

# Bibliographical Essay

SINCE a bibliographical guide to the printed accounts of Daniel Boone's life and adventures already exists in Mr. William Harvey Miner's "Contributions toward a Bibliography of Daniel Boone" (*Publishers' Weekly*, 59:614-617, 930-940 2 Mr, 6 Ap, 1901; reprinted, New York, Dibdin Club, 1901), I have not burdened this book with repetition of its contents. Publications subsequent to that date are readily available in the card index of any large library and in the usual bibliographical sources. A good many of them are in the bibliography included in Dr. Willard Rouse Jillson's *Adventures of Col. Daniel Boone* (Louisville, Standard Printing Co., 1932) and in the mimeographed "analytics" issued by the Western State Teachers College, Bowling Green, Kentucky. Mr. E. G. Swem's *Virginia Historical Index* (Roanoke, Stone Printing and Mfg. Co., 1934) is a valuable guide to local Virginia. My own references to all this material are indicated in the notes.

Since the extant Boone documents have never before been catalogued, I have included a check-list of them. This is based on correspondence with every college and university library in the United States, the principal public libraries, and the historical collections specializing in the period. It is, therefore, reasonably complete, but it is probable that other Boone documents will turn up after publication.

The abundance of source material is partly due to the unusual group of local historians in Kentucky, who have devoted themselves with much competence and diligence to searching out and printing early maps, surveys, letters, depositions, accounts, court records, and documents of every kind. The results of this truly heroic labor are available in the *Register* of the Kentucky State Historical Society, of Frankfort, Kentucky, and in the *History Quarterly* and the sumptuous volumes of the Filson Club, of Louisville, Kentucky. Such

collections as the *Pennsylvania Archives*, *Pennsylvania Magazine*, *North Carolina Records*, *North Carolina Booklet*, *American Archives*, *American State Papers*, *Calendar of Virginia State Papers*, and the *Missouri Historical Review* provide a mass of other material.

There are important MSS. at the office of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Philadelphia; the Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania; the State Historical Society of Pennsylvania; the Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madison; and the University of Chicago. Isolated documents are indicated in the check-list.

The British side of the story is told in the papers of General Frederick Haldimand, which include many reports from Lieutenant-Governor Hamilton. These contain a few direct references to Boone and are a mine of information about the Indians he had to fight. The originals are in the British Museum. Copies, in the Canadian Archives at Ottawa, are calendared in the *Reports of the Public Archives of Canada, 1884-1889*. The portions most important in American history have been printed and indexed in the *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collection*.

There is some Boone material in the records of Bucks and Berks Counties, Pennsylvania, and Rowan County, North Carolina. The latter have been searched by Dr. Archibald Henderson. There is a little material in the archives of Kanawha County, West Virginia, which have been examined by Dr. Roy Bird Cook, of Charleston, West Virginia, and transcribed by W.P.A. workers. The records of St. Charles County, Missouri, have a few Boone documents, several of which appear here for the first time. Kentucky courthouses contain a wealth of records.

The Boone family records kept by Daniel Boone and James Boone are represented among the Draper MSS. These, as well as another set of records, are reproduced by Mrs. Hazel Atterbury Spraker in her book, *The Boone Family*.

The great detail in which we can trace the life of Daniel Boone is mainly due, however, to the lifelong and indefatigable labors of the late Dr. Lyman C. Draper. For more than half a century this painstakingly thorough and meticulously accurate investigator devoted practically all his time, energy, and money to assembling the huge collection of manuscripts relating to Boone and other frontier figures, now known as the Draper Collection in the Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin. Draper's MS. biography of Boone, in five volumes, reaching more than seven hundred pages, is

still the most authoritative work on the subject. It has never been published and the author's microfilm copy appears to be the only one ever made. Draper died without completing his book, and it therefore covers only about half of Daniel Boone's life.

Of even greater importance are the more than thirty volumes of Boone MSS. (Series C), which Draper assembled. Many of these are original holograph or autograph. Draper journeyed far and wide interviewing surviving pioneers and noting down their stories. He talked and corresponded with everyone he could find who had known Daniel Boone or had information about him. He conducted a voluminous correspondence with the descendants of pioneers. He even lived for a month with Nathan Boone, eagerly writing down all that Nathan Boone and his wife could tell him about Nathan's father. He searched corncribs and attics and gathered up family records, thus saving many a manuscript which without his care would have moldered away unregarded.

