THE FILSON CLUB
HISTORY QUARTERLY

Vol. 16 LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, JULY, 1942 No. 3

SQUIRE BOONE

A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE AND AN APPRAISEMENT OF HIS INFLUENCE ON THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF KENTUCKY

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An Address before The Filson Club, March 2, 1942

A breaker of the Wilderness Trail into Kentucky in 1775, an Indian fighter at Fort Harrod in 1777, a defender of Fort Boonesborough in 1778 and a Captain in charge of the stockade at the Painted Stone in 1780 and 1781, Squire Boone, in a many-sided career, unfortunately now too little known, is a bright exemplar of the rugged, yet versatile and heroic breed of men and women who pioneered Kentucky and laid the foundation stones for the continental expansion and greatness of America. Colorful incident attaches itself to him from youth to old age, and fact, more strange than fiction, embellishes the full and romantic story of his life.

Surrounded by the rapidly changing and frequently dangerous vicissitudes of the frontier, the talents of Squire Boone were such that he could valiantly lead a hand to hand attack against the savages in the forest or return to the fort and bind up wounds and set broken bones with the assurance of a physician. His knowledge of woodcraft was little short of marvelous, so much so indeed that he was never captured or taken unawares by Indians when alone in the Wilderness, and his devotion to the Bible was so well known that his services were equally sought to preach the word of the Gospel or perform the rites of marriage, as the occasion might demand.

As a leader on the border, where murder, scalping and arson were of common occurrence, Squire Boone was resolutely

set against and without pity for his red-skinned foe. With his friends, who were legion, he was genial and large of heart, ever mindful of the weaknesses of human nature. As a man, throughout his life, in both prosperity and adversity, he held the respect of thousands who admired his unique achievements in the Indian wars, his high personal courage and his incorruptible integrity.

Squire Boone was born October 5, 1744, old style, near the present city of Reading, in Berks County, Pennsylvania. He died in August, 1815, in Boone Township, Harrison County, Indiana, some twenty-five miles or so northwest of Louisville, Kentucky. The tenth in a family of eleven children of Squire, Sr. and Sarah Morgan Boone, "Squire, Jr.," as he was often called, especially early in life, like his illustrious brother, Daniel, was born close to and spent practically all of his life on the American frontier. His brothers and sisters, with the dates of their birth chronologically arranged, were: Sarah, June 7, 1724, old style; Israel, May 9, 1726; Samuel, May 20, 1728; Jonathan, December 6, 1730; Elizabeth, February 5, 1732; Daniel, October 22, 1734; Mary, November 3, 1736; George, January 2, 1739; Edward, November 19, 1740; Squire, October 5, 1744; Hannah, August, 1746.

His father, Squire Boone, Sr., the American immigrant, was born November 25, 1696, old style, in Devonshire, England, where his family, tracing back through three ancestral George Boones, residents in the vicinity of Exeter, had long been seated. Squire, Sr. left Bristol and arrived in Philadelphia in 1713 with an elder brother and sister. In America he did well and, seven years later, in the Gwynedd Meeting House of the Society of Friends in Berks County, his marriage banns with Sarah Morgan were published. The wedding took place September 23, 1720. The bride was the daughter of Edward Morgan, and the sister of the famous Revolutionary General and hero, Daniel Morgan. There can be little doubt that the great personal courage and resourcefulness that marked this outstanding soldier was a dominant trait inherited by the brothers, Squire and Daniel, from the Morgan family.

When a small boy Squire Boone, Jr., removed with his father and family to a point near Winchester, Virginia. Here a year or two were spent, and then the family of Squire Boone, Sr., moved on to the southwest down the great valley of Virginia. They finally settled about one and one-fourth miles from Hole-

man's (now Boone's) Ford on the East side of the South Yadkin River, near the present city of Wilkesboro, in what was then Rowan, now Wilkes County, North Carolina. Here in the new country of the upland South, little Squire spent the early carefree days of boyhood, living the life of a lad of the frontier, his home a log cabin high in the hills, his playground the uncut forest which stretched away endlessly in every direction.

In such an environment, with Daniel who was ten years his senior as an ever present teacher, it is not strange that young Squire early became fond of a gun and somewhat experienced in those arts that only the forest and its denizens can teach. Some ten years later, when he was about fifteen years old, his mother returning to Pennsylvania to visit relatives, took Squire with her and apprenticed him to his cousin, Samuel Boone, to learn the trade of gun-smithing.

At the end of five years it may be presumed that Squire Boone, now in his twentieth year, found the making of guns too prosaic a calling and longed for the freshness, the freedom and the forests of his boyhood home on the Yadkin. At any rate, it was about this time his parents bought off his unexpired time of apprenticeship from old Samuel Boone, and the son who had found no liking for town living and work in a shop, returned straightway to the paternal roof on the Yadkin.

Here Squire Boone, in his twenty-first year, on August 8, 1765, married Jane Van Cleve, whom he had known many years. Her parents, Aaron Van Cleve her father, of Amsterdam, Dutch descent, and his wife, Rachael Schneck, were among the early settlers of the Yadkin Valley. They had a family of fair size for those days, five boys: Aaron, Jr., Benjamin, John, William and Ralph, and one girl, Jane who was the youngest. Squire had admired her from the time she was a little girl and their wedding came as the natural culmination of happy youthful courtship. Originally the Van Cleves had lived in New Jersey in the vicinity of New York, where Jane's grandfather, Isabrant Van Cleve, an emigrant from Holland, while living in Flat Bush on Long Island, had married Jane Vanderbilt, who, family tradition says, was a sister of the grandfather of Commodore Vanderbilt.

Jane Van Cleve was born in New Jersey, October 16, 1749. She was a remarkable woman in many ways, well suited by temperament and early environment in western North Carolina

