

## **A Word About Boone Artifacts, Books, Documents and Genealogy**

The Boone Society does not act as an authority on historical accuracy of any published work, nor authenticity of any historical artifact and as such, does not make a statement with respect to such. Any questions as to the historical accuracy of any work may be addresses to the respective public.

The Society also does not act as an authority on Boone Genealogy.

The Society (and by extension the Society's website) operates as a clearinghouse for the purpose of providing a central location for relevant information to be accessible by society members and the general public.

## **The Rules For Accurate Genealogy**

### **A General View of Genealogy:**

Finding one's family by tracking down their ancestors is to most people one of the neatest and more enjoyable things. Not only is it an enjoyable experience for themselves, but what they accomplish will be appreciated by future generations in their family. Genealogy is the collection of family names for tracking the family back as far as possible though the earlier generations, to learn where they came from, and perhaps learn other interesting things about them. The information that is found is put into some order, usually with dates of birth, marriage, and death, and perhaps with the location of each, along with a listing of the children.

The normal starting place is to make a list from your own knowledge, going back from yourself to your parents, then grandparents, great-grandparents, and so on, and with each state the data listed in the paragraph above. Then meet with or contact the more knowledgeable older family members to find out what they know. With that information in hand, to go to a library of some size that has a history and genealogy reference section, or look on the Internet. In both cases the first thing to do is make an overview to check out what might be available. Eventually both of these methods should be included in the research effort. Both methods usually allow some degree of success in finding the information through records such as census, tax, estate, marriage, land patent or deeds, cemeteries, and with the earlier generations, county court records.

**For beginners;** there are some family books, such as for the Boone family that should be looked at to see how such research was compiled. Most of the time the books are so full of names and dates, that they are suspect regarding accuracy. They usually offer many names and other information and so genealogists often use the information as clues to be verified further. Sometimes the books will state where the compiler found the information, and that makes the data more believable and easier to verify by other persons. The book, The Boone Family, by Hazel Spraker, published in 1922, has been considered the main source for Boone family genealogy, and as such has been reprinted a number of times over the years. It is usually found in any sizable library, or if not is certainly available by inter-library loan.

While collecting the information there is one item that overshadows the whole effort, and that is “accuracy”. It is the accuracy that determines the quality of the final product. So what is meant by accuracy when relating to genealogy? To answer that question is found in the following method:

### **The Genealogy Rules To Determine Accuracy:**

Rule 1) It is a fact; that any information that is found or thought to be correct, may be wrong. A genealogy source may be a book, an obituary, a tombstone, a probated will, and any number of official documents recorded and on file at local, county, state, or federal departments or agencies, such as marriage licenses, deeds, tax records, birth certificates, death certificates, burial records, census, and to a lesser degree church records such as baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and death records. Another primary source would be personal letters or other written accounts by someone who is known to have been associated close enough to the data to judge it with a high degree of certainty to be correct. All serious genealogists know that any one of these sources at any time may contain errors, even if for no other reason than most records during the process of recording, were written by hand by someone who did not know the facts firsthand. This person may have been a secretary in a church or government office, a volunteer transcriber for the Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) who made a handwritten list from an official record, a person converting a handwritten list into typed form, a census taker, and others, all of whom are usually more involved in recording data than they may be interested in “absolute” accuracy. And when considering accuracy, even tombstones have been wrong.

Rule 2) A genealogy source is always subject to error due to the degree of accuracy imparted into it by the person who created it. Did the person fully understand what they saw, when what they saw was somewhat scribbled or very faint to read, or did they correctly hear what someone told them? Did they spell the name and location correctly? Did they make any assumptions? Did they miss any of the children’s names, such as the child dying prior to the making of the source document (will or census), or was someone left out of a person’s will due to a family “disowning”, or not mentioned in the list of children due to a faulty memory? Did the numbers in the dates fit with logical reasoning? All of these types of errors are very common to a genealogy researcher. The genealogist always relates to all information with caution and logical reasoning.

Rule 3) All aspects of genealogy recording must have an original document source. That source cannot be someone else’s book or personal record, unless that book or record annotates (documents fully) the original source. Such annotating shall consist of something similar to the following:

-Benson, William, The Boone Family, published by Johnson and Williams, Co., New York, NY., 1816, page 244. For a genealogy record the page number shall be given.

-Marriage Record Book -Volume 2, p. 33, Recorder’s Office Fayette County, KY.

-Sappington Cemetery, State Road YY, 2 miles north of Hwy. 50, west of Marshtown, Yount County, GA,

All data that does not meet this requirement must state fully how the information was derived, such as, “A family tradition”, or, “the author believes from what local persons stated that the cemetery was on Crooked Creek road, west of Mayberry”. The lack of fully identifying and annotating the source makes the material unacceptable as stated fact, and therefore no more than a clue for possible further investigation.

Rule 4) All original work must be fully annotated with reference sources and presented in a manner where it can be easily challenged. This will allow the same sources to be investigated. In this manner the book or other material will become recognized for its degree of accuracy and value when used by other persons.

Rule 5) The author or compiler of genealogy material cooperates with those who make the effort to verify the author's work.

**Establish the original source for the Boone genealogy - for the first 4 generations:**

a) The "James Boone Genealogy" has been accepted as the original source for the Boone family genealogy. James had distributed the information to where it was the family ancestry as accepted by Daniel Boone, Squire Boone, Jr., and others of that generation, and their families. The original document dated March 21, 1788, is found in the Draper Manuscript Collection, in Volume 1, Series C, page 1.

The genealogy data for the "James Boone Genealogy" had been assembled by John Boone, a son of George Boone III, and the document recording John Boone's data was created by James Boone, Jr., whose father James, Sr., was another son of George Boone III. The original source for John Boone's material had to be older members of the family, and most likely John's father and grandfather. It can be assumed until proven otherwise, that since he gave the name of his father as George Boone III, and grandfather as George Boone II, and great-grandfather as George Boone I, that those were the names well accepted by his father and John's siblings. John was a noted scholar, and remained unmarried. He lived with or near his father for over 40 years.

John Boone's genealogical data includes what has been called generations 1 and 2: the two generations prior to the family migration to America. Generation 1 has the name of John's great-grandfather (George Boone I), and Generation 2 names of his grandfather (George Boone II) and grandmother (Sarah Uppey).

John's data included Generations 3 and 4. These were the first two generations in America, and starts with John's father and mother, George Boone III and Mary Maugridge, as Generation 3. Generation 4 is John and his brothers and sisters. James Boone, Jr., appears to have added Generation 5, for his own family, being himself and his brothers and sisters.

Considerable data is given, including, in some places, the hour of day is for births and deaths, as well as the dates. A few items are missing such as, the name of the wife of George Boone I, and for the fourth generation, the names of the wives of George Boone III's sons, Samuel Boone and Joseph Boone.