All this material he carefully cross-referenced, annotated, and classified in some five hundred volumes. It has had admirable care in the Wisconsin State Historical Society's Library and is today a historical collection absolutely unsurpassed for richness and completeness in its special field. There is a great deal of additional Boone material in Series CC, Series S, and elsewhere. All this is readily located by the use of a carefully indexed catalogue.

Draper's work had been preceded by that of John Shane, who, intending to write a history of the Presbyterian Church in the West, interviewed innumerable pioneers and luckily wrote down all they told him, whether it bore on his particular subject or not. He seems to have abandoned a regular clerical career in order to supply charges temporarily in areas where he thought he might secure material. He thus preserved a great deal of information that could not possibly have been preserved in any other way. Part of his material is in the Draper Collection, which also contains a catalogue of the sale of his books and manuscripts. The rest is in the Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia. This part of the Shane Collection is especially important because it contains the family papers of Daniel Boone's friends, the Harts, and of his wife's family, the Bryans. There is an account of Shane in the fourth volume of the *History Quarterly*.

Second only to Shane and Draper was the late Colonel R. T. Durrett, of Louisville, who gathered up practically all that his predecessors had missed. After a successful career in business, this remarkable man retired in middle life to devote himself to MS.

and book collecting and to research in frontier history. After his death, his MSS. were sold to the University of Chicago. When they reached the university, they were stored in 269 boxes, plus another series of boxes lettered A-R. They have since been bound. The history of the collection has been described in a pamphlet by Edward A. Henry: *The Durrett Collection* (np., nd.).

The Tipton Papers, now in charge of Professor Jonathan Truman Dorris, of the Eastern State Teachers College, Richmond, Kentucky, contain some Boone data and much material useful as background.

The story of Boonesborough's founding is told in three contemporary documents. The MS. of the diary which William Calk kept while on the way to Boonesborough with Richard Henderson is still in the possession of his family. The present owner is Mrs. Price Calk, Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, widow of William Calk's great-grandson. The Filson Club and the University of Kentucky own photostat copies. It has been thrice printed—in Thomas Speed: *Wilderness Road* (Filson Club, No. 2), pp. 34-38; in Archer B. Hulbert: *Boone's Wilderness Road* (Historic Highways, VI); and in Lewis H. Kilpatrick: "Journal of William Calk," *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, 7:363-377 (1921).

Richard Henderson's own diary is in the Draper Collection. It is part of an eighty-page memorandum book. The diary concludes: "The Occurrences of tomorrow & so on you'll find in another stitched book cover'd with brown paper & begins with Wednesday 26th July 1775." This has disappeared entirely. The surviving portion was loaned to the historian Mann Butler by Pleasant Henderson, Richard's brother. Butler seems to have placed it in the Kentucky Historical Society about 1839. It passed into Draper's hands and went with the rest of his papers to the Wisconsin State Historical Society. It is quoted here from the partial transcript in George W. Ranck: *Boonesborough* (Filson Club, No. 16), pp. 169-180. There is another in Hulbert, *op. cit.*, 101-107.

Felix Walker's narrative, written long after the events it describes took place (perhaps about 1824), was published in *DeBow's Review*, 16:150-155, F 1854. Daniel Boone's own letter describing the attack at Twitty's Fort is now known only in copies, which, however, agree among themselves fairly well.

A diary and two genuine manuscript biographies written or dictated by Daniel Boone himself have been lost. The autobiography that fell into the Missouri River in 1814 is obviously gone forever. The other two documents may some day reappear.

There are several guides to Kentucky MSS., of which the most important are:

- Willard Rouse Jillson: "Kentucky Acts and Legislative Journals, 1792-1800. A Preliminary Locating List." *Register*, 35:196-197.
- Willard Rouse Jillson: "Bibliography of Lincoln County." *Ibid.*, 35:339-359 (1937).
- Willard Rouse Jillson: *The Kentucky Land Grants: a Systematic Index* (Filson Club, No. 33).
- Willard Rouse Jillson: *Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds*. (Filson Club, No. 34).
- Mildred Hasse: *Index to Economic Materials in Printed Documents of the State of Kentucky* (Carnegie Foundation).
- Irene T. Myers: "Archives of the State of Kentucky." In *Annual Report of the American Historical Association*, 1910. Reprinted as *11th Annual Report Public Archives of Canada*, App. C, 1912.
- C. R. Staples: "New Discoveries Among Old Records." *Register*, 33:307-325 (1935). This includes the first effort to list the Shane documents.

