

## LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY



# THE BOONESFIELD VILLAGE INTELLIGENCER



### Volunteer Recognition Dinner

**President James D. Evans, and his wife, Lois**, hosted a special dinner August 7 recognizing the efforts of the volunteers at the Historic Daniel Boone Home. During the evening special certificates were awarded to the first graduates of the new NAI based Volunteer Training Program and the High School Interpreters' Boot Camp. The work of all the volunteers was praised by President Evans and **Mr. Jim Shoemake, Chair-**

**man, Board of Directors.** Over 80 staff and volunteers were in attendance.

**Angela da Silva, a.k.a. Lila**, gave a remarkable first-person presentation as a slave woman from St. Louis. This was a moving and informative program. Angela is one of the nation's foremost authorities on the underground railroad. Her passion for history and preserving all facets of the American story come through to her audience.

David M. Knotts, PhD., Dean

Grady Manus, Chief of Interpretation, Editor

Lindenwood University, School of American Studies

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## *Hello and Farewell!*

Many of you had the opportunity to work with **Bryan Bethel**. As Assistant Professor of American Studies and Program Director, Bryan was heavily involved in teaching courses at the Boone Campus and at the main LU campus in St. Charles. He developed curriculum guides for our programs and assisted with hands-on school programs, special events, and the High School Interpreter's Boot Camp.

You will also see a lot of Bryan's work in the Carpenter's Shop and the Detached Kitchen. Bryan built two shaving horses, two stitching ponies, two "apple ladders," a large utility table, and a wheelbarrow. Bryan is going to be missed. We wish him the very best of luck in his new endeavors.

**Joseph Lovell**, Assistant Professor of Recreation Leadership joined us on August 1. Joseph will be teaching in the Recreation Leadership program and assisting at the Boone Home with our programming. He received his M.S. in Recreation from the University of Idaho and his B.A. in Physical Education and Recreation Administration from Southern Virginia University.

**Jeff and Shaina White** have also joined the Boone Home staff. Jeff is working security while Shaina is a part of our interpretive staff. They are pursuing graduate degrees at Lindenwood in American Studies. Both received bachelors degrees from Southern Virginia University.

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## *New Academic Designation*

As Lindenwood University grows, there are exciting changes brought about. The Boone Campus is now the home of the **School of American Studies** with Dr. David Knotts as the Dean.

The American Studies program is growing

and being redesigned to accommodate the needs of undergraduate and graduate students and better equip them for success.

This is a dynamic program and a very exciting time.

For information on the American Studies Program, please feel free to contact Dr. David Knotts at [dknotts@lindenwood.edu](mailto:dknotts@lindenwood.edu).

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## *Volunteer Training*

The Boone Home hosted its first volunteer training May 31, June 1, 7 & 8. The 32-hour course of study is approved by the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). Seven volunteers and two staff members attended the course. Of these nine, seven elected to apply for certification with NAI. The *Certified Interpretive Guide* credential is becoming a standard for training in the interpretive field with many agencies requiring it for employment.

We are pleased to recognize our first graduates of the program: **Emily Basler, Maria Basler, Barney Combs, Ellen Hendricks, Amanda Moehlenpah, Robert Pecoraro, and Anne Williams**. The two staff members that completed the certification were **Bryan Bethel** and **Cathie Schoppenhorst**.

The next training session will be held at the Boone Campus October 25, 26 and November 1, 2. If you are interested in attending please call Grady at 636.798.2005.



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### *The Question of Slavery: an Introduction by Grady Manus*

Recently we were asked why we would tell the slave story at the Boone Home. The answer is simple. As stewards of our heritage and professionals in public history we have taken an oath. The oath is one that should be familiar to everyone: "... to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth ..." If we leave out any portion or viewpoint we have told less than the truth; we are not fulfilling our oath.

The African-American contribution to the settlement of the American frontier and the building of the nation certainly should be told; it is a story that must be told. Their slaves were a factor in the Boone family's success on the frontier. The slave Derry was a constant companion to Daniel in the last years of his life and was regarded with great respect.

This issue of slavery presents endless, and seemingly irreconcilable, paradoxes. How can one fight so hard for freedom and yet hold others in bondage? How can a man own another like a piece of livestock and yet regard him with respect and genuine affection? When we ask these questions we are, in reality, asking even deeper questions about our *human nature*.

