On 200th anniversary of Daniel Boone’s death, two cemeteries still claim his remains

By Chanda Veno
The State Journal

"You might say Daniel Boone is our father." That is the opening verse of country music artist and Taylorsville native J.D. Shelburne’s “Straight From Kentucky,” a song that pays homage to numerous Bluegrass State icons.

For the launch of the 2020 Kentucky Visitor’s Guide earlier this year, Shelburne performed the song in the Capitol Rotunda — not far from the scenic spot in Frankfort Cemetery where a monument marks Boone’s remains.

But some are skeptical about whether the interred bones are actually those of the iconic explorer. Boone, an American frontiersman most notably known for his exploration and settlement of what is now Kentucky, died 200 years ago today on Sept. 26, 1820, of natural causes at the age of 85. He was originally laid to rest next to his wife, Rebecca, in a not-so-well-marked grave on his son Nathan’s farm near present-day Marshville, Missouri.

But in 1845, the Boones’ remains were disinterred and moved to Frankfort Cemetery, which at the time was looking to become the second incorporated memorial park in the country.

Local historian Russ Hatter said the idea for the Frankfort Cemetery was that of local judge Mason Brown, who visited and noted the beauty of the Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and wanted to do the same thing here.

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The great Kentucky-Missouri mystery

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Not only did many local families get out of cooking duties Sunday, but they did so for a good cause.

The Empty Bowls fundraiser — a chili dinner with all the fixin’s complete with a handmade bowl from potters at Broadway Clay — became a curbside event in the parking lot at First Christian Church on Ann Street due to the coronavirus pandemic. But that didn’t seem to hamper the spirits of those who came out to help.

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A testimony of God’s grace and protection

When I was a kid, just about every time I left out the door, my mother and/or grandmother would grab me and lay their hands on me. They would always say these weird words and phrases over me. “As I got a little older, I figured out that those words and phrases were bible verses. They still sounded weird.

When I began to have my own relationship with God I would come across those weird sounding words. I realized that my mother and grandmother were praying and declaring God’s promises of protection over me. Basically, I now do the same thing to my kids.

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