The Kentucky State Historical Society has abstracted and published Fayette County records (*Register*, 33:319), and Mr. Staples has abstracted a number of valuable depositions in *Register*, 32: *passim*.

There is much valuable data in the *Notes on Kentucky* which the early printer, John Bradford, published in his *Kentucky Gazette*, beginning on August 25, 1826, and ending January 9, 1829. In 1827, George W[ashington] Stipp, a publisher of Xenia, Ohio, reprinted in his *Western Miscellany* the first twenty-three sections, which dealt with the Indian wars. These articles with some additions have been collected and edited by Douglas S. Watson (San Francisco, Grabhorn Press, 1932. Rare Americana Series, No. 5).

Bradford's *Kentucky Gazette* is a very rare periodical. The most complete file, now in the Lexington (Kentucky) Public Library, has unfortunately been badly mutilated. Through the efforts of Mr. G. Glenn Clift, of the library staff, missing issues and other gaps are gradually being filled by photostats. Judge Samuel M. Wilson, of Lexington, has collected manuscript copies of fifty-eight out of the sixty-two installments of Bradford's history.

The best account of Boone's life in Missouri is a series of articles by a collateral descendant, William S. Bryan, which ran, with a good deal of repetition, through the third and fourth volumes of the

*Missouri Historical Review*. It is not documented and appears to be based mainly on family and local tradition. There is further material in *Pioneer Families of Missouri*, long out of print but now available in a modern edition. In this work Bryan collaborated with Robert Rose. The latter worked indefatigably to set down the memories of old Missouri pioneers, including many who had known the Boones both there and in Kentucky. Much of what he recorded is trivial and, having been orally transmitted over a long period, cannot be very accurate, but it has an incomparable vividness. For the circumstances of its composition, see *Missouri Historical Review*, 28:255-259 (1933-34).

The earlier printed lives are the merest fabrications. Some credit, however, must be given to three biographers who have been too much sneered at. John Filson's "autobiography" is of value when cautiously used and checked by other records. After all, it was twice endorsed by Boone himself. Timothy Flint's biography was, according to its own author, written to sell and not to use, but Albert Gallatin Boone called it "the most correct history of my grandfather's career" (*Missouri Historical Review*, 30:214 Ja 1836). Flint was a Baptist preacher who taught school at St. Charles and had Albert Gallatin Boone as one of his pupils. He often visited Daniel Boone, interrogated him, and took notes. His inaccuracies have been demonstrated but it will not do to dismiss him out of hand. John M. Peck also talked with Daniel Boone in his Missouri home, but unfortunately did not always make notes as he had originally no intention of writing a biography (*Wisconsin Historical Collection*, 3:303n. (1876); *American Pioneer*, II:316 (1843)).

Much valuable material has been lost in three disastrous fires—the burning of Spring Hill, Nathaniel Hart's home near Versailles, Kentucky; of James Robertson's home at Nashville, Tennessee, which destroyed Transylvania Company records; and of Dr. Archibald Henderson's collection at Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

### DANIEL BOONE DOCUMENTS

(This list endeavors to include all extant manuscripts written or signed by Daniel Boone. The usual abbreviations are employed: A.L.S.—autograph letter, signed; A.L.—autograph letter; L.S.—letter, signed; A.D.S.—autograph document, signed; D.S.—document, signed; np.—no place indicated; nd.—no date indicated.)

Receipt and memorandum, A.D.S. Draper MS. 28 C 10.

Boone genealogy. Draper MS. 6 S 17.

One page, folio, D.S. Also signatures of William Hays and Septimus Davis. W. F. Gable Sale, February 13-14, 1924.

- One page, sm. 4to. Orders to Andrew Stell [Steel?] to furnish provisions for a paroled prisoner. Probably Maysville, 1786-87. E. Hertz catalogue, October 19, 1926; Anderson Galleries, Tristram Coffin Sale, January 17, 1927.
- Receipt for surveyor's fees. Draper MS. 28 C 59.
- Joint claim of D. Boone and Isaac Winston (map) adjoining a claim by Lincoln. With certificate of genuineness by Lyman C. Draper. N. Y. Public Library, MS. Room.
- Land entry of Daniel Boone and Isaac Winston, adjoining "Hananighah" Lincoln. Obviously referring to item above. Collection of Oliver R. Barrett, Chicago.
- Order written by Boone and signed by Charles Yancey, np., nd. Haverford College.