An anonymous writer stated, "History ought to be useful to life. The task of history is not in judging the past but to judge the present. It can be a tool for liberation of thought and a freeing of possibilities." Facing the past and all of the uncomfortable, painful facets of our interactions with one another is the only route to social healing. If one single attribute can be singled out as the source of America's strength it would be our diversity. America is a great social hybrid. Our *social genetics* is a selection of the very best of each contributor forged into a whole. Not to acknowledge this process keeps his-

tory chained to judgment and our minds shackled.

Pictured below is Caroline Boone Berry, born a Boone slave. Her grandson, Father



Caroline Boone Berry, William's wife (1850-1914).



Moses Berry operates the *Ozarks African American Heritage Museum* in Ash Grove, MO.

The following article, pages 4-6, is taken from a paper written in 2007 by **Dakota Russell, Interpretive Resource Specialist II, Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site**. Dakota has made several first-person presentations at the Boone Home and Boonesfield Village as Nathan Boone. He continues to actively research the Boone family and story of the Boone slaves.

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## *Nathan Boone and Slavery*

*By Dakota Russell*

Nathan Boone was introduced to slavery at an early age. He was six years old in 1787, when his father, Daniel Boone, claimed seven slaves on his taxes. During this time, Daniel kept a tavern and warehouse in Limestone, Kentucky. Daniel's adult slaves were mostly women, and probably worked at the tavern while Nathan Boone played with their children. As he grew older, Boone would accept and absorb the notions of racial inequality that were entrenched in his family and culture, and would eventually become a slaveholder himself.

Slavery also had deep roots in Upper Louisiana, the land that would become Missouri. As early as the 1720s, French businessmen purchased African slaves to work in the territory's rich lead mines. The Boone family brought their own slaves when they arrived in Upper Louisiana in 1799. In fact, Daniel Morgan Boone, Nathan Boone's older brother, brought three slaves to Missouri in 1798, leaving them to clear and settle his new farm while he returned to Kentucky to ready for the family's migration.

Nathan Boone purchased his first slave, a woman to assist his wife, Olive, in 1800. Boone noted that Olive and this woman "cut all the wood and fed the cattle while my father and I were absent hunting." During these long hunting trips, the two women also succeeded in laying a new floor in the Boone cabin and constructing a fireplace and chimney for the loom-house.

Over the next few years, Nathan Boone concentrated most of his energies not on farming, but on the profitable businesses of market hunting and salt making. In 1812, Boone gave up both professions, and his attention to the war. From 1815 to 1817, Nathan still owned only one adult slave, proba-

bly Olive's assistant.

Daniel Boone, in the meantime, had latched on to Derry, a young black man who belonged to Daniel Morgan Boone. Derry became a constant companion to Daniel, and even moved to Nathan Boone's farm, where Daniel and his wife lived. Derry still labored on the farm, but was relieved of some of his duties so he could accompany the old man on his hunting trips and other adventures.

Either Nathan or Daniel Boone eventually purchased Derry from Daniel Morgan. When Derry was assaulted by neighborhood "rowdies," it was Nathan Boone that brought suit against them. Either just before or directly after Daniel's death, Dr. John Jones purchased Derry and his wife Sophira. Jones' sons could not agree as to whether Nathan or Daniel sold them. Pleasant, Derry and Sophira's only son, stayed on the Boone farm and later went to Greene County with Nathan Boone.

In his late teens and early 20s, Nathan Boone increased his slaveholdings. He claimed three slaves in 1818, and 12 in 1823. By 1824, Boone had reduced this number to four. That same year, he used one of his slaves, Harry, as collateral on a loan of \$372. Harry had lived on the farm since at least 1820, and shaved Daniel Boone on his deathbed that year.

| Year | # of Slaves | Comments          |
|------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1815 | 1           | over 10 years old |
| 1816 | 1           |                   |
| 1817 | 1           |                   |
| 1818 | 3           |                   |
| 1823 | 12          | worth \$2,650     |
| 1824 | 4           | worth \$1,150     |

Slaves belonging to Nathan Boone, 1815-1823.  
Maxheimer.

