

# Legacy of Lt. Col. Nathan Boone in Midcontinent USA: Surveyor, Explorer, and Naturalist

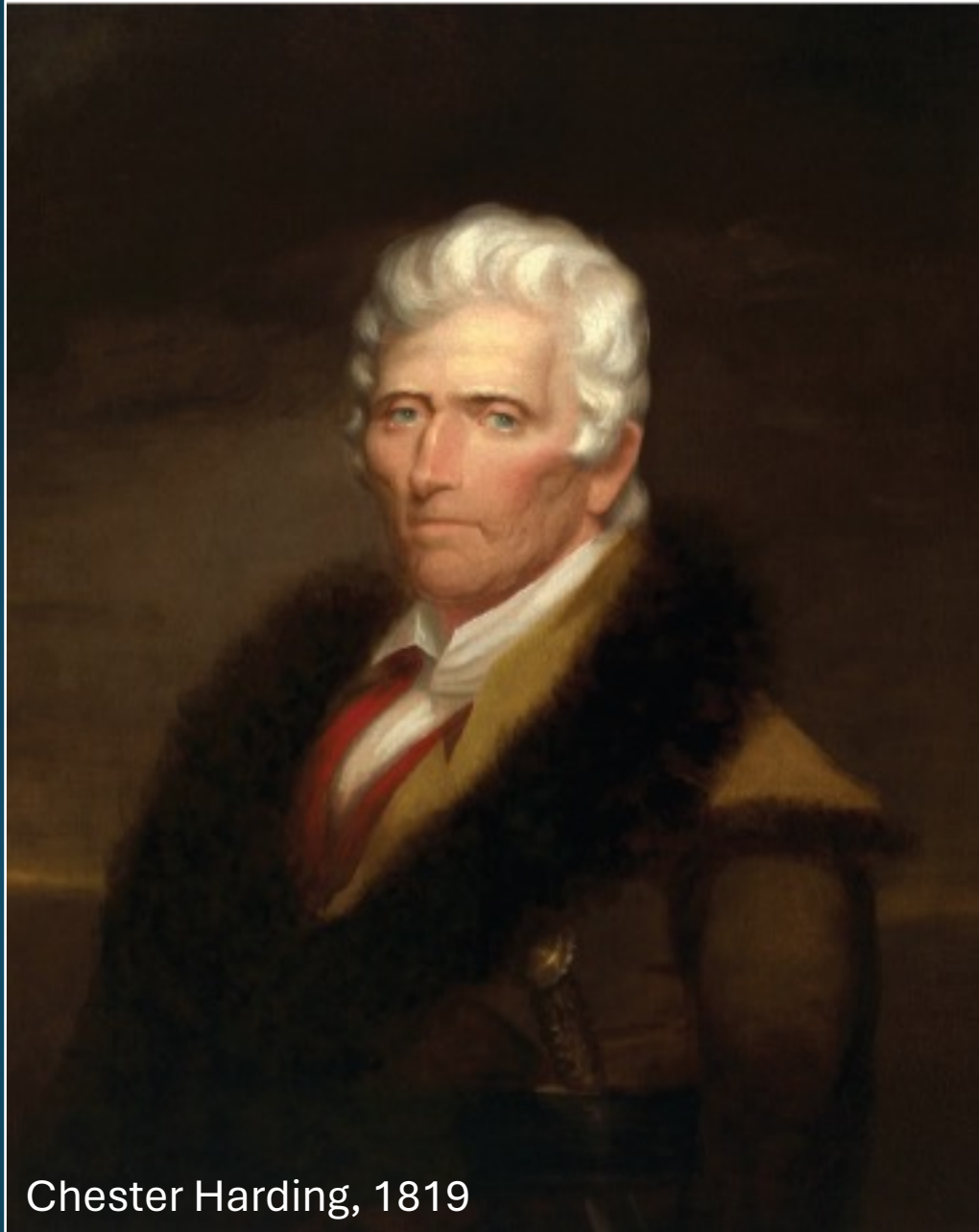
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**ABSTRACT.** Two of Nathan and Olive Van Bibber Boone's historic houses are preserved in Missouri: (1) a three-story rock house in Femme Osage valley, built in 1817, and (2) a dogtrot homestead in Greene County, built in 1837. While Nathan's life was similar to that of his father, Daniel, the story of the Boones in Missouri is complicated, involving labor of enslaved persons and sometimes violent confrontations with Native Americans, who resisted European-American incursions and settlement on the frontier.

