

## THE DANIEL BOONE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION OF KENTUCKY AND ITS ACTIVITIES, 1934

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With the exception of national observance on November 2nd of the Boone bicentenary, in which every state in the Union is expected to participate, the celebrations in Kentucky conducted by the Daniel Boone Bicentennial Commission and by organizations related to the Boone bicentenary, will have become history when this issue of THE FILSON CLUB HISTORY QUARTERLY appears.

There remains a commemorative essay and oratorical contest, however, to be conducted in the high schools and colleges of the State under the auspices of the Commission during the first two months of the fall school session.

The principal celebration was held Labor Day, September 3rd, at Boonesboro, when notables from various parts of the nation, including special representatives of the governors of distant and neighboring states, appeared on the program. A convention of the members of the Boone Family Association, Inc., and the American Order of Pioneers, Inc., Washington, D. C., gave color and significance to the exercises at Boonesboro.

The commemorative celebrations began in April, when a troop of Boy Scouts from Ann Arbor, Michigan, made a pilgrimage to Kentucky to deposit a wreath on Boone's grave at Frankfort and to visit the shrines of Boone history in this State. Their visit included a trip to Cumberland Gap over the route of the Wilderness Road.

In May, Governor Laffoon's invitation "to the world," over an international radio hook-up, was broadcast from Louisville during the trophy presentation at Churchill Downs on Derby Day.

On June 7th the Kentucky State Historical Society held memorable exercises at Frankfort on its "Boone Day," and members of the Daniel Boone Bicentennial Commission gathered at Boone's grave and deposited a wreath made by the American

Legion, of Winchester, from fir growing on the site of the capture by the Indians of the Calloway girls and Jemima Boone, on the Clark County side of the Kentucky River at Boonesboro. It was in this month also that The Filson Club celebrated its semi-centennial and the sesquicentennial of John Filson's *History of Kentucky*—the first book to record the early adventures of Daniel Boone, who, soon after its publication, became one of the most widely known men of pioneer times.

A related event was the annual Mountain Laurel Festival, at Pineville, in June, in commemoration of Dr. Thomas Walker, who explored a part of Kentucky in 1750.

In July, Covington celebrated its centennial, and Pisgah Church, in Woodford County, its sesquicentennial with a beautiful pageant of pioneer history that was attended by several thousands.

August witnessed two of the biggest commemorative events of the year. On the nineteenth, the annual celebration at Blue Licks Battleground State Park was almost wholly a Boone commemoration, with a splendid program and a large gathering present. A few days later, 2,000 Boy Scouts from Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia held the Dan Beard Camporal at Covington, in honor of the founder of the Boy Scouts of America, who originally named the organization the "Daniel Boone Scouts," and of the great pioneer himself. A mammoth parade and historical pageant were features of the camporal.

Several Kentucky cities celebrated by staging a Pioneer Ball, similar to the Colonial Balls that marked national observance of the George Washington Bicentennial, and the proceeds were presented to the Commission.

The celebration of the Commission on Labor Day at Boonesboro was a fitting finale to these Kentucky commemorative events, and it may be expected that the proposed national observance on November 2nd will be notable, as thirty-eight governors have offered to co-operate in the plans of the Kentucky Commission. The Commission obviously will have discharged with honor its obligation under the mandate of the Kentucky Legislature to appropriately observe the Boone Bicentennial.

Important as these celebrations and events are, however, they are incidental to the ambitious objective of the Commission as visualized in legislation enacted by Congress and approved by the President of the United States on June 18th to create the

Pioneer National Monument in Kentucky, and on May 28th to authorize the coinage of 600,000 Boone Memorial Half-Dollars to finance the acquisition of the Pioneer National Monument.

As stated in the April issue of *THE FILSON CLUB HISTORY QUARTERLY*, the members of the Daniel Boone Bicentennial Commission appointed by Governor Ruby Laffoon, who is a member ex-officio, are: Judge Samuel M. Wilson, Dr. Arthur Braden, and Mr. C. Frank Dunn, of Lexington; Judge W. Rodes Shackelford, Mr. Keen Johnson, Dr. J. T. Dorris, Mrs. Grant E. Lilly, of Richmond; Colonel Lucien Beckner and Mr. R. C. Ballard Thruston, of The Filson Club of Louisville; Mrs. Walter F. Rogers, of Winchester; Mrs. Jouett Taylor Cannon, of The Kentucky State Historical Society, of Frankfort; Judge Innes B. Ross, of Carlisle; Mr. James L. Isenberg, of Harrodsburg; Mr. Harry Brent Mackoy, of Covington; and Judge A. Gordon Sulser, of Maysville. Dr. William Boone Douglass, of Washington, D. C., is an honorary member. [Mr. Otto A. Rothert serves as Mr. Thruston's proxy.]

The Executive Committee is composed of Judge Wilson, chairman; Dr. Dorris, first vice-chairman; Mrs. Cannon, second vice-chairman; Judge Ross, treasurer; and Mr. C. Frank Dunn (Phoenix Hotel, Lexington), secretary.

