THE DANIEL BOONE AND FRONTIER FAMILIES RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

History and Genealogy

Ken Kamper, Historian . 1606 Cork Court . Hazelwood, MO 63042

March 17th, 1995

Dear Member:
[A copy has been sent to all of our members
and some other friends of our history]

With this letter, we are officially starting our new DANIEL BOONE AND FRONTIER FAMILIES RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, and taking our first steps into an interesting future.

The Daniel Boone and Frontier Families history and genealogy covers an important and previously not too well defined part of our American history. The subjects are tremendously interesting, covering a very large amount of material.

I had hoped to get involved in this project after I retired from my full-time engineering job, however the surprising amount of "new" material found, and the interest shown, and help offered by many of our "Associates" has convinced me to try to keep things going ahead of the ideal schedule. With so much to cover, we will start off slow until other persons at this end are available to help out.

To start things off I will be functioning as the Historian and the Editor, and initially as the Corresponding Secretary. Also initially my wife will be covering the membership records and the Treasurer's role. While the amount of time involved seems awsome, let me say that such tasks are not impossible. This is essentially how we had to function for the past five years as part of a not very help oriented Historical Society.

There are a couple of areas where we will try to improve as early as we can;

1-answering in-depth requests for information. While much of the requested information is available in our many files, books, etc., this resource material needs to be organized as we go along so that we can track down the data much more readily, and in some cases just simply track it down.

2-answering all of the general correspondence in a timely manner. There have been between 250 and 300 letters a year for the past five years. While I have been able to answer all new inquiries, I have been forced the last couple of years to miss some of the return responses to my (patient) earlier acquainted "history friends".

-It is also possible that someone will pick up the role of newsletter Editor, or that we will find a way to share the role via computer.

While I am mainly involved with the history, we will cover the related genealogy, ..with the help of a number of our members. All of this has become the basis for our new "Association". There are other key persons who are already deeply involved. As we go along we will define their roles and contributions as we actually put the pieces together... newsletter to newsletter. Our first newsletter will cover a considerable amount of information on who is involved and how.

I'm excited about the things that we have found and the things that we still have to learn about, ...and I'm excited about what we will accomplish...together. We already have a considerable amount of excellent material available, and I am committed to presenting it, long into the future. Much of the knowledge base of our Association has come from a number of our current members from around the country. With this kind of working together we will continue to have much to offer. I have a tremendous appreciation for all of our contributing members, and as we go forward I'll try to recognize most of their efforts in the newsletter.

The Immediate Future:

Everyone receiving this letter will receive the first issue of our new newsletter.

Those Boone-Frontier members who had memberships extending beyond December of 1994 with the Boone-Duden Society, or those who joined through me since mid-1994, will automatically continue on as Charter Members of our new DANIEL BOONE AND FRONTIER FAMILIES RESEARCH ASSOCIATION.

Those persons who's membership ran out in December of last year, will be sent an invitation to continue on with us as Charter Members.

The last three issues of our Boone and Frontier Research Letter were sent out in one package at the end of December. They were held until the last minute of 1994 due to several of the local members of the Boone-Duden Society, who seemed intent on stopping any reimbursement to me for the cost of the copying and postage. Reimbursement one time (for three issues instead of three separate times, seemed the safest route. Fortunately all went well, and we are now totally free of that organization.

If any members were contacted by the Boone-Duden organization to pay their membership for next year, and if the member mistakenly sent their intended Daniel Boone and Frontier Families Research Association dues to the Boone-Duden Society, please let me know. We will take care of it for you and switch you over to be with us.

From past correspondence, we should have quite a large group of initial members as we start toward our future accomplishments. For your information, we will publish the names of all of our members during the our first year.

What we are doing and why we are doing it:

1-We are finding, sorting, and assembling the factual history related to Daniel Boone, the Boone and Bryan families, and the frontier families who were along the frontier with the Boones, so that we can present the correct and complete history for public knowledge.

2-We are trying to establish a centering place for helping the many descendants of the Boone, Bryan, and other frontier families, to trace their ancestry back to and through the difficult to find Missouri and Kentucky frontier period (1775-1820).

3-We are trying to locate and document all of the remaining Boone and related frontier sites as a first step, ..so we can try to stimulate the public's interest as the second step. Hopefully the interested public will help lead the way for preserving these important remaining Boone era sites for the benefit of future generations.

4-We are trying (on a long-term basis) to promote a factual understanding of conditions and events related to the frontier people (those persons who lived along the front edge of America's westward migration). These frontier families are the persons who lived in the unconquered and still challenged area distantly located between the Indian settlements to the front and the white settlements far behind.

5-We are also trying to promote a correct recognition of the important role of the frontier families as they moved the main thrust of the American Westward Expansion from the east coast to the west coast. Mostly involved were several generations of the same families. Starting in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina, ..they moved through Tennessee and Kentucky, ..and then continued on west of the Mississippi River going mostly to and through Missouri, and on westward to Texas, California, and Oregon. Along the way many members of the frontier families spread out to the Old Northwest (Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois), later Arkansas, and still later Colorado and the remaining states in between. These frontiersmen and their families are a generally unrecognized key part of our American history.

* * * * *

We have centered on Daniel Boone as our main subject, not only because he was at the center of the main parts of the frontier movement, but also because at this late date, his true story is far from defined. His story is the most inadequately presented of all of America's early heroes.

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Best wishes to all of you,

Ken Kamper

Historian and Editor

The Boone-Duden Situation (only a few members will receive this)

Since almost all of us were part of the Boone-Duden Society together, and since many persons apparently still receive letters from that organization inviting them to remain as a member, I feel I should explain part of what took place regarding the Boone-Frontier members, ...as we became their unwanted members.

