

THE TRAILBLAZER

Daniel Boone



N . C . D A N I E L B O O N E H E R I T A G E T R A I L , I N C .



Christmas Greetings and Happy New Year

At this special season of the year we send each of you warm wishes for a joyous and merry holiday. 2021 has been a tough year for many of us, yet I want to encourage you to have hope and faith as we work together to have a better tomorrow.

The North Carolina Daniel Boone Heritage Trail is dedicated to sharing and promoting the story of Daniel Boone's presence in our State. In this issue of the Trail Blazer is a list of our members and supporters including Doris Short Realty, Mocksville who sponsors our newsletter. We bring a feature on a man named Burrell, whom we know little but believe had an association with Daniel and his exploits over the crest of the Blue Ridge. One of our newest members Barbara Pipek shares her Boone family connection and her desire to get more involved with the Trail. Plans for the 2022 Boone Trail Gathering January 20th will surely be of great interest and an event you don't want to miss.

The Legacy of Burrell

by Mary Moretz

Burrell. I think of him with admiration and gratitude even though I never knew him, and yet we are connected across time.

I can imagine Burrell, an enslaved man who lived from c.1745-1845, herding his master's cattle from Happy Valley in Wilkes County up the mountains to the lush and cool valley in what today is Boone, N.C. Perhaps he had a couple of other men with him, and he definitely would have had dogs to help him herd and ward off wild animals.

He was fortunate that his master, Benjamin Howard, had built a small cabin for himself and his herders in the mountain valley, a cabin that contained salt, rudimentary cooking utensils and other provisions. In his evening seclusion, he had time to ponder the celestial skies and learn to predict the weather.

It is said that Burrell guided Daniel Boone, who lived just down the Yadkin River from the Howards, on his first trip to what today is Watauga County. Burrell would have cooked for Boone and hosted him in the cabin beside the creek, also named for his guest.

Ben's will, and later his daughter Mary's will, made sure that Burrell was protected and cared for. By the time of Ben's will, Burrell was an elderly man who was insured a place to live the remainder of his life among his people in Happy Valley. Uncle Burrell was a treasured member of the Howard household, but he was never emancipated, most likely because as an enslaved man, he could be safely protected by this prominent family. And yet, Burrell regretted this. He predicted to a young slave, perhaps a grandchild, that someday she would be free, but that he never would be.

When I meet Ben and Burrell someday, I am going to ask what Burrell did to make him so beloved. Did he save Ben's life from the vigilante Tory hunters? Or were they simply kindred spirits?

None of us can change the past. However, we can recognize the many unsung heroes who helped to build this great nation by iconicizing a representative.

I was able to tell Burrell's story to the Boone Town Council and they agreed to name a street after him. My desire is that a historic marker also be erected in his memory and perhaps a statue to stand beside the one of Daniel Boone on the ASU campus.

Note from Editor: Mary Moretz is a descendant from many of the earliest Watauga settlers. She has a keen interest in family and local history. Through researching genealogy and local historical records, Mary has learned more about a man known as Burrell that has ties to her family. Burrell was one of Benjamin Howard's slaves. It is believed that he was born in Maryland about 1745 and died in Wilkes County in 1845. Based on Ms. Moretz's sources she believes that Burrell had an association with Daniel Boone regarding his treks from the Howard plantation in Happy Valley up the escarpment to the pastureland in what is now the ASU campus. Burrell most likely guided Boone through the place we call Boone's Trace or Cook's Gap.

Markers here, monuments there, signs of Boone everywhere.



Blowing Rock Museum



Cook's Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway: the first marker went missing in 1963. It was replaced by this one, which went missing in 2002.

One of our Trail projects is to locate and document all of the Boone Markers in our area. We would like your help in documenting markers in each of the following counties; Davie, Davidson, Surry, Forsyth, Rowan, Yadkin, Iredell, Wilkes, Caldwell, Alexander and Watauga. Also, many of the markers are in need of repair and some loving care. We would like to thank Carl White host of Life in the Carolinas for stepping up to the plate to spiff up the Boone arrowhead marker in North Wilkesboro. Learn how you can be involved in this project at our annual meeting in January. Pictured below are four of the many monuments that surround us. We are even beginning to find ones we did know about.



Main Street, East Bend in Yadkin County



Off US 311 near Union Cross Elementary School in Forsyth County

My Boone Ancestry

By Barbara Spears Pipek

I grew up in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Wilkes County, North Carolina. Where I grew up is close to the area when Daniel Boone and Rebecca Bryan lived in a log cabin on the Yadkin River before they went west to Kentucky, the Boone's were also part of our education here in Wilkes. My family consisted of six children, my parents and my maternal Grandmother. I always knew that somehow I was related to Daniel Boone as my Grandmother told me so. I wish I had started asking my Grandmother questions a lot earlier. My grandmother, Laura Ann Ashley instilled in me the desire to know who my ancestors were. She once told me "how do you know where you are going if you don't know where you have been." In other words, I felt she was telling me I needed to walk in her footsteps. I started my genealogy research in 1974 and it was not until around June 1990 that I found my connection to the Boone Family.