Daniel and Rebecca Boone, and an entourage of family and associates left the state of Kentucky and immigrated to Missouri in September-October 1799, when it was part of Nuevo España. The Boones settled near Defiance and Charette, north of the Missouri River, forty miles upstream from the frontier town of St. Charles. Eighteen-year-old Nathan and his sixteen-year-old bride Olive Van Bibber Boone arrived shortly thereafter by an overland route *via* Lexington, Louisville, Vincennes, and St. Louis. At St. Charles, Nathan traded a horse, saddle, and bridle for 800 arpents (680 acres) of land in the valley of Femme Osage Creek. In 1800, Louisiana Territory was acquired by France, who took over administration in 1802. On 4 July 1803, Jefferson authorized purchase of Louisiana Territory. In 1804, Lewis and Clark's expedition reported meeting the elder Boone along the Missouri River. Both Daniel and Nathan subsequently lost some Spanish Land Grants, but Nathan kept the Femme Osage farm until 1837, when it was sold to settle debts. He and Olive established a homestead north of present-day Ash Grove.

Around 1805, Nathan and Daniel Morgan Boone, his older brother, began salt production at Boone's Lick near Franklin, Missouri, and established Boone's Lick Road between St. Charles and Franklin. In 1808, Nathan enrolled in a militia that eventually was incorporated into the Missouri Rangers, and the Osage ceded rights to much of Missouri land at the Treaty of Fort Clark (Fort Osage). Nathan took part in the Missouri Constitutional Convention of 1820. Much of his life was in military service during the War of 1812, Blackhawk War, 1833, and subsequently in peace time with the 1st Reg. U.S. Dragoons, where he participated in expeditions across Iowa and the Great Plains. The geologic nature of his observations were recorded in journals of the second expedition.



Chester Harding, 1819

## Daniel Boone (1734-1820)

- Welsh-English heritage, Quaker upbringing
- Pennsylvania to Virginia to North Carolina to Virginia (Kentucky) to Virginia (West Virginia) and ultimately Neuvo España (Missouri Territory)
- Hunter, trapper, explorer, entrepreneur, surveyor, and land speculator
- Popularized by John Filson (1784) “The Discovery, Settlement, and Present State of Kentucke”
- 1799, family and friends immigrated to what would become Missouri Territory to escape press of civilization
- Appointed Syndic by Gov. Trudeau
- Rebecca Bryan Boone died in 1813
- Daniel Boone died in 1820



Judgment Tree, Matson, Missouri, near his home between Defiance and Marthasville. Boone was a syndic (judge).



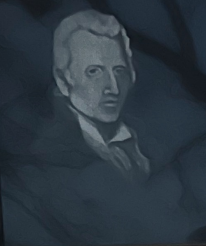
Bedroom where Daniel Boone died, Daniel Boone Home (Nathan Boone's home), near Defiance, Missouri.



Daniel Boone  
Burial Site  
and  
Monument

Daniel Boone's Grave Site near Marthasville, Missouri



  
**DANIEL BOONE**  
BORN IN PHILADELPHIA COUNTY  
(LATER BERKS COUNTY)  
OCTOBER 22, 1734  
(MODERN NOVEMBER 2, 1734)  
DIED IN ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO  
SEPTEMBER 26, 1820  
AND WIFE  
**REBECCA BRYAN**  
BORN JANUARY 9, 1739  
DIED MARCH 18, 1813  
REMOVED TO FRANKFORT, KY, 1845  
ORIGINALLY DEDICATED 1915  
REDEDICATED JULY 25, 2009  
MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY  
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
HARDIN CAMP CHAPTER, NSDAR  
VALLEY OF THE MERAMEC CHAPTER, NSDAR

Daniel Boone's Grave Marker  
near Marthasville, Missouri



FLANDERS CALLAWAY

1752-1829

JEMIMA BOONE CALLAWAY

1762-1834

REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS  
SIEGE OF FORT BOONESBOROUGH-1778

MARKER PLACED BY  
VALLEY OF THE MERAMEC CHAPTER, NSDAR  
2015



In Memory of  
**WILLIAM S. BRYAN**  
 BORN  
 Sept. 2, 1857  
 DIED

When in Jesus, far from here  
 The hundred and thirty years may be  
 But this is still a blessed sleep  
 From which none ever wake to weep

