

DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST HISTORIC SITES

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INTRODUCTION

The Daniel Boone National Forest, located in portions of 22 counties in Eastern Kentucky, administers over one-half million acres of Government-owned land under the multiple-use concept for the principal natural resources of timber, water, wildlife, and recreation. However, the area within the proclamation and purchase unit boundaries of Kentucky's only national forest also encompasses a great wealth of historic sites involving the early history of the settlement of the middle west and places and events famous in history, song, and story. These events form a fifth natural resource of the Daniel Boone National Forest. I would like to describe very briefly some of the major sites, and the happenings which made them famous.

I

THE ROWAN COUNTY WAR

THE TOLLIVER-MARTIN FEUD—1884-1887

August, 1884

In an election brawl in Morehead, Kentucky, involving a number of individuals who had been drinking, and including John Martin and his friend Solomon Bradley, both Republicans, and Floyd Tolliver, a Democrat, shots were fired and Bradley was killed. John Martin accused Floyd Tolliver of firing the shots and Floyd Tolliver accused John Martin.

"The feud was on."

The Grand Jury which met in Rowan County shortly thereafter charged Floyd Tolliver, John Martin, and John C. Day (Acting Sheriff at the time of the shooting) with malicious shooting, wounding, and murder.

November, 1884

During the November term of court in Rowan County, at which the

case involving the three individuals charged above was to be tried, Floyd Tolliver and John Martin, both of whom had been drinking, met in the Galt House, Morehead, Kentucky, had "words" — pistols flashed — Floyd Tolliver was killed. Many members of the Tolliver family, one of whom was Craig Tolliver and who normally lived in Elliott County, assembled in Morehead and, as a group, swore to kill John Martin.

November 9, 1884

As a result of these threats County Judge Stewart, of Rowan County, suspended the preliminary trial and moved John Martin from the Rowan County jail to the Winchester, Kentucky, jail in Clark County as a means of avoiding violence and in the hope that the hot tempers of the Tollivers would cool somewhat before the case came to trial.

At this Craig Tolliver took command of his family group. He arranged for the name of Judge Stewart to be forged in signature on an order directing the return of John Martin from the Winchester, Kentucky, jail to the Morehead jail.

NOVEMBER 15, 1884 — MARCH, 1885

By the direction of Craig Tolliver, Town Marshal Alvin Bowling of Farmers, Kentucky, who apparently was a member of the Tolliver faction, was sent to Winchester with the forged order and five armed guards to return John Martin to the Rowan County jail at Morehead. On his arrival at Winchester, John Martin protested loudly to the jailor that these men belonged to the faction which had sworn to kill him, that he would never reach the Morehead jail alive and demanded that the jailer verify with Judge Stewart that he had actually issued this order. His request was denied by the jailor at Winchester and John Martin, with his hands handcuffed and his legs shackled, was placed on the train to Morehead. His wife had visited him in the Winchester jail earlier in the afternoon and was on the same train but in a different car and did not know that her husband had been placed on the train. When the train stopped at the town of Farmers in Rowan County, a band of masked and armed men boarded it, moved directly to the car in which John Martin was held, and riddled his body with lead. His wife, in the car ahead, heard his screams. By the time she reached the car where he was held, John Martin's body was almost unrecognizable.

Deputy Sheriff Stewart Baumgartner, of Rowan County, had stated in public that "the Tollivers should be prosecuted." A few days later he was killed while traveling on the public road by an ambush which riddled his body with buckshot.

April, 1885

A few days following the above incident, Rowan County Attorney Taylor Young was ambushed at the same spot and shot through the shoulder. Taylor Young had had enough. He left Rowan County and moved to another part of the country as did many other prominent citizens.

Spring, 1885

Sheriff Cook Humphrey of Rowan County with his deputies and local supporters fought a gun battle for several hours from the Carey House in Morehead with a group of heavily armed Tollivers and their followers from Elliott County. While the buildings were fairly well riddled with bullets and a few wounds resulted, no one was killed. As a result of this battle which lasted several hours, more local citizens moved their families out of Morehead.

Shortly after this one of the Tolliver associates, who had gotten in trouble in another County and had been sentenced to seven years in prison, made what he called a confession by saying that the sisters of John Martin and Sheriff Humphrey had paid him to shoot Taylor Young from ambush, had paid him \$2.50 per day and whiskey while following Young and offered \$250.00 when Young was killed. It appears that this alleged "confession" was another move by the Tollivers to discredit the family of John Martin and it was apparent that Craig Tolliver and his followers would leave no stone unturned to accomplish this fact.

LAST SATURDAY OF JULY, 1885

Craig Tolliver had been elected Town Marshal of Morehead by the simple means of surrounding all of the election polling spots with heavily armed Tollivers who threatened voters that they must vote for Craig Tolliver. On this last Saturday of July, 1885, Craig Tolliver, using the information in the "confession," swore out warrants for the two Martin sisters, Ann and Sue Martin, and for Sheriff Humphrey, accused as accessories to the shooting of Taylor Young. He took approximately twenty armed Tollivers with him when he went to the Martin sisters' home about six miles from Morehead.

Sheriff Humphrey, of Rowan County, realized what was going on and tried to protect Mrs. Martin and her daughters. The boyfriend of Sue Martin, Ben Rayborn by name and deputized by Sheriff Humphrey, also accompanied Sheriff Humphrey to the Martin home.

