

JOE BOYLE COLLECTION

The Joe Boyle Collection contains family, military and business documents, books, photographs and contemporary newspaper articles about a man who may be Canada's greatest unsung hero. All photos in the collection are accessible on this website by clicking [Browse The Joe Boyle Collection](#) below.

Access to the library's printed documents pertaining to Colonel Boyle is very limited, and they can not be retrieved without prior reservation. Identification is required. Documents will be retrieved one file at a time, so users may wish to consider the time they will need to consult any significant part of the collection. If you have an interest in a specific aspect of Colonel Boyle's life, please telephone (519-539-4801) or [email](#) the library in advance in order to ascertain whether the collection holds items that will be of use to you.

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The support of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation is acknowledged.

ABOUT JOE BOYLE

Joseph Whiteside Boyle's career is a remarkable one. The Boyle family moved from Toronto, where Joe was born in 1867, to Woodstock in 1871 and in the 1890s acquired a 50-acre estate on the eastern outskirts of the town.

On graduating from Woodstock College, Joe traveled to and from New York with his father, Charles Boyle, a prominent horse trainer. Seeking adventure, he went off to sea for three years. On his return, he settled temporarily in New York; but, on his marriage's subsequent break-up, he brought his young son, Joe Jr., and daughter, Flora, back to Woodstock. Two younger daughters, Charlotte (later an Olympic swimming medalist) and Susan, remained with their mother.

In 1897, in company with heavyweight boxing contender Frank Slavin, he journeyed to Dawson City before the bulk of the gold rush and quickly became one of the most famous entrepreneurs developing the gold fields. His Klondike Valley concession spanned 45 square miles; his simultaneous business ventures into utilities and supplies made him a leading figure in the Yukon. He was deeply involved in all aspects of Dawson's community life; in 1905, he equipped and brought the Dawson City hockey team to Ottawa to compete in the Stanley Cup final.

His international associations included Herbert Hoover, Lord Beaverbrook and Clifford Sifton. At the outbreak of World War I, at the age of 47, he outfitted and presented to the Canadian Army the 50-man Yukon Machine Gun Company. Named an Honorary Lt. Colonel of the Canadian Militia, he was adjudged too old to command it in the field.

In June of 1917, after agitating in London through his business and government connections for a active post, he was appointed to conduct a private mission to Russia's provisional Kerensky government. There he assumed command of the transportation system on the southwestern front, boldly taking control of troops in a desperate situation at Tarnopol after the Brusilov offensive, an action for which he was decorated in the field by the Russian Commander-in-Chief.

He then worked on communications for the Bolsheviks, but, soon disenchanted with their motives, joined the Roumanians at their request, aiding them against both the Bolsheviks and the German Central Powers. He maintained a wide-ranging network of 450 agents for British intelligence in Southern Russia. At great personal risk, he saved the lives of 50 Roumanian aristocrats and government officials, held hostage by the Bolsheviks at Odessa.

In another daring episode, he rescued the Roumanian treasury, archives and crown jewels from Moscow and returned them to Bucharest, where he was hailed as a national hero and awarded their three highest

decorations. He became a confidant of Queen Marie of Roumania, granddaughter of Queen Victoria, who personally nursed him back to health when he suffered a stroke in 1919.

After negotiating the first treaty of the war, between Russia and Roumania, he distributed \$25 million in aid from Canada which he had persuaded Robert Borden to provide. He was successful in bargaining with the Roumanians for oil for Britain.

In 1922, on behalf of Royal Dutch Shell, he attempted to secure the return of Britain's Caucasus oil holdings from the Bolsheviks, for which he was awarded the D.S.O and French Croix de Guerre. Under these stresses, Boyle suffered a second stroke and died in 1923 at the home of a Klondike friend in England.

Queen Marie installed an ancient Roumanian stone cross on his grave, as well as a ledger stone on which was engraved 'man with the heart of a Viking and the simple faith of a child', from the Robert Service poems he had read to the queen and her family. Only 56, he had packed several lifetimes of adventure into those few decades, an extraordinary man of extraordinary times.

In 1983, at the request of his daughter, Flora, a committee of Woodstock citizens arranged for the repatriation of Col. Boyle's English grave to Woodstock. The Department of National Defense flew his body home for a full military funeral. Among the official guests on Joe Boyle Day, June 29th, 1983, were Lt. Governor John Black Aird, Ontario Heritage Board Chair John White, Col. T.F.G.Lawson of the Royal Canadian Regiment, and Whitehorse Mayor Florence Whyard.

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Search Result

results of Joe Boyle Collection containing "

1. [\[Queen Marie, Joe Boyle and Princess Ileana at Biczaz\]](#)

Marie, Queen of Rumania (left), Joe Boyle (centre) and Ileana, Princess of Rumania (right), summer 1918, Biczaz, Rumania, while Boyle was recovering from his first stroke.



