DANIEL BOONE'S BROTHER

A HARRISON COUNTY PIONEER

In the history of pioneer Kentucky, one name stands out above all others . . . the name of Daniel Boone, intrepid woodsman, hunter, Indian fighter and explorer. So great is Daniel Boone's fame that other members of his family have been overshadowed. Yet Daniel's younger brother, Squire, participated in many of the same adventures and later became one of the pioneer settlers of Harrison County.

Boone Township along the Ohio River in the southernmost reaches of Harrison County is a lasting memorial in its name to Squire Boone and other members of the Boone family who were among the very earliest settlers to make a permanent home in the County. And the story of the arrival of the Boones in the new Indiana Territory in 1806 is the typical story of so many other pioneers of Southern Indiana . . . defective land titles in Kentucky forcing them to seek new homes in the unsettled territory across the Ohio River.

Squire Boone was born about 1737 at the old Boone homestead near Reading, Pa. Like his brother Daniel, Squire followed the new tide of westward migration to the frontier of Virginia and North Carolina and then into the unexplored wilderness of Kentucky. Squire Boone and his family were with Daniel Boone when he founded Boonesborough in 1773. Here Squire made his home until 1779 when he moved to a spot near present-day Shelbyville, Kentucky, and established a small settlement known as Boone's Station. Squire

Boone was highly regarded by his pioneer neighbors. He served as their representative in the Virginia Legislature and was a member of the Virginia legislature which ratified the Constitution of the new United States.

Pioneer life was hard, and Squire Boone, like many others, was always on the go seeking a better spot. For a few years in the late 1780s he was in New Orleans working at his trade of gunsmithing. Then he tried St. Simon's Island off the Florida coast, hoping the mild climate would ease the physical ills he suffered from wounds received in Indian attacks in Kentucky. In 1799 he went with Daniel Boone beyond the Mississippi to the Spanish territory of Missouri and planned to make his home there, but his family, tired of constant moving about, refused to go. So he returned to Kentucky and Boone's Station. He also returned to trouble for land speculators had, in Squire Boone's own words, "hunted up a better title" to his land and he was dispossessed. To add to his woes, he was tossed in debtor's prison in Louisville in 1804, and though he was bailed out by friends, the humiliation embittered the old pioneer. He turned his back on Kentucky to seek a new life in Indiana.

So, in 1806, at the age of almost 70, he set out with his wife, his five sons, and five nephews and moved to what was to become Harrison County. Along the banks of Buck Creek about six miles from the Ohio River, the little band settled down in Boone's Settlement. Squire knew the area from previous hunting trips across the Ohio and once he had taken refuge in a cave there while being pursued by Indians.

Despite the ill luck which had befallen him in Kentucky, Squire's deep religious faith served him well in providing a contemplative outlook. He planned to build a mill on Buck Creek and quarried stones for the foundation from the area of the cave which had provided him refuge. He inscribed the stones with phrases of his own . . . phrases such as:

"Here I sit and sing my soul's salvation,

And praise the Lord of my creation."

Another inscription read:

"My God my life hath much befriended,

I'll praise Him till my days are ended."

The stone to go over the doorway was inscribed "Traveler's Rest", and another stone indicated his love of his native land with the inscription reading "Liberty, Property, Congress, America".

In Harrison County, Squire found the peace and contentment that had so long eluded him. His sons, Jonathan, Moses, Isaiah and Enoch, played important roles in the early history of Harrison County and his cousin, John Boone, was a member of the convention at Corydon which drew up the Constitution of the new State of Indiana. John Boone also founded the town of Laconia in 1816. Squire's son, Moses, helped build the old Goshen Church in 1813 which still stands as one of the county's oldest landmarks. Before the old pioneer died in 1815 he requested that he be buried in the cave which had served him so many years before as a haven of safety from Indians. His wish was fulfilled.

No monument today marks his tomb, though the spot is still known as Boone's Grave Cave. Even his bones have been scattered by vandals. But the name Boone Township perpetuates the memory of this pioneer whose westward wanderings came to a happy conclusion in Harrison County.

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