About 9 o'clock on Sunday morning the Tollivers, after having spent the night surrounding the house, attacked the Martin home by gunfire riddling it with bullets. Mrs. Martin, her three daughters, Sheriff Humphrey, and Ben Rayborn barricaded themselves on the second floor

armed with a rifle, a pistol, and an old shotgun. Craig Tolliver tried to rush the stairway and was shot in the face with the shotgun. Sue Martin was able to slip out the back door and went to Morehead for help. On her arrival there she was arrested and jailed by others of the Tolliver faction in accordance with the warrants sworn out by Craig Tolliver.

After Craig Tolliver was shot in the face with the shotgun, he tried to intercept Sue Martin on her way to Morehead and fired two pistol shots at her but she eluded him and escaped. He then ordered that his party set fire to the house. With the firing of the house it became apparent to those inside that they would have to leave or be burned to death. Mrs. Martin agreed to run to the stable first to attract the attention of the attackers while the Sheriff and Ben Rayborn ran across a cornfield to the woods. Mrs. Martin's run for the stable held the attention of the attackers only briefly and immediately they detected the two men running across the cornfield. Rayborn was hit initially by three bullets and went down. Sheriff Humphrey's clothing was penetrated by several bullets but he was not wounded and escaped to Morehead. The attackers, after rifling the pockets of Rayborn and taking his money and other possessions, left his body where it fell. Mrs. Martin and her other two daughters were not harmed, but Ann Martin, the other daughter charged in the warrant, was lodged in the Morehead jail with her sister Sue. Sheriff Humphrey resigned his office in disgust. The Tollivers named their man, William Ramey, in his place as Sheriff.

July 2, 1886

July 2, 1886 was county court day in Morehead. This was accompanied by the usual heavy drinking and loud talk by members of both factions. As a result of an interchange of hard words in the store of Howard M. Logan, his son, W. O. Logan, was shot by Deputy Sheriff Henry Ramey of the Tolliver Clan. The resulting uproar required the calling in of troops to restore order in Morehead.

October, 1886

Store owner Howard M. Logan, whose son had been killed in July, was wounded from ambush while going to his store in Morehead. He and his family moved out of east Kentucky permanently. At this time Craig Tolliver boasted that he would run every Logan out of Rowan County.

June 7, 1887

A doctor, Henry S. Logan, who lived but a short distance out of Morehead, was arrested and jailed on a fabricated charge by the Tollivers. He had two sons, Billy and Jack, the eldest of which was about

25 years old and very sickly, the younger about 19 years old and studying for the ministry. Craig Tolliver (Police Magistrate) accompanied by Marshal Buck Manning and a ten-man posse, four of which were Tollivers, attacked the home of Doctor Logan, set fire to it and killed both sons as they ran for the woods. Their bodies were mutilated by stomping with heavy boot heels.

At this point we find a cousin of the two boys who were killed, D. Boone Logan, who took up the fight. He was later to be nicknamed "The Man Unafraid." He immediately appealed to Governor Knott of Kentucky for protection and for prosecution of the killers of his cousins. He was told by Governor Knott that the Governor was helpless to intervene but was given the information that, should a law officer armed with a warrant for the Tollivers, attempt to serve it and be resisted, the supporters of the officer trying to serve the warrant would be within their rights to use force to assist him in serving it.

This piece of advice gave Boone Logan an idea. He organized about 100 men of the better element of the town into a resolute group who would operate under his leadership. He purchased 60 high-power Winchester rifles and ammunition in Cincinnati and shipped into town in boxes labeled furniture. He was ready for the *test*. Deputy Sheriff George Hogg, who had accompanied Craig Tolliver and his posse in the attack on the home of Dr. Logan, but who said he ran away when the shooting started, was selected to serve the warrant for Craig Tolliver with the citizens group of Morehead, 100 in number, to support him.

June 22, 1887

On June 22, 1887, Cousin Boone Logan and his followers decided to have a showdown with the Tolliver faction. Deputy Sheriff Hogg was sent out to serve the warrant on Craig Tolliver in the American House, which he operated as a saloon and as a headquarters for his faction. The Tolliver group were prepared and opened fire before the warrant could be presented and Deputy Sheriff Hogg left for parts unknown. The citizens group, led by Boone Logan, opened fire on the American House and on the Central Hotel where some of the Tolliver faction had taken refuge and a heavy gun battle ensued for some time. Boone Logan directed that his group set fire to the Central Hotel where Craig Tolliver had taken refuge, which was done. Craig Tolliver, who had bragged many times that he would never die with his "boots on" and that "no damn Logan will make me break my promise" came out of the Central Hotel in his stocking feet and with pistols flashing. He and others of his following went down in a hail of bullets from Boone Logan and his followers. The battle raged for two hours. One of the humorous happenings which has been recorded for posterity was the

fact that one of the Tollivers was shot in the pants and lived. Cate Tolliver surrendered. Again troops came to Morehead to restore order. Except for the high feelings of both sides, some of which probably remains to this day, the Rowan County War was over.