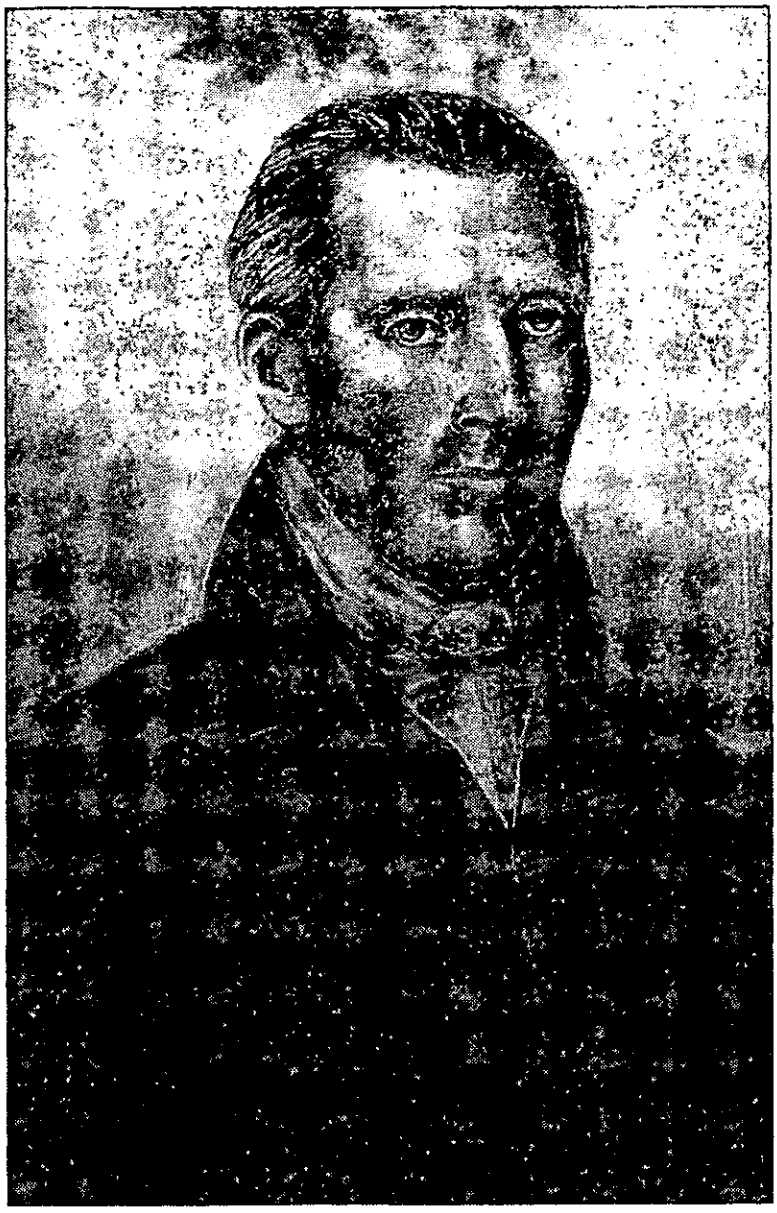
to life, as fate later decreed, on the western frontier of Virginia, in the district of Kentucky. Here near the mouth of Otter Creek, in what is now Madison County, after a long, interesting and not unexciting life, she died at an advanced age at the home of her son, Enoch Morgan Boone, March 10, 1829, one of the then few remaining pioneers who had lived in Fort Boonesborough before, during and after the great Indian siege.

Newly wedded Squire Boone, Jr. and Jane Van Cleve, his bride, set up housekeeping at "the Glades," a not-too-distant locality lying between Bear Creek and the Yadkin River. The immediate vicinity of their new home was a beautiful and undespoiled wilderness with no very close neighbors. Fish in the clear waters of the streams and game of all kinds in the forest could still be had by persistent and laborious effort, but the abundance they had known in their youthful years had disappeared. Squire, once settled in his new location, and faced with the necessity of supplying his table with food and his home with furnishings from the forest, began to feel the pinch of the growing scarcity of wild life.

During this year of Squire's essay into life, with his own home and wife, his father, old Squire, surrounded by his children, passed into the great beyond. He was buried with simple ceremony in the little Joppa Cemetery, near the present-day village of Mocksville, where close beside the grave of his wife, Sarah, the interested traveller of the present day may read: "Squire Boone, died in the 69th year of his age in the year of our Lord, 1765."

With the death of his father Squire's outlook on life began to change as did that of his brother Daniel. A desire to find some new locality where settlers had not yet penetrated and shot away the natural game came to possess them. Late in the summer of this year Squire and Daniel and three other companions of the neighborhood went overland to Florida. They explored the Altamaha River country looking for a new and better place for settlement. At length, finding the region wet, covered with green briar and affording little game, they became discouraged at the prospect in the South and returned to the Yadkin settlements in North Carolina.

Two years later—in 1767—Squire accompanied his brother Daniel on a long hunt to the northwest. A double purpose inspired them: they would search for a short and easy route to



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From an old crayon portrait presented, in 1886, to The Filson Club by Reuben T. Durrett. The whereabouts of the original from which this copy was made and the names of the artists are unknown.

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Kentucky, some stories of which they already heard, and, if rewarded by a good hunt, the peltries would repay them for their labor and carry them through the next summer. Some two hundred miles or more they followed trail and stream, crossed range after range of mountains and finally, for their winter's encampment, selected a salt spring on northwest-flowing waters. Here they built a hunter's shelter and spent the winter. The locality long since identified, and now well known is on the head of the left Fork of Middle Creek in Floyd County, a few miles west of Prestonsburg, Kentucky. When the hunt was ended and the melting snow of early spring made it possible to move their peltries on horse back, Squire and Daniel returned, hardened by their experience into seasoned trappers, but unconscious at the time that they had really been in Kentucky.

During the winter of 1768-69, a horse trader and peddler named John Finley, whom Daniel had known as a waggoner during Braddock's campaign years ago, came for a time to the Yadkin settlements. In the cabin of his brother Daniel, Squire heard then for the first time from the lips of Finley, who had lived and traded with the Indians at Eskippakithiki, tall tales of the broad game-filled reaches of Kentucky. His imagination, fired by the description of the thick cane and meadow land, the deer, the buffalo and the beaver without number, lifted him into an ethereal ecstacy of happy anticipation and delight. As winter came to a close and spring began to throw her mantle of bright green tints over the landscape, plans for a long hunting journey to the west were matured. The route would be over the head of the Tennessee River and through a great gap in the Laurel (Cumberland) mountains, then over much rough hill country to the level land of Kentucky. Part of the way they would follow the broadly marked buffalo trail, but beyond the Laurel Ridge they would use the Warrior's Path of the Indians!

On the first of May, 1769, the little band of hunters with their pack horses made ready to leave the Yadkin settlements. The leader of the party was John Finley, who knew the way, but the outstanding figure in the group was Squire's older brother Daniel, whose success as a nimrod had already found some local reputation. In the party also was Squire's brother-in-law, John Stewart, who had married Hannah, his youngest sister; and others, unrelated, were Joseph Holden, James Monay and William Cool.

Quite a number of men, women and children from the scattered cabins of the neighborhood, mostly Boones, Bryans and Van Cleves, who lived closer together than the others, foregathered there in the early morning hours of that fateful Spring day to see them off. In the forefront of this throng, as the little cavalcade trotted down the road and disappeared from view, were Rebecca, the mature wife of Daniel Boone, and Hannah, the girlish bride of John Stewart, each bravely waving goodbye through their tears. After the hunters had gone a number of the older men and boys standing in the road laughed and joked about the high times Daniel and his friends would have in the West, but Squire turned thoughtfully away. Something told him that this adventure into Kentucky was a far, far more important event than had ever been witnessed in the neighborhood before.

None of the little group assembled there in the bright sunshine of that May morning could possibly have known it then, but what they had seen was the very beginning of a great western movement, which was to grow and expand and gather strength as the years passed. Within a generation it was to sweep over valley and mountain and plain, across the alluring levels of Kentucky and the broad prairies of the Mississippi and beyond. In this impressive, irresistible surge of a brave and virile people, restive and impatient under the oppressions of a tyrant king, longing for new lands, new homes and new liberties in the untrammelled West, the Boones, the Bryans and their kin of the Yadkin were to stand together for a score of years or more in the embattled front. With them Squire and Daniel, each in his own way in this unfolding drama of the "dark and bloody ground," were destined by fate to play leading and heroic parts.

Summer passed and the shortening days of Autumn brought a rich and abundant harvest to the settlements on the Yadkin—but no word from the hunters in Kentucky. At length, in late November, Squire with a young companion, Alexander Neely, set out on horseback over the trail to the West to find Daniel and his party. It was the supreme test of brotherly love, for the distance was great and the trail as it wound its tortuous course towards and into Kentucky was really dangerous for so small a party. Difficulties as to course were certain to arise even if death or disaster did not overtake them, for Squire knew little

or nothing of the way, having never traversed it, and there was no one along the route to guide him through.