**JOHN BRYAN**  
 BORN  
 March 28, 1807  
 DIED

Feb. 8, 1836  
 AGED  
 31 Yrs 10 Mo  
 10 Days

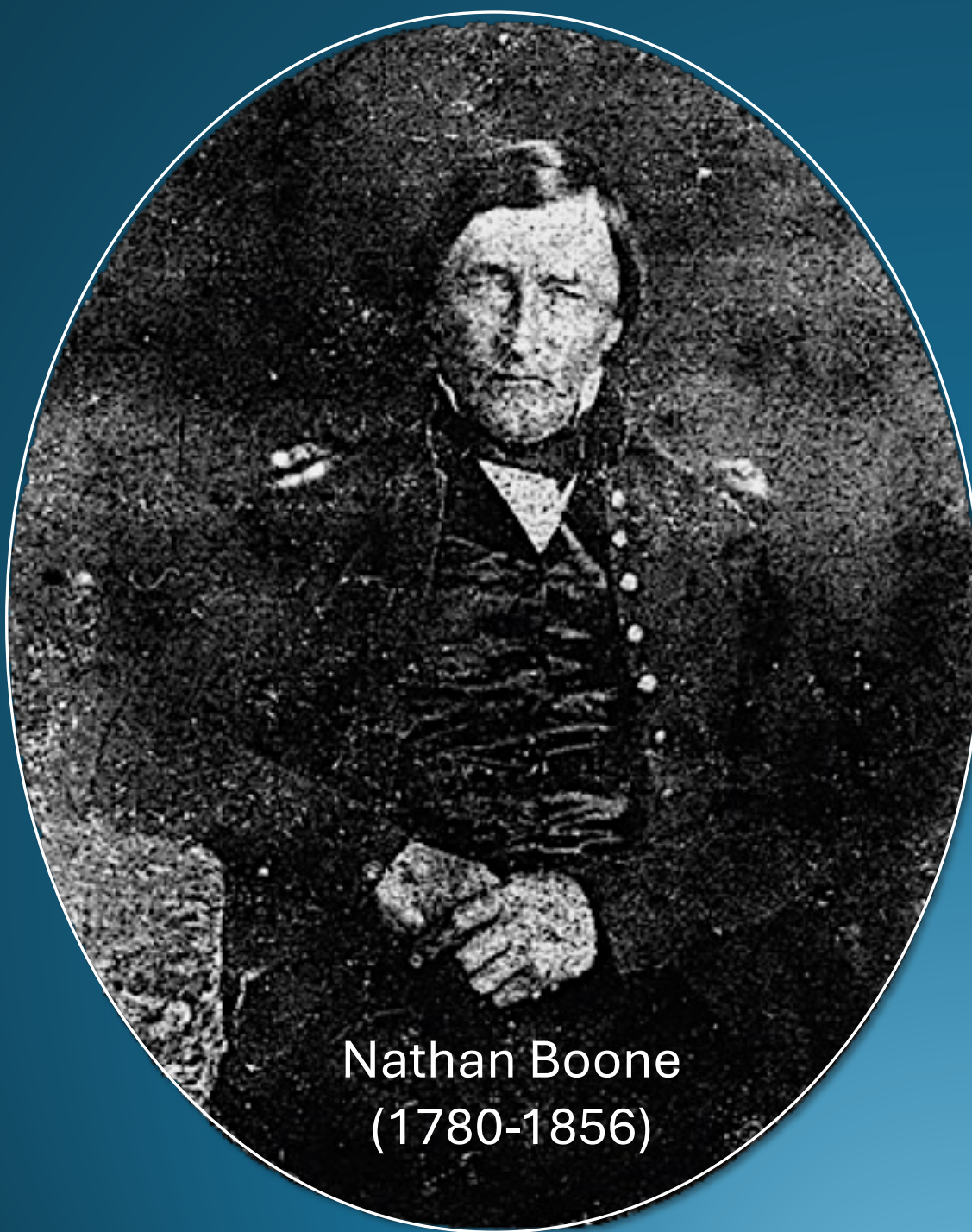
In Memory of  
**EMELIA BRYAN**  
 BORN  
 April 13, 1819  
 DIED

When in Jesus, far from here  
 The hundred and thirty years may be  
 But this is still a blessed sleep  
 From which none ever wake to weep