2. [\[Joe Boyle in Constantinople\]](#)

Joe Boyle and his nurse Dorothy Wilkie, in Constantinople, autumn 1922.



3. [\[Joe Boyle\]](#)

Photograph of Joe Boyle, circa 1906-1910 that hung in Charlottle Boyle Clune's den, Rochester, New York. Setting of photo and photographer unknown. Copy of photo given to Ed Bennet, by Charlotte Boyle Clune c. 1990



4. [\[Joe Boyle's Dawson Children's Picnic\]](#)

Joe Boyle at a Children's Picnic at Dawson



5. [\[Joe Boyle, 1918\]](#)

Colonel Joe Boyle inspecting the palace after Czar Nicholas had been murdered. 1918 (51 years old)



6. [\[Boyle's Yukon Hockey Team, probably taken Jan. 12, 1905\]](#)

Boyle's Yukon Hockey Team. Boyle (seated centre front) Probably taken on Thursday, Jan. 12, 1905



7. [\[Boyle recovering from heart attack in Kishinev, Besserabia, 1918\]](#)

A hero near death. Boyle slowly recovering from his heart attack in Kishinev, Besserabia, 1918.



8. [\[Joe Boyle and Flora, circa 1900\]](#)

Joe Boyle and Flora , circa 1900. His nugget stick pin is the first he mined in the Klondike in 1897.



9. [Boyle party of 1898, who trekked out of the Yukon](#)

Ready to go 'Outside'. This is the Boyle party of 1898 who trekked out of the Yukon. Standing, in front (left), is Indian Charlie, also known as Chilcoot Charlie and Siwash Charlie; an unidentified man, a miner named Nelson, another unidentified man, Swiftwater Bill Gates, Joe Boyle. Nelson holds (left) Mutchonga and Crow. The dog near Swiftwater is Koolikee. Passage of time has removed the lead dog, now a black blob in front of Boyle.



10. [Joe Boyle and lifelong friend, Teddy Bredenberg](#)

Joe Boyle (left) and his lifelong friend Teddy Bredenberg talk things over at Boyle's Bear Creek property.



11. [Boyle's last adventure, Oct.-Nov. 1922](#)

Boyle's last adventure, Oct.-Nov. 1922. On board the U.S. destroyer Simpson with four officers are (left to right) D.D. Tzegintzov, Boyle's Russian aide; Claude A. Solly, Boyle's Nurse, Dorothy Wilkie; and the ailing Boyle, who had only five months to live.



12. [The Firs, Dave Boyle, Martha Laperriere, Flora and Joe](#)

At The Firs - Dave Boyle (left), Martha Laperriere, Flora and Joe Boyle.



13. [Joe Boyle \(at wheel\) and Brother Charles](#)

Joe Boyle (at the wheel) and brother Charles try out their new car.



14. [Joe Boyle Jr. and Flora, 1902](#)

Joe Boyle Jr. and Flora, just before leaving for England with their father in 1902.



15. [Joe Boyle \(tall man\), Bill Gates \(short man, whiskers\)](#)

Tall man Colonel Joe boyle, short man with whiskers - swiftwater Bill Gates taken on way to Dawson City.



16. [Joe Boyle in London \(mounted on horse\)](#)

Joe Boyle in London, ready for a morning ride on Rotten Row.



17. [1954, Boyle grave](#)

The Boyle grave when it was visited and cleaned by Len Taylor in 1954.



18. [The Boyle ladies go for a drive at Bear Creek, circa 1911, Joe at the wheel](#)

The Boyle ladies go for a drive at Bear Creek, circa 1911, Joe at the wheel with Elma beside him. Mrs. Charles Boyle (right) at the back.



19. [Joe Boyle at bat in the 1904 - 1909 years of hibernation in the East](#)

Joe Boyle at bat in the 1904-09 years of hibernation in the East. The young catcher is a boy named Pascoe, son of the Boyle family butcher.



20. [The Boyle Christmas Eve party, 1913, in the Yukon](#)

Christmas in the Yukon. The Boyle Christmas Eve party, 1913. Front row (left) Elma Boyle; 4th from the right Ed Lally, brother of Mrs. Charles Boyle, front far right, Mrs. Dick Lanning. Second row - A man named Coates, Joe Boyle, Ralph Morgan, (son of Mrs. Charles Boyle); Mr. and Mrs. Benney Gladwin, manager of the Boyle gold room; unknown; Frank Nazalea; Arthur Goldrick of the office staff, extreme right, Dick Lanning. Back row Joe Boyle Jr.; unknown; Ralph (Pinky) Pullen; John Kennalley, Boyles secretary.



21. [Joe Boyle and a Dawson picknicker](#)

Joe Boyle doffs his boots and stockings to carry a young Dawson picknicker around at a summer holiday foray to the river.



