

## FAMILY TRADITIONS

# THE BOAZ FAMILY



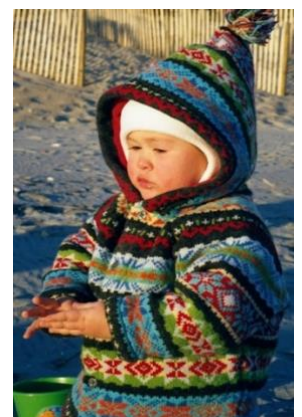
November 2010 - Anna Boaz, Caden Goff, Evan Goff, Peggy Briley, Madison Goff, Ashley Middleton, and the late Beverley Middleton

Emerald Isle is a special place for me, as it's a hidden gem that my family has cherished for generations, all thanks to my grandmother, Peggy Briley.

In my mother and uncle's younger years, my grandmother would take them on beach trips to Emerald Isle. As they grew older both of them moved over 500 miles away and started having families of their own. In 1999, I was born as her first grandchild. Being so far away, my grandmother decided that we would all spend Thanksgiving week in a house on the sandy beaches of Emerald Isle. This quickly became our favorite week of the year, and we have continued this tradition for 24 years now.

When we visit Emerald Isle, we always have a great time, but what I cherish the most are the moments we spend together. Whether we're indoors or on the beach, we always find ways to bond and have fun. Our family game nights are a highlight, and we've played so many board games that we've even started creating our own.

We also enjoy working on challenging puzzles as a team. While we used to take our time, we now turn it into a competition to see who can finish first, leading to late nights and more puzzles on standby. On the beach, we play volleyball and football matches, hunt for seashells, and even go crab hunting at night. We attempted a polar plunge tradition, but the cold water in late November made it a one-time occurrence that we now look back on and laugh about.



Anna Boaz, Year 2000  
1<sup>st</sup> Thanksgiving



Peggy Briley,  
Thanksgiving Day 2001

My family has always loved visiting the charming town of Emerald Isle, and we've made it a tradition to explore all that it has to offer. One of our favorite activities is night fishing at the Bogue Inlet Pier, which is always a thrilling adventure. Recently, we've added a new tradition to our list: a deep-sea fishing trip with Captain Lee Manning on his boat, Nancy Lee III, in Swansboro, North Carolina. It's an experience like no other, and we always come back with amazing stories to share.

In addition to fishing, we have had the pleasure of visiting the North Carolina Aquarium in Pine Knoll Shores on numerous occasions to gain knowledge about the remarkable coastal wildlife of North Carolina. This aquarium is an attraction that I hold dear because of its location amidst the natural surroundings of the sound side of the ocean.



Every year, on the day before Thanksgiving, we make it a point to visit Hunters Crossroads in Stella, North Carolina, where we explore the fields and carefully select the collards that will be cooked for our Thanksgiving meal. It's a tradition that we look forward to every year, and it's always a great way to kick off the holiday.

Anna Boaz picking Collards at  
Hunters Crossroads, 2018

Our family has been incredibly blessed over the past 24 years with the addition of many new members. It all began with just seven of us, but now we are a total of 15. There have even been years when we have had as many as 22 people present, as we welcomed even more family and friends to join us.

Our family tradition has been a source of strength and unity for us, especially given the distance that separates us. Even during difficult times when we experience loss, we have found comfort and solace in shared memories and experiences that we have had on Emerald Isle. I am forever grateful for the tradition my grandmother started, as it has brought us closer together as a family.

I look forward to the many years to come when my cousins and I start to build families of our own. We can then come back each year and continue the tradition, creating even more memories to look back on. (We will probably need 3 houses by then, don't worry that won't stop us)



Peggy Briley and Anna Boaz, November 2002



Anna and Angela Boaz, November 2006



Ashley Middleton, Matthew Middleton, and Anna Boaz, Recreated Picture November 2007 - November 2021

