

# Abduction at Boonesborough

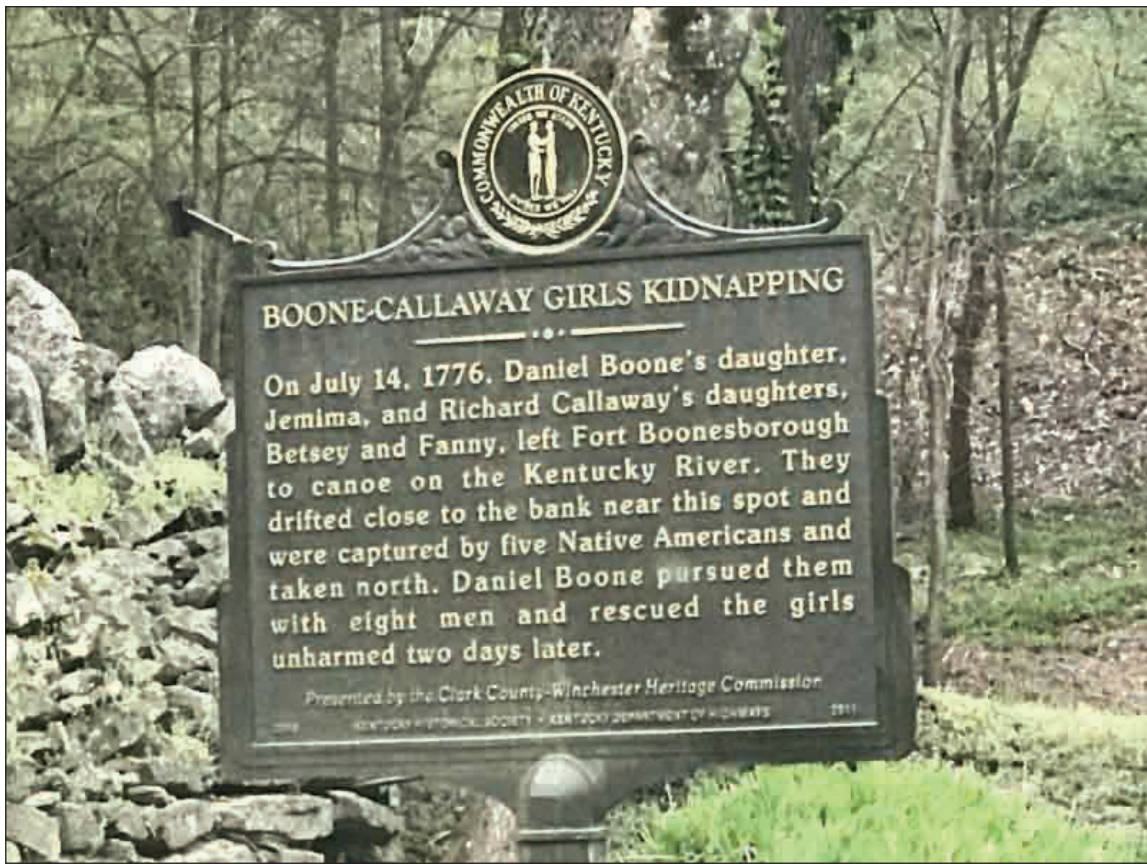
BY JADON GIBSON  
Contributing Writer

Pioneering settlers of Kentucky in the 1770's contended with the British and French as well as the American Indians and the hostile environment. It seemed impossible to defend the settlements against the threat of Indians and to keep the settlements fortified with munitions and other needs. Some of the settlers returned eastward to civilization. Colonel William Russell advocated abandoning the settlements. By July 4, 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was signed, the area around Boonesborough seemed more secure. Some lived with their families outside the fortification. Daniel Boone lived in a cabin on the river's edge while some built their homes on the opposite bank and beyond.

On Sunday, July 7, 1776, many of the country's founding fathers attended churches in the capital city of Philadelphia, resolute in their decision to charter America on a course of independence. Meanwhile on the western border of the wilderness along the Kentucky River in what would later become Kentucky, the American Indian threat had seemed to abate somewhat. The inhabitants had a false sense of security as the Indians were methodically spying on Boonesborough and planning their actions.

Betsy and Fanny Callaway and other smaller children joined Jemima Boone at the edge of the river as she soaked her sore foot in the water. Jemima jabbed her foot on the sharp end of a piece of cane stalk a couple days earlier. Cane grew throughout the area, in fact the abundance of cane resulted in the word becoming the first syllable in naming Kentucky.

"Let's ride in the canoe," sixteen-year old Betsy said. "We'll paddle Jemima. You can dip



(Photo submitted)

your foot in the water. Just don't let the fish get your toes."

While Daniel Boone was taking an afternoon nap the three girls giggled and got into the lone serviceable canoe and shoved off, telling the other youngsters that they must wait so as not to overcrowd the boat.

They laughed and talked girl talk as they paddled about on the nice afternoon. All three girls were in their mid-teens and each was "struck" on young men of the settlement. Betsy was engaged to be married while the two 14-year olds wanted to consider matrimony but Colonel Callaway and Daniel Boone both said they should wait at least until age sixteen.

