

0. WHO WAS DANIEL BOONE REALLY? - Story Preface

**1. WHO WAS DANIEL BOONE REALLY?**

2. WHY WAS BOONE CHARGED WITH TREASON?

3. MORE EVIDENCE AGAINST BOONE?

4. BOONE'S COURT MARTIAL

5. EVIDENCE SUBMERGED IN LEGEND

6. THE LIFE AND TIMES OF DANIEL BOONE

7. BOOKS AND OTHER SOURCES ABOUT BOONE'S TRIAL



Major General Anthony Wayne negotiated with the heads of several Native-American nations—including the Shawnee—as he concluded the 1795 agreement known as the "Greenville Treaty." Historians believe that one of General Wayne's officers painted this scene. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. PD

On November 2, 1734, Daniel Boone was born in a log cabin near the present town of [Reading, Pennsylvania](#). His parents were [English Quakers](#) who had 11 children.

Although Daniel became a young woodsman, who kept his family supplied with fresh meat, he could read and write. His favorite book was [Gulliver's Travels](#) which may have been an early influence on his sense of adventure. His boyhood home in contemporary [Birdsboro, Pennsylvania](#) is still a place where people celebrate his life.

When Daniel was sixteen, his family moved south. They settled in the [Yadkin River Valley](#) in what is now [North Carolina](#). It was in Carolina where Daniel met his wife, [Rebecca Bryan](#).

Rebecca came from a prominent family that was loyal to the British. Two of her uncles were [officers of the Loyalist militia](#) in North Carolina. Daniel and Rebecca eventually had ten children.

As a woodsman and a hunter, Boone was the perfect choice to lead expeditions into [territory unsettled](#) by Americans. In 1769, he and four other explorers entered the "new" land of Kentucky.

While Kentucky had not been settled by Americans, it was not "new" land for the [Shawnee Indians](#). In fact, it was sacred territory (follow the link to view original signatures on a [1795 peace treaty](#)) for the Shawnee.

In 1775, when Daniel was 41 years old, a Carolina judge (Col. Richard Henderson) hired him to make a road through a pass in the Kentucky mountains. The pass was the [Cumberland Gap](#). Later, a highway marker at the beginning of the Cumberland Gap Trail honored Boone's part in forging the wilderness.

Col. Henderson had purchased some of the [Cherokee land in Kentucky](#). His hope was to establish a new American colony on the land he had purchased.

Boone's job was to blaze a [trail](#) and, at the end of the [300-mile trail known as the Wilderness Road](#), the frontiersman established the fort which bore his name: [Boonesborough](#). Living conditions were extremely primitive, as this [1907 photo of Boone's cabin](#) at High Bridge, Kentucky shows.

Daniel Boone became famous for all his exploits after an investor in the Kentucky property, [John Filson](#), wrote a book which created a legend. [The Adventures of Colonel Daniel Boon, Formerly a Hunter; Containing a Narrative of the Wars of Kentucky](#) gave Daniel Boone an international reputation as a "noble anglo frontiersman." That legend has survived intact to this day.

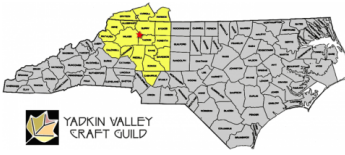
What was never part of the legend was an incident that occurred just outside the fort of Boonesborough in 1778. It was this incident - and its aftermath - that formed the basis of the charges against Boone.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WHO-WAS-DANIEL-BOONE-REALLY-Daniel-Boone>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

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### Daniel Boone - Yadkin River Valley

Map locator of the Yadkin River Valley online, courtesy [Yadkin Valley Craft Guild](#).

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Daniel-Boone-Yadkin-River-Valley>

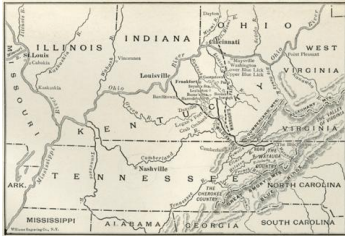


### North Carolina - Map Locator

Image depicting location of North Carolina, within the US, by TUBS, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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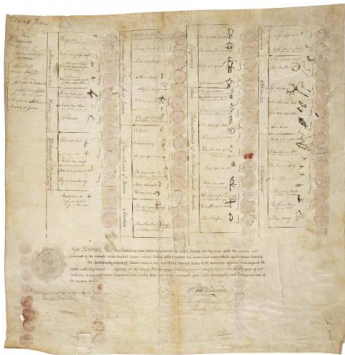
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/North-Carolina-Map-Locator>



### Map of the Cumberland-Gap

Image online, courtesy TSLA (Tennessee State Library and Archives). PD

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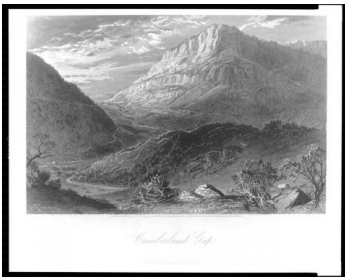


### 1795 Peace Treaty - Greenville Treaty

Image, described above, online courtesy Wyandot Nation. PD

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/1795-Peace-Treaty-Greenville-Treaty>



### Cumberland Gap

Illustration of the Cumberland Gap, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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### Wilderness Road Trail

Image of the Wilderness Road, online courtesy Library of Congress. PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Wilderness-Road-Trail>

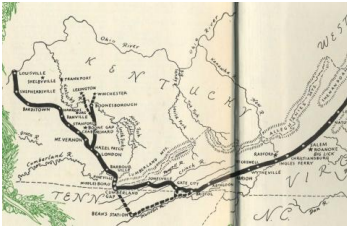


### Map Depicting Boonesborough and Wilderness Road

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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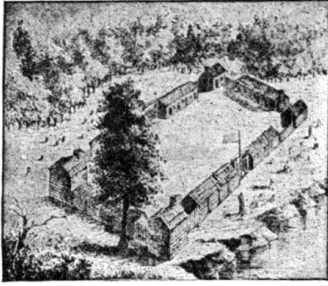
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Depicting-Boonesborough-and-Wilderness-Road>



### Daniel Boone - Wilderness Road

Map of the Wilderness Road, and surrounding territory, online courtesy THFK (TN History for Kids.)

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Daniel-Boone-Wilderness-Road>



### Boonesborough - Daniel Boone's Fort

Image from *The Story of Kentucky*, by Rice S. Eubank, A. B. (published, in 1913, by F. A. Owen Publishing Company, Dansville, NY) - online, courtesy Project Gutenberg.

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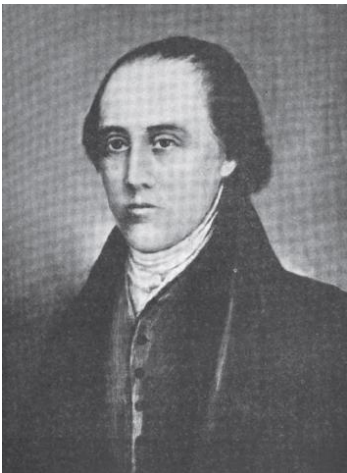
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Boonesborough-Daniel-Boone-s-Fort>



### Daniel Boone's Kentucky Cabin

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Daniel-Boone-s-Kentucky-Cabin>



### John Filson - Kentucky Historian

Image of John Filson from *History of Kentucky* by Connelley and Coulter (1922), online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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