*Dated or Covering Specific Periods*

1733. Family Tree of the Boone Family. Berks County Historical Society, Reading, Pa. Also originals in Draper Collection.
- 1734-66. Boone Family Bible records. Present location of original unknown but probably in Missouri. Photostat in Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Reproduced in Hazel Atterbury Spraker: *Boone Family*. This is distinct from the similar record in the Draper Collection.
1734. Survey of land in Oley Twp., Philadelphia County, now Berks County, Pa., to George Boone. With diagram. Made and returned by Surveyor General Benj. Eastburn, 1738. Berks County Historical Society.
1740. Release of Squire Boone. Berks County Historical Society.
1749. Two indentures of George Boone and Deborah his wife. Berks County Historical Society.
1751. Agreement of George Boone with George Scull. Berks County Historical Society.
- 1774(?). Daniel Boone's discharge from the army, presumably at the close of Lord Dunmore's War. Said at one time to have been in the Library of the University of Tennessee, Nashville. This has disappeared.
1775. April 1. Boone to Richard Henderson. Original lost. Copies in Draper and Durrett Collections. This was copied by Draper from James Hall: *Sketches of History, Life, etc.*, and also from John Floyd's copy in the *Frankfort Commonwealth*. Draper MSS. 3 B and 17 CC 166. Ranck alludes to the original but says that he takes his text from Hall.

- 1775-76 (?). Memorandum and account book, A.D.S. 7 small pages.  
Draper MS. 4 C 75.
1776. Another survey book. Draper MS. 25 C 29-50.
- 1776, Sept. 7. Boone to William Preston. Draper MS. 4 C 77.
- 1780-87. Another survey book. Draper MS. 25 C 84.
- 1781-87. Another survey book. Draper MS. 25 C 102-115.
- 1781, Dec. 17. Memorandum of agreement, D.S. Draper MS. 25 C 78.
- 1781, Dec. 24. A.D.S. Henkels Sale, January 26, 1921.
- 1782, Aug. 30. Letter to governor of Virginia. Virginia State Library.  
Copy in Durrett Collection.
- 1782, Oct. 9 and 25. Instructions to Lt.-Col. Robert Patterson. Both  
on same page. Draper MS. 25 C 80.
- 1783-85 (?). Survey book. Most entries by Boone. Draper MS. 26  
C 18.
- 1783, Jan. 6. Orders to Capt. Hazelrigg. A.L.S. Draper MS. 14 C 2.
- 1784-85. Account book with most entries by Boone. Draper MS.  
26 C 113-129.
1784. Survey book, probably in Boone's hand. Draper MS. 26 C  
9-11.
1784. Survey book with entries by Boone. Draper MS. 26 C 13.
- 1784, April 28. Letter to Jacob Cohen. Historical Society of Penn-  
sylvania.
- 1784, May 20. Receipt of John Sanders to Daniel Boone. Facsimile  
in William Hayden English: *Conquest of the Country Northwest  
of the Ohio*, II, 929. Said to come from the Durrett Collection but  
not now included in it.
- 1784, June 18. Survey of land in Lincoln County, for Philip and  
James Moore and John Donaldson. Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology Library.
- 1784, July 23. Promissory note to Squire Boone, with various anno-  
tations and transfers on back. American Art Association, W. F.  
Gable Sale, February 13-14, 1924.
- 1784, Aug. 6. A.L.S. to Lawrence Thompson. Draper MS. 14 C 5.
1785. Order to Thompson on Holley. Draper MS. File 1785.
- 1785(?). Boone's survey notes with signature, nd. Draper MS. File  
1785.
- 1785, May 21. Land survey with signatures of Daniel Boone and  
Simon Kenton. Collection of Oliver R. Barrett, Chicago.
- 1785, May 30. Letter to Charles Yancey. Virginia State Library.
- 1785, Aug. 16. A.L.S. on Indian raids, military preparations, Ken-  
tucky statehood. N. Y. Public Library, Emmet Collection, 6277.
- 1785, Aug. 23. Letter to William Cristen [Christian]. Original lost.