Many deeds of bravery and heroism mark the pages of early Kentucky history, but none can compare with this spontaneous, intelligent and perfectly timed expedition designed and executed by Squire Boone to bring relief to his brother Daniel. Historians generally, from John Filson to the present time, it must be agreed, have failed to see the full significance of this action and Squire Boone's fame has suffered accordingly. Just at the time Daniel and John Stewart had escaped from their first captivity by Indians near the Kentucky River, Squire, descending the waters of Station Camp Creek, discovered them.

Daniel's shelter had been plundered and destroyed, his horses and peltries had been stolen and Finley, Holden, Monay and Cool had disappeared, most of them never to be heard from again. The extreme perilousness of the situation in which the brothers then found themselves, is attested by the fact that within a few days John Stewart, their brother-in-law, was killed, as Filson has told, and Neely, in great alarm, left them precipitously in an attempt, which was unsuccessful, to return alone to the Yadkin. Death and disaster had overtaken both exploring parties, but Squire had found Daniel in the uncharted wilderness, and at the lowest ebb of his fortunes had brought him the companionship and relief he then so greatly needed. Perhaps it is not too much to suggest that in so doing Squire actually saved Daniel's life, and so enabled him to become, as he afterward declared, "an instrument ordanied by Providence to settle the wilderness."

Throughout the winter and early spring Squire remained with Daniel, the brothers roaming at will, like David and Jonathan, through the magnificent forests of the Bluegrass Country. Many choice spots were then visited and the broad bottom of the Kentucky River near the mouth of Otter Creek, where Fort Boonesborough was later erected, was no doubt then selected. In the court house yard at Richmond, Kentucky, stands a heavy tan sandstone slab on which the casual visitor may read: "1770 SQUIRE BOONE." It was found long years ago in a rough part of southern Madison County and may be looked upon as an enduring monument to this most eventful year not only in the Boone family but in the early history of Kentucky.

With the coming of May, Squire set out for the Yadkin, with the skins taken during the winter's hunt. When within a short distance of the settlements he was surprised and robbed of many of his furs by Indians. What he had left he exchanged for new horses to replace those stolen by the Indians, and also some very much needed powder and bullets. Dangerous as it was then, and especially at that time of the year to follow the Warrior's trail, in Eastern Kentucky, he made the trip, returning, as previously arranged, to Daniel's old shelter on Station Camp Creek July 27th, with all necessary new equipment.

In safely completing this hazardous journey of 700 miles or more, Squire had again demonstrated exceptional ability as a scout, a real achievement for a young man in his middle twenties. That danger had attended him step by step along the Indian war path no one need now doubt, forDaniel, recounting the incident to Filson, says: "Shortly after, we left this place, not thinking it safe to stay there longer, and proceeded to the Cumberland River, reconnoitering that part of the country until March, 1771 and giving names to the different waters." In the lovely month of April, Squire and Daniel returned to the Yadkin filled with the desire to make plans to remove their families to Kentucky. Truly these sons of old Squire Boone were enthralled with their new environs. Incomparable companions, their woodcraft excelled that of the Indian and their love of nature and philosophy of life caused them to find neither fault nor inhospitality the year around in this savage-infested wilderness of the west.

Four busy years slipped by and Squire Boone was in his early thirties. Seasoned woodsman, he had been on many hunting and fur trading expeditions and had had frequent brushes with the red men who were more and more inclined to foray against isolated cabins as the pioneer settlers moved gradually down the valley of Virginia to the West. Ten years of married life and Jane, his wife, had brought him a sizeable family of four boys, Jonathan, 1766; Moses, 1769; Isaiah, 1772; and Enoch, 1778; and one girl, Sarah, 1775. His time filled from daylight to dark providing food, clothing and other living essentials for his growing family, Squire the dependable husband and exemplary father, long removed from the influence of the Society of Friends and the Gwynedd Meeting House back in Eastern Pennsylvania, accepted the rugged Christian faith of the southern Appalachian uplands.

Reading his Bible nightly before the cabin fires as his children played on the floor about him and Jane, their mother busied herself with household tasks, Squire became conscious of the guiding Spirit of the Lord, found salvation and giving expression to an inward urge to take the Word to all people, became an occasional preacher at gatherings of the Calvinistic Baptists. The pioneering families living on the frontier of North Carolina and Virginia during that period immediately preceding the American Revolution were a remarkable group of people, strong of will and highly intelligent, but among their many notable and distinguishing characteristics, ecclesiastical erudition and sophistication were certainly not foremost. Squire Boone of the Yadkin settlements was in every respect a border man of the border breed, loved and admired for his simple and ardent faith in God and belief in the capabilities of his fellowmen. In him nature had nicely blended courage, common sense and an unfaltering spirit of independence—the stuff from which empire is made!

During the early part of March, 1775, with Daniel as leader and some thirty men in all, one of whom was Michael Stoner, Squire helped to cut out "the Wilderness Road," from Cumberland Gap, to the mouth of Otter Creek in Madison County, Kentucky. While enroute, on March 25, he took active part in the brush with the Indians, near the town of Richmond, that cost the life of Captain William Twetty and others, but escaped injury. A few days later when the party arrived on the "plain on the south side" of the Kentucky River, he assisted in the building of the *first* log fort or station at Boonesborough. Later he constructed a cabin for himself at Jerusha's Grove on Silver Creek, and commenced the building of a mill at "Boone's Old Mill Site." With Daniel, Squire acted as a delegate at the meeting of the first Legislature in Kentucky. It was held at Fort Boonesborough on May 25, 1775 and, as indicative of his interest as a hunter, Squire introduced a bill "to preserve the range."

During "the summer of 1775," as he deposed many years afterwards, Squire first visited the locality on Clear Creek in present-day Shelby County which later came to be known as "The Painted Stone." Here he "made a small improvement" for his brother-in-law, Benjamin Van Cleve, and thus early established title to the land he was later to preempt. In October

of this year he sold his Lincoln County cabin to Joseph Benz, and the land adjoining it to George Smith.

Early in the Spring of 1776 Squire piloted in safety a considerable party, consisting of his own family, Daniel's, some of the Bryans and others, over the Wilderness Trail from the Yadkin to Fort Boonesborough. Shortly after his arrival in Kentucky he again visited, in company with James Lee and William Moore, the tract he had previously selected for preemption on Clear Creek. Here he planted a crop of corn and erected a rectangular stone slab bearing his name in red to mark the place. Because of this incident and the important stockaded station he subsequently built and defended here, it later became widely known as "The Painted Stone." During the decade of active settlement in Kentucky, from 1780 to 1790, it was the only place of dependable refuge of the settlers in that great sweep of country between the forts at Harrodsburg on the south, Lexington on the east and Louisville on the west. Some twenty years afterwards—in 1796—Squire Boone, then middle aged, answering the summons of the Shelby County Court, returned to the locality of his old station on Clear Creek and identified the site of The Painted Stone Fort precisely as stated in the following deposition:

"SHELBY SCT. Pursuant to a commission to us directed from the County Court of Shelby we, John Warford, John Morris & Daniel Ketcham have met on the land claimed by John Waggoner to take on oath the depositions of such persons as shall be brought forward to prove the improvement boundary or any other special place called for on an entry for fourteen hundred acres on a settlement & preemption in the name of Benjamin Van-Cleave and also to ascertain and prove the place where 'The Painted Stone' was first erected; and further to do such acts and things in the premises as by law we are authorized and directed to do.