II

MURDER BRANCH

Murder Branch is a small stream located in the extreme northeast corner of Menifee County, Kentucky, which flows into Beaver Creek a short distance above the confluence of Beaver Creek and the Licking River. This branch takes its name from the tragedy which occurred on its upper reaches close by a cave in the towering cliff known as Murder Cave. This event occurred in April, 1793 when Indians who had captured 19 women and children from Morgan Station in Montgomery County were overtaken by a rescue party of white settlers. The Indians, as was their custom, took refuge in the deep, dark hollow of the upper reaches of Murder Branch, near Murder Cave. When it became apparent that the rescue party of whites was close on their trail, the Indians tomahawked and scalped those women and children who had become so weakened by the forced march from Morgan Station that they were unable to travel further at a rapid pace. The Indians, with the rest of their captives, succeeded in eluding the white rescue party and escaped across the Ohio River taking the remaining women and children into captivity. This is recorded as being the last organized Indian raid into Kentucky. Murder Branch will be within the immediate recreation complex of the Cave Run Dam on the Licking River and will be suitably marked by the U. S. Forest Service as it has already been marked by the Kentucky Historical Society.

III

THE SWIFT SILVER MINE

Nearly every area which has been carved from the early American wilderness has at least one bloodcurdling tale of early gold or silver mines, Indian attacks or stage robbers, resulting in a lost mine, fabulous amounts of buried treasure, or both. The Daniel Boone National Forest is no exception. The prize lost mine and buried treasure story of this area is that of the "Swift Silver Mine."

There are many versions of this tale, each having some scrap of documentary evidence or historical facts sufficient to authenticate it in the minds of eager listeners. Historic research indicates that John Swift was an Indian trader working with the Northern Indian tribes well before the French and Indian War. It is rumored that he married a beautiful Indian maiden (the daughter of a Chief no doubt) and that

possibly he was made a member of the tribe. He is believed to have traveled with these Indians into Kentucky where they came to obtain silver which they traded to the French for various types of trade goods. It is believed that in this way John Swift learned of the presence of silver in the Eastern Kentucky area.

Fortunately, for the documentation of this story at least, trader John Swift was a methodical man who kept a detailed journal of his later travels which not only provides much of the following information but also includes a map of the middle Kentucky River country. It is known that he made a series of trips from his home in Alexandria, Virginia, to the Eastern Kentucky country in 1761, 1762, 1764, 1767-1768, and 1768-1769. All of the earlier trips were made to Kentucky well before Daniel Boone's first visit there. In addition, trader John Swift's diaries refer to three other trips which were not documented, all probably prior to the initial documented trip of 1761. On these journeys John Swift and his party started from Alexandria, Virginia, proceeded as a group to the head of the Big Sandy River and from there scattered over a considerable area in their explorations, prospecting and mining. These widely scattered operations have served to confuse historians and others not familiar with the entire story.

While there are as many versions to the John Swift Silver Mine story as there are storytellers, the many stories and legends may be grouped into two principal versions.

The first story relates that John Swift and three companions—Mundy, Gries, and Jeffery, mined silver somewhere in the Kentucky River country, probably in the drainage of the Red River, over a period of approximately eight years (1761-1769). This story says that during that period they had smelted approximately \$273,000 value in silver bullion and coins which were kept buried in the floor of a Kentucky cave. About 1769 they attempted to bring \$70,000 in value back to Virginia. Enroute they were attacked by Indians, buried the \$70,000 worth of silver, and in trying to escape Swift's three companions were killed. Swift eventually reached the eastern settlement and his home in Alexandria, Virginia, alone. This means that the \$70,000 worth of silver was buried somewhere on the trail between the Red River and the eastern seaboard settlement where, as far as is known, it remains today as an irresistible lure to seekers of buried treasure as it has in each of the generations since the day it was buried. The remaining \$200,000 of silver bars was left buried in a Kentucky cave and, as far as it is known, remains there to this day.

The second or other version of this story is similar but takes a more sinister turn. This story states that when John Swift returned to the Kentucky country of his earlier adventures with the Indians he was

accompanied by a motley crew of adventurers including ex-sailors, ex-soldiers and a few well-known pirates and cutthroats from the seaboard settlements and the Spanish main. It is recorded that one of the members of his party was a former worker in the mint of England. This party came into the region with several loaded pack horses and when they started back to Virginia a few months later the pack horses were more heavily loaded than when they came in.

On one thing all stories are in agreement. John Swift and his companions were refining silver ore and were making counterfeit money. This is verified somewhat by a later story that John Swift was put on trial in Alexandria, Virginia, for counterfeiting but was acquitted at this trial and released when it was proven that his "pieces of eight" contained more silver than did the coinage of either Spain or England.

Here again the trail branches out in speculation over where the silver came from originally. Some believe, as in the first story above, that Swift and his companions mined and smelted this silver on location although geologists have stubbornly maintained that there is no silver ore in Kentucky. Another story, which has some basis of fact, is that the silver bars were taken from Spanish ships, either captured by the English Navy or by pirates working in connection with Swift and his companions. It is well established that Swift had connections with the piracy trade of his day and time and was part owner in twelve ships sometimes engaged in that trade. Further rumor has been that he was forced to testify at the trial, in England, of his fellow buccaneer Blackbeard. If this could be established as a fact, it would lend much credence to the entire Swift Silver Mine story. From this point the main version of the second story closely parallels that of the first story, that is, while packing the silver back to the Virginia settlement, the party was attacked by Indians, Swift's companions killed and the treasure buried along the trail. At this point another sinister version of the story relates that the party was not attacked by Indians on the return trip, but that John Swift, wishing to have the entire treasure and location of the mine for himself, killed his companions, buried them and the silver on the trail, and returned to the settlement with the story of Indian raids to explain the absence or nonreturn of his companions.

