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The Relationship Between David French Boyd and William Tecumseh Sherman

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He looked on, contemplating exactly what he wanted to say. One of his best friends, William Tecumseh Sherman, had just died, and he was trying to think of the proper words he felt he should write to Sherman's family. He thought of his friend's life; he thought of his own. He thought of the times their lives had intersected. Remembering how thoughtfully Sherman had listened to him, he took his time to consider his own thoughts carefully. His paper was blank, but his pen was ready. David French Boyd began writing about the man he considered both "a father and a dear, loving friend both in one person."¹

Their communications had ended, but many of their letters would remain to be pondered by others in years to follow. A natural question would surface: What could the correspondence between David F. Boyd and William T. Sherman confirm about these two men and their particular relationship? Sherman wrote many short letters that primarily consisted of curt remarks, short descriptions, and oftentimes tersely-stated opinions and guidance without elaboration, while Boyd seemed to write fewer letters, although each one was fairly sizable with greater explanation.

Sherman was born in 1820. An unlikely hero with a notable family heritage, he had to bear life without his natural father after nine years of age. Raised under the watchful eyes of the

¹David French Boyd, "General W. T. Sherman as a College President," *University Bulletin: Louisiana State University* (Reprinted from *The American College*, April 1910) Oct. 1910: 7.; David F. Boyd to Philemon T. Sherman, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress, 15 February 1891, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Louisiana State University.

most powerful man in the local community, Thomas Ewing, Sherman grew to be a fine young man. He attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, graduated in 1840, and spent years trying to find his way in the world, both in military and civilian roles, until he came upon an offer to teach at the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning near Alexandria, La. There he met Boyd.²

Boyd took a different route to Louisiana. At first, his family was well-off. Thomas Jefferson Boyd, David Boyd's father, was a lawyer engaged in several business ventures that likely were what allowed David, his eldest son, to pursue a good education. He attended but did not graduate from the University of Virginia. He then looked for work in three different states: Virginia, Texas, and Louisiana. While in Louisiana, Boyd was hired by the seminary's Board of Supervisors to be their Professor of Ancient and English Languages. He accepted the position.³

Thus began the journey of respect and friendship between Sherman and Boyd. It started rather inauspiciously, as Sherman, who had arrived at the seminary in 1859, began to forward messages to the faculty who were expected to arrive well before the first session of instruction started on January 1, 1860. Most of the instructors heeded his warning. Boyd, however, arrived at the seminary only one day before classes would begin. Yet his tardiness did not seem to affect Sherman's opinion of his more desirable qualities, according to Germaine M. Reed, author of *David French Boyd: Founder of Louisiana State University*. Boyd's affection for Sherman, on the other hand, seemed to occur over many months, as Boyd became increasingly impressed

²John A. Marszalek, *Sherman: A Soldier's Passion for Order* (New York: The Free Press, 1993) 27; Germaine M. Reed, *David French Boyd: Founder of Louisiana State University* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1977) 15.

³Reed, 1-15.

with the efficient and just manner in which Sherman was running the school. For example, Boyd and Sherman one day were walking on the grounds outside the building which housed the seminary when Sherman, all of a sudden, intuitively realized that a group of cadets were planning a disobedient act. Boyd, meanwhile, had no idea anything was amiss. Sherman quickly found where these young men were preparing their plan and punished them accordingly. As Boyd later reminisced, “He was well named Tecumseh. The wily old Indian was hardly superior to Sherman in reading the ‘signs’ and divining the plans of foe or cadet.”⁴ Acts like those helped Boyd embrace Sherman all the more. By the time Sherman left the seminary in 1861, the two were firm friends.⁵

The seminary was new. Ostensibly only a few young men were interested in the new opportunity awaiting them. Before them stood a vast structure, four or five stories high (depending on where in the seminary one stood). It housed some of the best minds found within a 100 mile radius. In the coming years, cadets there would be rowdy and unwilling to respect authority, sometimes even finding themselves expelled or severely disciplined.⁶

However, not all of the cadets were so disobedient. David Boyd years later described many of them as men of excellent character. Sherman, too, was probably impressed with the overall character of these young men, probably realizing that a few bad apples did not have to

⁴Boyd, 4.

⁵Reed, 19-20; Boyd, 4-5, 7, *passim*.

⁶William T. Sherman to William G. Eliot, 26 August 1879, The William Greenleaf Eliot Papers, excerpt obtained from Charles W. Royster, Ph.D., Boyd Professor of History, Louisiana State University; Reed, 17, 21; Walter L. Fleming, Ph. D. *Louisiana State University: 1860-1896* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1936) 31-33, 62-64.

spoil the whole lot. His love for the cadets was as great as Boyd's.⁷

Sherman, as superintendent of the school, did have to be a strict disciplinarian at times. Yet he had a softer side, a side that often came out when the cadets were at a "hop" (dance) with the young ladies in the area. Sherman, according to Boyd, was an agreeable man. He did not let a simple disagreement with someone of good character get in the way of becoming that person's friend.⁸

Some differences of opinion could be found between him and his southern colleagues. Though often not serious in nature, they existed nonetheless. Usually, they did not debate about slavery, for Sherman was hardly an abolitionist. He did differ with his Louisiana friends in that he believed in the sovereignty of the Union. He made it no secret which side he would join if Louisiana seceded from the rest of the country.⁹

He and Boyd had some lively political discussions. Boyd, for his part, distrusted many of the politicians in the new Republican party, particularly William Seward (staunch abolitionist and, years later, the person most responsible for making Alaska a part of the United States). He made these statements about him:

[H]e talks more like a philosopher than any of them. There is nothing of the *humbug* about him; he is honest in his views, and for that very reason, he is the more dangerous enemy, 1st to the South, and finally to the whole Union.¹⁰

⁷Boyd, 3, 5, 7.

⁸Boyd, 2, 5, *passim*.

⁹Marszalek, 126; Boyd, 2, 6-7.

