

The Origin Of Boone County

In the year 1609, James, by the grace of God, King of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc., granted to the London Company a portion of land bordering on the Atlantic ocean for about four hundred miles, and "up into the land throughout from sea to sea, West and Northwest."

Thus was secured to the English speaking people the land now known as Virginia and Kentucky. It included the land between the Ohio River and the Great Lakes.

In 1784 the land north of the Ohio River was ceded to the United States. Virginia retained the Ohio River within its boundaries.

By 1633 the English were so firmly established in Virginia as to require a county form of government.

Eight counties, or shires, were established and were organized and governed in much the same manner as the shires in England.

As settlement extended westwardly more counties were added. In 1772 the County of Fincastle was established and it included the land now known as Kentucky.

In 1776 the land of the west was designated as Kentucky County.

Let us review a bit:

In 1753 Indians attacked John Findley at a place called by a name that resembled Kentucky.

John Findley, Daniel Boone and Dr. Thomas Walker were with Braddock during the Indian wars. From Findley the

others learned about the Kentucky land.

In 1750 D. Thomas Walker went through the gap into the new land. He named the gap for the Duke of Cumberland, son of the King of England.

In 1751 Christopher Gist, representing the Ohio Land Company, explored the Ohio River.

In 1771 Simon Kenton was in Kentucky.

In 1769 Boone and Findley were in Kentucky.

In 1773 Thomas Bullitt explored the Ohio River and was at Big Bone Lick.

In 1773-1775 several unsuccessful attempts were made to establish a settlement in Kentucky.

In 1775 Richard Henderson formed the Transylvania Company and bought a large tract of land from the Indians. Daniel Boone was employed by him and it was under his direction that Boonesborough was established.

By 1775 there were four settlements: Boonesborough, Boiling Springs, near Danville, St. Asaphs, at Stanford and Harrodsburg.

There were settlements at Royal Springs and McClelland's Fort near Georgetown.

In 1776 Kentucky County was divided into Fayette, Lincoln and Jefferson Counties.

By 1792 there were Nelson, Bourbon, Mercer, Madison, Mason and Woodford. These nine counties were counties of Virginia until 1792 when the state of Kentucky was formed.

The idea of separation from Virginia had been deemed necessary and was first acted upon at a meeting in Danville, in 1784. There followed a series of conventions. Virginia, the United States, and the people in Kentucky had to be satisfied with the terms of separation and admission to the union.

On June 1, 1792, Kentucky became a state and Isaac Shelby was elected its first governor.

Then came a rash of county formation. Scott was formed from Woodford in 1792. Harrison was formed from Bourbon and Scott in 1793. Campbell was formed from Harrison, Scott and Mason in 1794. Boone was taken off of Campbell in 1799. Kenton came from Campbell in 1840.

Boone County had been visited by French explorers in 1739. A number of men from Virginia had seen it. Big Bone Lick with its fossil remains of Ice-Age animals was well known. Indians and whites made salt there.

Mary Ingles, captured by Indians in 1756, was brought to Big Bone. She escaped and finally made her way back home to Augusta County.

John David Woolpert, of Pennsylvania, was given a grant of land on the Ohio River. It was on this land that John Tanner established Tanners Station in 1789. On this location John J. Flournoy established the town of Petersburg.

Boone County Order Book A, page 1 reads:

"At a meeting of sundry inhabitants of the county of Boone at the home of William Cave, Esquire, in the said county, on Monday, the 17th day of June, 1799, a commission was produced from under the hand of James Garrard, Esq., Governor of Kentucky, appointing John Hall, John Conner, John Brown, Archibald Huston and Archibald Reid, Esquires, Gentlemen, Justices of the Peace of the County Court and of the County of Boone.

"Whereupon the said John Conner administered the oath of office as a Justice of the Peace to the said John Hall and the said John Hall administered the same to the said John Conner, John Brown, Archibald Huston, and Archibald Reid, Esquires, thereupon a Court was established."

Cave Johnson was elected Clerk of the Court. Thomas Allen had been appointed Coroner by the Governor. Moses Scott qualified as Surveyor. John Cave qualified and took the oath of office as sheriff.

The court proceeded to fix on a place for the seat of justice, whereon to erect the public buildings. Robert Johnson and John H. Craig offered a place on Woolper Creek, then known as Craig's Camp. The County Seat was called Wilmington and in 1816 was changed to Burlington.

By these acts Boone County was in business.

The Court busied itself with many matters deemed necessary to the welfare of the new county.

On September 16, 1799, the Court proceeded to fix the rates for Tavern Keepers in the County. Breakfast, dinner or supper, one shilling and six pence.

Lodging per night, six pence. Whiskey per half pint, nine pence. Peach Brandy per half pint, one shilling and six pence. French Brandy or Medary wine per half pint, three shillings.

All other wine or rum, two shillings and three pence. Horse to hay per night, one shilling. Pasturage per night, six pence. Oats or corn per gallon, eight pence.

License was issued for one year.

On July 21, 1800, Arthur Connelly's mark for his stock is a half crop off the upperside of the left ear, and his branding iron A.C. is ordered recorded.

On April 20, 1801, John Conner and Archelaus Alloway, Gent., are appointed inspectors of tobacco, hemp, and flour at Woolper Warehouse on the Ohio River, whereupon the said Conner and Alloway took the oath required by law.