

CANAWLERS AT REST

AUGUSTUS BODEN

Find-A-Grave #35342081

b. 1810

d. February 17, 1878

By Carolyn I. Schmidt

At one time Augustus Boden, who was born in 1810, operated boats on the Pennsylvania canal near Johnstown. He brought his boat "The Swan" down the Ohio River to the Miami Canal in 1843.

S. B Huddleston of Dublin, who occasionally wrote historical articles, said that Augustus and his sons, George and Augustus J., built part of the Whitewater Canal between Cambridge City and Hagerstown. This was the part of the canal that is often called the Hagerstown Canal and was financed by local business men in Hagerstown. The Bodens also graded some of the sections for the Indiana Central Railway when it was built through Wayne County.

When the Whitewater Canal opened Augustus purchased two other boats, which he operated on that canal between Cambridge City and the Ohio River along with his son, George Boden. According to *Memoirs of Wayne County*, "At first there were twenty or thirty boats in operation on the [Whitewater] canal, and as these were inadequate for the rapidly increasing business many more were built and there were soon quite a fleet of them....the names of some of the boats with some of their owners or builders were as follows: 'Milton Torchlight' and 'George Hopkins,' both built by Nathaniel Tingle, at Milton; 'The Swan,' 'Mayflower,' and 'Fashion,' owned by Augustus Boden, father of George Boden of Cambridge City; 'The Erie,' 'Clara,' and 'Tempest,' operated by Charles Anderson and John Deemster, of Cambridge City; the 'Sevastopol,' 'Rover,' and 'Isaac Myer,' owned by John C. Adams, of the same place; the 'Rochester Gas Light' and

the 'Thomas Newley.' Some boat owners were: a Mr. Stevenson, of Milton; and Valentine Sell, Samuel Williams, Alexander Crowley, Michael Johnsonborough, and the Densmore Brothers, of Cambridge City. Some prominent shippers were: Alexander Crowley, George Gillespie, Mark E. Reeves, and Arnold, Root & Howe, of Hagerstown, and John Peterson, of Milton."

In 1845 Augustus was asked to testify in a court case, *The White Water Valley Canal Company and Bruning v. Dow*, in which the White Water Valley Canal Company was owed less than 100 dollars. Dow then appealed the findings of the court to the Franklin Circuit Court, and later the case went to the Indiana Supreme Court. Dow alleged that the Canal Company maliciously and without any reasonable or probable cause, had the justice of the peace issue a writ of attachment commanding Bruning, who was a constable, to summon Boden, the captain of an un-named canal boat owned by Dow, to answer the Canal Company and Bruning to which he owed less than 100 dollars, and for the constable to attach the boat that was valued at \$800. Then, through the negligence of the constable, the boat sank. Dow charged the Canal Company and Bruning of trespassing. He also claimed that Boden was examined as a witness even though his testimony was objected to because of his being incompetent. The court affirmed the judgment with 5 per cent damages and costs. They also ruled that since Boden's incompetency was not pointed out to the Circuit Court, the objection could not be assigned for error. Why Boden was supposedly incompetent to testify was not noted.

The 1850 United States Federal Census shows Augustus age 40 as a boatman with his residence in Cambridge City, Wayne county, Indiana. Living with him are his wife, Anna, age 43, a merchant, and his children Anna, age 17, a carpenter; George, age 15, a saddler; Josephine, age 14, a cooper; and Augustus, age 12, a tailor. Augustus and Anna eventually are the parents of seven children: Anna, George, Josephine, Augustus, Mary A., Conrodna, and Selisia.

Anna S. Boden, Augustus' wife, passed away in 1857. She was laid to rest in Capitol Hill Cemetery. Cambridge City. Wayne County, Indiana

The 1860 Census lists Augustus as a farmer with real estate valued at \$5000 and a personal estate of \$1000. He is living in Wayne County, Indiana with Jane Boden, age 37, and his children. Did he marry Jane after Anna died or is Jane Boden his sister who is helping him with his children?

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Anna S. Boden 1807-1857 Find-A-Grave #55333930
Picture courtesy Irish roots



George H. Boden 1834-1913 Find-A-Grave #89985670
Photo courtesy Irish roots

17, 1878. He was laid to rest in Haven Hill Cemetery, Olney, Richland County, Illinois.

In 1863 August Boden of Washington county, Indiana is on an Indiana tax list of contractor bids. He was taxed \$25.00 for his contractor/builder license.

The 1870 Census shows Augustus is the proprietor of a flour mill in Olney, Illinois with real estate valued at \$2000 and a personal estate of \$2000. What year did he move to Olney?

Besides operating a canal boat, George H. Boden, Augustus' son, also traded along the canal and had a partnership in a sawmill near Milton, Wayne county, Indiana with Samuel Stokes. On December 30, 1857 he was married to Sarah Ann _____. The 1860 U.S. Federal Census shows him as a sawyer. The 1880 Census lists him as a contractor. He was living in Cambridge City, Wayne county, Indiana in 1900.

August Boden died in Olney, Illinois on February

Augustus Boden's Family						
Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place	Marriage	Place
Augustus Boden	1810	Germany	2-17-1878	Olney Richland IL		
m1. Sarah Anna	1807	IN	1857	Capitol Hill Cem.	Cambridge City	
<u>Anna Boden</u>	1833	PA				
<u>George H. Boden</u>	11-??-1834	PA	1913	Riverside Cem	Cambridge City	12-30-1857 Henry Co IN
m. Sarah Ann ?	5-02-1837	IN	8-28-1906	Cambridge City IN	12-20-1857	Henry Co IN
Cora B. Boden	1862		1881			
Edward W. Boden	1868					
<u>Josephine Boden</u>	1836	PA	1921	Wayne Co.	IN	
m. McConkey						
<u>Augustus J. Boden</u>	1838	PA	10-07-1926	Montgomery Co.	IL	
m1. Caroline ?	1844	IN				
Minnie Boden	1865	IN			11-02-1862	
m. Charles T Whistler					11-02-1862	
Harry Boden	1868	IN			3-09-1892	
m. Rosa E Funk					3-09-1892	
m2. Angeline Netherton	12-28-1847	Gillespie IL	8-10-1920	Montgomery Co. IL	1-22-1868	Macoupin IL
Lily R., Boden	1869					
Angeline A. Boden	1874					
Annie J. Boden	1877					
Albert Boden	1884					
Henry William Boden	1889		1970			
Hazel Alma Boden	1892		1961			
<u>Mary A. Boden</u>	1845	PA			12-27-1863	
m. Edward March					12-27-1863	
<u>Conrodona (Dena) Boden</u>	1849	IN				
<u>Selisia Boden</u>	1852	IN				
m2. Sarah ? Wife or sister	1843	PA	Keeping house in 1860 after death of Sarah Anna.			

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George Boden passed away in 1913. He was buried in Riverside Cemetery, Cambridge City, Indiana.

Apparently Augustus J. Boden, another of Augustus' sons, was deaf. He is listed on the student roster of the Indiana Institution for Educating the Deaf and Dumb in 1859-1860 and 1863-1864. The school was one half mile east of the corporate limits of Indianapolis at that time. He is shown as being from Cambridge City, Wayne county, Indiana. The Census of 1860 shows him as a teamster, 1870 as a contractor in Cambridge City, 1880 as a lumber dealer in Cambridge City, 1900 living in Litchfield City, Montgomery county, Illinois and 1910 living in South Li-

tchfield, Montgomery county, Illinois.

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