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## Recollections on Capture by the Shawnee, 1778

by Joseph Jackson

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(7) Boone & his party captured <sup>Trans. from 3351</sup> ~~Feb. 1778~~ at the Blue Ricks.

from Joseph Jackson, a survivor of the party, born & bred in Bedford Co. Va. Dec. 15, 1755 - & was residing near Jacksonville, Bourbon Co. Ky - Apr. 1844.

Came to Ky, in the summer of 1777, in Capt. Charles G. Watkins' company of about 50 men for the protecting the country - from Bedford County.

Early in January, 1778, Daniel Boone & twenty eight others went from Boone's to where Watkins' company was stationed - to make salt at the Laven Blue Licks; were to stay a month, & then be relieved by Capt. Watkins and a party, from the fort, & about the same number. Of Boone's party, Mr. Jackson recollects the names of - George Hendricks, ~~Stephen~~ William Hancock, Benj<sup>r</sup> Kelly, Nathaniel Bullock, John Hollay, James & Micajah Callaway, Daniel Aubrey, Wm. Tracy, Amos Goodman, Jesse Coffey, Wm. & Samuel Brooks, Jack Dunn - these with Boone & Jackson (my informant S.C.D.) were among the

Boone & others captured at a Blue Licks.

captives - & ten others not recollectd. Leese Hodges, before the capture, had made two trips from Boonesboro to the Licks, & each time packed in a horse load of salt - & he was returning the captured.

Boone about the 1st of Feb. went to visit his beaver traps on Hankerson's, which done, he had packed a large horse load of buffalo meat & commenced his return for the Blue Licks. Here it will be necessary to

digest somewhat, or bring up anew. A large party of Indians were camped on Hinkson; ~~Spanish~~ King of the Shawnees & Black Licks were along, as were <sup>C\*</sup> ~~him~~, James & George Girty, & two Frenchmen, - Land = Mice & Botan, the former a trader, the other was from Detroit - a negro, Pompey, who acted as interpreter for the Indian chiefs, they not seeming to wish to trust the Girty's - & altogether they numbered one hundred & twenty. Four

Indians were despatched from their camp on Hinkson, <sup>\* It is not to be any and Simon - he did not go from Pittsburg after this - Feb.</sup>

(By Jos. Jackson, one of the captured party.)

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to the Blue Rocks to see if any one was there; & when  
they reached there it was snowing so fast that that  
they did not discover the men, & while on their way  
to rejoin their party, they met Boone with his horse  
loaded with buffalo meat - this was the 7<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
1778, - & it was still snowing so fast, that <sup>they</sup> got  
within thirty steps of him before he saw them.  
He at once jumped from his horse, & ran about  
six miles before the Indians overtook him. Three  
of the four pursued - one, ~~on horseback~~ <sup>stripped Boone, & mounted him, pulling</sup> directly  
in his rear, & the other two aimed to outglance  
him. When <sup>the</sup> two glancers, ~~were~~ within a few  
steps of him, they made an ineffectual shot  
at him - & were about to shoot a second time, when  
Boone weary & exhausted, surrendered. Boone now  
recognized in the mounted Indian one who had  
robbed him twice or thrice before. All three

now came up & shook hands with Boone, & he gave himself up. The Indians said they were going to take Boonesboro'. Boone began to devise the best mode of procedure in such an emergency. [He well knew that Boonesboro' was not in a condition to withstand an attack from so large a party & at that season of the year, when an enemy was little expected, there was a fair prospect of the place being taken by surprise: at all events it was not properly stocked for defense. As things appeared to Boone, if he screened the men at the Licks, then the Indians would go & take Boonesboro' - his mind, then, turned in that point, how he could effectually turn the Indians from their purpose - *God!*] When he was conveyed to the Indian camp, & had an interview with the chiefs, he at once set himself about dissuading them from going to Boones - said that none were there but women and children

(Communicated by Jos. Jackson, one of the captives.)