"We as commissioners, duly sworn & met as aforesaid at the place aforesaid, have caused to come before us Squire Boone Senr. aged about fifty three years this 28th day of November, 1796, who being first sworn deposeth and saith:

"In the summer in the year 1775, I this deponant came to the place where Boone's Station on Clear Creek was since built. I then made a small improvement, about one quarter of a mile North of where the Old Mill at said Boones Station now stands. In the spring of the year 1776, I came again to the same place, and took a stone out of the creek, and with a mill pick, picked my name, in full, and the date of the year thereon, and with red

paint, I painted the letters and figures all red. From which stone this Tract of land took the name of 'The Painted Stone' tract. The said stone was about one inch thick and eighteen inches long and wide. The place which I now show about one hundred yards above the said Old Mill, bank of the creek, is the place where I marked it as aforesaid and left it there until it was (about three years afterward) carried away by some person; and further saith not.

(Signed) Squire Boone

"We do hereby certify that the within named Squire Boone was sworn on the ground before us this 28th, day of November, 1796.

John Warford (Seal)
John Morris (Seal)
Danl. Ketcham (Seal)

"We the said commissioners do hereby certify that the place where a Coal Kill hath been burnt on the bank of the creek about the within mentioned old mill on the place that Squire Boone showed where 'The Painted Stone' was made and we do certify that on the present occasion we have had to attend us Geo. Boyd and Bryant ONeal two disinterested housekeepers of said county given under our hands & seals the said 28th day of November, 1796.

John Warford (Seal)
John Morris (Seal)
Daniel Ketcham (Seal)

"Shelby County Sct. December Court 1796.

"This deposition was returned and ordered to be recorded.

Att. James Craig, Clk.

"COPY ATTEST:

Lucy L. Ford, Clerk S.C.C.

By (Signed) Mary S. Maddox, D.C."

See Shelby County, Kentucky Court Records, Book B, No. 1, p. 294 (1796).

After thus carefully marking and improving his preemption on Clear Creek, Squire returned to be with his family at Fort Boonesborough. Here on August 7, 1776, he performed the first marriage in Kentucky, uniting in wedlock Samuel Henderson and Elizabeth Calloway. The groom was the younger brother of Colonel Richard Henderson and the bride, generally called "Betsey," was the eldest daughter of Colonel Richard Calloway. With her younger sister Fanny, and Jemima Boone, she but recently had been returned from the historic captivity which the Indians had effected on the north shore of the Kentucky River near the fort on July 14, 1776.

The year 1777 found Squire Boone and his family living in Harrod's Fort. While staying here his wife was shot at by Indians a number of times and narrowly escaped death. After returning safely from a trip to North Carolina on May 12 of this year, Squire, with some others, were attacked by Indians while gathering corn near the fort. A sharp and fatal encounter resulted in which Squire, with his silver hilted sword, killed an Indian who was attempting to scalp him. In this deadly encounter, Squire received a glancing blow on the head from a tomahawk. It resulted in a severe facial wound. When it finally healed it left a prominent scar which he carried during the remainder of his life. Later, on May 26th, he was shot by an Indian and, although he suffered a broken rib, he finally recovered. Speaking of the Fort Harrod encounter some years afterwards to one of his sons, he said that it was "the best little Indian fight I was ever in . . . both parties stood and fought so well."

During the midsummer of 1778, Squire Boone was at Fort Boonesborough, and assisted in the completion of the Fort and its defense against the attack of the Indians under the great Chief Black Fish—August 8 to 20th. He was one of the eight "forters" who advanced from the protecting walls of the stockade under a flag of truce and promised safety, to council with the Indians and their English officers before the hostilities began. Others were Daniel Boone, Richard Calloway, Flanders Calloway, William Hancock, Stephen Hancock, Major William Bailey Smith and William Buchanan.

When the treacherous duplicity of Black Fish and his red skin warriors became evident in the abortive hand shaking ceremony, and two Indians sprang by pre-arrangement upon each Kentuckian as they dashed from the council circles to the fort, Squire Boone, lingering somewhat behind to protect the retreat of others less agile than himself, was pounced upon by one savage after another. Eye witnesses, standing atop and within the walls of Fort Boonesborough, struck momentarily dumb with horror as the villainous scheme of the British officers and Indian chiefs to kill or capture this handful of leaders of the fort became apparent, saw the lithesome Squire Boone, cool and collected in the swift and deadly action which ensued, throw the catapulting dusky warriors off from his body "like so many little children."

Freed by his own strength of his encumbering adversaries,

Squire had run but a few steps toward the fort when he was hit by a rifle ball that knocked him to the ground. Rising immediately, though badly wounded, he made for the fort again, the last of those seeking its walled protection. When he reached it, the great gate which had been kept ajar for the entry of the retreating councilmen, had been closed and barred. Undismayed, in a raking rifle fire from the nearby forest, he darted along the stockade wall and entered by a disguised cabin door that had been designed for just such emergencies.

The great siege of Boonesborough then began in earnest, with some three hundred or more savages, encouraged by British officers and renegade white Americans, pouring an almost continuous hail of bullets and flaming arrows on to the walls and roofs of the fort. As long as he could stand, disregarding the excrutiating pain in his shoulder, Squire assisted in the defense of the Fort. Knowing the great fear with which all Indians regarded the "wheeled guns" of the Americans, he made two imitation cannons out of black gum logs and bound them with encircling strip iron made from old wagon tires. When fired one burst with a deafening roar; the other charged with twenty-ounce rifle balls delivered its deadly load on a group of Indians with devastating effect. Its report, so similar to that of a real cannon, caused much fright among the Indians, who withdrew to safer and more distant cover.

Toward the end of the siege, the flaming arrows of the Indians falling on the dry board roofs of the cabins threatened the destruction of Fort Boonesborough by fire. In this emergency, legend has it, Squire unbreached some old muskets and inserted wooden pistons, and used these obsolete weapons effectually, as improvised squirt guns to throw small quantities of water on the burning arrows as they fell on the roofs. At last, unable to longer stand the increasing pain in the festering wound in his shoulder, he was forced to his bed beside which he placed a favorite broad ax for what he called "the last action." At this stage, a lull came in the attack. Daniel, seizing the opportunity, turned momentarily aside to his brother's aid, and Squire, with only his inborn courage to sustain him, submitted to the opening of his wound with a hunting knife in the hand of his brother, and the removal of the Indian bullet which had imbedded itself against the shoulder bone.

