

DANIEL BOONE

Good day, everyone--it's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.

Daniel Boone has always been a hero to American youth--<sup>and more</sup> ~~and is now,~~  
~~more so than ever--~~ because of his emergence as a Television hero  
as well. It would not surprise the people of eastern Pennsylvania  
to know that Boone was a son of William Penn's soil, but at least  
half of our citizenry are not aware of the fact. Daniel Boone,  
whose Kentucky rifle was Pennsylvania made and produced, was a  
son of Berks County; born not far from the Schuylkill River near  
Baumstown, where the Daniel Boone Homestead stands--one of many  
museums of Pennsylvania Pioneers--this at the birthplace of  
America's greatest Frontiersman. You are invited to visit there  
when you visit Berks County, perhaps when "Patriot Days" are  
observed at the Boone Homestead. An open house and tours include  
not only the homestead, but the 1734 cabin, the museum, barn and  
blacksmith shop and other buildings. In other years and perhaps  
this year, one might enjoy a long-rifle shoot under the direction  
of the Pennsylvania Frontier Association. Although he spent his  
later years in the South, Boone was responsible for the introduction  
of the Pennsylvania Rifle. Our Commonwealth is still fighting the  
Battle of Boone's Blunderbuss--with the sister Commonwealth of  
Kentucky, which for years has laid claim to that rifle. How  
changed is it from Boone's boy days? Not too much! The  
Pennsylvania Game Commission has made the homestead a sanctuary  
for deer, raccoon, pheasants, quail and rabbits. The area affords  
good fishing on a lake and at a stone dam. Here, Daniel Boone

was born and raised, on what was then Eastern Frontier Land. And you should go to the Boone Homestead not only to hear the story of the Boone family, but also the story of the persistent and hard work which extended into Pennsylvania's early settlements. Boone was born of Quaker parents at this home. Daniel's father was a weaver and a blacksmith as well as a Berks County farmer. The Boones had settled in primitive country--at the end of the wilderness--it took a hardy breed, this living. Consequently, young Daniel learned to hunt and trap, to shoot accurately that rifle--given to him on his tenth birthday by his father. He learned to find his way through the forests, skills which enabled him to serve so well in Kentucky and Missouri in later life. When he was 16, Daniel's family went to North Carolina to seek farm land and escape censure which the Friends Meeting had imposed on his father. Americans know the rest of the story--told in truth and in legend ever since. But that story began in Pennsylvania--and Daniel Boone is a Pennsylvanian born, whom all should honor as such. America's foremost pioneer, Daniel Boone, learned his profession here in Pennsylvania's Berks County--along another trail of Pennsylvania history.

This is Pete Wambach. It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.