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DANIEL BOONE'S LIFE STORY

North Carolina Claims Famous
Hunter and Trapper as its Own

PART II—CONCLUSION



IN Powell's Valley, which Boone had before visited, they were joined by fifty other adventurers, largely from Virginia, and all went together into Kentucky, literally fighting their way. In one of these

combats Boone's young son was killed. Boone's wife and daughter, both born in North Carolina, were the first white women who ever stood on the banks of the Kentucky river. Boone established a fort in Boonesboro, and made wide journeys in the territory roundabout, nearly all forest. On the 14th of July, 1776, Boone's daughter and two daughters of Colonel Calloway, who were walking in the woods near the fort, were captured by the Indians and carried off, but the girls were brave and resourceful and contrived to break twigs from the bushes and leave pieces of their clothing to mark their trail. The next day Boone returned to the fort, learned of the capture and called for volunteers. Nine men swore a solemn oath they would not return without the girls. They made a wonderful march, caught up with the Indians, killed seven of them and recaptured the girls, Jemima Boone, Betsy Callaway and Fanny Callaway. As soon as they got back to the fort Betsy married a brother of Judge Henderson, and the two other girls married a few days later, their lovers having all been members of the rescuing party.

In 1778 Boone and twenty-seven companions were captured by the Shawnee Indians while making salt near Boonesboro for the people at his fort, and he and ten of the prisoners were carried all the way to General Hamilton, the British Commandant at Detroit, who secured the release of all of Boone's companies for a small ransom, but they refused the offer of a heavy ransom for Boone himself because they had taken a great fancy to him on account of his great bravery, size and strength and knowledge of the woods. They adopted him as an honored member of their tribe, and he conciliated them in every way by following their customs and taking part in all their sports. They carried him back to a point about 200 miles from Boonesboro, and in July he found that they were planning to attack that place. He escaped and actually made the long journey in a week, living almost entirely on roots and berries, warned his people and they made ready and repulsed the attack which was made a few days later by over 500 Indians.

Boone was trapper, then trader, tavern-keeper and surveyor, and the state of Virginia, which claimed Kentucky, gave him 8000 acres of land, but he lost all of this because the surveys were indefinite and other men, following the daring pioneers, had come in and taken up the land under grants. Boone, deeply dis-

gusted, moved to another wild country, Missouri, where he again became a hunter and trapper, and there he died in 1820, a devoted hunter until the last, his wife having died seven years before. He declared that all the religion he had was "to love and fear God, believe in Christ, do all the good to his neighbors he could and as little harm as he could help, and trust to God's mercy for the rest."

It has remained for a North Carolina woman, Mrs. Lindsay Patterson, of Winston-Salem, to undertake the work of marking forever the "Boone Trail," from the old home on the banks of the Yadkin, not far from Lexington, to the Tennessee-North Carolina line, and it is understood that Tennessee and Kentucky will take up the work at that point and take it on to Boonesboro. Mrs. Patterson is accumulating a great deal of information regarding the trail and the history of points along it. The Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railway has marked with memorials of concrete and marble some important historical points on its route, which bear upon this famous explorer's life-work.

As has been said, Boone's whole life was an adventure. To show his wonderful resourcefulness a story is told by some of the old people who live in the Watauga section, not far from the Warrior Gap, which is near Blowing Rock, where Boone once commanded a fort, built on the crest of the Blue Ridge, to check the Cherokees, parts of this structure yet remaining. The lower part was of stone, the upper story being of chestnut logs of great size, projecting over the lower section of the fort. Both men and women fought the Indians in that place, for in those days the wives and sisters of the frontiersmen were ready with the rifle and could lend a hand in many ways in combats. The particular story about Boone is that on one occasion in Kentucky he and two companions were ambushed by Indians in a reed swamp, captured and taken to the Indian town. That very day Boone had been at the burned cabin of a family and near the ruins had found a portion of an almanac of that year, which set out the date of an eclipse, total through that section, the almanac having come from Richmond, Va. He put the half-burned pages in the pocket of his hunting coat.

Directly after his capture he and his two companions were tied to stakes in the village, by the ankle, wrist and neck. Suddenly Boone recollected the coming eclipse, which was to occur the following morning about nine o'clock. The season was spring and the location of the village was at the confluence of two streams, and there upon a bluff the intended victims of torture by fire were securely bound. The Indian children shot with little arrows at the unfortunate men, and the squaws spat in their faces, pulled out their long hair and struck them many blows, all these things being unheeded by these brave men, as it was thought to be the most coward-

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