It is related that shortly after his return to the seaboard settlements John Swift traveled to England in the hope of interesting investors there to the extent of outfitting an expedition to recover the caches of rich silver bullion and to operate the fabulous silver mine further. While in England the American Revolutionary War broke out and because John Swift had made many public statements as a true American and had given the public his opinion of the King and others, he was put in jail in Dartmoor prison where he remained until the end of the Ameri-

can War of Independence. As a result of spending many years in a dark and damp cell block, John Swift lost his eyesight and returned to the Colonies a blind man.

Once back in the Colonies, "Blind John" as he was known, was unable to go into the woods by himself. As a result of his fabulous tales of lost treasure he was able to interest and assemble a party who agreed to accompany him to Kentucky in an attempt to recover the treasure. On this exploring trip his principal companion was a man by the name of Anderson who wrote "it was pitiful to see the old man hobble over the rocky ground; up cliffs, and across the mountain streams, searching frantically for the site of his former mining adventure." For fourteen years "Blind John Swift," accompanied by various companions attracted by his stories of fabulous wealth, searched the Kentucky country for the identifying reference marks he recorded in his journal that he had made to assist in relocating the various caches of buried treasure. In the year of 1800, broken in spirit and in body, John Swift lay dying, and with almost his last breath he admonished his companions: "it is near a 'peculiar rock' boys, don't never quit hunting for it. It is the richest thing I ever saw, it will make Kentucky rich."

Since that day hardly a year has passed that one or more searching parties has not been found in the hills of Eastern Kentucky, usually with a copy of the journal and a map which someone has sold them as "the original," searching diligently for the lost treasure. As an example of the type of wording in Swift's journal which excites the interest and inflames the passion for finding buried treasure, we find the entry, "On the first of September, 1769, we left between \$22,000 and \$30,000 in crowns on a large creek, running near a south course. Close to the spot we marked our names (Swift, Jefferson, Mundy and others) on a beech tree—with a compass, square and trowel. No great distance from this place we left \$15,000 of the same kind, marking three or four trees with marks. Not far from these, we left the prize, near a forked white oak, about three feet under ground and laid two long stones across it, marking several stones close about it. At the forks of Sandy, close by the forks, is a small rock, has a spring in one end of it. Between it and a small branch, we hid a prize under the ground; it was valued at \$6,000. We likewise left \$3,000 buried in the rocks of the rock house."

For nearly 200 years the lure of John Swift's lost mine and buried treasure has served as a Kentucky El Dorado. John Swift's dying words have rung in the ears of prospectors and treasure seekers as a certain promise of riches. The "boys" have never given up the search. One of these was Old Man Cud Hanks at Campton, Kentucky, who tramped the hills above the town looking for Swift's silver lode. Uncle Cud

claimed that he knew Sailor John and that he had first-hand information of the mine. Like the others, death overtook him, too, before he could find the precious cache. While many communities in Eastern Kentucky believe that their community is the "real" site of John Swift's fabulous silver mine, the majority of treasure seekers tend to concentrate their search on that portion of the Daniel Boone National Forest along Swift Camp Creek between the vicinity of Rock Bridge and the junction of the creek with the Red River. This area of high cliffs, rough and broken topography and lack of clearly marked trails may well provide succeeding generations of treasure seekers with much needed strenuous physical exercise and many hours of enthusiastic and romantic contemplation. If the past is any indication the future will not want for searchers for the Swift Silver Mine Treasure of the Daniel Boone National Forest.

IV

THE IRON FURNACES

The production of pig iron was one of Kentucky's earliest industries. A major producer of iron since 1791, Kentucky ranked third in the United States in the 1830's, 11th in 1865. Charcoal timber, native ore, and limestone supplied material for numerous furnaces making pig iron, utensils, and munitions in the Hanging Rock, Red River, Between the Rivers, Rolling Fork, Green River regions. The old charcoal furnace era ended by depletion of ore and timber and with the growth of the railroad. Among the old furnaces in the general Red River area four were located within the present proclamation boundaries of the Daniel Boone National Forest.

V

CLEAR CREEK FURNACE

The Clear Creek Furnace, which is located about five miles south of the town of Salt Lick, Bath County, Kentucky, was built in 1839. This furnace was built of cut stone, the stack originally being 40 feet high and 10½ feet across inside. This furnace burned charcoal, using air and air blast powered by steam. Its iron was used mainly for railway car wheels. This furnace operated from its construction in 1839 to about 1857 when it became idle. It was rebuilt in the period 1872-1873 and was renamed Bath Furnace. In 1874 it produced 1339 tons of pig iron. The final blast of this furnace took place in 1875. The site of this furnace is on Government-owned land administered by the Daniel Boone National Forest. The remains of this furnace have been cleaned up and protected by a fence. The U. S. Forest Service has

constructed a camp and picnic area adjacent to the furnace and signs informing the public of its history are now in preparation.

VI

COTTAGE FURNACE

Cottage Furnace, located approximately seven miles northeast of the town of Irvine, Kentucky, in Estill County, was built in 1854. It operated from that date, under the supervision of several successive owners, until 1879. A village with church, shop, and a school grew up around the furnace. Some of the iron made here was cast into household utensils for local and bluegrass area markets and much of the production, in the form of pig iron, was hauled to the Clay City forge and rolling mill where it was made into bars, nails, and similar products. The region in which this furnace was located was known as the Red River Iron District. This furnace, located on Government-owned land administered by the Daniel Boone National Forest, is being cleaned up, protected from the public and a modern picnic and recreation area constructed adjacent to it. The U. S. Forest Service is preparing informational signs to inform the public of its history.