Early in the year 1779 Squire Boone again moved his family for a time to Fort Harrod. Later he removed them by boat

down the Kentucky and Ohio rivers to Louisville. He appeared before the Kentucky district land court sitting in Louisville on November 22, 1779, and secured a certificate to a settlement of 400 acres and an adjoining preemption of 1000 acres on Silver Creek in what is now Madison County, Kentucky. This tract of 1400 acres became well known during the period of settlement as "the Stockfields." The record of the court in this instance states:

"Squire Boone this day claimed a settlement & preemption to a tract of Land lying on Silver Creek known by the name of Stockfields a branch of the Kentucky, by improving the same & raising a crop of Corn in the year 1776 and residing in the Country ever since. Satisfactory proof being made to the Court they are of Opinion that the said Boone has a right to a settlement of 400 Acres of Land to include the said improvement & the preemption of 1000 adjoining and that a certificate issue accordingly."

Later, on the same day, Squire Boone caused another certificate to be issued by the Court "for and in behalf of Benjamin VanCleve," his brother-in-law, to a settlement of 400 acres and an adjoining preemption of 1000 acres on Clear Creek known as the "Painted Stone."

"Squire Boone for and in behalf of Benj. Vancleve this day claimed a settlement & preemption to a tract of Land lying on Clear Creek known by the name of the Painted Stone a branch of Brashiers Creek a branch of Salt River by the said Vancleve's Improving the same & raising a Crop of Corn in the year 1776. Satisfactory proof being made to the Court they are of Opinion that the said Vancleve has a right to a settlement of 400 Acres of Land including the said Improvement & the preemption of 1000 Acres of Land adjoining and that a Certificate issue accordingly."

(The two foregoing descriptions are quoted from Certificate Book of the Virginia Land Commission, *The Register* of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Volume 21, January, 1923, pages 55, 56.)

On December 7, 1779, Squire Boone made entry for this preemption of 400 acres—"The Painted Stone in what was then Jefferson, but is now Shelby County. Indian troubles, however, caused him to defer an early settlement on this Bluegrass homestead. Accordingly he purchased some lots in Louisville on high ground near the mouth of Bear Grass Creek and erected a cabin. He signed the early petitions of 1779 and 1780 presented by the residents of Louisville to the Legislature of Virginia for

the establishment of the town. He—a Baptist—is said to have preached the first sermon in Louisville. During the late summer or fall of this year he erected his station at "The Painted Stone."

In the Spring of 1780, Squire Boone, accompanied by his wife and children, removed from the settlement at the Falls of the Ohio and occupied "The Painted Stone" fort on Clear Creek. The traveller of today will find the land on which this important and historic stockade once stood in central Shelby County, about two and one-half miles North and a little east of Shelbyville, Kentucky. Here on the Eminence Pike, near Mr. Wilson T. Layson's gate, one may see a small rectangular bronze tablet mounted on an old mill stone on which appears the following appropriate inscription:

Boone's Station or The Painted Stone, One Half Mile West on Clear Creek, Settled in 1779 by Squire Boone, Evan Hinton, Peter Raul. Erected by Isaac Shelby Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. 1779. 1927.

Scarcely had Squire Boone established himself with a few other daring pioneers in the new fort when the Indians began to be troublesome. But his high courage and sagacity during these Indian attacks drew other settlers to him and on June 23 of this year he was Captain of a company of border militia stationed at the "Painted Stone" Fort. The names of twenty-three members of the company of Indian fighters have been preserved in the following letter by Squire Boone:

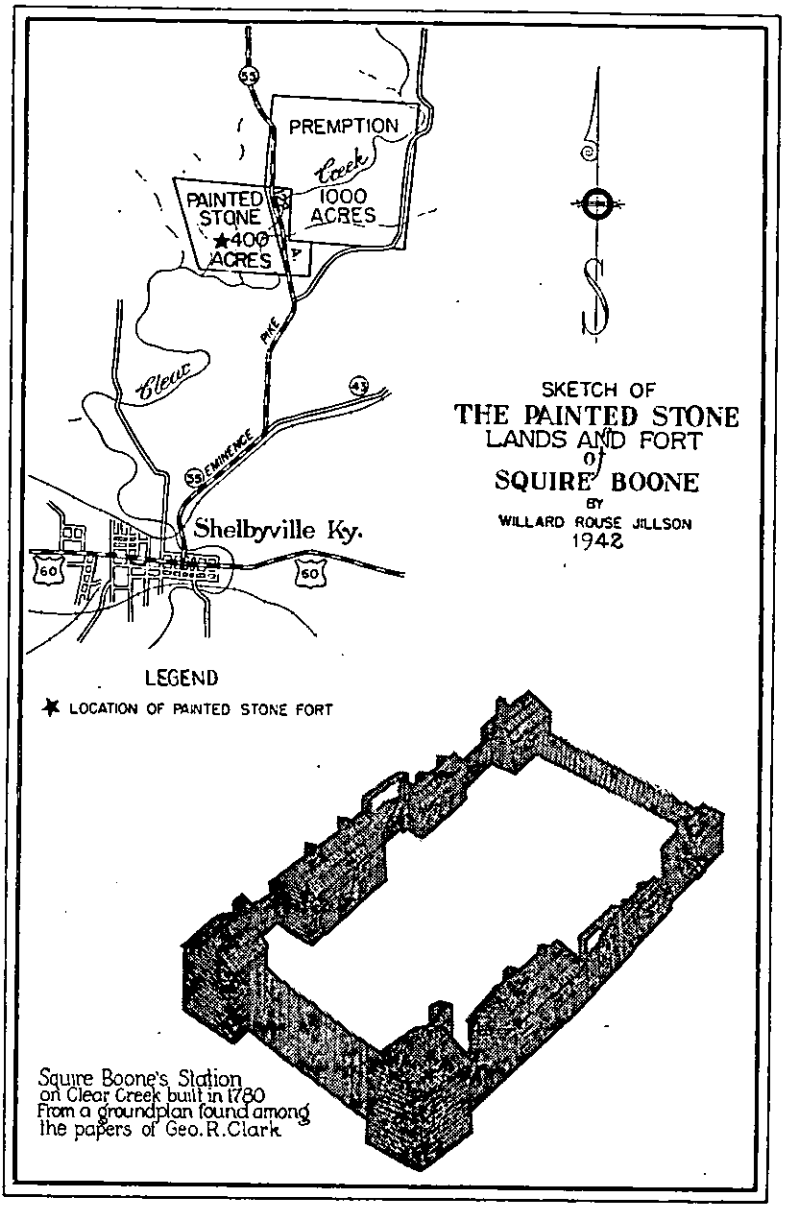
Painted Stone, Ky.
June 28, 1780.