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In 1820, Nathan Boone became briefly involved in the politics of Missouri slavery. With statehood looming, the people of St. Charles County elected Boone to Missouri's first constitutional convention. Boone and the forty-one other delegates framed a constitution that protected slavery in Missouri, without restriction. This draft also made efforts to prevent free African-Americans from ever settling in the state. The delegates narrowly voted down a provision to expel any slaves freed within the state. Boone, like most all of the delegates, had come to view slaveholding as his undeniable right, and used racism to justify his position.

Back on his farm, Boone's slaveholdings were on the rise again. In 1830, he owned nine slaves: four children under 10, three young men, a young woman, and one woman over 55.

| Gender | Age Group |
|--------|-----------|
| Male   | under 10  |
| Male   | under 10  |
| Female | under 10  |
| Female | under 10  |
| Male   | 10-24     |
| Male   | 10-24     |
| Male   | 10-24     |
| Female | 10-24     |
| Female | 55-100    |

Slaves belonging to Nathan Boone in 1830. 1830 U.S. Census.

Boone accepted a captain's commission with the United States Dragoons in 1833. Initially stationed at Fort Gibson in the Arkansas Territory, Boone decided to move his home closer to work. He sent his three sons, James, Howard, and John, to the Ash Grove

settlement in Greene County. Here, they would begin work on a new farm. The sons stayed at Ash Grove alone until 1837, when Boone and the rest of the family joined them.

In 1834, James claimed two slaves, with a value of \$800. James may have purchased these slaves himself, or his father may have sent them with his sons, to begin work on the farm and assist in the construction of the family's new house. James still owned two slaves in 1835, but their value had increased to \$900.

Nathan Boone first appeared in Greene County records in the 1840 census, where he claimed a reduced number of slaves: one boy under 10, a young man, a young woman, and a man between the ages of 24 and 36. His son Howard claimed one man. James, now living north of the family in Polk County, claimed two young men and a woman over 55 years old.

| Gender | Age Group |
|--------|-----------|
| Male   | under 10  |
| Male   | 10-24     |
| Female | 10-24     |
| Male   | 24-36     |

Slaves belonging to Nathan Boone in 1840. 1840 U.S. Census.

On the 1843 Greene County tax list, Nathan Boone claimed 5 slaves, valued at \$1800. Howard Boone again claimed 1 slave, worth only \$100. Nathan's son John also claimed 1 slave, worth \$300.

The year 1850 brought the census again, this time with improved information on slaves. Census takers now recorded exact ages, as best they could. Many slaves did not know their exact age, nor did their owners. The census also reported on the "color" of each slave, black or mulatto. The term mulatto didn't imply a white parent, just a lighter skin color. It did reveal, however,

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as racially separate as many wanted to believe. Both forced and consensual relationships between whites and blacks existed, as did relationships between black slaves and Native Americans. Thus, especially in the West, mulattos became more and more common.

| Gender | Age | Color   |
|--------|-----|---------|
| Male   | 36  | Black   |
| Female | 28  | Black   |
| Male   | 27  | Mulatto |
| Female | 26  | Black   |
| Male   | 18  | Black   |
| Male   | 18  | Black   |
| Female | 12  | Black   |
| Male   | 12  | Black   |
| Male   | 10  | Black   |
| Male   | 7   | Black   |
| Male   | 7   | Mulatto |

Slaves belonging to Nathan Boone in 1850.  
1850 U.S. Census, slave schedule

The 1850 census recorded 11 slaves belonging to Nathan Boone. This increase probably included children born to his female slave, but also included at least one man, one woman, and one child recently purchased by Boone. Howard Boone owned one black man, age 34, and one black woman, age 20. The black female is probably Ellen, the wife of Nathan Boone's slave Reuben. John C. Boone does not appear as a slaveholder in the 1850 census, having left for California.

In Polk County, James Boone claimed one 90 year-old black woman, probably the same female over 55 from the 1840 census. James also owned one 30 year-old black woman, and two black boys, ages 6 and 2, likely her sons.

On the 1851 tax list for Greene County, Nathan claimed 13 slaves, with a total value of

\$2,800. Howard Boone claimed 4 slaves, with a valuation of \$625.