¹⁰David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 27 September 1860, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

Boyd went on in this letter to address other recurring themes he would bring up from time to time in his communications, such as the supposed illegality of what he described as “freesoilism” (citing the *Dred Scott* case which declared that slaves may be brought into U. S. territories). Boyd believed that a state had the right to secede, and he told all of this to Sherman even though he knew Sherman would not concur with him.¹¹

Boyd’s differing opinions were fine with Sherman. He encouraged Boyd to speak with him frankly and not hide his beliefs no matter how much Sherman disagreed with them.¹² Sherman certainly practiced what he preached. In one of his letters from the next year, 1861, he wrote Boyd:

On the question of secession I am ultra - I believe in coercion and cannot comprehend how any Govt. can exist unless it defend its integrity. The mode or manner may be regulated by policy and wisdom, but that any part of a people may carry off a part of the Common Territory without consent or purchase I cannot understand.¹³

Boyd himself had mentioned plainly that he and Sherman used to have conversations like this all the time when Sherman was at the seminary.¹⁴

Sherman, in fact, seemed to have made friends with all the professors at the seminary. Thus, in its earliest years, it probably would have been hard to draw any clear distinction

¹¹Boyd, 2; David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 27 September 1860, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

¹²William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 25 October 1865, David French Boyd Papers, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Louisiana State University.

¹³William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 4 April 1861, David French Boyd Papers.

¹⁴Boyd, 2.

between the Sherman-Boyd friendship and Sherman's friendships with these other people. His relationship with Francis W. Smith, one of the professors at the seminary, was one example. The letters between these two correspondents showed yet another true friendship in form. In 1861, Smith wrote (after Sherman had left the southern seminary just prior to the Civil War):

When you left, Major, I wished to thank you for many an act of kindness and forbearance that you had shown me. But really my heart was so full, that I could not speak. I have often been petulant and assuming, and I could have received no kinder rebuke than the manner which you have always displayed towards me. I look without upset upon the fact that the relations, which have subsisted between us, and which have been as pleasant and as *profitable* for me, should have been broken off. And I yet hope that we may meet somewhere and those feelings of respect and friendship, which I shall always have for you, may reassume a tangible shape.¹⁵

Their relationship was typical of Sherman's friendship with the other professors originally at the seminary. They were separated, finding themselves on different sides during the Civil War. War changed their lives. In Smith's case, war ended it.¹⁶

Perhaps the point at which Sherman and David Boyd truly gave their relationship a life of its own outside of the seminary's influence came when Sherman "rescued" Boyd when he was in a rather unfavorable position. For Boyd, the whole affair started uneventfully. In early 1864, he, then in the Confederate army in Louisiana, was commanded to help construct Fort De Russy on

¹⁵Francis W. Smith to William T. Sherman, 1 March 1861, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

¹⁶Fleming, 122-123.

the Red River. Boyd one day was “some five miles from Alexandria”¹⁷ with a great deal of Confederate money. According to Reed, he “was carrying five thousand dollars in Confederate currency destined for soldiers at Fort De Russy.”¹⁸ He soon was captured by Jayhawkers, lawless men who had deserted the army that they belonged to in order to gratify their self-serving purposes. They, of course, wanted to rob Boyd, but they didn’t get the money he was carrying because he was able to either hide or destroy it beforehand. They used Boyd to get \$100 by delivering him to Union forces in Mississippi to be taken prisoner.¹⁹

This is where Sherman came in. He, at this time the second highest ranking officer in the Union Army (behind only Ulysses S. Grant), discovered Boyd’s plight, most likely through a letter Boyd wrote to him on February 13. Boyd wrote that he wanted to be transferred from Sherman’s command to that of General Nathaniel P. Banks—then fighting the Confederates in Louisiana—because under Banks’ command he had a better chance to be freed. Sherman obliged Boyd by sending him to Banks, and a few months later he was exchanged with two other Confederate prisoners for three Union officers. In the process, the two made personal contact again.²⁰ Boyd wrote these words just after he had seen Sherman:

But can I not see you again? I feel that I shall never meet you again. So
goodbye, and altho’ we are *public* enemies, we must always be *private* friends.
May God protect you + carry you safe thro’ this wicked war is the wish of Your

¹⁷Reed, 45.

¹⁸Reed, 45.

¹⁹Reed, 45-46; Fleming, 23.

²⁰Reed, 46-48; David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 13 February 1864, David French Boyd Papers; William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 2 March 1864, David French Boyd Papers.

Rebel friend D. F. Boyd²¹

Long after Boyd had been through this hellish experience, he put pencil to paper once more:

Of course I have *not* forgotten my trip down the Miss. “while in the hands of the Vandals”. I fared rather roughly much of the time I was a prisoner here, for I was kept six (6) weeks under *close* confinement, and for a while was very *sick*. But I shall always thank you for transferring me to Genl. B——, for you did it to keep me from Johnson’s Island.²²

The two had not seen each other for years before that event. Yet, by spring of 1865, the war finally coming to a close, Sherman and Boyd had a chance to renew their correspondence. They wrote about various things: Sherman’s opinions on westward expansion; Boyd’s ascendancy to superintendent of the seminary; Sherman’s inviting Boyd to his house in St. Louis; Boyd’s considering that offer; and so on. Boyd, in particular, wanted Sherman to know how the seminary was progressing.²³ Sherman evidently was a willing listener, as evidenced by some of the praise he gave to Boyd’s colleagues:

I was pleased to observe so many familiar names in the new Board of Supervisors. Graham, Smith, Taliaferro, . . . and Ryan. When they meet again give them the assurance of my best wishes for the success of their undertaking.²⁴

Boyd and Sherman communicated on the subject of the seminary much of the time. For

²¹David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 2 March 1864, David French Boyd Papers.

²²David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 22 September 1865, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

²³William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 12 April 1866, 9 August 1867, David French Boyd Papers; David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 22 September 1865, 1 May 1866, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

²⁴William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 12 April 1866, David French Boyd Papers.

example, Boyd asked Sherman in 1865 how he might acquire uniforms for the cadets. Sherman told him in an October 29, 1865 letter that acquiring uniforms should be the least of Boyd's worries.²⁵ "Better devote yourself to. . . simple education"²⁶ was his advice. Sherman also gave advice on matters Boyd did not even bring up:

If I was in your place I would plant out this spring if not too late, a large number of holly and Magnolia trees. . . . They are indignious [*sic*] and more beautiful than the Mulbury, China, and olive that are so much used in Louisiana. In a few years without much expense you can render that a most attractive plan²⁷.