VII

ESTILL STEAM FURNACE

Estill Furnace was constructed in 1829 by Thomas Dye Owings, a leader in Kentucky's once thriving iron industry. Iron ore, limestone, and charcoal were here utilized to make pig iron which was made into finished products at Clay City. This furnace operated continuously from its construction to 1879 with the exception of the period 1860-1866. After 1879, the industry declined due to the obsolescence of the manufacturing process and the opening of the iron area in the Northern Great Lakes region. The ruins of this furnace are located on privately-owned land approximately six miles north of the junction of Kentucky Highways 52 and 213 in Estill County.

VIII

FITCHBURG FURNACE

The Fitchburg Furnace, located at the end of State Highway 975 in Estill County is unique, as it consists of two furnaces in a single structure. It was designed by Fred Fitch and built by Sam Worthley in 1869. It is built of carefully cut stone, 65 feet high and 115 feet long. It is reputed to be the largest furnace of its type in the world. This furnace was operated from 1870 to 1874 and employed 1,000 men. In 1870, this furnace produced 10,000 tons of pig iron valued

at better than \$60,000. The town of Fitchburg, chartered in 1871, no longer exists. This furnace is also located on privately-owned land. It was the most carefully constructed furnace of the group and today is in the best state of preservation. It appears that it would be highly desirable, from an historical standpoint, that this furnace be acquired, protected, and preserved by some public agency before further vandalism or deterioration takes place.

IX

GREAT SALTPETER CAVE

This great cave, located about 15 miles from Mt. Vernon, Kentucky, on land owned by Mr. John Lair of Renfro Valley fame, is one of Kentucky's famous caves.

The Great Saltpeter cave was discovered in 1790, about nine years before the discovery of the famous Mammoth Caves in Kentucky, by a man by the name of Baker, who discovered the Great Saltpeter Cave in what is now the Crooked Creek community about 15 miles from Mt. Vernon. The local story has it that upon finding the entrance to this huge cavern, Baker, bearing a pine torch, took his wife and children inside to do some exploring. Once deep inside, his torch was accidentally extinguished leaving the group engulfed in Stygian darkness. Having no way of relighting the torch, the family wandered around inside for three days before finding their way out again. It is said that they might never have got out had it not been for Mrs. Baker. She remembered that it had been raining outside and that all of their feet had been extremely muddy when they entered. Getting down on her hands and knees and feeling over the cave's dry floor she located small pieces of wet mud which had fallen from their feet and in this manner back-tracked to the entrance.

Although the country surrounding was sparsely settled at that time, word of this discovery reached the ears of a Dr. Brown of Lexington who, on exploring the cave, found it to contain a rich deposit of nitrous earth then known as "Peter Dirt," a substance used to make saltpeter which, in turn, is used to make gunpowder.

Excited over his find and in the hopes of developing an important industry in Kentucky, Dr. Brown immediately got on his horse and rode to Philadelphia where he revealed news of his and Baker's discovery to the Philosophical Society of America, which was founded by Benjamin Franklin; and sought its aid in developing this cave into a saltpeter mine. That Dr. Brown was at least partially successful on this trip is to be seen in old records now in the possession of John Lair of Renfro Valley, which revealed that for several years afterward, saltpeter was sent to Philadelphia by boat and packhorse to be turned

into gunpowder. Gunpowder, made from saltpeter mined in this cave in Rockcastle County, was used in three wars — The War of 1812, The Mexican War, and the War Between the States.

This cave, which enters the mountain on one side and winds around to come out on the other side, and which is approximately one-half mile in length and 1,000 feet underground, still contains many evidences of the mining operation which was carried on for nearly three-quarters of a century. Well preserved wooden conduits used to carry the saltpeter outside where it was further refined by boiling, still exists.

The Great Saltpeter Cave also contains many natural wonders. There's the "Frozen Cascade" which appears as a waterfall of rock; "Devil's Race," a long narrow winding corridor of grotesque formations; a waterfall, a spring and numerous other natural curiosities formed long ago by the action of water on limestone. At places, the cavern narrows for short distances to open up into gymnasium-sized rooms with tremendous domes where sounds echo and re-echo in weird and spectacular reverberations. This great cave, with a constant temperature of 64 degrees and always filled with pure fresh air, free from dust and dampness, has been used for church meetings, square dances, and meetings of fraternal organizations. Another section of the cave near the spring once sheltered a moonshine still. Close by it is a pit called the "pig pen" where hogs were kept and fed on mash from the still.

The cave also has its fair share of legends, including tales of murder, ghosts, and high adventure. Although it has been known about 155 years and frequently used and visited over this expanse of time, much of it still remains unexplored. Not many people have the courage to take off the main passageway to probe narrow corridors such as "booger branch" and others which lead off into darkness so thick it can almost be cut with a knife.

It is reported that road access to this cave is being improved and arrangements made to welcome the public in the near future.

X

THE WARRIORS PATH

Long before the white man came to Kentucky the territory encompassed within the State was recognized by the Indians as the most desirable environment. The Wyandotte Indians called Kentucky "Kahtentahteh" which meant in their language "fair land of tomorrow." Apparently this desirable land was known to most of the tribes of the eastern United States. This is probably due to the fact that Kentucky was traversed by the ancient universal travelway of all tribes known as "the warriors path." This route, which was apparently used by Indians

of all tribes in traveling from one part of the country to another, and which it is reported was marked by secret trail markings, was known to the Indians as "Athiamionee" which, in the Indian language meant "Path of the Armed One." Since the principal reason for distant travel by the various tribes was the movement of war parties from one section of the country to another it was natural that it be considered as the "Trail of the Warriors."

