

Daniel Boone didn't like coonskin caps



by Sgt. Mike Cohan
Donegal Rangers

Daniel Boone must have been quite some character. It is a shame that so much legend has been built up around him that nobody remembers him for the things that he actually did. Ole Dan'l never did carve his name in a tree (what a silly thing to do) or rattle a bear (he was brave, not crazy) but he did leave behind a few pointers for would-be adventurers that we Rangers might benefit from. Don't wear shoes in the woods, he advised, because they are too noisy. Soft buckskin mocassins can tread on twigs or leaves silently if you know how to walk. Ordinary people walk heel-to-toe but

a real woods-man puts his toes down first, and gently so that any crunching will be muffled. Tip-toeing through the woods may be awkward but that's what Dan'l advises.

Never stalk game in a gully or ravine; always stay on the ridge because that is where the Indians will be and even the "peaceable" ones will take your scalp if you provide the opportunity. Don't overfill the pan when priming. Too much powder can stop up the vent-hole. Dan'l primed the pan no more than half full. As for those buckskins he is portrayed as wearing 365 days a year, he says that's foolishness. Ain't nothin' colder'n wet buckskin nor nothin' hotter in the heat. Boone usually wore linsey-

woolsey. Fringe, he said, was simply added for looks. No truth to the story about shedding water or blending into the scenery better. Coonskin caps were alright for warmth but they were hot in summer and had no brim to keep out sun or rain. Fess Parker wears a coonskin, the real Daniel Boone usually wore a flat brimmed hat like those of the military rifle-men. Keeping your feet warm and dry was accomplished by stuffing dry leaves or grass into the mocassins. Deer hairs or rags will do.

Dan'l was a good hunter because he preferred to sit and wait for his target. And he was a good shot because he rested the long barrel of his rifle on a rock or branch. Shootin' offhand meant going hungry.

Caring for his rifle was no ritual for him. A little beef tallow or bear greases will keep her from rustin'. Making a fire to boil water is like gold; can't have too much nor waste too little. Urine is a good solvent for blackpowder but you have to run dry patches through to clean out the salt, then protect the bore with a tallow soaked patch. Heavy

powder charges are hurtful to a gun and downright wasteful too. About 50 grains of FFFG is plenty in any rifle between .45 and .50 caliber.

As for all those stories about Daniel Boone and his "Kentucky" rifle (he bought it in Lancaster) some are history and some are fiction. Sorting out the real story is nearly impossible but one interesting fact comes to light. John Finley of Donegal was the first white man to see Kentucky. Fifteen years later he and Boone served in the same battalion in the PA militia during the French and Indian War and it was then that Daniel Boone first heard of the lands beyond the Ohio. Several years later Dan'l made his first journey West, laden with Indian trade-goods that Finley gave him for the trip.

Seeing this legendary man in a more factual way does not detract from his courage or foresight. He was not a giant but a frontiersman from PA like so many others. It is well that America has chosen to remember him so that men of his kind will not be forgotten.

Teachers couldn't chew in school

by Wilbur I. Beahm

About one hundred and forty years ago the state of PA passed its first Public School Law, making free schools mandatory for those children whose parents could not pay for private teaching. In 1854, after a long fight, the State Legislature passed the laws which established free Public Schools for all children of the Commonwealth. There have been many changes and revisions since but the basic principles were then established.

The western part of the country was then one district. Its directors first employed teachers who had a room in which the school could be held, usually in the home of the teacher. These teachers thus furnished the school room and the fuel for heat. Later the directors decided to build one room schools which cost \$200 each if not plastered and \$250 if plastered. The pay for teaching was \$28.00 per month for women and \$40.00 per month for men; there was sex discrimination even then. There were many areas where the pay for teachers was less than in this district.

Later this district was divided into Marietta Boro Mount Joy Boro, East Donegal Township, and Mount Joy Township. School buildings containing several rooms were built in Marietta, Maytown, and Mount Joy. The building in Mount Joy had a gymnasium which was the first gym in a school building in the country. The Townships had mainly one room buildings with as few as two rooms. There were four High Schools, Marietta High School, Mount Joy High School, Maytown High School, and Milton Grove High School.

The early one room schools were much like the one at Valley Forge which many folks visit each year. Desks like shelves were built along the walls and pupils sat on benches. Later double desks were installed in rows with different sizes for the small and larger pupils. At first blackboards were just that, wide boards painted black. The school room had a large pot-bellied stove in the center. The teacher taught all grades, one to eight and was also the janitor. Several times a year the directors and/or the County Supt. would come to the school to see if everything was all right and to hear the pupils recite their lessons.

About 1895 Mount Joy published a list of rules for pupils and teachers, one of these rules forbade the chewing of tobacco during school hours. The teacher

kept a state register which showed daily attendance of pupils, the weather, any visitors, and comments. In 1861 there was a notation for one day as follows: "No school, a day of fasting and prayer by order of President Lincoln."

While there is no one now living who remembers the beginning of the Public School System of PA. I am sure there are some among the resident of the Donegal area who can add many interesting experiences of their days in these schools.