Sherman, in his correspondence with Boyd, also shared his opinions on matters outside of the seminary. For example, he once expressed to Boyd how he felt black people in the South should be treated:

The widest difference of opinion exists here on the subject of the political power conferred on blacks, but that they are entitled to kind and generous treatment by the whites of the South, I am convinced, because when you were all away at war, they did not take advantage of it which we all feared and dreaded. The story that no white man can be punished for a crime against the black is the bulk of political capital to those who would impose harsh conditions on you.²⁸

Boyd, of course, was likely quite thankful to have such a willing correspondent on the matter of the seminary, particularly when that matter became troublesome. After the war, the

²⁵David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 22 September 1865, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress; William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 29 October 1865, David French Boyd Papers.

²⁶William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 29 October 1865, David French Boyd Papers.

²⁷William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 12 April 1866, David French Boyd Papers.

²⁸William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 31 January 1868, David French Boyd Papers.

seminary was in shambles, and it had practically no funds to work with.²⁹ Unionist governor J. Madison Wells tried to help the seminary by arranging a loan with “a private bank”³⁰ as it began holding classes on October 2, 1865. The process of rebuilding the institution was slow, but gradual progress was made in this regard throughout the late 1860s. William Sherman himself was asked more than once by Boyd to help the school he once headed as superintendent.³¹ In 1866, Boyd wrote in a letter to Sherman:

In one way you can be of great use to the Semy., and I claim the right to call your attention to the matter. Altho' I have bought some five books for the boys to read, we are still in great need of a library, and as I have no doubts that you are showered with Patent office reports, military books, maps, . . . much of which you do not want; please have your orderly to pack up the rubbish + send them to us by Adams Express, I to pay all charges. If not in all, at least in the more important books, put *your name* as *donor*! I wd. like also to have a large picture of you in citizen's dress (unless you prefer your *uniform*) to be put in our Library—as our *first Sup't*. By sending us the books we asked for, you can really do us great good. You must know that we outsiders (not being represented at Washington) can't even get a Patent Office report.³²

A small, struggling seminary in Louisiana was hardly the only thing on Sherman's mind following the Civil War. Sherman was a national hero just after the war, and his prominence was

²⁹Reed, 55-56.

³⁰Reed, 57.

³¹Reed, 55-58; David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 22 September 1865, 1 May 1866, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

³²David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 1 May 1866, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

placed just behind his friend and superior Ulysses S. Grant. According to James A. Marszalek, author of the book *Sherman: A Soldier's Passion for Order*, he was given fanfare and financial help beyond his wildest dreams in the years after the Civil War. Yet some troublesome events occurred in these years for Sherman. He would never experience the utter poverty that Boyd would soon go through, but he worried that he would not be able to provide for his family's security after his death. He would be constantly at odds with politicians, chiefly regarding Indian matters and army appropriations. Worst of all, in his own mind, he would have a son betray him.³³

Geographically, Sherman and Boyd had been and would be miles apart from each other during the many years of their friendship. Even so, each would find opportunities to visit the other whenever possible. In 1869, for example, Boyd invited Sherman back to the seminary to hand out the diplomas for its first graduating class. Sherman accepted Boyd's offer to come but told him that he would not be able to come at the time of year when those diplomas would be administered. Instead, he advised Boyd to expect him on the tenth of February.³⁴ Sherman must have enjoyed his stay, for he remarked to Boyd in a February 22 letter on the exceptionally cordial nature of the visit, saying that he "was particularly gratified at the kind manner in which you all recieved [*sic*] us at."³⁵ Sherman also wrote in the same letter that he wished to do anything he could to help the small Louisiana school. The trip thus may have strengthened

³³Marszalek, 360-364, 377-400, 409-414, 422-444, 454-459.

³⁴Reed, 85-86; William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 27 January 1869, David French Boyd Papers.

³⁵William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 22 February 1869, David French Boyd Papers.

Sherman's resolve in that area of his life, as well.³⁶

Sherman and Boyd also were able to meet again the following year. Boyd had just visited his family and was on his way north to visit and study some of the educational institutions there. Along the way he took an opportunity to visit Sherman, at this time the highest ranking officer in the U. S. Army. Sherman, according to Reed, acted as a guide "through such facilities as the Smithsonian institution."³⁷ Reed adds that "[h]e also gave Boyd a letter of introduction to be used at Columbia College in New York, where President Frederick Barnard acted as their guide."³⁸

Boyd and Sherman continued to communicate throughout the late 1860s. As noted earlier, Boyd had asked Sherman one time to visit the seminary. Sherman came in 1869 to a wonderfully refurbished school, physically rebuilt and spiritually renewed. Only a few months later, however, it burned to the ground.³⁹ In an October 25, 1869 letter, Sherman was astonished:

I was shocked beyond expression to read some days ago, the short statement that our Seminary had burned down. . . . I have seen a fuller account since but nothing that is satisfactory and would like to have a full account of the origin of the fire.⁴⁰

Sherman went on to show concern for Boyd's well-being and to propose several suggestions that could help Boyd manage the affairs of the seminary until a new home for the institution could be

³⁶William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 22 February 1869, David French Boyd Papers.

³⁷Reed, 108.

³⁸Reed, 108.

³⁹Reed, 86-87.

⁴⁰William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 25 October 1869, David French Boyd Papers.

found.⁴¹

The 1860s were not always kind to Sherman, either. One of the biggest questions he had to deal with during this time was what to do with the Indians that lived in the western territories of the United States. American migration had moved consistently westward since the founding of this country. In previous years, the Indians that had lived in eastern areas of the United States were forced to move west to make way for American settlers in these territories. This, of course, was a temporary solution so long as westward migration continued all the way to the Pacific Ocean. The late 1860s was the time that the United States started to deal with this situation, and Sherman, still second to Grant in terms of overall command of the army until 1869, was at the forefront as events unfolded.⁴²

Sherman, even as a member of the Peace Commission that worked with these western Indians, consistently thought the army was the best instrument in making American settlement safe and secure. He, according to Marszalek, had no more confidence in talks and treaties than the most militant of his Indian counterparts.⁴³

Sherman himself stated his case this way:

I would as you Suggest like to look forward to a time of comparative rest, and Sometimes dreamed of such a future, but it is as far off as Ever. I had arranged to go to Europe with my daughter now 16 years old and very clever. We could not get off, and are now on a Commision [*sic*] of Seven, to see if some solution cannot be devised [*sic*] for the vexed Indian question. The whole is in a

⁴¹William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 25 October 1869, David French Boyd Papers.