**WILLIAM BRYAN**  
 BORN  
 Oct. 24, 1830  
 DIED



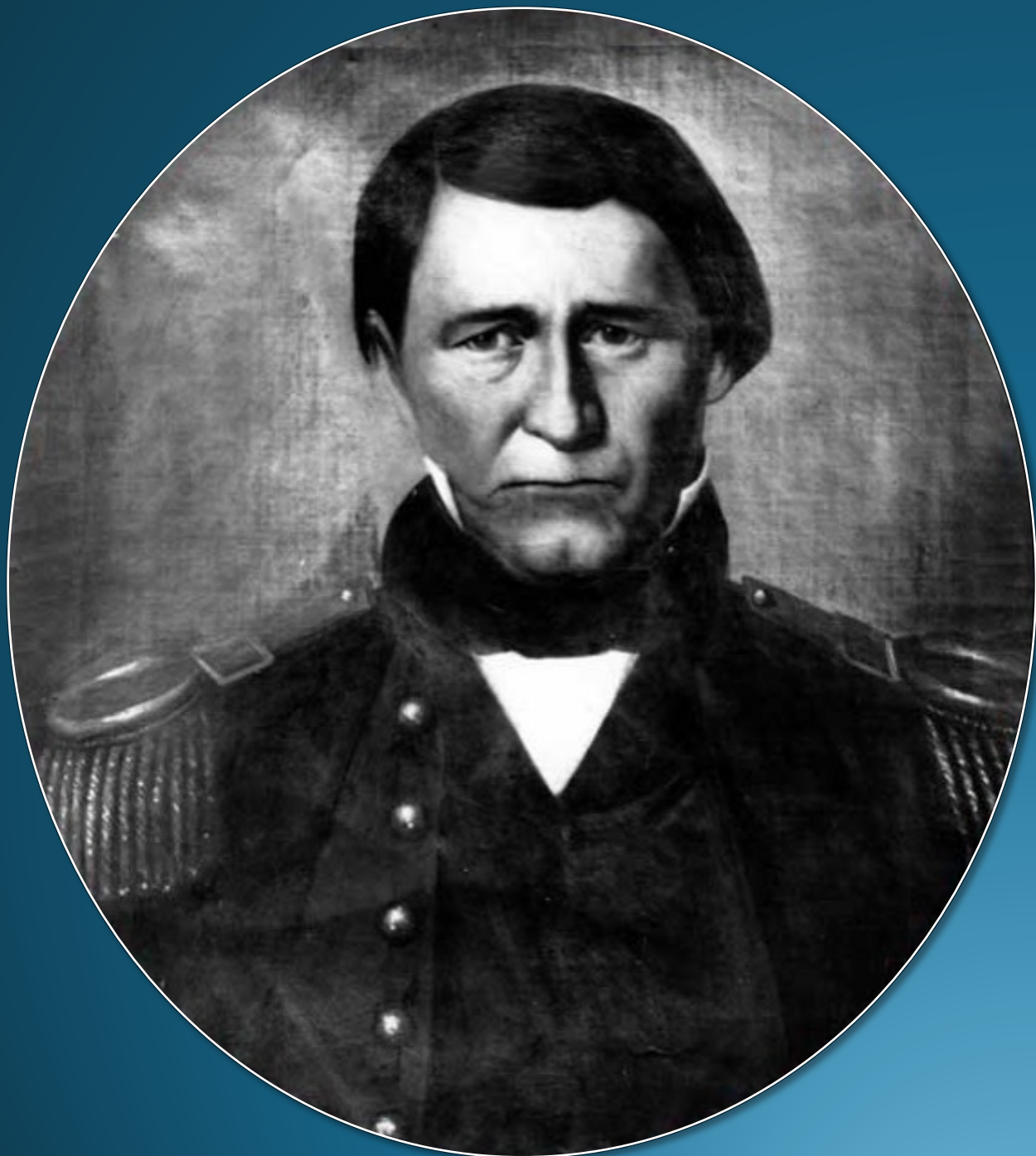
Painting of Daniel Boone's Grave Marker in Frankfort Cemetery, Kentucky by Paul Sawyer (Kentucky Historical Society)



Nathan Boone  
(1780-1856)



Olive Van Bibber Boone  
(1783-1858)



## **Nathan Boone**

- Hunter, Trapper, Explorer, Entrepreneur, Surveyor, and Land Speculator
- 1799 married Olive Van Bibber and departed for Neuvo España (Missouri)
- Femme Osage Creek 680-acre farm
- Boone's Lick Salt Works
- Captain in St. Charles County militia; incorporated into Missouri Rangers
- Surveyed Boone's Lick Road with his brother Daniel Morgan Boone
- Fort Osage Treaty of 1808, brought Pawhuska and other Osage to cede claim to most of Missouri
- 1814, with Gen. Henry Dodge, stopped massacre of 150 Miami



- War of 1812, mostly built small blockhouses
- 1815, Côte Sans Dessein Attack and Battle of the Sink Hole; Portage des Sioux Treaty ends hostilities
- 1816-1817 Femme Osage house and farming
- 1820, attended Missouri constitutional convention
- 1821, Missouri granted statehood by U.S. Congress
- 1823-1826, St. Charles County Deputy Surveyor
- 1832, Clark appoints Boone to survey Neutral Territory in present-day Iowa
- 1832, Blackhawk War, served under Gen. Dodge

