

## A DEPOSITION OF DANIEL BOONE

In the October number of the QUARTERLY the author of "Kentucky in 1774" expressed a doubt as to the correctness of Thwaites' statement in his *Dunmore's War* (page 51, note) that Boone had visited Colonel Andrew Lewis before starting on his trip to Kentucky to warn the surveyors. Miss Kellogg of the Wisconsin State Historical Society sends us the following deposition of Boone's which indicates that Thwaites was correct and the writer of "Kentucky in 1774" was wrong. We are glad to publish the deposition in the interest of historical truth.

Draper Mss., 6C105.

"Have returned from Greenup—send you date &c of Boone's deposition relative to his visit to Kentucky in 1774. Maysville, Ky., Dec. 5, '85.

W. D. Hixson

"The Deposition of Daniel Boone and others taken at the house of Flanders Callaway in the County of St Charles Missouri Territory, on the 6th day of October 1817, agreeable to two dedimusses to us directed, two Justices of the Peace Within and for this County to be read in evidence in certain suits In Chancery, now depending and undetermined in the Greenup County Circuit Court in the State of Kentucky wherein Dr Trimble and J Young are Complainants and A Buford and others, Defendants—The Deponent being about 84 years of age\* and being duly sworn, and interrogated, deposes & says: Q by Complainants—Were you well acquainted with the Ohio river from what is now called Big Sandy to what is now Called Little Sandy Creek as early as May 1780 & previous to that time If so you will please state what was the reputed distance between the two Creeks.

"A. I was not personally acquainted but by good information—In the year 1774, I was requested by Governor Dunmore to go to Kentucky and bring in the Surveyors. I was at General Lewis' own house, a few days before I started and he undertook to give directions how to travel and where to find the surveyors. He directed me to cross the Cumberland Mountains at what we

\*1817

84

1733 Hence born in. [L. C. D.]

now call the Sounding Gap, at an old war-road that would convey me immediately on the waters of Big or perhaps Little Sandy—He said it made but little odds which of them I fell upon, as the[y] both mouthed close he supposed it might together—I asked him how close he supposed it might be. He said twelve or fourteen Miles—He said that his men frequently went down to the mouth of Little Sandy and back again in two days to the camp, with loads of meat, where he lay near the Mouth of Big Sandy near three months in the year 1754, as near as I now can recollect, when he was on a Campaign which was then and is now Called the Sandy Creek Campaign. That the Creek now called Little Sandy was not then known to them by any name, but knowing that they were camped on Big Sandy they gave the big creek below, the name of Little Sandy. But when I received my orders from Governor Dunmore, he changed my route and ordered me as soon as I got over the Cumberland Mountains to take the Kentucky and Meander to its Mouth. In the year 1775, Colonel Thomas Slaughter, and Valentine Harman of North Carolina was on their way from Fort Pitt by water—their object was Harrod's town and when they came to the mouth of the Big Sandy they left the boat and took it on horseback—Harmon being a good Woodsman—They struck the Kentucky river about 1 mile above Boonsboro and came down to where we was at work building a fort about the 20th of April and they stayed with us two or three weeks, in which time they informed me of a Salt Spring they had found which proved to be on Salt Lick Creek; and in order to enable me to find that Salt Spring, they gave me particular direction in writing as follows: Started from the mouth of Big Sandy and kept down the Ohio about 12 or 14 miles, crossed some small creeks until we came to the mouth of a creek which we could not cross at the mouth with our horses We turned up the same about one or two miles as we thought, when we came to the large falls which we crossed with ease and then proceeded on down the Ohio to Salt Lick or what is now called the Ohio Salt Lick, thence along the Buffalo paths to the Blue Licks."