

Boone Trail Markers

Between 1913 and 1938, J. (Joseph) Hampton Rich, a resident of Mocksville, North Carolina, took it upon himself to keep the memory of Daniel Boone and his travels alive. He did this by placing 358 metal tablets between Virginia Beach, VA and San Francisco, CA. Although many of the tablets are associated with locations visited by Boone, many were simply placed wherever Mr. Rich could collect the necessary donations from schools, communities, etc. to erect a monument. He established the Boone Trail Highway Association to further his project. From the mid-1920s to the mid-1930s, the Association published a newsletter which detailed the efforts to install new monuments.

The force behind the Boone Trail Markers was Joseph Hampton Rich (1874-1949), a graduate of Wake Forest in the class of 1898. This was the same year that the Battleship Maine was sunk in Havana Harbor, Cuba, and the Spanish-American War began, a pivotal time for Mr. Rich. He had several careers: teaching in public school; representing the Institute of Heraldry of Washington, DC; preaching in churches (he attended seminary in Kentucky) and operating the Piedmont Print Company in Winston-Salem. He ended his career as Clerk Librarian of the North Carolina State Senate. He chose to celebrate Daniel Boone's trail because of its contribution to the settlement of mid-America by way of the Boone Trail and because he was captivated by "the pioneer spirit" of that era.

Everett G. Marshall researched this subject for six years and wrote a book entitled, *Rich Man: Daniel Boone*. It describes in 13 chapters, and 323 pages, the biography of Mr. Rich, his objectives for the Boone Trail Highway, its connection with the Battleship Maine (each metal marker was made with salvage from the famous battleship), how the Boy Scouts related, plus the documentation on the 135 known original sites, and photos of the 46 surviving monuments, and a wealth of historic and related material. See http://www.trading-ford.org/rich_man.html for ordering the book.

Over the years many of the markers have been lost to highway construction and general urban sprawl. In the late-1990s, a group of descendants of Daniel Boone established the Boone Trail Highway and Memorial Re-Association with the intent of locating the markers which remained. Approximately 60 tablets have been located thus far.

Davie County has two of these markers. One is at the corner near the Court House in Mocksville, and the other one is at the southwest corner of the intersection of highway 801 and Farmington Road.



Front and Side View of Daniel Boone Marker on the Square in Mocksville, NC

Words at left: This Memorial Erected to Daniel Boone, hunter, explorer, backwoodsman, soldir (sic), surveyor, roadbuilder, legislator, magistrate. He lived and learned woodcraft in Davie County 1750-85. Squire and Sarah Boone, parents of Daniel Boone, pioneers of the Yadkin whose remains are interred one mile N.W. in Joppa Graveyard; coming from PA 1749. Erected by the Boone Trail Highway Association

Words at right: Top: Boone Trail Highway; Lower Edge: Metal from Battleship Maine in Tablet. Daniel Boone



Daniel Boone Marker in Farmington, N.C.;
intersection of Highway 801 and Farmington Road

Center Photo Words: Boone Trail Highway. Metal from Battleship Maine in Tablet. Daniel Boone

Right Photo Words: Daniel Boone lived 2 miles S.E. His parents are buried 8 miles S. Here passed the armies of Greene and Cornwallis to Guilford C.H. This memorial erected by the Village Improvement Society.