10 Nathan Boone  
1781 — 1856, Mo  
m  
Olive Van Bibber  
1783, Ky 1858, Mo

- 1 James Boone, m Polly Allen
- 2 Delinda Boone, m Rev. James Craig (who preached the funeral service of Daniel Boone)
- 3 Jemima Boone, m Henry Zumwalt
- 4 Susan Boone, m Joseph Van Bibber
- 5 Nancy Boone, died young
- 6 Olive Boone, m Phil Anthony
- 7 Benjamin Howard Boone, m Mary Stallard
- 8 John C. Boone, m Mary Wardlow
- 9 Levica Boone, m William Cawfield
- 10 Melvina Boone, m (1) James Howard  
(2) Franklin Frazier
- 11 Mary Boone, m Alfred Hosman
- 12 Sarah Boone, m Winfield Wright
- 13 Mahala Boone, m Robert C Printy
- 14 Emilia Boone, died young

Nathaniel Boone

- 1835, stationed at Camp Des Moines on Mississippi River, Col. Stephen W. Kearny, 1,100-mile round-trip expedition into the Neutral Territory of Iowa and Sioux country
- 1836, Femme Osage farm was sold; established homestead near Ash Grove, Missouri
- 1836, expedition to northern Illinois and Wisconsin, including Peoria, and Chicago (pop. 6,000), Milwaukee and Green Bay
- 1838, surveyed military roads from Fort Snelling to Fort Leavenworth, south to Fort Gibson
- 1838-1839 furloughed, Greene County, Missouri
- Dispatched to Council Bluff, then western, then northwestern Missouri to quell hostilities with Native American tribes
- 1843, Second Expedition of 1st Regiment U.S. Dragoons; found Great Salt Plain western Oklahoma

- 1843, Second Expedition of 1st Regiment U.S. Dragoons; found Great Salt Plain western Oklahoma
- 1843-1845, helped prevent civil war in Cherokee Nation among three rival factions
