North Carolina Boone Sites

Daniel Boone lived in North Carolina from 1751 until he left for what is now Kentucky for the last time in 1779. Some Boone-related sites are:

1. – Bear Creek – Boone Tract - Marked by North Carolina Highway Marker M 47, and it reads, “In 1753 Lord Granville granted 640 acres on Bear Creek to Squire Boone who sold it in 1759 to his son Daniel. This was part of the original Boone tract.” Neither Squire Boone, Sr. nor Daniel Boone and their families lived here, since they lived at a 640-acre tract on Dutchman’s Creek east of here. This location is on Wilkesboro Street (U.S. Highway 64), Mocksville, NC on the left when traveling east.

2. – Beaver Creek – When Daniel and Rebecca Boone moved with their family farther up the Yadkin River in 1766, they first moved to Holman’s Ford and then lived in two cabins along Beaver Creek near what today is near Ferguson. These cabins no longer exist, but nearby is a place called Whippoorwill Academy and Village that has a number of structures from the late 18th and 19th century and one labeled as a replica Boone cabin.

3. – Bethabara – This town was established by the Moravians in 1753 and is located northeast of the Bryan Settlement. The 1754 village has been reconstructed, and the Palisade Fort (1756-1763) built and used during the French and Indian War has been reconstructed. Some historians believe that some of the Boones and Bryans may have “forted up” here during the French and Indian War. In 1755, Sarah Morgan Boone took her son Israel here and left him for treatment of consumption. A few weeks later, his father and brother (probably Daniel) spent the night to see Israel and took him home, when the doctor said there was little hope for recovery. Israel died shortly thereafter. The “sick house” and the “stranger’s house” have been reconstructed and are
believed to be the locations where the Boone’s stayed when here. This historic park is owned by and located in the City of Winston-Salem at 2147 Bethabara Road, and admission to the park is free. Learn more at historicbethabara.org

4. -Boone, North Carolina- This town was named after Daniel Boone in 1849 by the North Carolina legislature. There is a bronze tableau sculpted by Sherry Evans of Daniel Boone at camp on the campus of Appalachian State University in Tomlinson Park on the corner of River Street and Stadium Drive and is near the site of Boone’s hunting cabin. Inside the U.S. Post Office in downtown at 680 W. King Street on the east wall of the lobby is a mural created in 1939 by Alan Tompkins of Stratford, Connecticut, and it depicts the town namesake, Daniel Boone. Also located in the Town of Boone is the Hickory Ridge Museum and the performance of the “Horn in the West” at the Daniel Boone Amphitheatre at 591 Horn in the West Drive just off U.S. 321. Although not historically accurate, their website indicates that this outdoor drama portrays the life of “hardy pioneers who, with the help of famed frontiersman, Daniel Boone, the Cherokee allies, settled in the Blue Ridge wilderness as they sought freedom from British tyranny.”

5. - Boone’s Cave Park - This 100-acre county park is located just west of the City of Lexington and on the east side of the Yadkin River. There is documentation showing that Squire and Sarah Morgan Boone owned land and lived here before purchasing two additional 640-acre tracts from Lord Granville on the west side of the River around 1752 and then settled on the Dutchman’s Creek tract. Today, the park provides an example of what the Boones and other settlers found when they settled on the Forks of the Yadkin. The park has a reconstructed 18th century log cabin, a large cave and “Baptism Rock” along the river, a Daniel Boone Memorial Marker, hiking trails, a picnic area and access to the Yadkin River for fishing, canoeing and kayaking. It’s located 3.4 miles off N.C. Highway 150 on Boone’s Cave Road.

6. - Boone’s Ford - This ford on the Yadkin River is named after one of Daniel Boone’s cousins and is located below the “horse shoe neck” on the river. According to sources currently unproven, but “it can be argued that the earliest representation of the Trading Path to the Catawba (Mosley Map, 1733) crossed the Yadkin not at the Trading Ford, but rather at Boone’s Ford. The approaches
to Boone’s Ford are on private land. If one paddles down the Yadkin on the Daniel Boone Heritage Canoe Trail, it is marked as Cairn number seven.

7. – Boone Memorial Marker – This bronze plaque mounted to stone is a memorial to Daniel Boone and his parents Squire and Sarah Boone. It was installed by the Boone Trail Highway Association at the intersection of Main Street and Court Square in Mocksville, and it is on the left when traveling south on Main Street.

