## CHESTER HARDING'S TWO PORTRAITS OF DANIEL BOONE





The Filson Club

The Filson Club

In June, 1819, Chester Harding, a widely known American artist, made a special trip to see Daniel Boone in his Missouri home and paint a portrait of him. Boone was then eighty-five years old. Harding is the only artist who painted Boone from life. He made a picture which he used as the basis of two original portraits. One is usually referred to as the Boone without the fur collar and the other as the Boone with the fur collar. It is inferred that Harding painted replicas of each of his two original portraits. The Filson Club has an original of the Boone without the fur collar and a copy of one of these with the fur collar. Cuts of the Club's two pictures are shown here. The one to the reader's left is Boone without the fur collar, the other is Boone with the fur collar.

The three best known pictures of Boone by artists other than Chester Harding were made by John J. Audubon, Thomas Sully and Alonzo Chappel. Other artists who painted Boone probably used Harding as a basis and painted their own conception of the old pioneer as he might have appeared. Audubon met Boone in Kentucky and later made a bust portrait of him from memory, representing him in middle life. Sully's and Chappel's each represents Boone sitting on a rock and wearing a fur-trimmed coat with a fur-trimmed collar. They however differ in other respects: Sully's picture shows Boone sitting with a hat on his head, dark hair, and a gun resting on his right forearm; Chappel's picture shows Boone sitting with a cap in his left hand, gray wavy hair, the muzzle of his gun leaning on his left shoulder, and to his left is a dog, only the head of which can be seen.

Otto A. Rothert

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Daniel Boone Bicentennial Number