⁴²Marszalek, 384, 377-400, *passim*.

⁴³Marszalek, 390.

nut shell– Indians + White Men cannot use in common the Buffalo Plains–
Though not fit for Cultivation our people must cross them, and Indians claim
them as their Exclusive hereditary ground. In the End they must be removed to
small + clearly defined Reservations or must be killed.⁴⁴

Both these men had something else in common—they both had spouses. Sherman was already married when he met Boyd—in fact his staying in Louisiana in 1860 while his wife and children resided in Ohio was a cause of concern for him. Sherman had been raised in a foster family since he was nine years old. He had affection in particular for one of his foster sisters, Ellen Ewing. Although his army career often kept them apart, they decided to marry in the 1840s. They had their share of disagreements; however, their differences were not so great as to keep them apart.⁴⁵

Sherman was known as a ladies' man to some extent at the seminary. Boyd was not anything of the sort, but before the 1860s was over he found a lifelong companion as well. On October 5, 1865 (which also happened to be his birthday), he married Esther Gertrude Wright, also known as "Ettie". When exactly he first met his wife is not clear. They likely met through a mutual acquaintance: Leroy Augustus Stafford. Stafford was both Wright's brother-in-law and Boyd's military commander during the early years of the Civil War. Boyd ended up with a large family, comprised mostly of his wife, children and mother-in-law. His marriage lasted until his death near the end of the nineteenth century.⁴⁶

Boyd had a problem when his beloved seminary burned to ash. After weighing his

⁴⁴William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 9 August 1867, David French Boyd Papers.

⁴⁵Marszalek, 1, 4-6, 9, 39, 48-51, 77-81, 131-132.

⁴⁶Boyd, 5; Reed, 80-81, 293, *passim*.

options, he decided that “the state asylum for the deaf, dumb, and blind”⁴⁷ in Baton Rouge was probably the best place for the institution to be in as 1870 approached. However, J. A. McWhorter, the head of that asylum, insisted that Boyd not use the asylum in Baton Rouge as a replacement for the building that had burned down in Alexandria. Boyd knew that, in order to save the seminary, it needed at least a temporary placement until a more permanent site could be found. But McWhorter did not want Boyd to use that building for those purposes, even though Boyd believed that much of the massive building was not even in use. Then, in 1870, the Louisiana legislature stipulated that the two organizations had to share the building. One year later, even though “the handicapped were given permission to move out entirely,”⁴⁸ the legislature still had not made clear that the entire building was meant for the school, designated “Louisiana State University” in 1870.⁴⁹

Although Boyd’s attachment for Louisiana State University did not leave him as time passed, he was having a harder time running the school. At first, Sherman seemed pleased that Boyd would try to keep the school running. As Reed points out, however, Sherman eventually became disturbed at the efforts required of Boyd in order to keep the university open—even if it meant impoverishment for himself and his family. He offered a way out. Sherman recommended to Boyd in the middle of the 1870s that Boyd pursue a teaching position at a military school in Egypt. While touring Egypt in the early 1870s, Sherman had come to know its ruler, then known as the khedive. Their friendship was strong enough for the khedive to send an

⁴⁷Reed, 90.

⁴⁸Reed, 91.

⁴⁹Reed, 89-92.

expensive gift to Sherman's family just after Sherman's oldest daughter married. When Sherman made this offer, though, Boyd's interest in the school's well-being had become too much for Sherman—or even Boyd himself—to overcome. Although he sounded like he wanted to go in November of 1875, Boyd allowed his opportunity to pass by instead of moving quickly to act upon it. In the end, things worked out well enough for Boyd, for he soon found out that the khedive had no money in his treasury to pay Boyd had he left for the school. If Boyd had gone to Egypt, he would have been bankrupt in a foreign land.⁵⁰

Boyd had worked hard throughout the 1860s to keep LSU running and in good order. As time passed, Boyd continued to work with politicians for the benefit of the school. For example, Boyd was working with Baton Rouge state senator J. Henri Burch in 1875 to preserve LSU by merging it with a rival university, Louisiana Agricultural and Mechanical College (Louisiana A&M). At the time, this agricultural school was supported in part with funds from the federal government. Boyd knew that these funds could be used for LSU's benefit if LSU and Louisiana A&M merged. Thanks in part to Burch's efforts, the legislature passed the merger bill in March, 1876. According to Boyd, Burch was the key figure in the struggle to save the institution that Boyd had come to know and love so well.⁵¹

Soon after the merger bill passed the legislature, however, the Louisiana A&M Board of Supervisors made a request for an injunction against the merged school, claiming that it had no legal existence. Clearly, they knew that if the merged school were allowed to operate, the

⁵⁰Reed, 133-141; Marszalek, 363, 414-416; David French Boyd to William T. Sherman, 6 November 1875, David French Boyd Papers.

⁵¹Reed, 69-71, 161, 164, 166-168.

Louisiana A&M Board of Supervisors itself would cease to exist. They probably believed that they needed this injunction even more when Governor Francis T. Nicholls promulgated the merger bill in May, 1877. In September, 1877 a judge ruled against letting the injunction stand. The A&M board did not appeal. David Boyd had won a great victory.⁵²

At about this same time, Sherman was fighting political battles of his own. He had gotten involved in a Congressional battle over whether or not the size of the United States Army was going to be reduced. To Sherman, this idea was unthinkable and should not have been brought up in the nation's most powerful legislative body at all. He had literally no faith in any army that had little to no previous military training. Some members of Congress apparently disagreed with him. In Sherman's eyes, they had to be stopped.⁵³

The problem was, Sherman did not do any of the stopping. His method of "attack" consisted of leaving the political scene right at the time his opinions and thoughts could have the most influence in Congressional minds. He simply did not have the heart to fight this political battle. The reason? He did not understand the political world. Sherman was a soldier; he was more used to following clear-cut orders than putting himself in the middle of a political debate. Furthermore, Sherman seemed to loathe the idea of lobbying, even when it could have been used for goals that he agreed with. Interestingly, he was in sharp contrast to Boyd on this matter; Boyd often lobbied the Louisiana legislature to help protect the university. But all Sherman did to promote the ideals that he wanted to see succeed was complain and leave town. The army reduction plan stalled until June of 1878, when Congress decided to create a special committee of

⁵²Reed, 171-175.