8. – Daniel Boone Heritage Canoe Trail – This is a recreation area where the Bryan Settlement was located and many of the Boones, related families and others hunted and fished along the Yadkin River. Even though the river of Daniel Boone’s youth has changed over time, some of the wild aspects he knew remain, and today people can experience Boone’s Yadkin by paddling it in a canoe or kayak. People can see a number of historic sites marked by Cairns along the river, such as Cairn 3 refers to Boone’s Shoal – Big Rock Rapid where Boone is said to have fished, and Cairn 4 where Dutchman’s Creek empties into the Yadkin and is near where the Boone’s lived, and Cairn 5 points out the Boone Gamelands, and Cairn 6 is at Boone Cave Park, and, finally, Cairn 7 is at Boone’s Ford, which was probably named after Daniel’s cousin. Lean more about this trail at http://eTrail/BooneCanoeMapWeb.pdf

9. - Fort Dobbs State Historic Site – The French and Indian War Fort at this site in the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin near what is now Statesville was the only permanent frontier provincial fort in the colony of North Carolina. Original construction began in 1755 and was completed in 1756. It was built to protect British settlers in the western part of what was then Rowan County, and it served as a vital outpost for approximately fifty soldiers. Even though some authors write that Daniel Boone and his family “forted up” here during the War, it’s undocumented and highly unlikely. However, there is a bronze Daniel Boone plaque at the site, and it’s believed he was in the area serving as a ranger and in the militia. This fort was no longer used after 1766 and disappeared from the landscape. A reconstructed replica of Fort Dobbs completed in 2019 now occupies the site at its original location. Learn more at fortdobbs.org

10. – Holman’s Ford near Goshen – In 1766, Daniel and Rebecca Boone moved with their family up the Yadkin River to this area in present day Wilkes County. This site is now under the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, so it is no longer accessible.
11. Joppa Cemetery (formerly called Burying Ground Ridge) – At this site is a North Carolina Highway Marker M 3 which says, “Daniel Boone’s Parents – Squire and Sarah Boone are buried here. Daniel Boone, 1734 – 1820, lived many years in this region.” Their son, Israel Boone is also buried here, as well as Jonathan Boone in an unmarked grave, and there are a number of Wilcoxon headstones. Squire and Sarah Morgan Boone were more than just the parents of Daniel. They owned land at Boone Cave Park and two separate 640-acre tracts at Dutchman’s Creek and Bear Creek that were purchased from Lord Granville. As a result of his status as a property owner, Squire Boone served on the colonial Court of Common Pleas for Rowan County from 1753 to 1757. He was also elected to the first Vestry of St. Luke Parish, which represented the Anglicans or Church of England in Rowan County. Squire Boone was buried at Joppa Cemetery in 1765 and Sarah Morgan Boone was buried there in 1777. Joppa Cemetery is located on the east side of U. S. Highway 601 as it goes through the northwest section of Mocksville.

12. Old Salem – This Moravian town founded in 1766 is located just east of what were the Bryan Settlements and the Forks of the Yadkin. Moravian records document many of the Boone and Bryans visited here, and their ministers frequently traveled through, preached and stayed with the Bryans and Boones on the Bryan Settlement. Moravian records also document Daniel Boone’s visit here in 1778 to tell about his capture by and escape from the Shawnee in Kentucky. Old Salem is in Winston-Salem, and the old town’s restored and reconstructed buildings are staffed by living-history interpreters to show visitors Moravian life in the 18th and 19th century. Learn more at oldsalem.org

13. Rowan Museum – Located in the heart of downtown Salisbury, which was the original colonial county seat of Rowan County, it houses and displays a door believed to be from the first court house where Squire Boone served as a Justice from 1753 to 1757. In one of its house museums, one can find the tombstone of Martha Strode Bryan who was the grandmother of Rebecca Bryan Boone, and they both traveled together for the first time into North Carolina in 1748. The museum claims to hold additional Boone artifacts. Learn more at rowanmuseum.org
14. Sugartree Creek – Land located in what is now in northeastern Davie County is where Daniel and Rebecca Boone moved shortly after they were first married, and it is believed to originally have been owned by one of the Bryans (Even though it’s currently undocumented, it was probably owned by Rebecca’s father). A number of their children were born here, and they moved in 1766 farther up the Yadkin. There’s a Boone Trail Highway marker on Farmington Road in Farmington that reads “Daniel Boone lived 2 miles S.E. His parents are buried 8 miles S. Here passed the armies of Greene and Cornwallis to G.H. This memorial erected by the Village Improvement Society.” This property is currently on private land.

15. William and Mary Boone Bryan’s property – Morgan Bryan, Sr. originally purchased eleven tracts of land from Lord Granville, when he and his family migrated to the colony of North Carolina around 1748. The only one in what is now Davie County was the 565-acre tract located along the Yadkin River in the northeastern part of the county where he built his mansion house. His son William subsequently purchased the southern 189 acres of this tract, and he married Mary Boone (Daniel’s younger sister), and they lived here after they were married. In addition to Mary Boone, there are additional Boone connections to this land. After Squire Boone died in 1765, Sarah Morgan Boone lived here with William and Mary Bryan until her death in 1777. In 1778, after Daniel was captured by the Shawnee, it is to this place that Rebecca Bryan Boone and most of her children returned and lived, until Daniel left Kentucky in 1778 to reunite with his wife and children. In 1779, there was another great migration out of the Bryan Settlement into Kentucky led by Daniel Boone and William Bryan, and this would have been an important staging area for that event. When William Bryan was killed near Bryan Station, Kentucky in 1780, Mary Boone Bryan and some of her children returned to this property, which Daniel Bryan inherited at his father’s death. Mary Boone Bryan and family lived here until later returning to Kentucky, and Daniel sold it in 1786. This land is on private property.

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