- Two identical forgeries in N. Y. Public Library, Forgery Collection. Copy and photograph of same in Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis. There is no trace of the original, but the two forgeries were probably traced from a genuine document, perhaps by Robert Spring, a well-known forger of Americana.
- 1786, May 1. Boone to pay James Hone (?) £150 or else give him 300 acres. W. F. Gable Sale, February 13-14, 1924.
- 1786, May 9. Letter to Geddes Winston, regarding a grant of lands, A.L.S. Haverford College.
- 1786, July 20. A.L.S. to John Overton, Lincoln County, including bill for surveying. Presented to the Kentucky Historical Society by Grant Green, Esq., and his wife, Mrs. Catherine Overton Green. See Jillson in *Kentucky School Journal*, 13:64 S 1934.
- 1786, Dec. 16. Promissory note, A.D.S. Durrett Collection.
- 1787-97. Survey book in Boone's hand. Draper MS. 26 C 156-173.
- 1787-1801. Account book with entries by Daniel Boone. Draper MS. 26 C 181-189.
- 1787, Mar. 16. A.L.S. to Lt.-Col. Robert Patterson. Draper MS. 26 C 176.
- 1787, May 28. Promissory note, D.S. Perhaps a copy. Draper MS. 26 C 177.
- 1788-1800. Documents relating to Kentucky land entries, signed by Daniel Boone and others.
1788. Jan. 18. A.L.S. to Charles Yancey. [Original in possession of Mrs. A. C. Pendleton, Warren, O.]
- 1788, Aug. 20. Bond for £32.1.10 jointly with William Hall on appeal of a judgment, D.S. Huntington Library, H.M. 990.
- 1788, Sept. 6. Joint promissory note with Thomas Hart, D.S. Clawson and Wilson Sale, January 18, 1917.
- 1788, Dec. 8. Apparently two documents. Dated Maysville, Ky. Deeds relating to Boone's lands there. Sold at American Art Association, December 6, 1921. Another D.S. sold by Stan V. Henkels, November 3, 1916.
- 1789, May 7. Letter to Thomas Hart, A.L.S. photostat. Durrett Collection.
- 1789, May-1790, July. Boone's account with Thomas Hart. Not in Boone's hand. [Original in possession of Charles R. Staples, Lexington, Ky.]
- 1789, July 30. Letter to John Philips and John Young. Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
- 1789, Dec. 16. Agreement on land, A.D.S. Sold by Stan V. Henkels, December 5, 1918.

- 1790-95. Account book, A.D. Draper MS. 27 C 19-41.
- 1791, March 3. Letter to William Haris, A.L.S. Huntington Library, H.M. 22393. Sold at Jones Sale, December 2, 1918.
- 1791, June 14. Survey for William Allin. West Virginia Historical Society, Charleston, W. Va.
- 1791, Dec. 13. Letter, obviously written at Richmond, to Governor Henry Lee, of Virginia. Owned by Daniel Boone, New York City.
- 1791, Dec. 15. Letter to same. Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
- 1795, May 27. Letter to William Crow on Kentucky stream names, A.L.S. Stan V. Henkels Sale, June 2-8, 1907. Copy in Durrett Collection.
- 1796, Feb. 11. Letter to Isaac Shelby. Virginia State Library. Copy in Durrett Collection.
- 1796, June 2. Deposition, Mason County, D.S. Draper MS. 15 C 30.
- 1797, March 30. Warrant for 2,000 acres in Montgomery County, for Abraham Outen. University of Pittsburgh, Darlington Collection.
- 1797, May 31. Deposition regarding land entry made by Boone in June, 1780, for Richard Allen, D.S. Huntington Library, H.M., 991.
- 1797, July 3. Deposition, Mason County, D.S. Draper MS. 11 C 69.
- 1802, June 1. Promissory note to James Callaway, A.D.S. Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis.
- 1803, May 6. "To the Worshipel Cort of the District of St. Charles." Mrs. Lewis C. Winkler, Manhattan, Kan.
- 1804, June. Deposition, A.D.S. Durrett Collection.
1805. Petition to the Court of Quarter Sessions, St. Louis, for a Missouri River ferry. Signature only. Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis.
- 1806, Feb. 23. Certificate of permission to settle to "Benjamon gardner," A.D.S. Missouri Historical Society.
- 1806, Aug. 31. Signature of Joseph Haynes' fee bill against William Hayes. Mrs. Lewis C. Winkler, Manhattan, Kan.
- 1809, Oct. 5. Letter to Judge Cobrin [John Coburn], A.L.S. facsimile. The original was in the possession of "James P. Boyd, Esq., of Kentucky," about 1850. It is reproduced by John Jay Smith: *American Historical and Literary Curiosities*, I, 65.
1811. Receipt by Daniel Boone to Joseph Bryan of Jefferson County, Kentucky. Mrs. Lewis C. Winkler, Manhattan, Kan.
- 1816, Oct. 19. Letter on religion to "sister." Probably to sister-in-law, Mrs. Samuel Boone. Draper MS. 27 C 88.