This great and universal trail of the Indian tribes was believed to originate at the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, the site of early French and British Forts and now the site of the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. From this point the trail moved down through the valley of Virginia, swung around through Cumberland Gap, thence up through the town of Manchester in Clay County, through McKee, Kentucky, the vicinity of Irvine, Kentucky, Winchester, Kentucky, Mt. Sterling and across the Ohio River to the east of Vanceburg at the mouth of the Scioto River, then up through the valley of the Scioto River in Ohio through Columbus, Ohio, and thence to the foot of Lake Erie in the vicinity of Sandusky and Port Clinton. This great warriors path crosses midway through the center of the National Forest.

In this day when recreation trails are so popular with the national recreation wilderness organizations it would seem appropriate if some organization would propose to Congress the marking of a long-range hiking trail, comparable to the Appalachian Trail, which would follow this ancient warriors path. In my opinion much support for a project of this type would be forthcoming from the states, cities, and communities along its route.

XI

THE BOONE TRACE

The Boone Trace, and its successor, the Wilderness Road, is probably one of the most famous trails of American history. The Boone Trace originated at Cumberland Gap, crossed the Cumberland River in the vicinity of Pineville, Kentucky, followed the warriors path to the vicinity of Barbourville, Kentucky, where it branched to the west running close to the present city of Corbin, Kentucky, passing through London, Kentucky at the Wilderness Road State Park and proceeding through Laurel and Rockcastle counties on the Daniel Boone National Forest over Big Hill in the vicinity of Berea, through the present Army Ordnance Depot and the site of Fort Estill near Richmond, Kentucky, and thence on down Otter Creek to the Kentucky River at the site of the early village of Boonesborough.

The portion of this famous trace which crosses the Daniel Boone

National Forest has been marked in several places by the State Historical Society about 1941. On the portion of the famous trace in Laurel County, just before the trace crosses Rockcastle River, is the site of Wood's Block House which was the first building constructed on this famous trace in Kentucky and which furnished about the only refuge from the Indians to travelers on their way to Boonesborough. Wood's Block House is located at the point known as the "Hazelpatch" which was a famous landmark on the Boone Trace. At this point also, Skaggs Trace branches off on the Boone Trace and leading to the site of the present town of Stanford and Danville and proceeding through the old landmark of the Crab Orchard to the Falls of the Ohio at the site of the present city of Louisville.

The first route of the Wilderness Road followed this trace wherever terrain permitted but, since the purpose of the Wilderness Road was to provide easier passage than some of the rough terrain covered by the Boone Trace, the Wilderness Road deviated from the Trace to provide easier grade on the hills, better stream crossing, and better travel in general.

The Daniel Boone National Forest hopes to be able to acquire some portions of the old Boone Trace in the vicinity of "Hazelpatch" and to reconstruct and mark this trace so that visitors to the National Forest, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and similar groups; can walk this portion of the Boone Trace and receive a certificate which attests to the fact that they have walked in "Daniel Boone's moccasins." If possible, the Forest also desires to acquire the site of Wood's Block House and to reconstruct this structure and set up a small area around it as an historical site with explanatory signs indicating the historical significance of this site.

XII

THE BATTLE OF WILDCAT MOUNTAIN

Laurel County, Kentucky — October 21, 1861

In the fall of 1861, the entrance of Confederate forces into the Western part of Kentucky having dissolved Kentucky's early stand of neutrality, the Union regiments formed in Kentucky had been reinforced by Union regiments from states north of the Ohio River, principally from Indiana and Ohio. Union dispositions in Eastern Kentucky were under command of Union General Albin Schoepf as District Commander. These Union forces were concentrated largely at Camp Dick Robinson on the Kentucky River, the 33rd Indiana Infantry stationed at Big Hill near the present site of Berea, and a single regiment, the 7th Kentucky Infantry, which was stationed at Camp Wildcat on the Rockcastle River in Laurel County.

Confederate Brigadier General Felix Zollicoffer, commanding a Confederate force of approximately 7,000 men, had invaded Kentucky from Tennessee through Cumberland Gap. It is generally believed that his objective was to move eastward through the Kentucky mountains into the Bluegrass area somewhere in the vicinity of the present site of Berea, with the objective of securing this area for the Confederacy and of influencing Kentuckians in the Bluegrass to the support of the Confederate cause. He moved from Cumberland Gap the force consisting of six regiments of infantry and one regiment of cavalry, sacking the towns of Barbourville and London en route. His initial objective was to cut off the single Union regiment stationed at Camp Wildcat on the Rockcastle River, under the command of Colonel Garrard.

The advance of this Confederate force from Cumberland Gap was promptly reported to the Union District Commander, General Schoepf, who promptly dispatched the 33rd Indiana Infantry from Big Hill with instructions to support Colonel Garrard at Camp Wildcat and to initially occupy approximately one and one-half miles east of the Rockcastle River, known as Wildcat Mountain.

The 17th Kentucky and four companies of the 33rd Indiana disposed themselves in a defensive position along the ridge of Wildcat Mountain with special attention to the low point in the ridge where the old Boone stagecoach road crossed the ridge. Here they dug entrenchments and rifle pits and awaited advance of the Confederate force.

As additional support, General Schoepf dispatched two regiments, the first Tennessee Infantry and the second Tennessee Infantry, Union, and Colonel Woodford's company of Union cavalry from Camp Dick Robinson to further reinforce Union forces on Wildcat Mountain. General Schoepf and his staff also moved from Camp Dick Robinson to the defense position.