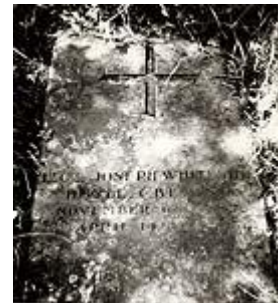
22. [Bear Creek office, Boyle, centre right](#)

The Bear Creek office. Boyle,(centre right). English Joe Boyle behind Charles Boyle, centre seated, with Ralph Morgan (left) his stepson. Ladies are visiting Dawson school teachers.



23. [The top half of Boyle's gravestone after it had been uncovered by Len Taylor in 1945](#)

The top half of Boyle's gravestone after it had been uncovered by Len Taylor in 1945.



24. [The bottom half of Boyle's gravestone after being swept in 1945](#)

The Len Taylor Collection; 4.5.22. 1 Photograph. The bottom half of Boyles gravestone after being swept in 1945.



25. [Remarkable picture made at Theodosia where Boyle, \(centre, full regimental dress\), was held prisoner with Rumanian hostages by the Bolsheviks](#)

This remarkable picture, made at Theodosia where Boyle (centre in full regimentals) was held prisoner with the Rumanian hostages by the Bolsheviks. Armed guards are at the ready but want to be in the picture. Curious inhabitants look on as the prisoners pose.



26. [Joe Boyle in Canadian uniform](#)

Joe Boyle in Canadian Army uniform wearing: The Order of Regina Maria (around his neck) and The Star of Roumania (over his left breast). Wearing ribbons (above his left breast pocket) for: The Distinguished Service Order, Croix de Guerre, Star of Roumania, The Crown of Roumania, The Order of Regina Maria, The Order of St. Vladimir, The Order of St. Anne and The Order of St. Stanislas.



27. [\[Letter\] 1923 May 23, \[To\] Col. Zvegintzov](#)

12 leaves. Letter from Marie, Queen of Rumania, to Colonel Zvegintzov, secretary of Joe Boyle, on the occasion of Boyle's death. leaves 1-2 of 12.



28. [\[Letter\] 1923 May 23, \[To\] Col. Zvegintzov](#)

12 leaves. Letter from Marie, Queen of Rumania, to Colonel Zvegintzov, secretary of Joe Boyle, on the occasion of Boyle's death. leaves 3-4 of 12.



29. [\[Letter\] 1923 May 23, \[To\] Col. Zvegintzov](#)

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30. [\[Letter\] 1923 May 23, \[To\] Col. Zvegintzov](#)

12 leaves. Letter from Marie, Queen of Rumania, to Colonel Zvegintzov, secretary of Joe Boyle, on the occasion of Boyle's death. leaves 7-8 of 12.



31. [\[Letter\] 1923 May 23, \[To\] Col. Zvegintzov](#)

12 leaves. Letter from Marie, Queen of Rumania, to Colonel Zvegintzov, secretary of Joe Boyle, on the occasion of Boyle's death. leaves 9-10 of 12.



32. [\[Letter\] 1923 May 23, \[To\] Col. Zvegintzov](#)

12 leaves. Letter from Marie, Queen of Rumania, to Colonel Zvegintzov, secretary of Joe Boyle, on the occasion of Boyle's death. leaves 11-12 of 12.



33. [Wayside](#)



34. [Joe Boyle Reburial Ceremony, 1983](#)



35. [Dignitaries at the Joe Boyle Reburial Ceremony, 1983](#)



36. [Mildred Raynor, became the first Mrs. J. Boyle in 1887](#)

Mildred Raynor, the pretty divorcee who became the first Mrs. Joseph Whiteside Boyle in 1887



37. [Boyle Picnic](#)

High summer and a Boyle picnic with the passengers ashore from the SS Pilot. Centre foreground with large white hat, Mrs. Martha Black; far left, Mrs. Elma Boyle; man standing with child, Joe Boyle; on his immediate left, Mrs. Nan Boyle; second on his left with cap, is George



Black.

38. [Boyle takes his own gold to the royal mint](#)



39. [At North Forks Camp, Nan and Elma Boyle and Elsie Lanning](#)



40. [The Firs, Susan \(Boyle\) Laperriere, left and Flora Boyle](#)



41. [Elma and Joe Boyle at Bear Creek, 1909](#)



42. [Flora Boyle and companion, Ida May Burkholder at the bottom of ship's ladder \(S.S. Derflinger\)](#)



43. [Joe Boyle's home \(Bear Creek\)](#)



44. [The Boyle No.3 dredge, near the Ogilvie Bridge](#)



45. [The No.1 dredge under construction,](#)
[1905](#)



46. [Elma beside Boyle's new car, circa](#)
[1912](#)



47. [Millie, Boyle's first wife](#)



48. [A picnic in Grosse Point, Detroit, L. to](#)
[R. Effie Martin, Mrs. Busser and Elma](#)
[Boyle](#)