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ed people, & that the weather was too cold and  
unhospitable to remove them to the Shawanese  
towns; that all the young men were at the Pickes  
making salt, & he would surrender them all, if  
they would agree to let Boone & his alone till spring,  
when the weather would be milder & they could  
be removed with comfort & safety. To this proposi-  
tion they assented. Boone well knew he had yet  
a difficult service to perform - to prevail on  
his men to surrender themselves. On the next  
morning, 8<sup>th</sup> February, all went for the Pickes,  
& as they neared the place, Boone was sent ahead some  
little distance (perhaps was threatened if he did not) -  
when the men first saw him, they thought he was  
at hand with his relief party, but a moment  
after, ~~they~~ seeing the Indians, they seized their arms &  
were ready for battle - when Boone came near enough

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Boone & his party captured at the Blue Ricks - 178  
to call out "Don't fire, if you do, all will be mass-  
acred." The Lieutenant ordered them men (26, himself included)  
to form a ring & lay down their arms in the center  
& the Indians came up, & formed a circle as  
line within & without the white, & then ordered  
the prisoners to sit down. The men, on account of  
high water in the river which had submerged  
the salt spring, had not been able for several  
days to make salt, & were camped on the point on  
the south bank of the river, & directly opposite the ford.

Flanders Call away & another person were out  
spying at the time, & escaped being taken.

The Indians now held a council, & it was proposed  
to kill all the prisoners except Boone, & make him join  
them to Boone's boys & get the people there & carry them  
to the Indian towns. One Indian would speak and  
sit down, & then another; & thus about two hours  
were consumed in deliberation. With the Frenchmen

(By Mr. Jackson, one to the captured party.)

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Now the fifty made speeches - or if they did they were not recognized as white; indeed, the fifty were painted & dressed as the Indians were, & it was not known among the prisoners that the fifty were of the party until a day or two's march. The fifty voted for a party, & advised their treatment in their way to the Indian towns. When the Indians spoke, the negro Pompey sat beside Boone & interpreted all that was said, in a <sup>slow</sup> voice, so that the others did not hear. Finally Boone was permitted to ~~make the closing speech~~ <sup>make the closing speech</sup> to ~~the party~~ <sup>the party</sup>, & said in substance:

"Brothers! - What I have promised you, I can much better fulfill in the spring than now; then the weather will be warm, & the women & children can travel from Boonesboro to the Indian towns, & live with you as one people. You have got all the young men; to kill them, as has been suggested, would destroy the Great Spirit, & you need not then expect

Boone & his party captured at the Blue Licks '78.

future success in hunting nor war; & if you spare them they will make you fine warriors, and excellent hunters to kill game for your squaws and children. ~~Spare~~ These young men ~~who~~ have done you no harm; they unresistingly surrendered upon my assurance that such a step was the only safe one; I consented to ~~their~~ <sup>their</sup> capitulating <sup>on the promise of your</sup> ~~on the~~ <sup>on the</sup> condition that they should be ~~and~~; spare them, and the Great Spirit will smile upon you.

During the delivery of Boone's unvarnished speech, the first one which the white understood, & by which they learned the question subject under deliberation was one of life <sup>or</sup> death to them; & under such circumstances, it is not strange that they should catch with eager solicitude every word that dropped from Boone's lips, & felt a deep interest until the vote was taken, ~~in~~ which Boone

(By Jos. Jackson, one of the captured party.)

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was permitted a ~~vote~~ — the result was announced, 61 for sparing the prisoners, to 59 for death — but two majority. (I cannot think Boone voted, as Jackson says, — for if he did these ended not have been two majority in a vote of 121 — 2. C.D. —)

In five minutes after, all the salt, some 300 bushels, was reloaded & scattered about; picked up their knap-sacks, & at once commenced their return march. ~~from~~ the Indian towns. They struck for Limestone on an Ohio, passing Johnson's Fork just its mouth where near a canoe which they had made on their march art, to cross over.

On the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> February, an Indian who had been carrying along one of the salt bottles, now told James Call away to carry it; he said he would not. The Indian still insisting, & Callaway still obstinate, the Indian finally drew

Boone & his party captured at the Blue Licks, '78.

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his touchark & raised it <sup>at the same time</sup> when Callaway bent forward his head to receive the blow, taking off his hat & putting the top of his head with his hand, saying, "Here, strike! I would as lief be here as go along - I won't tote your kettle!" The Indian with a dry smile, turned away, put up his touchark, & carried his kettle himself.

At the Ohio river, where claysoille now is, <sup>\*</sup> there was a large boat made of four buffalo hides, in which they crossed coming out. It was fitted up with a rude frame work & would carry about twenty persons. This boat was kept there for several years for crossing the river.