General Zollicoffer's force, fresh from their triumph in sacking the towns of Barbourville and London, and believing they would be opposed only by the small force reported at Camp Wildcat, expected an easy victory. The battle opened at approximately 8 a.m. on the morning of October 21, 1861 when the advance guard of the Confederate force attacked units of the 7th Kentucky Infantry near the saddle of Wildcat Mountain and along the route of the old Boone road. The men of the 7th Kentucky were not caught napping and, although outnumbered, drove back the initial attack with deadly accurate musket fire. The Confederate advance guard retired to await the arrival of the main body of troops before renewing the attack. It was at this point in the battle that Colonel Coburn arrived with four companies of the 33rd Indiana Infantry from Big Hill and deployed their approxi-

mately 350 men as skirmishers along the military crest of Wildcat Mountain.

At this time the Confederate force, reinforced by the main body, formed a line of battle along the stream in Happy Hollow approximately one-half mile to the east of the Union position. This Confederate force started to advance and to fire on the Union position.

At this point, Colonel Woodford's second cavalry arrived and the troopers reinforced the line of the 7th Kentucky and the 33rd Indiana.

The Confederate force charged the ridge line and were repulsed with heavy fire from the Union force. The Confederates maintained their attack for approximately one hour after which they withdrew in the face of continuing heavy and accurate fire from the Union force, leaving their dead and wounded on the field.

At this time, following the repulse of the Confederate attack, General Schoepf and four companies of the 17th Ohio Infantry arrived together with Company C of the 14th Ohio Infantry, all of which reinforced the Union line on the military crest of Wildcat Mountain.

At 1400 hours the Confederate force renewed the attack with even greater fury, General Zollicoffer committing the greater part of his force in a major attack. Despite the greatly superior number of the Confederate forces and the fury of their assault, the now reinforced Union line, under the personal command of General Schoepf, held their position along the military crest of Wildcat Mountain. Despite the persistence and fury of the repeated Confederate attacks, the well-directed infantry fire of the Union forces, supported by artillery of an Ohio battery, resulted in a total rout and dispersion of General Zollicoffer's force. With the approach of nightfall the Confederate attack ceased and during the night the entire force was withdrawn by General Zollicoffer to the east, in the direction of Cumberland Gap, where he was subsequently reinforced heavily and fortified the Cumberland Gap area.

While this battle was not particularly significant from the numbers engaged and the casualties, it did have a great moral affect. This was the first battle of the War for Southern Independence to be fought on Kentucky soil. It stopped the first major Confederate invasion of Kentucky from the east by Confederate forces and prevented their entrance into the Bluegrass at that time. In these early days of the war there was great doubt as to whether Kentucky would be predominantly Union or predominantly Confederate. It appears that the decisive Union victory at Wildcat Mountain may very well have influenced the predominance of Union sympathy and support in Kentucky during the remaining years of the war.

Casualties of this battle were:

- Federal KIA — 4
- Federal WIA — 21
- Confederate KIA — 30
- Confederate WIA — 100

Units engaged:

- 1st Kentucky Cavalry
- 7th Kentucky Infantry
- 14th Ohio Infantry
- 17th Ohio Infantry
- 33rd Indiana Infantry
- One Battery Ohio Artillery

The two Union regiments dispatched from Camp Dick Robinson on the morning of the 21st, the 1st Tennessee Infantry and the 2nd Tennessee Infantry, marched the entire 44 miles on the 21st, arriving at Wildcat Mountain on the evening of that day, just after the last Confederate attack had been repulsed.

The site of this significant battle today is heavily wooded and lies several miles from the nearest improved road. Only a very small stone marker, located in the saddle of Wildcat Mountain where the old Boone stagecoach road crossed it, is the only marker or designation for this important battle. Unfortunately, few Kentuckians have even heard of this first significant battle on Kentucky soil of the Great War for Southern Independence.

XIII

GRAVE OF A REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER

On a lonely ridge in the Mt. Victory community of Pulaski County, Kentucky, in a grave marked only by an unlettered headstone, lies the remains of Lt. Nathan McClure, a soldier of the Revolutionary War, killed by Indians in May of 1788.

During the period of waiting and uncertainty following the close of the Revolutionary War, the Americans in Kentucky had maintained a standing army and many of the settlers began their move into Kentucky and westward. Most of the Indians in the Kentucky area were peaceful by this time. However, there was known to be a band of renegades who waylaid settlers moving into a strange territory, playing havoc with their livestock and property as well as their lives. Because of these threats on the lives of the new settlers, the army began operating an escort service and providing military personnel to protect trains of settlers heading into the new frontier.

Lt. Nathan McClure, who had served in the Army during the War of Independence, was assigned to such duties and his mission was to escort a group of settlers through the Kentucky area. This was to be the beginning of the memorable moments of Lt. McClure's life and its tragic end. His final victory in the fight for a safe frontier life might well be the origin of the community's name of Mt. Victory, since this final battle took place only a few hundred yards from the present-day settlement.