To Col. Bowman:
Sir:

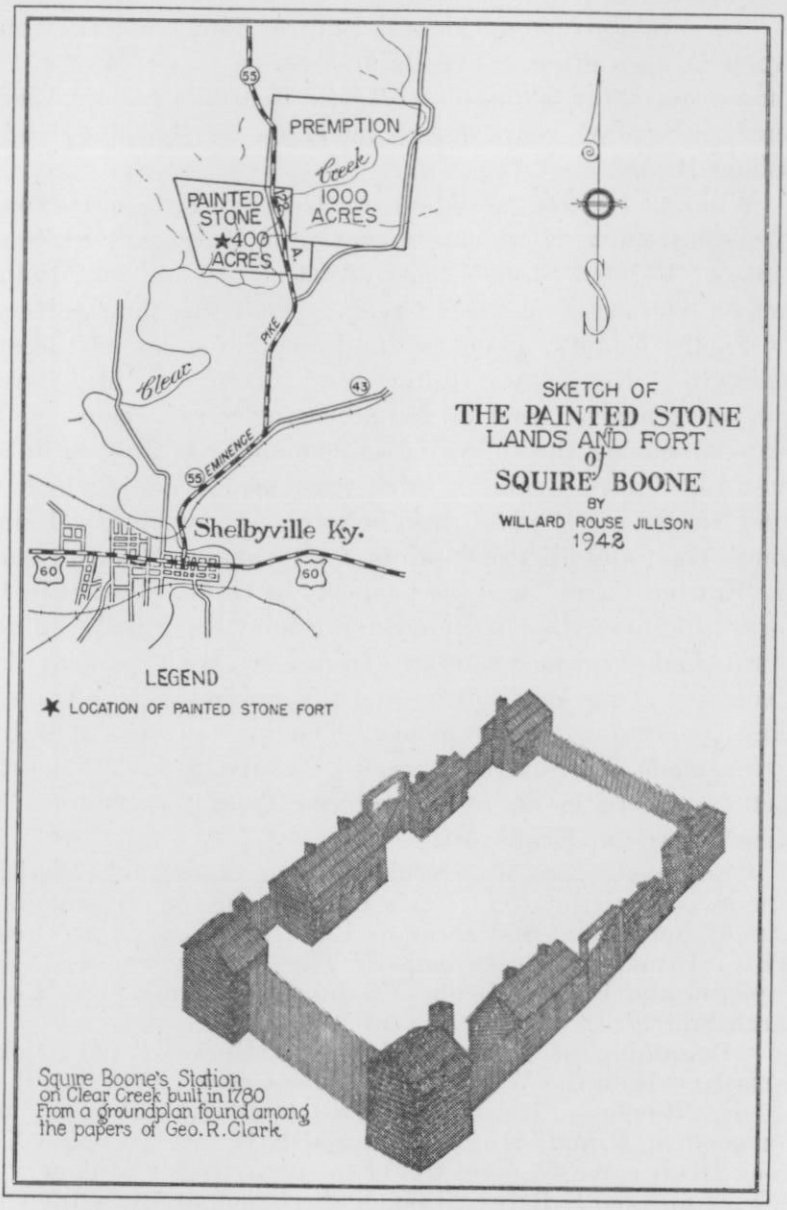
I have sent you a list of our strength. I know not if it is necessary to Right down their names. Nevertheless being little trouble I have done it. Our strength is 23 men, to-wit:

Squire Boone, Captain
Alex Bryant
John Buckler
Richard Cates
Charles Doelman
John Eastwood
Joseph Eastwood
Jeremiah Harris
Abraham Holt
Morgan Hughes
Evan Hinton
John McFadden
John Nichols
Peter Raul
John Stapleton
Robert Tyler
Abraham Van Meter
Allen Wickersham
Jacob Wickersham
Peter Wickersham
James Wright
George Yunt

Squire Boone



Sketch of THE PAINTED STONE, lands and fort, of Squire Boone, north of Shelbyville, Kentucky. Squire Boone's Station built in 1780, was on Clear Creek.



Sketch of THE PAINTED STONE, lands and fort, of Squire Boone, north of Shelbyville, Kentucky. Squire Boone's Station built in 1780, was on Clear Creek.

During the period of 1780-81, while serving as justice of the peace in Jefferson County, Squire Boone married many couples at his station, "The Painted Stone." On May 9, 1780, he made entry for 500 acres on Little Benson Creek in Lincoln County. Several years later—in 1796—he sold the land to William Bryan.

William Peyton, assistant to George May, surveyor of Jefferson County, Kentucky, surveyed on March 8, 1781, Squire Boone's "Painted Stone" tract of 400 acres, and an adjoining tract of 1000 acres on Clear Creek in what was then Jefferson, now Shelby County, about two and one-half miles northeast of Shelbyville, Kentucky. Later, on March 31, Mr. Peyton surveyed a nearby tract of 250 acres for Sarah Boone on Fox Run, and during the following midsummer, on July 8, he surveyed for Squire Boone, a third tract of 122 acres which was found to lie on Clear Creek between his original "Painted Stone" tract and his preemption of 1000 acres. Squire Boone's old "Station Farm" was the property of G. W. Stewart in 1882 as shown by the Atlas of Henry and Shelby Counties, Kentucky. Stewart had purchased it in 1863 from a Mr. Gwinn. Years later he sold it to Charles Johnson and through successive transfers it has passed to its present owner. The three surveys of William Peyton made for Squire Boone's "Painted Stone" homestead tracts are here given as reproduced from the original land office records at Frankfort.

"Surveyed for Mr. Squire Boone assee. of Benjamin Vanclieve, by virtue of a Certificate from the Commissioners for right of Settlement 400 acres of Land lying on Clear Creek a fork of Brashears Creek called "The Painted Stone." John Stapleton and Phillip Nicolas Chainmen Squire Boone Marker. March 8th, 1781.

"Beginning at a large white oak Buckeye and Hickory marked So B on the West side of Clear Creek Extending thence S 21 E 270 poles to B a Honey locust small Walnut Wht. Thorn Ironwood and small Hickory marked S B (at 120 poles X the Creek) thence W 263 poles to C two sugar-trees a Mulberry and Hickory marked S B (at 20 po. X the Creek at 106 x the Creek again) thence N 21 W 270 to D two small sugartrees and a Mulberry marked So B (at 28 poles X the Creek) thence E 253 poles to the beginning.

William Peyton, Asst.
Geo. May, S J C

Jefferson County
Variation 3° East

"Surveyed for Mr. Squire Boone, by virtue of a Preemption Warrant 1000 acres of Land on both sides of Clear Creek a fork of Brashears Creek adjoining his Settlement called 'The Painted Stone Tract.' John Stapleton and Robt. Tyler, Chainmen Squire Boone, Marker.

"Beginning at a large white oak buckeye and Hickory marked So B corner of the Settlement Extending thence E 99 poles to an Elm Ironwood Hickory and white oak marked So B on the side of a hill near the Creek, thence S 153 po. (X the Creek at 7 po. again at 64 po. and again at 100) to a Hickory Elm and Ironwood marked S B thence E 331 poles to two white ash and Sugartree marked S. B thence N 408 poles (at 310 X the Creek again at 404 po.) to a white oak and buckeye marked So B on the East side of the Creek, thence W 430 po. (x the Creek at 6 po.) to a sugartree and ask & white oak marked So B, thence South 255 poles to the Beginning.

March 8, 1781
Variation 3° East William Peyton, Asst.
Geo. May, S J C

"Surveyed for Mr. Squire Boone by virtue of a Treasury Warrant 122 acres of Land on both sides of Clear Creek adjoining his Settlement and preemption called 'The Painted Stone Tract.' John Stapleton & Asam Wickersham Chainman, Squire Boone Marker. July 8, 1781.

"Beginning at a Honey locust small walnut and white Thorn Ironwood and small hickory marked So B corner to his Settlement, Extending thence E 67 poles to a Hoopwood and Sugar Tree growing from one root and two buckeye marked So B thence N 100 poles to a Honey locust Walnut and Buckeye marked So B in the line of his preemption thence with the said line W 67 poles to a Hickory Elm and Ironwood marked So B corner to the preemption thence with another of the said lines N 153 poles to an Elm Ironwood Hickory and White oak marked So B another of the said corners thence with another of the said lines W 99 poles to a large white oak buckeye and Hickory marked So B corner to the Settlement thence S 21 E° 270 poles to the Beginning.

