



American Legends: The Life of Daniel Boone

Charles River Editors

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*Includes portraits of Boone and illustrations depicting other important people and places in his life.

*Analyzes some of the legends about Daniel Boone's life in an effort to separate fact from fiction.

*Explains how Daniel Boone's legacy was shaped and how he became a national icon.

*Includes a Bibliography for further reading.

"Many heroic actions and chivalrous adventures are related of me which exist only in the regions of fancy.

With me the world has taken great liberties, and yet I have been but a common man." – Daniel Boone

A lot of ink has been spilled covering the lives of history's most influential figures, but how much of the forest is lost for the trees? In Charles River Editors' American Legends series, readers can get caught up to speed on the lives of America's most important men and women in the time it takes to finish a commute, while learning interesting facts long forgotten or never known.

The Wild West and the frontier have long held a special place in the narrative of American history, and all of the legends and folk heroes who lived in the 19th century owe their reputation to the original American frontier folk hero, Daniel Boone. Boone was literally a trailblazer: the legendary pioneer established his Wilderness Road by striking west into present-day Kentucky and establishing Boonesborough, one of the earliest white settlements west of the Appalachians. Hundreds of thousands of settlers would follow his path by the end of the 18th century.

While that was an important and proud legacy for the former Revolutionary War militiaman and Virginia State Assemblyman, Boone became known for the outsized tales and adventures associated with his foray into the frontier. Far and wide, people spoke of Boone's expert marksmanship, his encounters with wild bears, and his hardscrabble frontier life, making him a living legend and the prototypical Western frontier folk hero in America. All of it bewildered and bemused the actual man himself, whose own words about his affinity for the backwoods made him sound more like Henry David Thoreau than anything else. Boone was once quoted as saying, "Situated, many hundred miles from our families in the howling wilderness, I believe few would have equally enjoyed the happiness we experienced. I often observed to my brother, You see now how little nature requires to be satisfied. Felicity, the companion of content, is rather found in our own breasts than in the enjoyment of external things..."

Of course, that's how nobody has chosen to remember Daniel Boone, and the legends and lore have long outstripped the man himself. The legend of Daniel Boone helped him become an inspiration and model for Americans on the frontier, while also serving to make him the embodiment of the American pioneer overseas. Lord Byron even mentions Boone in his classic *Don Juan* (Of the great names which in our faces stare,/The General Boon, back-woodsman of Kentucky/Was happiest amongst mortals any where;/For killing nothing but a bear or buck, he/Enjoyed the lonely vigorous, harmless days/ Of his old age in wilds of deepest maze.")

American Legends: The Life of Daniel Boone chronicles the life of the frontier hero, and the legends and mythmaking that have shaped his legacy. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about America's original frontier folk hero like you never have before, in no time at all.

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Joyce Tower:

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