At a point two-and-a-half years ago, the Society was doing great. The local Society had some one-hundred and thirty members and had become known from Maine to California and from Florida to the State of Washington. Six years before, at the Society's inception, I had been elected (on a non-paid volunteer basis) to be the Historian and a member of the five-person Board of Directors. With the Society starting at a ground-zero history base, I worked hard as its Historian to find and promote the Society's history, which included the German, Boone, and local history interests as mandated by the Society's By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation.

At this important point two and a half years ago I recognized that "most" members were interested in only the "Boone subject", or only the "German-local subject", ...while "only a few" were interested in "all of the subjects". To resolve the need to satisfy all of the member's history interests, and to allow myself to back away some from a six-year over-involvement in the Society, I decided to concentrate on just the Boone and frontier history, and to allow other persons (hopefully) to come forward to take over the German-local history subjects. The Board of Directors met, and decided unanimously to set up two Newsletters, ...a Boone-Frontier Newsletter with myself as Editor, and a Boone-Duden (mostly German/local subject) Newsletter with a separate Editor. The Board then chose the second editor. The idea was to expand the Society with more history material for meeting everyone's history needs.

Soon after, a non-Board member (a previous close friend) called me to say that she felt my idea to concentrate on the Boone and frontier subjects would split the Society. Although the conversation was otherwise very friendly, she never (ever) spoke to me again. From then on..for the next two-and-a-half years, she, and two other non-Board members, went to extreme ends to destroy my Historian role and my reputation so that they could take over the Society and remake it into their own image. Instead of addressing their "complaints" in written form to the Board of Directors (who's decisions they didn't accept), they decided to eliminate the problem themselves.

A set of strange circumstances helped them to carry out their intentions, such as;

-as the three continued throughout to take matters in their own hands, the Board should have stopped them cold. Instead the Board seemed confused and became passive.

-the Board consisted of only three officers and a Historian when the crucial decisions were made. The Vice-President had stopped attending meetings.

-after problems started developing the President, the main person involved in the Society's decisions which the three disagreed with, resigned for other than Society reasons.

-sometime after the problems were underway, the officers on the Board of Directors were replaced by newly elected members. The new members were not told about the problems.

-everything that the three had been doing had been "kept quiet" so as not to disturb the other members.

-It took a long time for even me to see how intent the three had become on trying to destroy my efforts and my involvement. However the two-year series of continued half-fabricated problems, all directed at one person, should have made the situation obvious to everyone.

-each so-called problem directed at me had a simple explanation, however no one wanted to "get involved" enough so that I could tell them what I knew.

-the non-knowing members and some of my better friends in the organization became duped into at least a neutral position by the three's feigned friendships and clever methods .

Some specifics of the situation included;

-the three took matters into their own hands to stop the Board's chosen Boone-Duden Newsletter editor from functioning. When found out they admitted their wrong, then later denied it, and later fabricated a story to blame me. They were never held accountable.

-the three falsely claimed the Board had never approved the Boone-Frontier Newsletter.

-one of three started stating to other members, and then repeated it at a Board meeting, that;

-"The Boone-Frontier Newsletter had to go, it doesn't belong in the Society";

-"The Society is not Boone or Duden, it is the area";

-"The Boone-Frontier members are from all around the country, they aren't interested in our area..they don't belong."

-one of them proposed that, "the Society should keep the dues money from the Boone-Frontier members, and send the Boone-Duden Newsletter in place of the Boone-Frontier Newsletter."

-From there on a constant flow of disturbing fabrications and insinuations continued. These were directed at me personally to discredit my influence in the Society.

After a year-and-a-half of their constant insinuations, and with no one helping to stop the harassment, I started to develop health problems caused by the related stress. I had gotten to a point where I couldn't get the subject off of my mind. For several months I couldn't eat right or sleep right. I had a constant strong pressure in my upper body, and I developed an unusual heart-beat problem. One test showed a heart problem, which since has seemingly disappeared. I also developed another health related problem, similar to one I had developed from an over-stress situation earlier in my life.

To hopefully bring peace at this point, and to protect the Boone-Frontier member's dues money which paid for their Boone-Frontier newsletter, I made a motion at a Board meeting to remove the Boone-Frontier newsletter from the Society. The motion passed. I felt I had to compromise by leaving the member's 1994 dues money in the Society until December 1994, in order to get the approval.

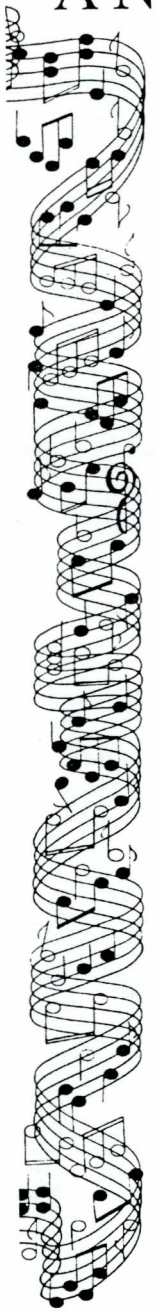
The problems continued, so around August of last year my wife and I resigned from the Society. The mess has not been totally resolved, however it should soon be over.

Ken Kamper
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April 25 1995

A Note From...

Ruth B. Kershner



Dear Ken -

Thank you for updating me on your Daniel Boone project. I'm sure you'll do a marvelous job.

I was tracing some Bownds women when we did a lot of traveling after my husband retired.

In 1987, we moved to this Retirement facility, Westminster Manor, which features lifetime care. My husband died just before his 80th birthday. I no longer travel and am not engaged in research, so cannot be of help to you.

I do wish you the best of fortune. With your energy and know-how, I'm sure The Boone Project and Frontier History will be enriched by your energy and know-how.

Congratulations!

Ruth Bownds Kershner

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