

Augustus French Boyle

(20 Feb 1818 – 22 May 1894)

Boyle. On Tuesday, May 22, 1894, at 2 o'clock p.m. at his residence, 131 Jefferson street, Anacostia, D.C., Augustus French Boyle, aged 76 years 3 months and 2 days, after a lingering illness.

The Evening Star, May 23, 1894

A.F. Boyle Dead

Writer and Teacher of the Art of Phonography

Augustus French Boyle died yesterday afternoon, at his residence, 131 Jefferson street, Anacostia, in the seventy-seventh year of his age. He was born in Plymouth, England, on February 20, 1818, at a suburb known as Stone House, where the Royal Naval Hospital, of which his father was surgeon in charge, was located. Mr. Boyle came to America in the year 1837 after the death of his father, which occurred in that year. He taught French in various places in the western part of New York state and Canada. While thus employed the idea of constructing a phonographic alphabet became the absorbing thought of his mind. In the year 1844 he became associated with Mr. Stephen Pearl Andrews of Boston in teaching the rudiments of the phonographic art, at which time their joint publications, first an imperfect reader, then their "Class Book," and afterward their "Phonographic Reader," in perfected form, were issued.

In the year 1845 they established in Boston a weekly paper in the new phonetic print, called the "Anglo-Saxon." In the year 1846 Andrews and Boyle issued "The American Phonographic Journal," the earliest American shorthand periodical. In addition to Mr. Boyle's work as an author he was a regular writer for many journals, including the New York Commercial and a publication known as the "Unit."

Mr. Boyle retained his mental faculties unimpaired up to the moment of his death, though his physical frame was reduced almost to a shadow by his extreme suffering. His wife, a son and daughter survive him. The son, Mr. Acland Boyle, is pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, New York city. The daughter, Mrs. Anna Boyle Moore, is at Somerville, Mass. Until an answer to the telegrams that have been sent them, announcing the death of their father, has been received, the funeral arrangements will not be concluded.