When they reached Little Chillicothe (contradistinction to squished from old Chillicothe on the Scioto) on the Little Miami, the Indians had a great war dance. The next day, Arsel Goodman came in with two Indians who had him in charge & returned to a place where the Indians had left some articles on their way out. On reaching the town Goodman had the <sup>\*</sup> McDonalds, Kinton & McBoone. It is the course leading to the Shawangunk Forge, lead some to think this is the exact spot where the Shawangunk American Indians were first met.

(By Jos. Jackson, one of the Captured party.)

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than the game wicket, but being expert on foot he  
bore the ordeal, so fatal to many, without injury.

The Indians proceeded to adopt several, while  
others were sold to the British at Detroit, at a bounty  
of one hundred dollars each—scalps commanded only fifty  
dollars—and these were generally paid in goods. Among the  
number adopted, were Boone, Micajah Callaway  
(~~Holley~~ <sup>Holley, Goodwin</sup>),  
~~the two~~ Hancocks, Drumm, Hendricks, Kelly, & Jackson  
—my informant (R.D.). Tracy, Nobury, Coffey, the two  
Brooks, Bullock, & James Callaway were carried to  
Detroit & sold. Kenton was captured that fall, & when  
at Detroit, he escaped together with Coffey & Bullock.  
Sam. Brooks attempted to run away, was retaken,  
in confinement & died. James Callaway was carried  
near the Lakes, put on board a British vessel, which  
was captured by the French, <sup>Swedish</sup> it was several years  
before he returned to Kentucky. Jackson remained  
with the Indians until the American-Jeffrey's <sup>Jeffrey's</sup> war, as I am not but

Boone & his party captured at the Blue Licks '78.

infer, in every sense an Indian, & as I doubt not, fought against Herman, St. Clair, Wayne, & perhaps Bowman. When he left the Indians, he returned to Ky & married & raised a family, in Bourbon Co. - he now enjoys a pension for his Revolutionary Services. - April '44 - L. C.

It should have been stated in the proper place, that on the very night after the Indians had left the Blue Licks with their prisoners, Capt. Watkins reached there with his relief party, & kindled up a fire to camp for the night; thinking that as the Kettles were gone, Boone & the men had returned to Boonesboro, & they had missed each other; but after a little discovering an Indian to Boone, Watkins & his men ~~had~~ now understood what had happened, & thought it prudent to leave, & soon conveyed the melancholy tidings to Boonesboro.

Boone had agreed to go with the Indians to Boonesboro. It was now summer, & preparations began to be made for the expedition to Kentucky. Boone went with

(Boy, Co. Jackson, a survivor of the party.)

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party to the Salt Springs on Scioto, on the opposite shore  
of the river from old Chillicothe; when, on their return  
home to Little Chillicothe, they concluded to kill some  
beaver for meat for the squaws when the warriors  
were absent on the expedition. Some of the squaws  
were along with the party. The horse that Boone rode,  
which had a couple of kettles fastened on behind, which had  
been used for salt boiling. Hearing some timber  
knells at a little distance, the Indians ran off  
to kill them, when Boone cut the tugs which made  
the kettle fast, & said to the squaws that he wanted  
to go & see his squaw & children, & dashed off. The  
squaws raised a cry; & the Indians soon started  
in pursuit. Boone rode at full speed until his  
horse was broken down, & left him with the perspi-  
ration streaming from his body. Then he dashed  
ahead on foot, would frequently break his course by

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Boone's Paint Creek Expedition - by Jos. Jackson. 624

John Holley, who had been in Braddock's defeat - (one of the salt boilers with Boone at the Blue Licks) escaped in '82, then Clark went against Piqua - which see.

When the Indians had gone against Boonesboro in '88, Asael Goodman, George Hendricks, & another young man (who had got lost from Kenton on some horse scrape, & went to the Indians of his own accord, & recruited for almost starvation) attempted to run away to Kentucky, & met the Indian army returning - the young man was killed; Hendricks was taken by the Wyandots, & Goodman escaped. After a while the Wyandots carried him to Detroit & sold him; & finally, as is believed, he got back to Kentucky.

Boone's Expedition to the Rocky Fork of Paint Creek. - This town, against which Boone carried on his little expedition, was a small one at the head of the Rocky Fork of Paint Creek - & it was here Boone got his rifle barrel to stock. When within a few miles of the town, they discovered two Indians