This mammoth undertaking was conceived by Mr. C. Frank Dunn, secretary of the Commission, three years ago when, as chairman of the Kentucky Yorktown Sesquicentennial Commission, he witnessed the dedication of the Colonial National Monument in Virginia, comprising Yorktown Battlefields, Jamestown Island, and parts of Williamsburg. The Daniel Boone Bicentennial Commission was created by the Kentucky Legislature January 30, 1934. Shortly thereafter Mr. Dunn went to Washington, personally wrote the bill to create the Pioneer National Monument, to be composed of the sites of Boonesboro, Boone's Station, Bryan's Station, and Blue Licks Battlefield, and through the able sponsorship of Senator Alben W. Barkley and Congressman Virgil Chapman had the measure passed and approved by the President. Mr. Dunn also devised the plan of financing the purchase of the shrines by the sale of memorial half-dollars, and secured the same active co-operation in having the latter bill passed and approved.

Models for the coin were prepared by Mr. Augustus Lukeman, noted sculptor of New York, at the direction of the Commission,

and the half-dollars are expected to be minted by October 1st. The designs embrace a profile of Boone on the obverse side of the coin and, on the reverse side, the scene of the negotiations at Boonesboro between Boone and Chief Black Fish of the Shawnees on the eve of the memorable nine-day siege of Fort Boonesboro in September, 1778.

The sale of the coins, which is to be conducted nationally, and the acquisition of the Pioneer National Monument properties will set up, when taken over by the Federal Government as provided for in the Act of Congress, a National Shrine that will be a counterpart west of the Alleghenies of the Colonial Shrine established by the Government in Virginia. It will be a permanent memorial to the valor, the sacrifices, and the conquests of the frontiersmen who played such an important and effective part in the American Revolution.

The Commission's ambition is to secure the issue of a Daniel Boone postage stamp. Steps have been taken with the hope of procuring the required Federal enactment. It now (September 15th) appears probable that the application for the stamp will not be granted this year. It is the Commission's plan to have Boone's birthday, Friday, November 2nd, nationally observed.

The press throughout the State—notably the daily *Lexington Herald*—has done much toward giving publicity to the aims and activities of the Commission. *The Register* of the Kentucky State Historical Society, in its July number, printed in full the address delivered before the Society on its "Boone Day." *Kentucky Progress Magazine* designates its Summer Number "Daniel Boone Bicentennial Edition" and presents ten articles and many pictures pertaining to Boone. *Kentucky School Journal*, the official organ of the Kentucky Educational Association, devoted its September issue in almost its entirety to Boone history and the bicentennial.

The Filson's Club's October meeting was devoted to Boone. The Club's HISTORY QUARTERLY for October, designated "Daniel Boone Bicentennial Number," contains three articles on Boone, one of which is the address delivered at its Boone meeting by Judge Samuel M. Wilson.

Judge Wilson has written and preserved much on Kentucky history and has delivered many addresses, in and out of the State, on Boone and other subjects bearing on Kentucky. It is

with delight that we record here that he, having accepted a special invitation, will address the Historical Society of Berks County, Pennsylvania, at Reading, on November 2nd, of this year, Pioneer Year, and thus represent Kentucky at Boone's birthplace on the two hundredth anniversary of his birthday.

Judge Samuel M. Wilson, chairman of the Commission, has displayed distinguished leadership in directing the celebrations and projects of the Commission. He has earned the gratitude of the entire Commonwealth for the patriotic zeal and unstinted sacrifice which he has injected into the entire commemorative program. Without his able help and direction, it is doubtful that such a comprehensive program would have matured in the brief time remaining of the bicentennial year after the Legislature created the Commission. Practically every member likewise gave public-spiritedly of his or her time and means, as the Legislature made no appropriation, and the laudable projects which they have developed will be, deservedly, a lasting memorial to their individual and collective efforts.

APPENDIX. We here quote, in full, the State and the Federal procedure in creating the Daniel Boone Bicentennial Commission; in providing for a Pioneer National Monument; and in authorizing the coinage of 50-cent pieces in commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Daniel Boone.

COPY OF RESOLUTION CREATING THE DANIEL BOONE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION:

CHAPTER 596, *Acts of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky*, January 2—March 15, 1934, pages 1016-1017.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION providing for the appointment of a Commission to arrange the suitable and proper celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the birth of Daniel Boone.

WHEREAS, the year of 1934 marks the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the birth of the great American, Daniel Boone, and

WHEREAS, the exploration, settlement and early defense of the Commonwealth of Kentucky can be attributable to an appreciable degree to the work of said Daniel Boone;

*Therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:*

That the Commonwealth of Kentucky do participate in the celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of

Daniel Boone and for the purpose of preparing and executing a plan or plans of such celebration a State Commission of the Commonwealth of Kentucky is hereby established, the same to be known as the Daniel Boone Bicentennial Commission, and to be composed of 15 citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, with said governor an ex-officio member of the same. Said Commission shall serve without compensation and shall be empowered and authorized to raise funds for said celebration and the participation therein by subscriptions, donations, contributions and other legal means, within and without the boundaries of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. All other existing commissions and agencies of the said Commonwealth of Kentucky which are qualified and prepared to assist in said Bicentennial Celebration are hereby given power to aid the said Commission in its work. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as confining the celebration of the said bicentennial solely to the confines of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Said Commission shall choose a Chairman and Secretary from their number and shall keep a record of their proceedings.

