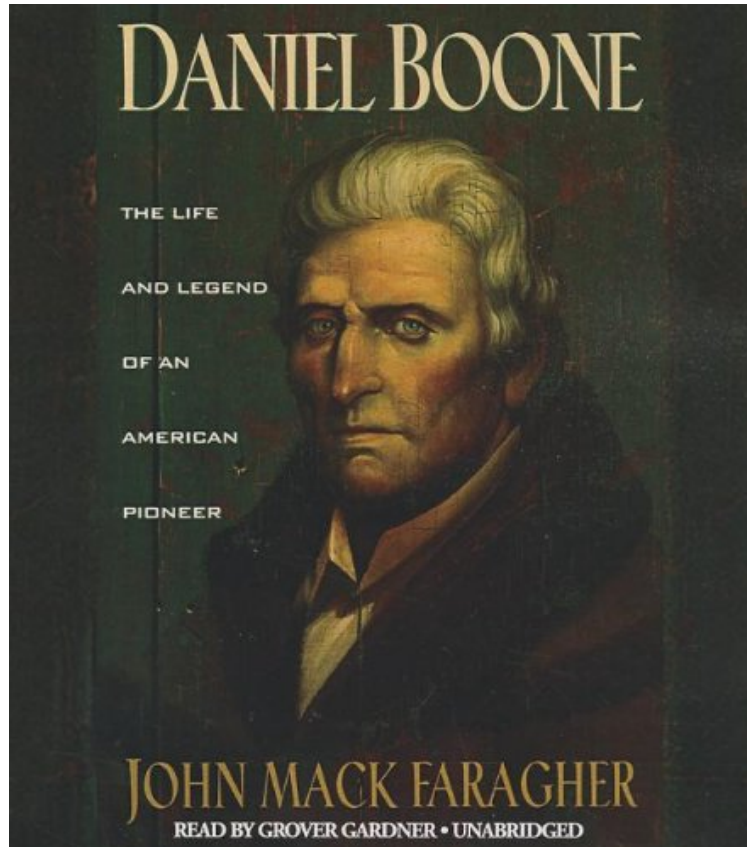


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Daniel Boone: The Life and Legend of an American Pioneer

Professor John Mack Faragher

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Professor John Mack Faragher : Daniel Boone: The Life and Legend of an American Pioneer before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Daniel Boone: The Life and Legend of an American Pioneer:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Bringing the legend to life By Pugwash For even the most curious amateur historians, the 1700's are a time few know about, except for the American Revolution. Ask any history student to name someone from that time period, who was not a Patriot, and probably the only name to come up with would be Daniel Boone. Daniel Boone has stood the test of time as a historical figure as a pioneer. In reading this book, his most remarkable accomplishment was mere survival. In fact, learning of his life is an intertwining fascination with the time period of the mid and late 1700's, and what a difficult time it was for the Anglo in America. Battling the elements, the native Americans, and disease made mortality commonplace. Boone lost several children, and siblings, and few lived to succumb to old age. Daniel Boone did have several remarkable adventures. Being captured by the Shawnees, and having to live among them for months at a time, even being adopted as a son by their chief, was one. His remarkable calm in the face of several battles were examples of others. He seemed to be anti-social, having moved to Kentucky

from Missouri because his nearest neighbor was "only" twenty miles away. Yet he was somewhat of an enigma, as well. He loved his wife and family deeply, and retained deep friendships throughout his life. His personality was devoid of pettiness, and full of acceptance. When he learned of his wife's infidelity, and resulting pregnancy, he accepted the child and took his wife back into his graces as if nothing untoward had happened. This book is well researched and well thought out. It can be dry, at times, but is informative, and brings down the barriers of legend versus fact, and paints a clearer picture of the myth and the legend. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. clear, concise writing By James LaMar Faragher writes an easy-to-read, down-to-earth biography of one of America's legendary heroes. He manages to separate the myth from the historical person, which is not always an easy task. Faragher does an excellent job of weaving the history of the early colonies into his narrative, and one learns a great deal about what life on the frontier was really like. Highly recommended for anyone interested in American history and the lives of the people who made our country great! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Boone: the Icon and the Man By Wynne Gillis Though many reviewers say it, this truly is a history that reads like a novel. The writer gallops the story along and I found myself fascinated, wondering what happens next. Boone, of course, is the foremost iconic frontiersman--about whom there is as much fiction as fact. Faragher does a credible job of separating fact from fiction and showing us which is most likely which. But his final chapter, on Boone's legacy to America, his impact on American culture and thought, is a wonderful piece of work. For it alone the book is well worth the read. I had no idea of the impact of Boone's life on the westerns we all grew up watching, America's romance with "westerling," and the way we saw and still see ourselves as a nation. Now I do.

In the first and most reliable biography of Daniel Boone in more than fifty years, award-winning historian Faragher brilliantly portrays America's famous frontier hero, while illuminating the American hero-making process itself. Drawing from popular narrative, the public record, scraps of documentation from Boone's own hand, and a treasure trove of reminiscences gathered by nineteenth-century antiquarians, Faragher uses the methods of new social history to create a portrait of the man and the times he helped shape. Blending themes from a much vitalized Western and frontier history with the words and ideas of ordinary people, Faragher has produced a book that will stand as the definitive life of Daniel Boone for decades to come, and one that illuminates the frontier world of Boone like no other.

.com The legend of the American frontier is largely the legend of a single individual, Daniel Boone, who looms over our folklore like a giant. Boone figures in other traditions as well: Goethe held him up as the model of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's "natural man," and Lord Byron devoted several stanzas of his epic poem *Don Juan* to the frontiersman, calling Boone "happiest of mortals any where." But folklore is not history, and we are fortunate to have a reliable and factual life of Boone through the considerable efforts of John Mack Faragher. The contradictory admirer of Indians who participated in their destruction, the slaveholder who cherished liberty, the devoted family man who prized solitude and would disappear into the woods for years at a time--the real Boone is far more interesting than the mythical image, and in this book we finally catch sight of him. From Publishers Weekly The popular image of Daniel Boone is that of an unlettered backwoodsman, skilled hunter and Indian fighter. But evidence argues that he was reasonably well educated for his time and place, that he was a landowner, businessman and a respected leader of frontier society. Faragher, history professor at Mount Holyoke College, author of *Sugar Creek: Life on the Illinois Prairie*, has sifted through folklore and fact to reconstruct a realistic portrait of Boone and the expanding frontier. Except for his long hunts, Boone was surrounded by a close, extended family; his deepest loyalties were to clan and community. The final chapters examine Boone in folklore, literature and art (he was the model for James Fenimore Cooper's Natty Bumppo in *Last of the Mohicans*). Boone is worthy of historical attention as a personification of the westward movement. Faragher has written an absorbing, definitive biography. Photos not seen by PW. BOMC selection. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal YA-- Well written and immensely satisfying in several ways, this biography separates myth from fact while also showing that this is a man about whom legends have been made. A person of many contrasts, Boone had 10 children but spent much of his time away from his family; liked solitude but led parties of settlers west; was uncomfortable with the "system" but served in the Virginia militia and that state's legislature; and liked Native Americans even while he was helping to displace them. Readers are also given a look at frontier life and the westward movement; Faragher brings to life aspects of history that have been reduced to a footnote in textbooks. Boone speaks to the American spirit in an elemental way that is wonderfully conveyed by this author, in a book that readers will find memorable.- Judy McAloon, Potomac Library, Prince Williams County, VA Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.