Lt. McClure and his small patrol, consisting of perhaps six or seven men, had escorted this small group of settlers to Cumberland Gap and they were heading west to Kentucky. In May, 1788, this small band was camped near Crab Orchard in what is now Rockcastle County. The band of renegades raided the camp during the night and stole horses and livestock from McClure's party. Lt. McClure knew that the settlers could never carve a fresh start out of the wilderness without horses and livestock, and that he must recover the stock if the group was to continue. On his orders the party remained at Crab Orchard while he and his men began following the trail of the night raiders, which was most difficult. The line of pursuit took McClure and his men northeast through Pulaski County for approximately 50 miles to the Mt. Victory locale. Since the journey was on foot, it cannot definitely be determined how long it took for the soldiers to catch up with the Indians. Evidence shows, however, that the young Lieutenant did catch up with the Indians and in the fight that followed, he was seriously wounded. This was the second time within a year that white soldiers and settlers had been defeated by the Indians in the same area.

Although McClure was seriously wounded, the remainder of his band had escaped unharmed, and after regrouping was strong enough to once again take up the chase. Lt. McClure gave orders that he be left behind and the rest of his men continue until they could recover the stolen stock. On his orders, he was taken to a shallow cave just a few yards from the trail and concealed. His men promised to return for him on their way back to Crab Orchard. Only a half-mile from the scene of the first encounter, the soldiers again made contact with the renegades and in the ensuing skirmish, were successful in defeating the Indians and rescuing the livestock. Since the fight took place high along the ridge between the Rockcastle River and Buck Creek, second guessers would have it that the renegades had reached the end of the line since the river was too rough to ford and the sheer cliffs on the opposite side impossible to scale.

It is believed that the fight took place late in the afternoon and that McClure's men were too weary to return that same night. The next morning, fully recovered, they returned for Lt. McClure. Upon enter-

ing the cave, the men were astonished to find only the mangled remains of Nathan McClure. Wild beasts had attacked during the night and devoured the helpless man. Very possibly he was already dead before the wild beasts attacked, since there were no signs of a struggle. His men had no alternative but to bury their lieutenant and return to the unprotected settlers near Crab Orchard. A simple standstone marker was the only indication that a man had died and could never begin to tell the story of how or why.

XIV

GRAVE OF JACOB TROXEL

Recently discovered information indicates that the body of one of the first permanent settlers in the McCreary, Kentucky area lies buried at the entrance to the Daniel Boone National Forest's Yahoo Falls Recreation Area near Whitley City, Kentucky. The present blacktop road running from Marshes Siding on U. S. 27 to the site of the old Alum Ford crossing of the Cumberland River follows the route of a famous trail which led from Southern Kentucky into central Tennessee in early colonial times. Recent research by a descendant of this early settler, Mr. Thomas H. Troxel, a county surveyor of Oneida, Tennessee, has revealed interesting information regarding the history of this area.

Jacob Troxel was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1757 and received his early education there. He enlisted in Washington's Colonial Army when he was 16 years old and served nearly four years during the Revolutionary War. Following his military service he decided to be a trader with the Western Indians. He arrived in the Kentucky country during the winter of 1779-1780 and records show that in 1798 he claimed 180 acres of land by homestead on Kings Creek, now the South Fork of the Cumberland River, which was then in Lincoln County, Kentucky.

Jacob Troxel, commonly known as "Big Jake," was over six feet tall, broad shouldered, and possessed great strength and endurance. He married Princess Cornblossom, a daughter of Chief Doublehead, the principal Chief of the Cherokees of that area, who was reported to be the son of Christian Priber, Prime Minister to the Cherokee Council, 1736-1749, who died in prison at Fort Oglethorpe in 1753.

When Chief Doublehead died in 1807, his daughter, Cornblossom, became the head of the tribe. She handled most of the tribal business through her notorious son, "Little Jake," whose policy was to solve all questions by "shooting his way out." Chief Little Jake Troxel is known as a notorious half-breed who, with his braves, caused great difficulty for the white settlers up and down the Cumberland River until about 1810 when he accepted the amnesty from the Sheriff's Office in Monti-

cello and handed over his scalping blade with nine notches on the handle.

It is recorded that one of the major contributions of Big Jake Troxel was, by sheer tact and statesman-like diplomacy, he kept Chief Doublehead's braves from joining the Tory's in their march with Colonel Patrick Ferguson's forces which were moving against the settlements along the Nollichucky River and gathering for the Battle of King's Mountain, which was a great and decisive victory for the Colonial forces and did much to influence the end of the Revolutionary War in favor of the colonists.

XV

CHIEF YAMACRAW

Chief Yamacraw, whose name is perpetuated by the name of a small community near the town of Stearns in McCreary County, Kentucky, at the point where State Highway 92 crosses the South Fork of the Cumberland River, brought his tribe to that area shortly after the treaty of Sycamore Shoals on March 14, 1775. This was an agricultural tribe, apparently skilled in the production of corn. It is reported that this tribe produced as much as 300 bushels of corn per acre and that, in excavating the site of their village, the imprint of ears of corn in the earth have been measured to a length of 14 inches. The river bottom fields of this tribe, as well as the site of the village, has now been covered by the waters of Lake Cumberland.

SUMMARY

The Historic Sites described above are only a few of the many historic sites and incidents located and which occurred within the proclamation boundary of the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky. In a great many cases, such as in the history of Big Jake Troxel, only a brief portion of the history of these events has been assembled and is available for public information. It is hoped that a great many of these incidents, some known only through the stories and folk tales which have been passed down from family to family since Colonial times, can be thoroughly investigated and fully written up and documented to preserve them in their most accurate form, as they constitute a most important part of the history and folk tales of this interesting part of Kentucky. Taken together, these sites and incidents form a most important historical resource of the Daniel Boone National Forest.

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