⁵³Marszalek, 429-433, 443.

senators and representatives to investigate the matter. This committee produced a plan of their own which Sherman found satisfactory. He probably accepted it because it did not lower the size of the army. Unfortunately for Sherman, he did nothing to help further the plan along in the Congress, first by declaring that he would neither support nor attack it, then by taking a vacation in the South right at the time his voice in Washington D. C. would have mattered most.⁵⁴

Meanwhile, Boyd was working hard to ensure the future of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (hereafter to be referred to as LSU). In the summer of 1877, he helped persuade the Louisiana legislature to do its part in securing seats on the school's Board of Supervisors for some of his former enemies--most notably members of the Grange in Louisiana. This plan backfired, for these new board members worked within the board to make sure LSU did not open as planned in October of the same year. They were doing on the inside what the injunction was trying to do on the outside--keep the new school from functioning. A few weeks after the injunction attempt failed, the new board members lost their initiative to stop LSU from opening.⁵⁵

The institution needed a president. Because he was the only person who was willing to assume this role while the injunction was under review, Boyd was encouraged to accept the position and became president of the united institution in October of 1877. He had been offered the post the previous summer by the LSU Board of Supervisors, but declined. He had claimed that he never wanted to become president of LSU after the merger. Only when he believed that

⁵⁴Marszalek, 424, 431, 433-436; Reed, 62; William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 12 June 1875, David French Boyd Papers.

⁵⁵Reed 171-175, 179.

LSU would disintegrate before his eyes without him did he change his mind.⁵⁶

Compared with his struggles in the past few years, as 1878 approached David Boyd was quite successful. While he began to put his world back together after years of frustration and depression, Sherman's suddenly came crashing apart. Sherman's anxiety developed over the expectations he had for his oldest son, Thomas. He was, in Sherman's mind, the heir apparent to the family fortune. Sherman's own father had left him penniless and he did not want to do the same to with his family. For a while, Sherman's plan for Thomas to take over the family's wealth seemed successful. Thomas Sherman was studying to be a lawyer. Thomas did very well in school and sent reports back home which made his father proud—reports which stated how much he wanted to become a lawyer and look after Sherman's property and wealth after he was gone. Thomas, however, did not want to be a lawyer. He instead decided to become a Jesuit priest. Thomas had put a lot of thought into his decision before he finally wrote his father on May 28, 1878, explaining himself. Sherman became incredibly angry towards Thomas. For several months he wanted nothing to do with Thomas.⁵⁷ Sherman did talk to him two years later, but, in the end, he still believed that “ ‘if he must be a Priest, it separates us for life.’ ”⁵⁸

After that experience, Sherman perhaps thought a visit to see his old friend in Louisiana would lift his spirits. The two met again in February, 1879. The trip apparently went smoothly, as Sherman himself stated to Boyd:

I think my visit South did a great deal of good, because our Northern people

⁵⁶Reed 178-179.

⁵⁷Marszalek, 410-414.

⁵⁸Marszalek, 413, 413-414.

then saw that I could and did travel everywhere, not only in safety but with manifestations of respect and good feeling.⁵⁹

Sherman's attempts to get Boyd another job did not end with the idea for Boyd to go to Egypt. In 1879, Sherman wrote to another friend, one W. G. Eliot, about a vacancy that Eliot had to fill at Washington University. Despite Sherman's high praise for Boyd in his remarks towards Eliot, Boyd did not leave for the new opportunity. Perhaps Boyd did not want to go; perhaps Boyd did not know of Sherman's plan. Perhaps because LSU had a breakthrough in its joining with Louisiana A&M, he saw a bright future for this southern school and, as a result, wanted to be a part of it. Whatever the case, Boyd would stay on at LSU through the 1880s.⁶⁰

One of the more interesting aspects of the Boyd-Sherman relationship discussed within the letters they wrote to each other was how they related to former Confederate general John Bell Hood, especially during the fall of 1879. In that year, Hood saw his wife pass away after giving birth and thus adding to their already sizable number of children. Boyd wrote to Sherman on the matter, asking him to write Hood a letter of condolence. Boyd explained that Hood's feelings toward Sherman had softened over the years—feelings which had resulted from Sherman's kindness to Hood after the war. Boyd also wrote that Hood had gone through his memoirs in order to take out any disparaging thing he had written about Sherman and his family. Sherman had already written to Hood by the time Boyd's letter reached him. In a September 4, 1879 letter to Boyd, Sherman also included a bit of information Boyd may not have known about: Hood

⁵⁹William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 16 March 1879, William T. Sherman Letters, David F. Boyd Family Papers, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Louisiana State University.

⁶⁰William T. Sherman to William G. Eliot, 26 August 1879, The William Greenleaf Eliot Papers; Reed, *passim*.

himself was dead by the time Sherman sent his letter. Knowing that Hood had left several children behind, Sherman promised to find a suitable home for them. The situation was indeed tragic for Hood's family, and it shows how a powerful friendship could help other people in times of need.⁶¹

David Boyd could not get away from his problems, however, no matter how much Sherman's words encouraged him. Most of these problems dealt with the way he handled matters concerning the LSU faculty. He had decided back in 1877 that his previous way of operating LSU—that is, strict authoritarian control—was best for the merged school as well. He may have thought so, but some of the faculty members at LSU disagreed. One R.W. Haislip, a young assistant professor at the university, wrote a scathing letter to the editor of the *Baton Rouge Capitolian*, claiming that Boyd's *modus operandi* was hurting the school much more than it was helping it. On another occasion, R. W. McCulloch, a noted professor, started clamoring against Boyd for the same reason (though Boyd thought it had more to do with McCulloch's refusal to start an agricultural department, followed by a severe pay cut than anything else). Then William Garig, the owner of a grocery store that Boyd patronized for university supplies until late 1879, joined the "Get David Boyd" bandwagon by encouraging prominent Baton Rouge citizens to sign a petition McCulloch had written demanding Boyd share his presidential power with his faculty. Boyd, already upset over these assaults on his presidency, became even more so when he learned that the people who had signed McCulloch's petition had not read it beforehand. He had also decided, upon meeting one prospective candidate for the position of

