

**DANIEL BOONE:  
CONTRIBUTION TOWARD A  
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WRITINGS  
CONCERNING DANIEL BOONE**

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Daniel Boone: Contribution Toward a Bibliography of Writings Concerning Daniel Boone by  
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**WILLIAM HARVEY MINER**

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DANIEL BOONE

BY  
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#### INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THE following list—in preparing which the method adopted by the late T. W. Field in compiling his valuable "Essay Towards an Indian Bibliography" has been followed—includes all that could be found, after a lengthy and exhaustive search, that deals in any way with the life and adventures of Boone. The numerous school and general histories of our country have not been included, because, with the exception of Bancroft, Winsor and Hildreth, it would avail the student but little to turn to these for information. Bancroft may be considered to have made the only attempt at research above the average. Histories of the State of Kentucky have little value, as a rule, for material contained in them usually is nothing more or less than borrowed statements, and even as such of little worth. The notable exceptions are: Humphrey Marshall's "History of Kentucky," Mann Butler's "History of the Commonwealth of Kentucky," and Lewis Collins's "Historical Sketches of Kentucky." Of the more recent works

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Shaler's is probably the best. Among the histories of Tennessee and Missouri, John Haywood's two works, "Natural and Aboriginal History of Tennessee" and "Civil and Political History of Tennessee," are probably of the most value, though published as early as 1823. James Phelan's "History of Tennessee" ranks with Shaler's on the adjoining State. Paul Allen's "History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark" also contain much information on the subject.

The library of Colonel Reuben T. Durrett at Louisville contains a great deal of valuable material of great interest; his "Life of John Filson," (No. 1, *Filson Club Publications*,) and his "Centenary of Kentucky," (No. 7, *Filson Club Publications*,) both refer indirectly to Daniel Boone, as does the paper by Thomas Speed, "The Wilderness Road," being No. 2 of the *Filson Club Publications*. Col. Durrett's collection of portraits and relics of Boone is probably the most complete in existence. Among the papers of the late Lyman C. Draper of Madison, Wis., is much valuable Boone material, chiefly autographs, letters and documents. These are now in possession of the Wisconsin Historical Society, and were eventually to be published in a volume to be



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entitled "Border Forays and Adventures." Henry B. Dawson's paper on the siege of Fort Boone, August 8-20, 1778, is excellent, as is also the introduction to William L. Stone's "Life of Brant," which touches on the border wars. Abiel Holmes in his "Annals of America" makes but one reference to Boone. Lord Byron eulogizes the American pioneer in "Don Juan," VIII, 61-65, (1821.) Cooper has used him as a model for the hero of the "Leather Stocking Tales," though under different conditions and circumstances; and others, without change of name, have brought him before the public.

An adequate and trustworthy life of Daniel Boone, however, must yet be written. In spite of the many references to his life in books and periodical literature, and a few so-called biographies, we know but little of him and his real life. Active during that period which, historically, was so vital to the growth and strength of our country (1735-1820,) his existence must always be one of intense contemporary interest both to the historian and the student.

The few so-called biographies of Boone give but little information concerning the real man, and no two seem to agree on any of the vital points in his life. According to the

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best and most recent authorities Boone was born October 22, 1733, in that portion of Philadelphia County, Pa., that is now known as Berks County. Dr. Peter G. Bertelot had in preparation at the time of his death, in 1865, a work which was to be published under the title of "Oley and Vicinity," the manuscript of which is now in the possession of the Pennsylvania Historical Society. In this Dr. Bertelot asserts that "it is beyond a doubt that he [Boone] was a son of Berks, born in Oley township, and the house in which this occurred is partly standing yet." John F. Watson in a paper read before the Pennsylvania Historical Society, Tuesday, May 17, 1853, made the same statement.

Boone's migrations extended over Pennsylvania to Virginia and West Virginia, in his day one State, thence to North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee, Transylvania, or Watauga, as it was then called, Ohio and the Illinois County, and at last to Missouri, where he died at Charette village, September 23, 1820, aged 86 years, 11 months and 4 days. In 1845 his remains, with those of his wife, were removed to Frankfort, Ky., and on that occasion, August 20, the Hon. J. J. Crittenden, delivered a fitting eulogy.

The compiler acknowledges his gratitude

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to Mr. Hugh A. Morrison, Jr., and to Mr. J. G. Morrison, both of the Congressional Library, for their valuable and courteous assistance; also to Mr. John Skinner, of Albany, N. Y., who has voluntarily furnished aid. To the student of American pioneer history the library of Col. R. T. Durrett, of Louisville, Ky., is invaluable, and to its owner the undersigned wishes to publicly express his thanks for the invitation to avail himself to his heart's content of all its treasures. To Dr. J. P. Hale, of the West Virginia Historical Society, must the compiler also feel himself indebted, as a Boone enthusiast; and lastly, to Mr. Adolph Growoll, of the *Publishers' Weekly*, who has taken such a kindly interest in the work throughout.

WILLIAM HARVEY MINER.

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July 25, 1901.