I learned that Daniel's eldest sister Sarah Boone Wilcoxson was my 6th Generation Great-Grandmother and that is when my Boone Family began. I have an extensive data base and written research on the Boone Family Genealogy and the majority of it was done by old-fashioned research by me and some help from my husband, Arthur Pipek and my Mother, Zona Eva Cardwell Spears, who was a 5th Generation Granddaughter of Sarah Boone. Once I found the actual connection, I had to start researching the whole Boone Family and get to know my ancestors. We currently live on the family property that has been in my family for many generations. In fact, my Great-Grandmother Cornelia Ann *Owens* Ashley Powell (my link back to Sarah Boone) is buried in the Family Cemetery behind our log home. I have owned the property since 1974; and my parents before that.

Daniel and Rebecca Bryan Boone were in Wilkes County, NC from 1751-1799 and several of my ancestors were living in Wilkes County, to name a few Church, Greer, McGee, Owens and Shepherd.

Once I finally retired in 2015, I joined The Boone Society (BooneSociety.org) in order to help maintain the Boone History, both nationally and here in Wilkes County and in North Carolina. In 2020, the Society needed members to run for office and I accepted the position of Treasurer. In early 2021 when the Boone Genealogist passed away, I was asked to become the new Boone Genealogist.

So, when I received the invitation from Mary Bohlen and when I read the Purpose of the North Carolina Daniel Boone Heritage Trail, I decided to join the "Boone Heritage Trail"; hoping to learn more about who my Boone ancestors were, while helping to promote and preserve the Boone legacy here in Wilkes and surrounding counties.

Boone Trail Gathering and Annual Meeting

January 20, 2022

10-noon ♦ Wilkes Heritage Museum ♦ Wilkesboro, NC

Invitations with details coming soon.

Current Members and Sponsors of the NCDBHT

RG Absher
Ann Black
Mary Bohlen
Molly Brown
Mike Campbell
Linda Ceriello
Billy Charlton
Kelly Coffey
Roger Cox
Robert Crum

Michelle and Sim DeLapp
Carolyn Faulkner
Linda Leonard
Andrew Mackie
Margaret Martine
Carolyn McManamy
Caroline Moser
Marcia Phillips
Barbara Spears Pipek

David and Carolyn
Sherman
Doris Short
Jolene Tomaro

Watauga TDA
Yadkin TDA
Wilkes TDA
Davie TDA



Mince Meat Pie is an old Christmas tradition that may have been a dish on the Boone table. The 18th century receipt is available on our website.

The **North Carolina Daniel Boone Heritage Trail, Inc.** is a 501 (c) 3 dedicated to promoting and preserving the life of Boone in North Carolina. To learn more about the NCDBHT visit www.ncdanielboonetrail.org or follow on Facebook.



*Thank you to Doris Short and
Total Real Estate Mocksville for sponsoring our
Boone Heritage Trail Newsletters.*

North Carolina Daniel Boone Heritage Trail, Inc.

126 W. Church Street
Mocksville, NC 27028

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Email Address _____

Other Internet Address (Website, Facebook, etc.) _____

Telephone (H) _(____)_____ (C)_(____)_____

"The purpose of the North Carolina Daniel Boone Heritage Trail, Inc. is to identify and celebrate the life, journeys, and cultural heritage of frontiersman Daniel Boone from 1752-1773 throughout the region of the Yadkin River Valley through educational and historical interpretation, while promoting heritage and cultural tourism." -- NCDBHT Bylaws, 2015

Why do you want to become a member? Check all that apply.

- To share my knowledge of Daniel Boone and his life and times
 To help promote the heritage of Daniel Boone and his family in my county
 To help promote tourism in my county
 Other _____

Membership Category:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Level 1 Pioneer | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Level 2 Hunter | 25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Level 3 Trapper | 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Level 4 Explorer | 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Level 5 Trailblazer | 500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Donation | \$ _____ |

The State of North Carolina incorporated NC Daniel Boone Heritage Trail on April 6, 2011. North Carolina Daniel Boone Heritage Trail, Inc. is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization. Donations are tax-deductible within the extent of IRS tax laws.

What your Membership will do:

- 1) Preserve the heritage of Daniel Boone and his legacy in North Carolina;
- 2) Increase the awareness of Daniel Boone sites in North Carolina;
- 3) Reconnect the public with the history of Daniel Boone and his contemporaries as residents of various locations in the Yadkin River Valley.

Welcome to our membership! Please make your check payable to NCDBHT and mail to
Linda Leonard, Treasurer, 126 West Church Street, Mocksville, NC 27028