

~~Barrett~~ ~~Barrett~~ It was ten years after the tragic death of President Lincoln that his ^{son} family learned for the first time, the circumstances under which the pioneer Lincoln removed to the West, and discovered that he was related by blood to one of the ^{most celebrated} ~~greatest~~ men in early Western annals. Abraham Lincoln of Rockingham County, married ^{there} ~~there~~ Eliza Hamalt Wright whose mother was a ~~son~~ ~~son~~ sister of the famous Daniel Boone. The inducement which led him to leave Virginia where his standing and his fortune ^{were} ~~was~~ assured, was doubtless his relation to the great explorer, the hero of the new country of Kentucky, the land of fabulous richness and unlimited adventure. At a time when the Eastern States were ringing with the fame of the great hunter, who ^{then in the prime of his manhood and} ~~had~~ was in the midst of those achievements which will forever render him one of the most picturesque heroes in all our annals, it is not to be wondered at that his own family should have caught the ^{general} ~~general~~ enthusiasm, and felt the desire to emulate his career.

Boone's exploration of Kentucky had begun some ten years before his nephew Lincoln set out to follow his trail. In 1769 he made his memorable journey to that virgin wilderness of whose beauty he always loved to speak even to his latest breath. During all that year he hunted, finding everywhere abundance of game. "The buffalo" he says, "were more frequent than I have seen cattle in the settlements, browsing on the leaves of the cane, or cropping the turbage on these extensive plains, fearless because ignorant.

of the violence of man. Sometimes we saw hundreds in a drove, and the numbers about the salt springs were amazing." ~~He~~ In the course of the winter, however, he was captured by the Indians, while hunting with a comrade, and when they had contrived to escape they never found again any trace of the rest of their party. But Boone's brother Squire, with another adventurer from North Carolina. But a few days later they saw two men approaching and hailed them with the hunter's caution, "Hallo! strangers, who are you?" They replied "White men and friends." They proved to be Squire Boone and another adventurer from North Carolina. The younger ~~Boone~~ ^{Goode} had made that long pilgrimage through the trackless woods, led by an instinct of doglike affection, to find his elder brother and to share his Indian pleasures and dangers. Their two companions were soon waylaid & killed, and the ~~Boone~~ Boones spent the long winter in that mighty solitude undisturbed. In the Spring their ammunition - which was to them the only necessary of life - ran low, and one of them must return to the settlements to replenish the stock. It need not be said which ~~one~~ ^{assumed this duty} - the cadet went uncomplaining on his way and Daniel spent three months in absolute loneliness, as he himself expressed it "by myself, without bread, salt or sugar, without company of any fellow-creatures, or even a horse or dog." He was not insensible of the dangers of his situation. He never came to his camp without the utmost precautions, and always slept in the cane brakes if the signs were unfavorable.

But he makes in his memoir this curious reflection which would seem like affectation in one less perfectly and simply heroic. "How unhappy such a situation for a man tormented with fear, which is vain if no danger comes, and if it does, only augments the pain. It was my happiness to be destitute of this afflicting passion, with which I had the greatest reason to be afflicted." After his brother's return for a year longer they hunted in these lovely wilds and then returned to the Cadkin to bring their families to the new domain. They made the long ride back, four hundred miles, in peace and safety, a fact which shows how sparse was the Indian population in those days.

~~For several years~~ ^{For some time} after this Boone took no conspicuous part in the settlement of Kentucky. The expedition with which he left the Cadkin in 1773 met with a terrible disaster near Cumberland Gap in which his eldest son and five more young men were killed by Indians, and the whole party, discouraged by the blow, retired to the ~~safer~~ ^{safer} region of the Clinch River. In the meantime the dauntless speculator Henderson had begun his occupation with all the pomp of vice-royalty; Harrodsburgh had been founded, and corn planted, and a flourishing colony established at the Falls of the Ohio. ~~A party of surveyors were sent to that post in~~ ^{In 1774} Boone was called upon ^{by the Governor of Virginia} to escort a party of surveyors through the state and on his return was given the command of three garrisons, and for several years thereafter, the history of Kentucky is the record of his feats of arms. No one ~~is~~

ever equaled him in his knowledge of Indian character and his influence with the savages was a mystery to him and to themselves. ~~Three~~ Three times he fell into their hands and they did not harm him. Twice they adopted him into their tribes which they were still on the war path. Once they took him to Canada to show the Longknife Chieftains of King George that they could also ~~show~~ ^{exhibit} trophies of memorable prowess - but they refused to give him up even to their British allies. ~~He~~ In no quality of wise woodcraft was he wanting. He could out run a dog or a deer; he could thread the woods without foot day and night; he could find his way as easily as the panther could. Although a great athlete and a ~~valiant~~ ^{tireless} warrior, he hated fighting and only fought for peace. ~~But his counsels when they were heeded were always wise and when they were rejected disaster followed~~ In council and in war he was equally valuable. His advice was never rejected without disaster, nor followed but with advantage; and when the fighting once began there was not a rifle in Kentucky which could rival his. At the nine-days siege of Booneborough he took deliberate aim and killed a negro renegade who was harassing the garrison from a tree 525 feet away ^{and whose head only was visible from the fort.}. The mildest and quietest of men, he had killed dozens of enemies with his hand, and all this without malice and - strongest of all - without ^{the personal ill-will of those opposed to him.} incurring ~~their~~ hatred. He had self respect enough but not a spark of vanity. After the fatal Battle of the Blue Licks, where

the only point of light in the day's terrible work was the wisdom and valor with which he had partly retrieved a disaster he foresaw but was powerless to prevent, when it became his duty as senior surviving officer of the forces to report the affair to Gov. Harrison, his bare and naked narrative gives not a single hint of what he had done himself, nor mentions the gallant son lying dead on the field, nor the wounded brother whose gallantry might have justly claimed some notice. He was thinking solely of the public good; saying "I have encouraged the people in this country all that I could, but I can no longer justify them or myself to risk our lives here under such extraordinary hazards." He therefore begs his Excellency to take immediate measures for relief. During the short existence of Henderson's legislation, he was a member of it, and not the least useful one. Among his measures was one for the protection of game.

It was doubtless under the auspices of this most famous of our pioneers that Abraham Lincoln set out from Rockingham County to make a home for himself and his young family in that wild region which Boone was wresting from its savage holders.