Will Peyton Asst.
Geo May S. F. C.

Variation 3° E
Jefferson County

In April, 1781, at sunrise while clearing land for spring planting near his station, a number of men "forting" with Squire Boone were attacked by Indians. One of the men in the party of axmen, eluding the savages, ran to the fort and gave

the alarm. Squire Boone garbed only in a white shirt—a rare garment in those days—and ten or twelve others grabbed their rifles and rushed toward the field where the firing was in progress. Unknown to them some Indians, anticipating this sortie by Captain Boone and his riflemen, had hidden behind brush piles on either side of their path. As the settlers passed on the run to relieve their companions, the savages fired on them, killing some and wounding others. Among those injured was Squire Boone who was covering the retreat of Alexander Bryan. He received two bullet wounds, one in his right arm and the other in his right side. The fight was soon over and the Indians disappeared into the forest. Squire then returned to the Fort where his wounds became so serious that it was thought for a while that he would not live. He finally recovered, however, but his arm had been shattered and was always thereafter badly crippled and one and one-half inches shorter than the other. It is told that afterwards, Simon Girty, the renegade white who led the attack and planned the Indian strategy, used to laugh and boast about how "he had made Squire Boone's shirt tail fly."

During the late spring and summer of 1781 Indian attacks became so numerous it was finally decided in September to abandon the "Painted Stone" station. All the "forters" left except the families of Squire Boone and the Widow Hinton, for whom there were not enough horses. When some twelve miles west of Boone's fort and still eight miles from Linn's Station, this party was ambushed by a large band of Indians and many of them slaughtered in cold blood. After the defeat of Colonel John Floyd, who went to their relief on September 15th, a party of some 300 men from the Falls of the Ohio stations came out, buried the dead and then marched to the relief of Boone's Station about the 17th, of September. Those remaining at the "Painted Stone," including Squire Boone, still an invalid from gunshot, were conducted in safety to the forts at Louisville. Some two weeks or so later Squire returned after dark to see if any damage had been done by the Indians to his station and crops. Finding them unmolested he started back to the Falls and about midnight slept close to his horse on the waters of Long Run. At daylight he discovered some Indians had camped close to him, but as he was outnumbered he slipped away without

firing a shot which—he many times afterwards said—he greatly regretted.

While suffering from the old wound in his left shoulder, inflicted during the siege of Boonesborough, and the newer wounds in his right breast and right arm gained in the defense of his own station, the "Painted Stone," Squire Boone was elected and served as a representative of Jefferson County, Virginia, in the House of Delegates in Richmond from May to December, 1782. During his absence he removed his family again to Harrod's Fort for safety.

In the unhealed wounds of his body, Squire Boone, with his backwoods manner and plain hunter's garb of doeskin and leather stocking bore to the Virginia Assembly an appeal for the settlers of the west more eloquent and touching than the mouth of man could utter. Throughout the remainder of his life he fondly recalled the handsome reception and generous attentions of his fellow legislators and the warm hearted people of Richmond to whom his appeals for the brave defenders of Virginia's western waters were not urged in vain.

During the winter of 1782-83 Squire Boone lived a few miles northeast of Harrod's Fort, possibly on Cane Run, on a tract he had purchased from Col. John Bowman. In the Fall of 1783, after having visited Eastern Virginia, he returned to Kentucky with his cousin, Samuel Boone, who had taught him gunsmithing. Organizing a small party he returned to the "Painted Stone" preemption on Clear Creek, only to find that his cabon and stockade had been reduced to ashes. The nearest station then was Linn's, some thirty miles away to the west, toward the Falls of the Ohio.

In 1784-85 Squire Boone rebuilt the "Painted Stone" station and completed the acquisition of much land in Shelby and adjacent counties. Later he built a grist and saw mill at his station. At various times he made entry for a total of more than 58,000 acres of Bluegrass farmland, and the records of Kentucky's land office at Frankfort show that more than 10,600 acres, based on these entries, were granted to him by the Commonwealth. Aside from his preemption, his method of land acquisition was to take by agreement the Virginia treasury warrants of wealthy men who did not care to risk the hazards of the West, make the entries, execute the surveys with clear title and give them half of what he obtained. He also frequently

agreed to clear land on much the same terms and thus became during his time the largest landowner in what is now Shelby County. Though his manner was simple his prestige as an Indian fighter, pioneer leader and landowner was great throughout the Western Country. He became a member of the first Kentucky Convention at Danville, sitting as a delegate from Lincoln County.

Despite continued Indian troubles Squire lived at the "Painted Stone" station through 1785 and a part of 1786. About this time, land losses and increasing debt caused him to sell for a trifling sum his old station and other land possessions, including his lots in Louisville which he deeded to John Filson, Kentucky's first historian. He then purchased Samuel Wills' station, three miles farther west, and, in the early part of 1786, removed his family there. Again he went as a delegate from the Kentucky to Virginia, this time to ratify the Constitution of the United States.

Discouraged by his increasing land losses in 1787, he left Kentucky, with his son Isaiah and his cousin Samuel Boone, and attempted a settlement at Chicasaw Bluffs at the mouth of the Yazoo River, near present-day Vicksburg, Mississippi. Indians, resentful of his intrusion, again caused him to move on and he dropped down the Mississippi River to New Orleans where he accepted Spanish protection, opened a gun shop, and remained three years.

In 1790 he returned to Kentucky with little except his gun—all of his personal property having been confiscated by the Spanish authority. Dissatisfied with conditions as he found them here in 1791, he journeyed overland to St. Simon's Island in Florida where, for a time, he prospered. But family affairs called him to the North and, in the summer of 1792, he returned by boat to Philadelphia, and then to Berks County in Pennsylvania, where he remained with his wife and relatives for three years.

In 1795 he recrossed the Allegheny ranges for the last time and returned to the home of his son Jonathan in Shelby County, Kentucky. While there on September 15, 1796, he deeded 500 acres of land located on Little Benson Creek in Franklin County, Kentucky, to William Bryan, a relative of his brother Daniel, for £100 current money of Kentucky. (Franklin County Court Records, Frankfort, Kentucky, Book A, page 85.)

Just before the turn of the century, in 1799, Squire, giving way to a desire that had long impelled him, joined Daniel and his family and went to Missouri. Here he spent a year or two, took up a grant of 700 acres a few miles from Daniel's location, on the Quiver River, and began building a stone house. About this time two of his sons came out to visit him and look over the country. Finding it not to their liking they persuaded Squire to return to Kentucky and join his family in Shelby County.

Shortly after his arrival in 1802, he conveyed land on Silver Creek in Madison County to Basset Prather and others. About this time his great land holdings began to dwindle rapidly under the pressure of numerous land attorneys. Back and unpaid taxes were due on much of his land and he had no money with which to meet these necessary obligations. In this extremity, facing dire adversity and overwhelming indebtedness, the loss of his landed estates and merciless court action by land sharks, on May 18th, 1804, in his former home on his "Painted Stone" preemption tract in Shelby County, he issued his heartbreaking statement in which he said that he was "principaled against going into the town of Shelbyville upon any business whatsoever." Shortly thereafter he was imprisoned in Louisville for debts he could not pay, but was soon released by friends who were moved to pity by his extenuated circumstances.