- 1848 commissioned Major, then Lt. Colonel, while no longer in active duty
- 1850 Boone resigned his commission
- Fall 1851, Nathan and Olive interviewed by Lyman C. Draper, librarian and secretary of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; narratives of his father Daniel and their lives
- 16 October 1856 Nathan Boone, aged 75 years, died at home
- 12 November 1858 Olive Van Bibber Boone, aged 75 years, died at home

### **American Westering Movement and Social Injustices**

- Pioneer family enterprises, like those of the Boones, relied on the Indian Removal Act of 1830 for safety and security, under the threat of violence, and the enslavement of African-Americans for a source of inexpensive labor
- Despite their complicity in displacing indigenous people, both Daniel and Nathan were highly regarded by many Native Americans
- Nathan Boone fathered a child of mixed race



Courtesy of the Berry Family

### ***Maria and Caroline (Boone) Berry***

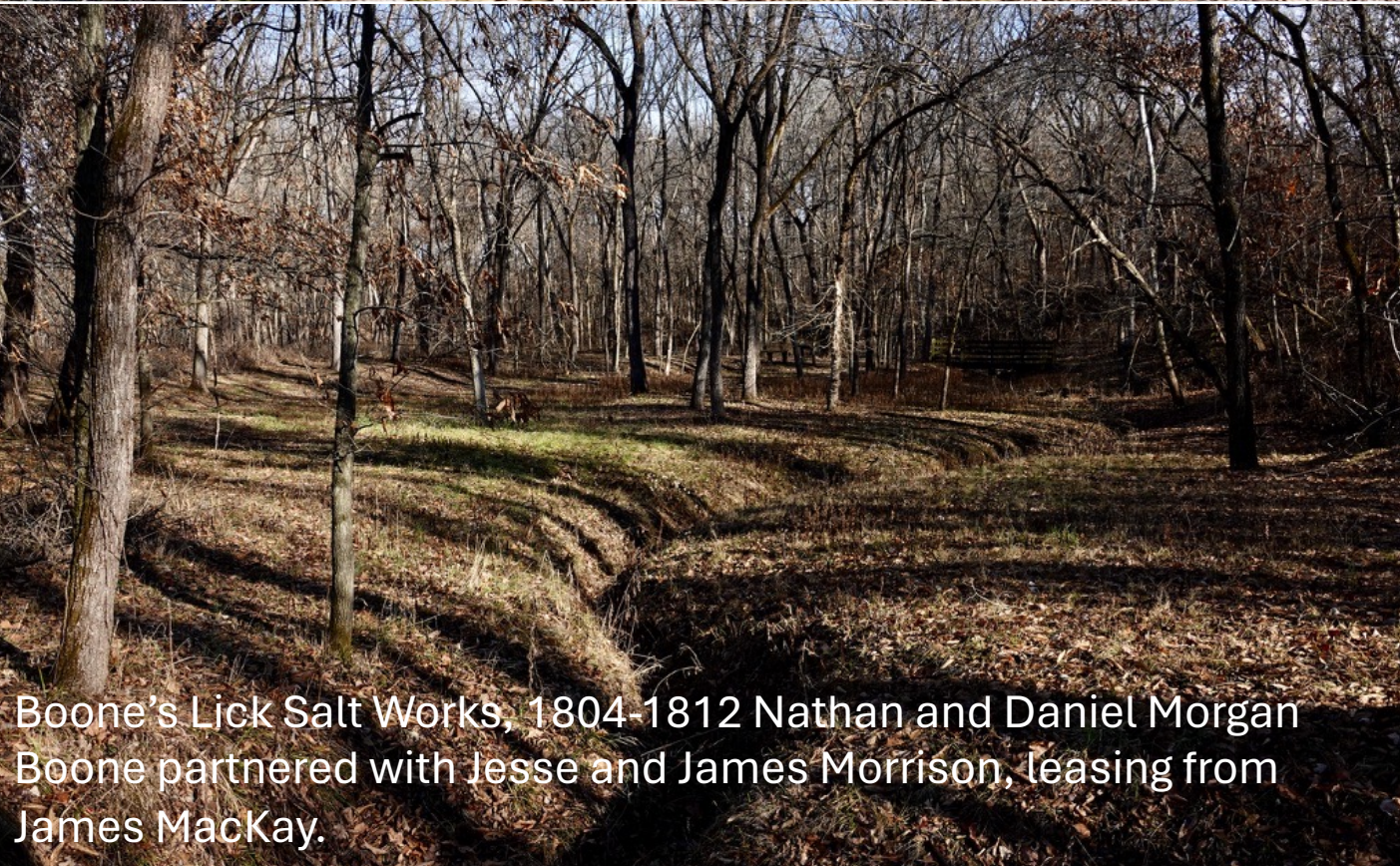
Maria (*pictured left*) was born Aug. 5, 1819. According to Berry family oral tradition, Maria was an enslaved worker on the Boone homestead. Nathan fathered Maria's daughter Caroline (*pictured right*), who was born on Aug. 25, 1850. Caroline first appears in an 1870 census while living in St. Louis with Ellen and Ruben. She married William H. Berry in 1872, in Stockton, Missouri, and then moved to Berry's Ash Grove farm. Maria later joined Caroline there. They are both buried in the Berry Family Cemetery next to their farm. The cemetery is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



