving. Behind Liberty is the American eagle and behind the soldier is a box of growing cereals. In addition to the legend, motto, and figures from the state’s seal are the dated 1861 and 1865 and the name J. Sigel, one of the artists responsible for the medal’s design (this being the same for all three medals).”

An inquiry was made in September 1998, by Maj. William J. Boggs, USA Ret., Washington’s, 3d great grandson & the elder brother of the author, concerning the status of a Class I Medal for Private Washington Boggs. The return information indicated “no medal waiting” for the named soldier. The Historian of the Archives, Mr. Greg Carroll, noted that the medal was “probably awarded right after the war”.

**Items I - X, are an incomplete list of West Virginia Boggs’ who served in the Union and the CSA; from the WV Civil War Almanac, by Tim McKinney & the Family Sheets of the author:**

1. Braxton Co, WV 1. Elihu J. Boggs, Corporal, 91st Ohio Infantry, 15 August 1862 - 24 June 1865. 2. Paton J. (should be Peyton Job) Boggs, Private, (should be Co, “I”) 3d WV (should be VA) Cavalry, (CSA) 1863 - served 7 months, was taken prisoner while on furlough. Was paroled in 1864. 1st cousin once removed to

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II. Clay County, Andrew Jackson Boggs, E. L. Woodyard Family Sheets show; Killed in The Civil War. 1st cousin once removed to Washington Boggs.


V. Lewis Co, Washington Boggs, Private, Co. “A”, 10th WV Inf. Regt., 25 September 1861 - 13 March 1864. Record in 1890 shows that he was suffering from the affects of Rheumatism. This is readily apparent in his, before 1905 photograph.

VI. Pendleton Co, John Boggs, Captain, age 44, Farmer, W.Va. Scouts, on or about 3 October 1861, subsequently formed his own US Scouts, elected Capt., 28 April 1864, and discharged 31 May 1865. Record shows afflicted by Rheumatism and nearly blind in 1890. His relationship to Washington Boggs, not established.

VII. Pocahontas Co, Madison Boggs, record not found. Relationship to Washington Boggs not established.

VIII. Roane Co, John R. Boggs, Private, 11th WV Infantry Regt, 30 August 1862 - 17 June 1865. 2d cousin of Washington Boggs.

Roane Co, Thadeus (should be Thaddeus) Boggs, (Co. “H”) 19th Virginia Cavalry, & (Co. “B” 34th VA Inf.) CSA - served 2 yr. 4 mos. record not found. 2d cousin of Washington Boggs.


X. Elmira, NY Prison, William M. Boggs, 26th Battalion, Virginia Inf., (CSA), died therein 19 December 1864. His county of origin not found and relationship to Washington Boggs not established.

References used:
5. Fort Pickens, dedication Program, 23 August 1964, Sketch by, Audrey Crawford.

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8. History of the Early Settlement and Indian Wars of West Virginia, by Wills De Hass, Published by H. Hoblitzaell, Wheeling, VA now WV, 1851 - Reprinted by, The McClain Printing Co., Parsons, WV.
15. Unclaimed West Virginia Civil War Medals, West Virginia Div., of Culture & History, The Cultural Center, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East, Charleston, WV.
17. The Boggs Family-1997, by Alvin J. & Martha Ann (Boggs) Rhodes, Madison, AL. (PS: Martha: I have it right this time!)

Authors Note: I would like to hear from anyone with data on Boggs’ in the Civil War from WV. Also, would like to share data on the “Greenbrier Line”- relating to ancestors & descendants.

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