After a while the boat drifted into stronger current and Jemima's dangling feet acted as a rudder to steer the craft even further along. Unknown to them a band of five American Indians

peered out from the cane on the opposite shore.

"Nathan, Nathan," Betsy yelled toward Nathan Reid on the bank. "Tell Daniel the canoe is getting away with us. Hurry."

Nathan didn't hear her, in fact the only ones who did hear were the American Indians who stealthed through the bushes along the bank, keeping pace with the canoe. The girls weren't overly worried at that time however, because they were unaware of the Indian's presence. They also felt they would soon get the canoe into the slower current near the water's edge and be able to paddle back upstream.

After floating little more than a quarter mile downstream the boat neared the opposite bank where the current was slower. One of the girls noticed an abundance of colorful wildflowers nearby and wanted to climb onto the bank to pick them.

"Holy Moses, not me," Jemima retorted. "There might be injuns in the bushes."

They paddled hard to propel the canoe into the slower current closer to the water's edge but it became hung on a small sandbar. Heavy cane grew along the bank.

The Shawnees, accompanied by a Cherokee chief, waited quietly in the thicket, biding their time. They had been scouting Boonesborough as part of a common effort of several tribes, banding together to expel the whites from what they considered to be their hunting ground.

Remaining steadfast against the sand, the back of the canoe turned toward the shore. Immediately the Indians knew it was their opportunity and they charged into the shallow water and grabbed the three struggling girls. Betsy and Fanny Cal-

laway took swings at them with their paddles as they yelled for help. No one heard their cries and within a short time the girls were in the clutches of the red men who whisked them into the nearby woods.

Soon the American Indians forced the girls to cease their cries for help by holding them tightly by the hair and threatening them with knives and tomahawks as Chief Hanging Maw admonished them to "be quiet."

After a short distance Jemima Boone's injured foot became so sore that she couldn't walk, falling to the ground in pain. When one of the Indians gave her moccasins to wear, Jemima recognized him as a Cherokee chief, Hanging Maw, who had visited her father at their cabin in Tennessee.

"You are a friend of my papa," she said to him. "Dan'l Boone is our pa. He is your friend. These are my sisters. Let us go back home."

Jemima thought that their chances for release would be better if she said they were all Boone's daughters.

"So I finally have a good dealing with Boone," Hanging Maw laughed. "You will come with us."

The group divided into smaller groups after Maw instructed each of the girls to follow along behind a different brave. They proceeded to move through the hills and valleys. This was a method the Indians used to confuse anyone attempting to follow them.

Maw knew that Boone and the others would certainly search for the girls.

Jadon Gibson is a widely read Appalachian writer from Harrogate, TN. His stories are both historical and nostalgic in nature. Thanks Lincoln Memorial University, Alice Lloyd College and the Museum of Appalachia for their assistance.

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The hereinafter described real properties will be sold and conveyed on the following terms and conditions:

1. Subject to valid and existing easements, restrictions, reservations, conditions, covenants, and limitations apparent or of record in the chain of title.
2. The purchaser shall either pay the entire purchase price at the time of sale; or if the sale is made on credit, the purchaser shall pay a minimum deposit of 10% of the purchase price with the balance due in 30 days. If the sale is made on credit, the purchaser shall pay the required deposit at the time of sale and execute bond for the balance due bearing interest at the rate the Judgement bears from the date of sale until paid, with SURETY THEREON AND SAID SURETY MUST BE PRESENT AT THE SALE AND APPROVED BY THE MASTER COMMISSIONER; and the bond shall be secured by a lien upon said property sold which shall have the full force and effect of a judgement.
3. The real properties shall be sold free and clear of all liens, indebtedness, interest and claims of the parties to the pro-

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ceeding, subject to any and all applicable statutory rights of redemptions, including and Right of Redemption granted to the United States of America pursuant to 28 U.S.C Sec. 2410.

4. Delinquent ad valorem taxes will be paid out of the proceeds of sale. The purchaser will be responsible for payment of the 2025 ad valorem taxes. Possession of the real property will be given to the purchaser with the delivery of the deed of conveyance thereto.

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**ANP TAX LIEN COMPANY, LLC V SHEILA FOISTER CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-CI-00041; JUDGMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,873.84; BEING TRACT 3-B-2, SECTION 1-A RIVER RIDGE SUBDIVISION PLAT CABINET B SLIDE 3 LINCOLN COUNTY CLERK; SEE DEED BOOK 235 PAGE 4; PVA MAP #035-01-08-001.00**

**SALE NO. 2**  
**MID SOUTH CAPITAL PARTNERS LP ET AL V JEFFREY DENNY ET AL; CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-CI-00035; JUDG-**

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**MENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,199.78; BEING THE PROPERTY AT 71 A.K. CALDWELL LANE WAYNESBURG, KY 40489; SEE DEED BOOK 249 PAGE 510; SEE PVA MAP #WB-01-004**

**SALE NO. 3**  
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