⁶¹David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 29 August 1879, David French Boyd Papers; William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 4 September 1879, William T. Sherman Letters, David F. Boyd Family Papers.

commandant of cadets, Lt. M. F. Jamar, that he was of no good use for LSU and began to do everything he could to keep him out of the institution.⁶²

Boyd temporarily succeeded, but events soon turned against him. In the spring of 1880, Louisiana governor Louis Wiltz took advantage of a new state constitution (which went into effect in January of 1880) to name an entirely new Board of Supervisors. Most of these new board members were dead set against Boyd and his policies. Boyd and his friends tried to fight back, but could do nothing when the majority passed a resolution in July giving them the power to restructure the university—and effectively remove Boyd. He hung on to his post until October of that year, when he was ordered by a judge to leave it and the university. Colonel William Preston Johnston succeeded Boyd as president of LSU. That fall, Lt. Jamar became both LSU's professor of military science as well as its commandant of cadets.⁶³

Boyd's life took a new turn after his dismissal from LSU. He probably had seen a Sherman letter at the end of 1880 in which Sherman urged him to leave Louisiana and find himself a better job. Boyd took that advice. When he found out in 1881 that the presidency of the University of West Virginia was vacant, he wrote to friends, acquaintances, and other people of high standing (not the least of which was Sherman) in the summer of that year and asked them to send letters of recommendation to a panel that would select the next president of that university. He did not receive the job. After that outcome, he decided to become active in an educational venture that he had thought about in 1876. In the summer of 1881 he began communicating with a man named Richard Hancock about Boyd's possibly becoming the head

⁶²Reed, 200-205, 208-210.

⁶³Reed, 193, 213-216, 223.

of a boarding school back in Boyd's home state of Virginia. In the fall of that year Boyd, who had been very poor at the end of 1880 and who likely was still that way almost one year later, started operating this boarding school in Locust Dale county, Virginia.⁶⁴ Boyd kept Sherman apprised on this subject:

I at last know what I am to do—where go—and I thought you wd. like to know.

I go to Madison Co., Virginia, to take charge of "Locust Dale" Academy, near Rapidan Station, Va.

It is an old established Boarding school—preparatory to the University of Va. . . . Complete courses of Maths. [presumably short for "Mathematics"], Latin, Greek, French + German are given at those schools.

The school is mine. I shall be absolute with no Board of Supervisors to bother me. . . . Three is for drill + exercise, rather than for discipline, a military Dep't., which the pupils can enter or not, as they please. I think it ought to be obligatory. I shall go to Va. about August 10. My family will remain here for a while at least.⁶⁵

Boyd began running Locust Dale Academy in the fall of 1881. According to Reed, the way he ran it was distressing to Hancock. In order to recruit young boys and men to join the school, Boyd made extensive travels to Louisiana instead of, as Hancock suggested, putting an advertisement in several of the newspapers in and around that part of Virginia. These travels were expensive, and they were eating up precious financial resources that the school needed in

⁶⁴David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 28 May 1881, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress; Reed, 140-141, 223-224, 230-231

⁶⁵David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 8 July 1881, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

order to function.⁶⁶

Perhaps part of the reason Boyd made these trips was because of his undying interest in Louisiana State University. He had asked his brother, Thomas Duckett Boyd, to keep him informed as to what happened back in Louisiana, particularly when it came to LSU. As Reed puts it, Boyd was not committed to his Virginia boarding school.⁶⁷ By 1883, when Boyd had moved his school, at that point named the Greenwood Academy, to Albemarle county, Virginia, he was as interested in LSU as ever, as an excerpt from one of his letters to Sherman indicates:

Col. Johnston has resigned the Presidency of an old school [LSU], to take the Presidency of the Tulane University in N. O. . . . And it is lucky for him that he had so good a chance to get away from Baton Rouge gracefully; for the very men who put him there were openly saying, they were tired of him, + that he must go! . . . The vacancy at B. R. will be filled April 21, with whom time can only tell.⁶⁸

The unique relationship Sherman and Boyd enjoyed is further revealed by letters exchanged on the topic of Sherman's heated argument with one of the South's most remembered characters and arguably the very personification of the Confederacy itself—Jefferson Davis. Sherman's actions towards Davis were likely not a surprise to anyone who knew what Sherman thought of him.⁶⁹ Boyd probably knew, as evidenced by these words Sherman sent him in 1875:

With us of the North Jeff Davis was the impersonation of all that was

⁶⁶Reed, 232-234.

⁶⁷Reed, 234-235

⁶⁸Reed, 233; David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 8 February 1883, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

⁶⁹Marszalek, 472-475.

wicked, and believing that he and a very few others could have delayed action in the South until Mr. Lincoln could be installed, and manifest his policy. We must attach to him a large measure of the horrid crime of instigating a Civil War, which could have but one end and that the destruction not only of slavery, but actually imperriiling [*sic*] Republican Government in America.⁷⁰

He did not mince words then on the subject of Jefferson Davis, and he did not later, in 1881, when he denounced Davis' account of the Confederacy, entitled *Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*. For years Sherman, according to Marszalek, had tried to get the nation to remember the Civil War from his vantage point through various speeches and writings. An example of such a writing was his *Memoirs*, which first came out in 1875. Davis' work, in Sherman's view, was hindering Sherman from doing just that. By doing this, Davis was only proving to Sherman, from Sherman's point of view, that he was a villain, caring only of himself at the expense of the United States. Boyd, despite having read Sherman's many words on the matter, did not understand why Sherman was so against Davis.⁷¹ Boyd told Sherman in 1885:

I have not answered you sooner, because it happened that I have been unusually busy, and then a difficulty between you + Mr. Davis is especially painful to me; for I know you both, and, as you know, I love you both. You + Mr. Davis never understood each other, and for the simple reason that you never knew each other *personally*. If you had, no honest difference of opinion about a Constitutional question cd. ever have antagonized you personally. No two men on the two sides of our Civil War, were more alike, in many respects, than you +Mr. Davis. And you + he to-day ought to be personal friends, and not inimical

⁷⁰William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 26 July 1875, David French Boyd Papers.