In 1853, Boone's son-in-law, Winfield Wright, left Greene County to settle in California. Rather than selling his slaves before moving to a free state, Wright left them with Nathan Boone. Wright's slaves included Mary, a 30 year-old woman, and her children: Thomas, Alfred, Sarah, and Adelaïd.

The next available tax list, recorded in 1856, puts Nathan Boone's slaveholdings back at 11 slaves, with a total valuation of \$6,500. Boone was also acting as the agent for son-in-law Wright. Boone claimed six slaves, worth \$1,900, on Wright's behalf. Howard Boone claimed three slaves worth \$1,300 on this tax list. John C. Boone, now returned from California, had no slaves. The birth of children among Nathan Boone's slaves accounts for some of the fluctuations between 1851 and 1856. However, using the 1856 estate sale record as a guide, it becomes clear that at least one adult woman and one teenage girl left the farm during this time. Boone may have sold them, or they may have died.

Nathan Boone died in October of 1856. He left all his lands and property to his wife, Olive. Olive, in turn, renounced the will. She sold all of Boone's property at auction, used the proceeds to pay the estate's bills, and then split the remainder between Boone's heirs. Boone's property, of course, included his slaves.

Rather than selling Nathan Boone's 11 slaves with the farm equipment and household goods, Boone's executors chose to hire them out to local farmers for four months, generating money for the estate. Jemima Zumwalt, Boone's daughter, made each of the slaves a new set of clothes before their hiring. In March of 1857, the executors hired Boone's slaves out again. On July 18, all 11 were sold at an auction held on the

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### *Restoration, Conservation, and Management; Boone Home Lands By Dr. David M. Knotts*

With the Historic Daniel Boone Home as the focal point of the Boone Campus, it is easy to overlook the other resources spread across the 1,000-plus acres of woodlands, streams and fields. As interpreters, we point out different artifacts found in the home, tidbits about Daniel and his family and maybe how the house was built. All are interesting points and one could go on for hours entertaining our guests with the various historical facts with an “if these walls could speak” flare.



Collard Lizard

However, there is one significant element about the Boone Home and its occupants that tends to be overlooked. That is, “Why here?” Why was the Femme Osage Valley chosen as the spot for the family to put down their roots as Daniel and Rebecca, patriarchs of the Boone clan, lived out their lives? What did the valley look like when they arrived? Has it changed? How has it changed? Can we restore the land back to the way it was?

It goes without saying, much of what we see today in terms of flora and fauna is not exactly what Daniel and his fellow settlers saw. It’s a given that trees were felled and fields were cleared. Subsistence hunting

reduced the native wildlife populations. Reduction of wild fire and other man caused disturbances including plowing the ground, allowed many invasive plant species to move in and crowd out grasses, forbs, shrubs and indigenous trees. Invasive species such as the eastern red cedar choked out critical habitat to many species of insects, reptiles, birds and mammals.

A specialized habitat Boone would have found across Missouri and parts of the Midwest are glades. Glades usually are small, rocky openings in forests, woodlands and prairies. The sites are hot and dry, generally on a southwest facing slope, perfect habitat for prickly pear cactus, yucca, milkweed, Missouri’s largest spider: the tarantula, striped scorpion and painted buntings. The eastern collard lizard, a threatened species and Missouri’s largest lizard which grows to over a foot long, makes its home among the rocks and crevices and run on their hind legs to chase down insects, spiders and small reptiles.

Cedar is among the worst enemy of glades, crowding in and turning the site into a thicket, shading out the sun. Overgrazing by cattle, crisscrossing of off road vehicles, horse back riding, and hiking through the shallow soils, initiate destructive wind and water erosion. Not to mention the impact of housing developments.

To lose a glade is to lose critical habitat causing some species in Missouri to be listed as rare or endangered. The good news is- we have the ability to conserve, restore and manage glade habitat for perpetuity.



Missouri  
Bladderpod

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On the Boone Campus, Lindenwood faculty have located several former glade sites with one site being exceptionally large. Thanks to a grant from the **Maritz Foundation**, Lindenwood faculty and students have initiated steps to restore this large site to its natural habitat type. Several steps are involved in the restoration effort. First, a base line survey of the flora and fauna will be mapped and inventoried. Invasive, sun blocking trees such as cedar and the occasional sugar maple will be removed. Fire is essential to glade development and maintenance. As part of the restoration project, an initial controlled burn will be conducted this winter in the portions where the trees have been removed.