Approved January 30, 1934.

Ruby Laffoon, Governor of Kentucky.

COPY OF ACT PROVIDING FOR PIONEER NATIONAL MONUMENT:  
(PUBLIC—No. 380—73D CONGRESS) (S. 3443)

AN ACT—To provide for the creation of the Pioneer National Monument in the State of Kentucky, and for other purposes.

WHEREAS no provision has been made to preserve some of the great shrines of pioneer history that played their part in the drama of the American Revolution, both in resistance to the efforts of the British and their Indian allies to wipe out the American colonists west of the Alleghenies and thus close in on the colonists along the Atlantic seaboard and in waging a counteroffensive that resulted in the conquest and acquisition of the Old Northwest; and

WHEREAS four of these shrines in Kentucky represent in continuity a counterpart of the American Revolution east of the Alleghenies, to wit: (1) Boonesborough, where the first fort "in the West" was erected, the first highway to "the West, the Wilderness Road," terminated, the first colonization was effected,

and the first legislature met; (2) Boone's Station, whence Daniel Boone, as lieutenant colonel of the Fayette County Militia, rushed troops to the assistance of various other besieged stations as well as joined in the retaliatory campaigns under General George Rogers Clark into the Old Northwest, and where he buried his son and nephew, who fell at the Battle of Blue Licks; (3) Bryan's Station, where the women of the fort sallied forth under the rifles of some six hundred Indians to procure water for the besieged pioneers on August 16, 1782, contributing in large measure to the successful defense of the fort; and (4) Blue Licks Battlefield, scene of the accredited "Last Battle of the Revolution," August 19, 1782, which aroused all of the western colonists to unitedly launch a devastating campaign into the Ohio country, under the leadership of General George Rogers Clark, that effectually stopped further invasion of Kentucky by the British and Indians and was the forerunner of the final conquest of the entire Northwest Territory for the United States: Therefore

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That when title to the sites of Fort Boonesborough, Boone's Station, Bryan's Station, and Blue Licks Battlefield, in the State of Kentucky, comprising noncontiguous tracts to be united by a Memorial Highway, together with such historical structures and remains thereon, as may be designated by the Secretary of the Interior as necessary or desirable for national monument purposes and for the proper commemoration of the valor and sacrifices of the pioneers of "the West," shall have been vested in the United States, said areas and improvements shall be designated and set apart by proclamation of the President for preservation as a national monument for the benefit and inspiration of the people, and shall be called the "Pioneer National Monument."*

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized to accept donations of land, interests in land and/or buildings, structures, and other property within the boundaries of said national monument as determined and fixed hereunder, and donations of funds for the purchase and/or maintenance thereof, the title and evidence of title to lands acquired to be satisfactory to the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided*, That he may acquire on behalf of the United States out of any donated funds, by purchase at prices deemed by him reasonable, or by condemnation under the provisions of the Act of August 1, 1888, such tracts of land

within the said national monument as may be necessary for the completion thereof.

SEC. 3. That the administration, protection, and development of the aforesaid national monument shall be exercised under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior by the National Park Service, subject to the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916, entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes," as amended.

Approved, June 18, 1934.

**COPY OF ACT AUTHORIZING DANIEL BOONE MEMORIAL HALF-DOLLARS:**

(PUBLIC—No. 258—73d Congress) (S. 3355)

AN ACT—To authorize the coinage of 50-cent pieces in commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Daniel Boone.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Daniel Boone, there shall be coined by the Director of the Mint six hundred thousand 50-cent pieces of standard size, weight, and silver fineness and of a special appropriate design to be fixed by the Director of the Mint, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to be legal tender in all payments at face value; but the United States shall not be subject to the expense of making the models or master dies or other preparations for this coinage.

SEC. 2. That the coins herein authorized shall be issued at par and only upon the request of the secretary of the Daniel Boone Bicentennial Commission.

SEC. 3. Such coins may be disposed of at par or at a premium by said Commission and all proceeds shall be used in furtherance of the Daniel Boone Bicentennial Commission projects.

SEC. 4. That all laws now in force relating to the subsidiary silver coins of the United States and the coining or striking of the same; regulating and guarding the process of coinage; providing for the purchase of material, and for the transportation, distribution, and redemption of the coins; for the prevention of debasement or counterfeiting; for security of the coin; or for any other purposes, whether said laws are penal or otherwise, shall, so far as applicable, apply to the coinage herein directed.

Approved, May 26, 1934.