⁷¹Marszalek, 472-475; David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 13 February 1885, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

personally, over old *dead* issues that neither of you were responsible for.⁷²

Boyd's point was clear: If Sherman could be friends with one former Confederate, he should have been able to be friends with another.⁷³ But in Sherman's mind, David Boyd, for all the southern pride that ran through his blood, could never have been as traitorous, malicious, or evil as Jefferson Davis. Although previously a highly respected military officer in the U.S. Army, Davis was not a mere soldier in the Civil War as was Boyd; Davis was the president of the Confederate States of America and, as such, was in a better position to prevent the war than Boyd was. Indeed, Sherman's view was that Davis and other Southern political leaders made no discernible effort to delay actual secessions until Lincoln was inaugurated and promulgated Slave-State-tolerant policies whereby the war might be avoided,⁷⁴ and this perceived squandering of opportunity provided constant irritation to Sherman. And Davis, by continuing to defend his position on the matter in the post-war decades, made an enemy of a man who had the capacity to hold a grudge against his own son for no less than two years. Boyd's own insightful assessment of the Davis-Sherman antipathy, emphasized in his letter to Sherman,⁷⁵ was that Davis and Sherman, unlike Boyd and Sherman, never really understood each other as individual persons, and even aside from the torturous reopening in public of bitter wounds among the war's participants during a time for reconciliation, this enmity between Sherman and Davis was painful

⁷²David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 13 February 1885, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

⁷³David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 13 February 1885, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

⁷⁴William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, 26 July 1875, David French Boyd Papers.

⁷⁵David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 13 February 1885, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

to Boyd privately and personally.⁷⁶

At the time Boyd wrote those words to Sherman, he was no longer in Virginia. One of Boyd's friends, W. LeRoy Broun, Sr., had asked him to take over the presidency of "the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Auburn."⁷⁷ Boyd, still in financial difficulty in Virginia, was mildly interested, though he did not believe he had any real chance to acquire the position. However, he was chosen by the Alabama A&M Board of Supervisors to be the institution's next president, and in 1883 he prepared to leave his home state once more for an educational opportunity further south.⁷⁸

Soon after he arrived at this Alabama school, he found he had to deal with problems that likely were the reasons his predecessor left. Namely, he did not have the authority he normally would have wanted as president of the university. Motivated by an idea spawned long ago in his mind by his friend Sherman, David Boyd wanted complete control over the university—over fiscal matters, disciplinary problems, and so on. Instead, he found that members of the faculty had a voice in areas of running this Alabama school that Boyd thought should have been reserved for himself. As a result, Boyd resigned from the college in September of 1883. Even so, he continued to work with the school until a better opportunity came along. How he could have remained president after he supposedly resigned is unclear, but, in any event, he would finally leave Alabama A&M in June of 1884.⁷⁹

⁷⁶David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 13 February 1885, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

⁷⁷Reed, 240.

⁷⁸Reed, 240-241, 245-247.

⁷⁹Reed, 78-79, 250-251.

Boyd did not have to wait long for this better opportunity. LSU was once again courting him, this time probably because its Board of Supervisors was thoroughly embarrassed with Boyd's replacements. To them, William Preston Johnston was a dismal failure, apparently trying to use the school to whatever personal advantage he could while not truly caring about its well-being. As Boyd had noted to Sherman in 1883, Johnston was removed. He was replaced with J. W. Nicholson, a mathematics professor who had started his tenure at LSU before Boyd had been fired in 1880. Nicholson, too, seemed to want personal power above all else, and soon the Board had had enough. With the knowledge that two of the principal reasons Boyd was fired in the first place—his loyalty to Dr. J. W. Dupree, whom some members of the Board had not cared for; and the ability to use vast powers as president of LSU—had been eliminated, Boyd became president of LSU once more on April 7, 1884. He was still in that capacity when he wrote to Sherman in 1885.⁸⁰

Boyd came back. But to what? As Reed points out, the university which he so cherished still had problems. He found that he had to curb the political involvement of at least one of the professors in order to keep the university running smoothly and free from the influence of Louisiana's elected officials. This faculty member, Sam Robertson, the school's commandant, "had presided over the recent Democratic convention."⁸¹ Boyd said that "Sam must 'quit playing politician' or he would ruin the school."⁸² He found other problems as well. LSU was not living up to its name—that is, it was still had no agricultural department. The Grange railed against any

⁸⁰Reed, 251-253.

⁸¹Reed, 257.

⁸²Reed, 257.

attempt by Boyd to correct this deficiency, but to no avail. LSU also had far too much emphasis on remedial courses for students who would not be in the university otherwise, at least in Boyd's view. Boyd made changes here, too. With the Board's permission, he expunged these courses from the school's curriculum. Finally, Boyd did something about the bad food at the university. One L. Jadot was in charge of the Boarding Department at LSU, which meant that the quality of the university's food was in his hands. Despite Jadot's connections with powerful politicians in the area, Boyd fired him.⁸³

Sherman kept up a busy schedule as well. This could hardly have surprised Boyd, for he knew Sherman so well he once remarked to him, "You can't rest. To rest with you is to rust!"⁸⁴ Even after he retired from the army on February 8, 1884, he was whirling about from place to place, giving speeches, delighting audiences, and keeping up with old friends throughout the nation. Obviously, the social skills Sherman had displayed while he was heading the old seminary had not slipped at all. Even with all this activity in his life, Sherman still found time to write to Boyd through the 1890's.⁸⁵

Boyd probably enjoyed reading Sherman's words, especially at times while president of LSU when the job seemed to be too much for him. In early 1885, Boyd was chosen by Governor S. D. McEnery to organize "the North, Central, and South American Exposition scheduled to open in New Orleans on November 10, 1885."⁸⁶ Boyd stayed away from LSU much of the time

⁸³Reed, 257-260.