The sheer size of the glade, about 20 acres, demands the restoration effort to be conducted in bite-sized, manageable sections. The scientific data collection, monitoring and physical labor is being conducted by LU faculty and staff with technical assistance from the Missouri Department of Conservation and others. Drs. Johnston, Hopkins, Metler-Cherry and Knotts serve as the principal investigators and project managers. The project provides LU students with hands-on field research and natural resource management experience.



Painted Bunting

This project is the first of several efforts to restore the Boone Campus lands to some semblance of their status when Daniel and

his family paddled up the Femme Osage and drove that first stake in the ground marking out their homestead. Future restoration plans include erosion control, brush line removal, and re-establishment of prairie grasses and wetlands. Volunteers are needed to do a variety of tasks in this on going effort to restore, conserve and manage what were once Missouri's frontier and the Gateway to the West. If you would like to volunteer to assist with any of the land management projects, please contact Dr. David Knotts; [dknotts@lindenwood.edu](mailto:dknotts@lindenwood.edu).



Prickly Pear



Lanceleaf Coreopsis

“Each age writes the history of the past with reference to the conditions uppermost in its own time.”  
Frederick Turner

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### Interpreters' Boot Camp

The following was submitted by Amanda Moehlenpah.

June 27, 2008

Dear Diary,

*I simply have the most wonderful news to confide to you! But first, do you remember ten years ago when I wrote on your pages how dearly I would love to go back in time? And do you remember how I used to play pioneer by donning a sunbonnet and cooking wild onions over a small pile of sticks? Yes, those were such lovely days, and little did I ever dream that I could go back in time! This then is my thrilling news. For an entire week now I have had the wonderful opportunity of experiencing life as it was in the 1800s. I have learned ever so many fascinating facts, such as the many uses for black walnuts or buffalo, which have been new to me but were commonly known by families such as the Boones. I have also learned many of the skills that the frontiersmen used in their daily life. From cordage to adze work, each activity has been immensely enjoyable and educational although I must admit that today has been my favorite day. I*

*found baking fresh berry pies in a Dutch oven to be a bit more amusing (and a bit more physically achievable) than blacksmithing.*

*Of course, it has not only been the things that have made this week perfectly wonderful; but the people have been simply marvelous! All of my instructors treat us students as if we were their nieces and nephews; they are so patient and encouraging- praising us when we excel and providing extra assistance when we don't. My fellow students likewise have been supportive of one another and very friendly. It has been delightful to congregare with others who love the past as much as I do.*

*Unfortunately, the week of Interpreter's Boot Camp is drawing to a close. Tomorrow, I must return to the year two thousand eight and live life as a young lady of today; but- thank goodness!- the Boone home is not far from my house. There is great comfort in knowing that I can slip back to the 1800s as often as I like.*

The Interpreters' Boot Camp was a week long historic skills camp that focused on hands-on learning. The graduates of this year's program are: **Emily Basler, Maria Basler, Daniel Bliese, Peter Bringe, Graham Buckhannon, Eric Button, Marc Cerniglia, Sam Crosby, Amanda Moehlenpah, Michael Niehoff, Christy Phelps, and Gus Wimmeer-Brown.** To enroll in next year's camp contact Grady Manus at [gmanus@lindenwood.edu](mailto:gmanus@lindenwood.edu).



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Historic Daniel Boone Home  
1868 Highway F  
Defiance, MO 63341

## *Call For Volunteers!*

The Boone Campus offers a highly professional volunteer program for those interested in sharing their talents and learning new skills. No matter what your historical interests, there are opportunities to get involved with the Historic Daniel Boone Home and Boonesfield Village. Interpretation, historic gardening, grounds maintenance, event planning, and research are just a few of the areas welcoming volunteers. If you would like to get involved, please fill out and return the form below or contact us by email at:

**GManus@lindenwood.edu**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE: (day)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(evening)** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AVAILABILITY:(days of week and time of day available)** \_\_\_\_\_

**SKILLS AND SPECIAL INTERESTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_