### **Father Moses Berry (1950-2024)**

Berry was a priest of the Eastern Orthodox Church in America practicing in Missouri. He was a direct Descendent of slaves and an illegitimate descendent of Nathaniel Boone, the son of the legendary American hero Daniel Boone. He spent much of his life on a spiritual quest. It led him to found the Ozarks Afro-American Heritage Museum on his family's legacy farm in Ash Grove. Berry lectures locally and nationally on African American history and on issues in African American spirituality and Orthodox Christian mission.

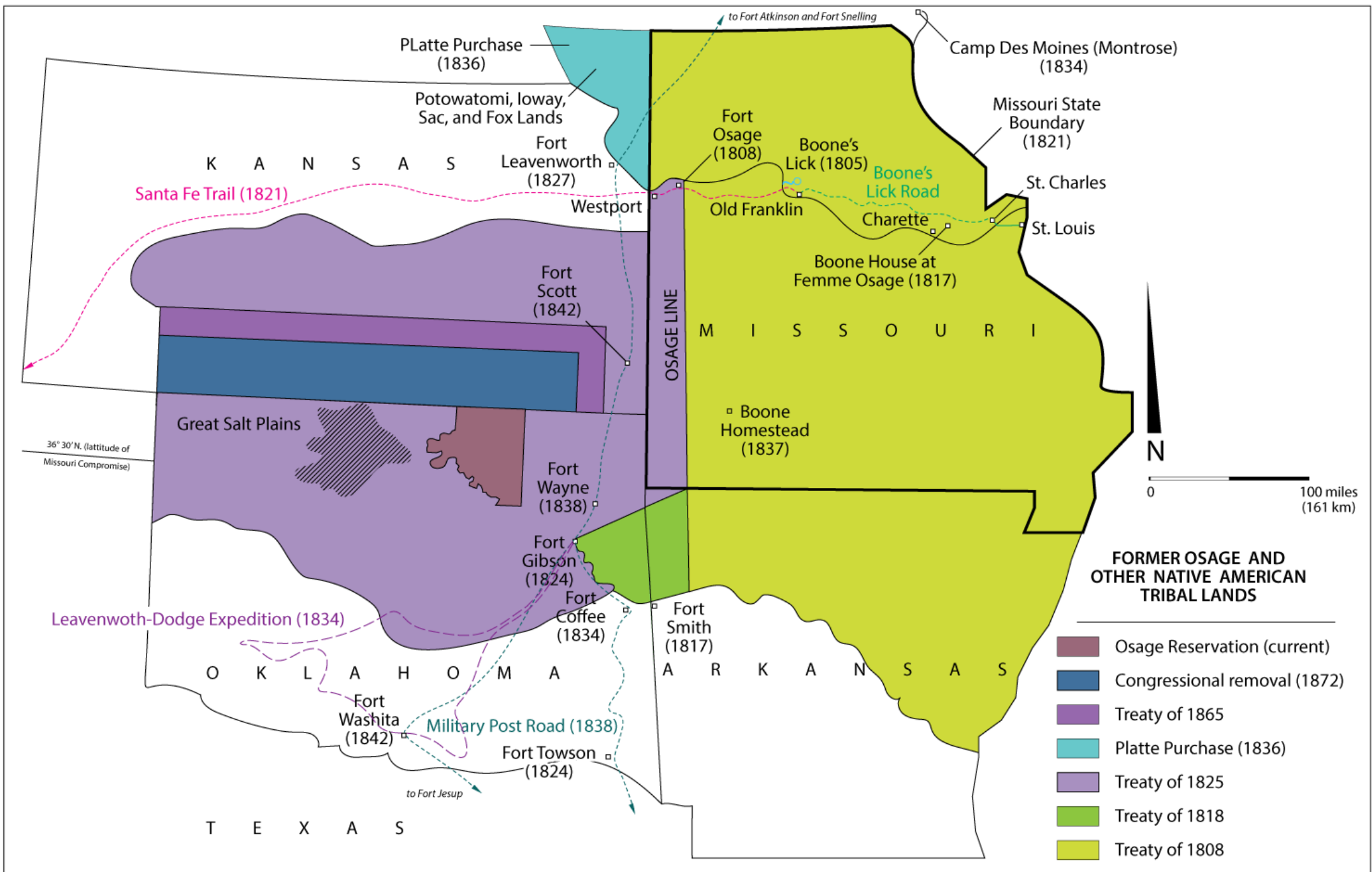




Boone's Lick Salt Works, 1804-1812 Nathan and Daniel Morgan Boone partnered with Jesse and James Morrison, leasing from James MacKay.



Fort Osage, built 1808, restored 1940s to 1960s, near Sibley, Missouri.



**FORMER OSAGE AND OTHER NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL LANDS**

- Osage Reservation (current)
- Congressional removal (1872)
- Treaty of 1865
- Platte Purchase (1836)
- Treaty of 1825
- Treaty of 1818
- Treaty of 1808



Osage, George Catlin, "cartoon collection", date uncertain, American Museum of Natural History.



Osage warrior, 1805-1807, Charles Balthazar Julien Févret de Saint-Mémin



1814, Gen. Henry Dodge and Capt. Nathan Boone and surrender of Miami, Missouri State Capitol.



Sac and Fox warriors, Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Karl Bodmer, 1833.



*Karl Bodmer pinx. ad. nat.*

*J. de B. pinx.*

*H. Schumann sc.*

MISSOURI INDIANER.

OTO INDIANER.

CHEF DER PUNCAS.

*Indian Missouri*

*Indian Oto*

*Chief des Puncas*

MISSOURI INDIAN

OTO INDIAN

CHIEF OF THE PUNCAS

Missouri, Oto, and Ponca warriors, Karl Bodmer, 1833.