⁸⁴David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 8 February 1883, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

⁸⁵Marszalek, 479-780.

⁸⁶Reed, 260.

while he was working on this project—a fact which displeased the president of the LSU Board of Supervisors Leon Jastremski. Even some of Boyd’s professors during 1885 encouraged Boyd not to neglect LSU. The exhibit was open by 1886, but it proved to at least one newspaper, the Baton Rouge *Weekly Truth*, to be a failure. Once again, Boyd was discouraged. And Jastremski was getting fed up with him.⁸⁷

The final straw came in 1886. Boyd had had strong feelings on the subject of moving Louisiana State University to the U. S. Military Barracks in Baton Rouge for some time. Shortly after the seminary in Alexandria caught fire, Boyd had been eyeing the barracks as a replacement for the school before choosing the Louisiana State Asylum for the Deaf and Blind instead. Boyd favored the move over fifteen years later when, on July 29, 1886, the Board of Supervisors “voted to accept the federal barracks as the university’s new home and authorized David to take possession as soon as the deed of transfer became effective.”⁸⁸ The board and the legislature opened the way for LSU to move to the barracks. The logistics for moving were such that the board’s executive committee voted to postpone moving “until the next legislature met. At that time it would apply for a special appropriation to move the university.”⁸⁹ Boyd’s impatience with the executive committee got the better of him. He himself ordered the transferring of LSU from the asylum to the barracks even though he had no expressed permission from the executive committee. Thus LSU was moved to the barracks in the summer of 1886. Seeing that the board

⁸⁷Reed, 260-264.

⁸⁸Reed, 265-266.

⁸⁹Reed, 267.

“meant to ‘reprove . . . [him] publicly,’ ”⁹⁰ he resigned as president of LSU. He then had second thoughts about this action and tried to regain the presidency during the next year and a half, but in vain. This would be the last time Boyd would ever serve this institution as its president. J. W. Nicholson was voted the new president of LSU in the summer of 1888.⁹¹

Boyd likely felt better when he met Sherman one more time in 1889. By then, Boyd had secured employment as the superintendent of the Kentucky Military Institute. He told Sherman in a September, 1889 letter about his leaving for Kentucky, though the letter does not specifically state that he was going run a institution of higher learning there. Indeed, he showed a sense of sadness in this letter, for he knew that Sherman was getting on in years, and his new position as the head of the Kentucky Military Institute would very likely not allow him to visit his friend in the near future. Nonetheless, Boyd still seemed pleased to have someone he could reach out to whenever he needed a listening ear.⁹²

Boyd and Sherman continued to communicate with each other in 1890. But as 1891 approached, Sherman could feel himself wearing down. In early 1891, Sherman came down with both a cold and what Marszalek describes as “a streptococcal inflammation that turned his face and nose deep red.”⁹³ He also felt an asthma attack coming on. The combined forces grew to be too much for Sherman to overcome. On February 14, 1891, Sherman died. When Boyd

⁹⁰Reed, 268.

⁹¹Reed, 265-272.

⁹²David F. Boyd to William T. Sherman, 26 September 1889, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress; Reed, 273-274.

⁹³Marszalek, 491.

heard about it, he immediately prepared to write to the Sherman family.⁹⁴ Although he had many emotions concerning Sherman's death, he endured them so as to write these words:

His death is a sad and terrible blow to me: *him gone!* I feel that there is a great void in my heart.

. . . But since I first heard of Genl. Sherman's serious illness, I have been able to do little else but think *about him*. Please again, for me, accept for your father's family, this expression of my grief + sympathy; and I wd. beg you—his children, to know that now yr. dear father is gone forever from me, I shall try to feel towards you—as I did towards him—very near and full of love.⁹⁵

He also sent a telegram that expressed his sorrow over the general's death to the Sherman family, likely realizing that his letter probably would not reach them for a number of days.⁹⁶

Boyd's wit and warmth in portraying Sherman in words shows that Boyd's understanding of Sherman, his heart, and his mental acuity, underneath "his stern, brusque, soldierly exterior,"⁹⁷ was deep. He could read Sherman's letters made up of pithy remarks and understand them as he understood the man. Boyd himself describes his relationship with Sherman after Sherman's death and refers to Sherman using terms, such as, "a father,"⁹⁸ and "a dear, loving friend."⁹⁹

⁹⁴Marszalek, 491-492; David F. Boyd to Philemon T. Sherman, 15 February 1891, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

⁹⁵David F. Boyd to Philemon T. Sherman, 15 February 1891, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

⁹⁶David F. Boyd to Philemon T. Sherman, telegram, 16 February 1891, The Papers of William T. Sherman, Library of Congress.

⁹⁷Boyd, 1.

⁹⁸Boyd, 7.

⁹⁹Boyd, 7.

Boyd notes Sherman's process of thinking and style of communicating. Sherman's thinking was almost intuitive. "His mind went like lightning to its conclusions and he had the utmost faith in his inspirations and convictions."¹⁰⁰ Sherman's communications tended to be succinct and to the point, giving "his opinions or hints of what he thought, without. . . attempt to give his reasons."¹⁰¹ Boyd credited Sherman's unique processes and expressions of thought to being "genius."¹⁰² This paper examines the personal letters exchanged between Boyd and Sherman and concludes that the letters themselves confirm Boyd's description of their relationship and of Sherman's communication style. Accordingly, the letters prove that Boyd's descriptions are not mere eulogistic exaggerations about Sherman. The letters also tend to confirm Sherman's place in Boyd's life, except perhaps during the war years, as a lifelong mentor and father-figure and tend to illustrate Boyd's appreciation for a mentor who was highly intelligent, trustworthy, and kind.¹⁰³

According to Boyd's stated reminiscences, confirmed by the correspondence itself between Boyd and Sherman, Boyd remembered Sherman as the loving, true friend who never let him down no matter what his situation was. Boyd kept their friendship alive in his memories until his dying day on May 27, 1899; ever since, it has continued to live in the memories of the people who have discovered, studied and drawn strength from it.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁰Boyd, 4.

¹⁰¹Boyd, 4.

¹⁰²Boyd, 4.

¹⁰³Boyd, *passim*.

¹⁰⁴Reed, 293.

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