Episcopal Church history

Compiled by Father Red from the history of the Episcopal Church in Marietta.

The history of the church's work in the community of Marietta long antedates the building of the present edifice, at Market and Chestnut Streets. Between the years of 1810 and 1840 Episcopalians worshipped at the Old Zions Church, a Union Meeting House which is still standing and is in use by the Assembly of God.

After 1840 Rev. Dwight E. Lyman served as rector of the Marietta and Columbia congregations, dividing his time between the two congregations.

In Marietta, he had secured the use of a room, "over a paint shop and up an alley" which he had fitted up as a beautiful little chapel.

From the time of Mr. Lyman's resignation in the 1850's until 1865, the people of the Marietta congregation worshipped in Columbia making the journey there and back on a raft by way of the canal.

On Easter Day, April 16, 1865, following the assassination of President Lincoln, on Good Friday, April 14, the Rev. John

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Friendship Fire Co. from 1866 to 1920

This article was compiled and written by George H. Hedrick, Jr., of Mount Joy. George is employed as a professional fire fighter, Harrisburg Bureau of Fire; he is also secretary, historian, and fire line lieutenant for Friendship Fire Co.

As historian, he would appreciate an opportunity to copy any photos or documents pertaining to Friendship history, which he hopes to publish. Items may also be contributed to the Friendship show case.

Friendship Fire Company Number 1 can trace its origins to the year 1866 when in August of that year a fire destroyed several stables covering nearly a block along West Main Street. Shortly after this blaze the council purchased a second hand engine which was to remain in service for 43 years.

The Union Fire Company was established during this period; however, for reasons unknown, it was not well organized and did not survive.

Public notices were posted and on January 27, 1868, interested citizens met in the town hall to organize a fire company.

25 cents for leaving any hose off the carriage after sundown. 25 cents if a member was absent from a fire. \$1 if intoxicated around the enginehouse or while wearing company equipment. 25 cents for chewing or spitting around the enginehouse. There are several more that seem amusing now that were dire offenses in 1868.

Mount Joy's brave lads responded to the bells in the traditional equipment of the era as is evident from the minutes:

"It was on motion agreed to adopt the Black Fireman's hat and white frontpiece and the initials of the wearers name be placed on the hat." Black belts with red trimming and the name Friendship, and of course a red flannel shirt. 50 men were so equipped at a cost of \$405. By today's standards two men could be dressed to fight fires at that price.

The Friendship Fire Engine Company No. 1, as it was then known, went into business with a First Class Size Button Suction engine and a "Spider" hose carriage with 1000 feet of leather hose.

A hook and ladder truck was purchased for \$500 from the Philadelphia Fire Department and served for several years.

The Button engine, which was hauled to the scene of a fire by manpower and operated the same way was ranked among the most ornate and powerful engines of its time. The fact that it was able to throw a good stream is evidenced by the fact that in the Spring of 1875, when the waterworks opened, a celebration was held featuring a pumping contest between the Pioneer steamer from Marietta and Friendship. It was stated that the hand engine easily outdistanced the steamer and came in second only in endurance.

The first major fire faced

by the boys was the burning of the Cross Keys Hotel. The fire building was a total loss due to the hard time getting water from cisterns in the area and the windy conditions at the time. The Washington House was saved only by superior effort on the part of the firefighters.

The hand engine gave way to the internal combustion engine in 1909 when a waterous pumper was purchased at a cost of \$1650. The pump was powered by a four cylinder gasoline engine and the means of convergence was still manpower unless Harry Darren Kamp's team was available when the alarm sounded.

This engine, along with the three hose carriages, ladder truck, and chemical cart, served until 1920, when the first automobile

engines were purchased.

Henry Shaffner was elected to preside over the meeting. The preliminaries of setting up committees for Constitution and By-laws, securing of funds, and suggestion of officers were taken care of at this first meeting.

One week later the Constitution and By-laws were accepted and officers were elected. Henry Shaffner was elected president, Richard P. Kelly, Chief Engineer, and Robert Whitehead, Chief Hose Director.

The By-laws carried some interesting fines, put there to insure quality operation of the company. At the time they were quite serious and expensive, considering the value of the dollar.

Historical atlas

The 1875 Historical Atlas of Lancaster County, PA by Everts & Stewart is being reprinted, sponsored by the Lancaster County Historical Society. A pre-publication sale will be held until July 4, 1976.

A reprint on quality india paper by The Bookmark, Knightstown, Ind., national book and atlas reprint specialists, will be in its original size, 14" x 17". The atlas contains 138 pages, including 49 pages containing 129 skillfully drawn illustrations, 56 pages of landowner maps, including lot owners in

towns and villages as well as townships, 12 pages of business directories, 18 full pages of Lancaster County history, including family histories.

The pre-publication price is \$13.50 until July 4, and \$5.50 later. Copies will be mailed for \$1.00 extra. Library-bound copies may be obtained for an additional \$9.00. (PA residents add sales tax.) Please allow approximately six (6) weeks for delivery of library-bound copies. Mail orders to Lancaster County Historical Society, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603.