Greatly discouraged over the Kentucky outlook, in 1806, Squire Boone removed for the last time from Kentucky. He was accompanied by his sons, Isaiah, Moses, Jonathan, and Enoch and many kinsfolk. Their path led to Indiana where Squire established a new settlement in Harrison County at a point about twenty-five miles northwest of Louisville. Here he soon started the building of a stone house which he called "Travellers Rest." Close to it he constructed a small mill which he, and subsequently his son, Isaiah, operated. As an old man he again took up gunsmithing and was generally useful.

With increasing years Squire's religious impulses, overriding his Indian fighting proclivities, became increasingly dominant and found, in some instances, curious outlets for their expression. Among these were his attempts at verse, some lines of which at various and odd times he carved on sizeable building stones, "packed" in himself from distant fields, and implanted conspicuously in the outside walls of his new Indiana home.

Typical of the couplets which have been thus preserved are the following:

"I set and sing my soul's salvation
And bless the God of my Creation."

"Keep close your intention
For fear of prevention."

"My God my life hath much befriended,
I'll praise him till my days are ended."

With his older brother Daniel, Squire Boone was given standing as a Revolutionary soldier-officer by Congress in 1813. This action by the National Assembly speaking for the American people was entirely appropriate for Squire had valiantly served throughout the Indian wars attending the settlement of Kentucky. During the most trying years of this sanguinary period—1779 to 1784—he built, occupied, and, as the elected Captain of a company of frontier militia, defended one of Kentucky's most important and formidable stockaded outposts—The Painted Stone Fort. His personal record in these desultory but continuous Indian wars, which were, in fact, for many years the American Revolution in the West, is perhaps incomparable in leadership and personal combat. His career as an Indian fighter began in the fall of 1769 when, without a guide, he brought relief to Daniel in the heart of the Kentucky wilderness after his escape from his first Indian captivity. He fought the Indians in bloody battles on the headwaters of the Clinch River in 1770, in Powell's Valley in 1773, at Twetty's Fort in 1775, at Harrod's Fort in 1777, at Fort Boonesborough in 1778, at the Painted Stone in 1780, 1781 and 1782. He was severely wounded eleven times, the scars and crippling of which he carried throughout the remainder of his life. On several occasions, notably at Fort Boonesborough and Fort Harrod, he fought bloody hand-to-hand encounters with Indians, always besting his crafty and audacious opponent. While others about him in these engagements fell beneath the tomahawk and scalping knife of the savage, his skill and prowess sufficed to meet the rapidly changing exigencies of each sanguinary battle. Frequently shot in the body and limbs by Indian rifleball, he always managed, no matter how hard-pressed or difficult the situation, to escape impending captivity. This perhaps, as much as any other achievement of his career, may be seen as an index to his

superior mentality and character, personal endowments, unfortunately, not always shared by his fellow scouts and pioneers.

In August, 1815, in his 71st year, Squire Boone died, and was buried by his request in a cave in which, legend says, he had once taken refuge to escape the pressing attack of a band of scalp-hunting savages. This cavern may be seen today on an Indiana hillside two to three miles north of Brandenburg, Kentucky. A well authenticated tradition has it that when Squire realized that his end was approaching he gathered his children to him and then gave expression to his interest in the possibility of proving life after death. Indicating his desire to be buried in the natural tomb he had selected, he caused his sons to promise to wait at the mouth of the cavern for several hours after his body had finally been laid there to rest. True to their word his sons after laying all that was mortal of their beloved parent in the cave, waited throughout the night at a camp they made on the slope just beneath the entrance to the rugged tomb, but received no communication from their father's departed spirit.

So passed Captain Squire Boone onto the long out trail of life. Early explorer of the West, Indian fighter, pioneer, preacher, border statesman and leader of important settlement in Kentucky, Missouri and Indiana, though he missed somewhat the popular acclaim accorded to many of his contemporaries, particularly his elder brother Daniel, he was in his own right a brave, resolute and God-fearing man whose special capabilities of mind and body made it possible for him to serve with much distinction in a number of fields which has added much luster to the name of Boone on the beginning pages of the history of Kentucky.

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SHELBY COUNTY CLERK

Deed: Squire Boone to Brackett Owen. 46 acres on Mulberry Creek a branch of Brashears Creek in Jefferson County, Kentucky. Book A, p. 31. Shelbyville, Kentucky. April 21, 1792.
Hereafter follow in Books B, C, D, G, H, J, K, and L, some thirty odd separate deeds up to February 25, 1814 covering, mostly Shelby County but also some Lincoln and Franklin Counties lands.

Deposition of Squire Boone. Identification of the Painted Stone tract of 1522 acres on Clear Creek about 2½ miles northeast of Shelbyville, Kentucky. Deed Book B, No. 1, p. 294. November 28, 1796.
Authentic statement of Squire Boone, Jr.

Deposition of Squire Boone. Identification of the James Lee tract near the Painted Stone boundary on Clear Creek, northeast of Shelbyville, Kentucky. Deed Book B, No. 1, p. 296. December 14, 1796.
Sworn statement of Squire Boone, Jr.

SLAUGHTER, ELVIRA MILLER

Squire Boone. A letter, Point of View Column, *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, Kentucky, April 24, 1932.
Numerous biographical notes interspersed with amazing historical errors.

SMITH, Z. F.

The History of Kentucky. 916 pp. Illust. (Sfr. pp. 6, 7, 36, 48, 134, 173, 178.) Courier-Journal Job Printing Company, Louisville, Kentucky. 1892.

Details the usual early adventures of Squire Boone and his brother Daniel in Kentucky from 1769 to 1777. Outlines the erection of the fortified "Painted Stone" station on Clear Creek by Squire Boone and party in 1779. Names forters.

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The Boone Family, etc. 691 pp. Illust. (Sfr. pp. 72-83.) The Tuttle Company, Rutland, Virginia. 1922.

Sketch of Squire Boone. Notes on the life and adventures of Squire Boone of Kentucky.

SWEM, E. G., AND WILLIAMS, JOHN W.

A Register of the General Assembly of Virginia: 1776-1918, etc. 450 pp. (Sfr. p. 15.) Richmond, Virginia. 1918.

Cites Squire Boone as a member of the House of Delegates of Virginia Sessions, May, 1782-December 28, 1782.

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WILLIS, GEORGE L., SR.

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Comments critically on the letter of Clarence E. Woods, of Sidney, Illinois, relative to Squire Boone.

One Hundred Fifty Years Ago. *The Shelby Sentinel*, Shelbyville, Kentucky. February 7, 1933.

Two important depositions of Squire Boone, November 28, 1796, and December 14, 1796, taken from the Shelby County, Kentucky, Court records.

History of Shelby County, Kentucky. 268 pp. (Sfr. pp. 21, 22, 45, 47, 139, 142.) C. T. Dearing Printing Company, Louisville, Kentucky. 1929.

Brief accounts of Squire Boone's settlement and erection of his station—The Painted Stone Fort—on Clear Creek in 1779, then Jefferson, now Shelby County, Kentucky. Sketch of Squire Boone's life following Richard Collins in the main.