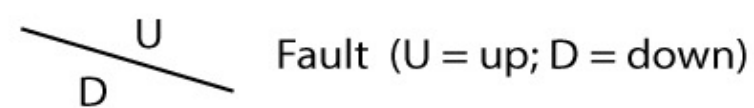
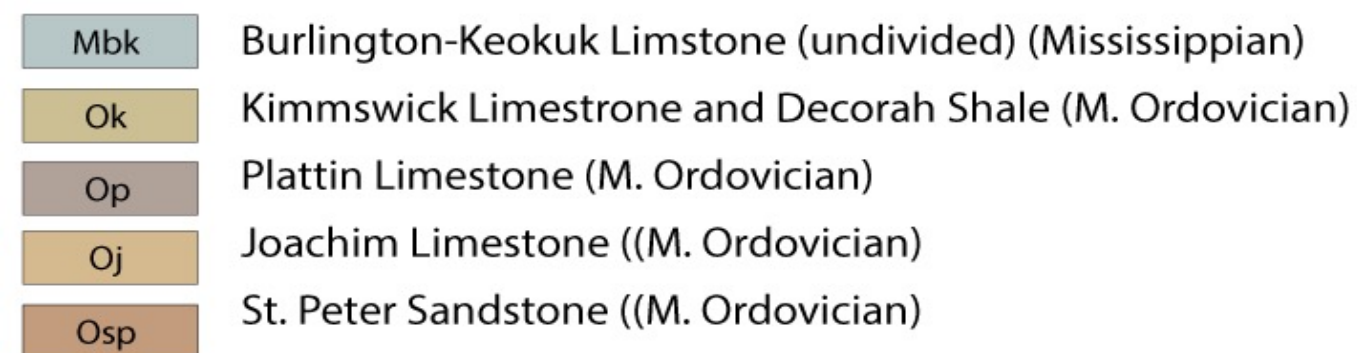
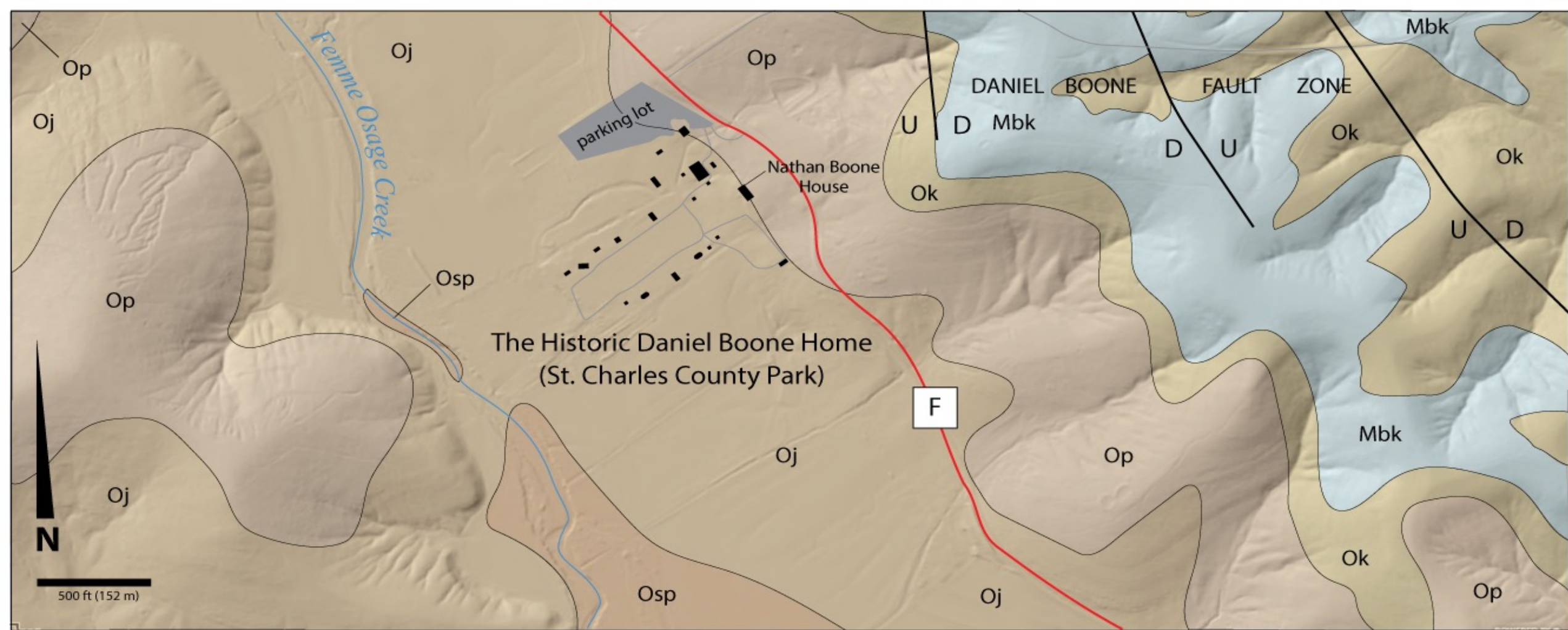












Lidar overlay 50% transparency



Plattin Limestone, middle Ordovician



George Catlin sketch and painting



1834, Capt. Boone served under Col. Dodge, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment U.S. Dragoons  
Comanche meeting the Dragoons, 1834, George Catlin





George Catlin, *Comanche Warriors, with White Flag, receiving the Dragoons*, 1834-1835, Smithsonian American Art Museum

## **Nathan Boone and Geology (Excerpts from his Journal of the Second Expedition of 1843)**

*[17 May 1843]*

"The character of the country in appearance the same as that passed on the 16th — on the 16th passed some limestone strata of compact limestone, dip 3° S. S. W. This limestone is supposed to be the same with that underlying the Sandstone at the landing at Fort Gibson." (Pelzer, 1917, p. 190)

*[23 May 1843]*

"About 7 miles from camp we passed a sandstone hill with a strata of limestone running through it, which we passed several times during the day afterwards, gradually getting near the beds of the streams as we travelled west."

"The limestone of today contained innumerable minute shells somewhat of the shape and size of a barley grain [fusulinids], besides coral, or madreporas [bryozoans?], terebratulæ et. al. —" (Pelzer, 1917, p. 192-193)

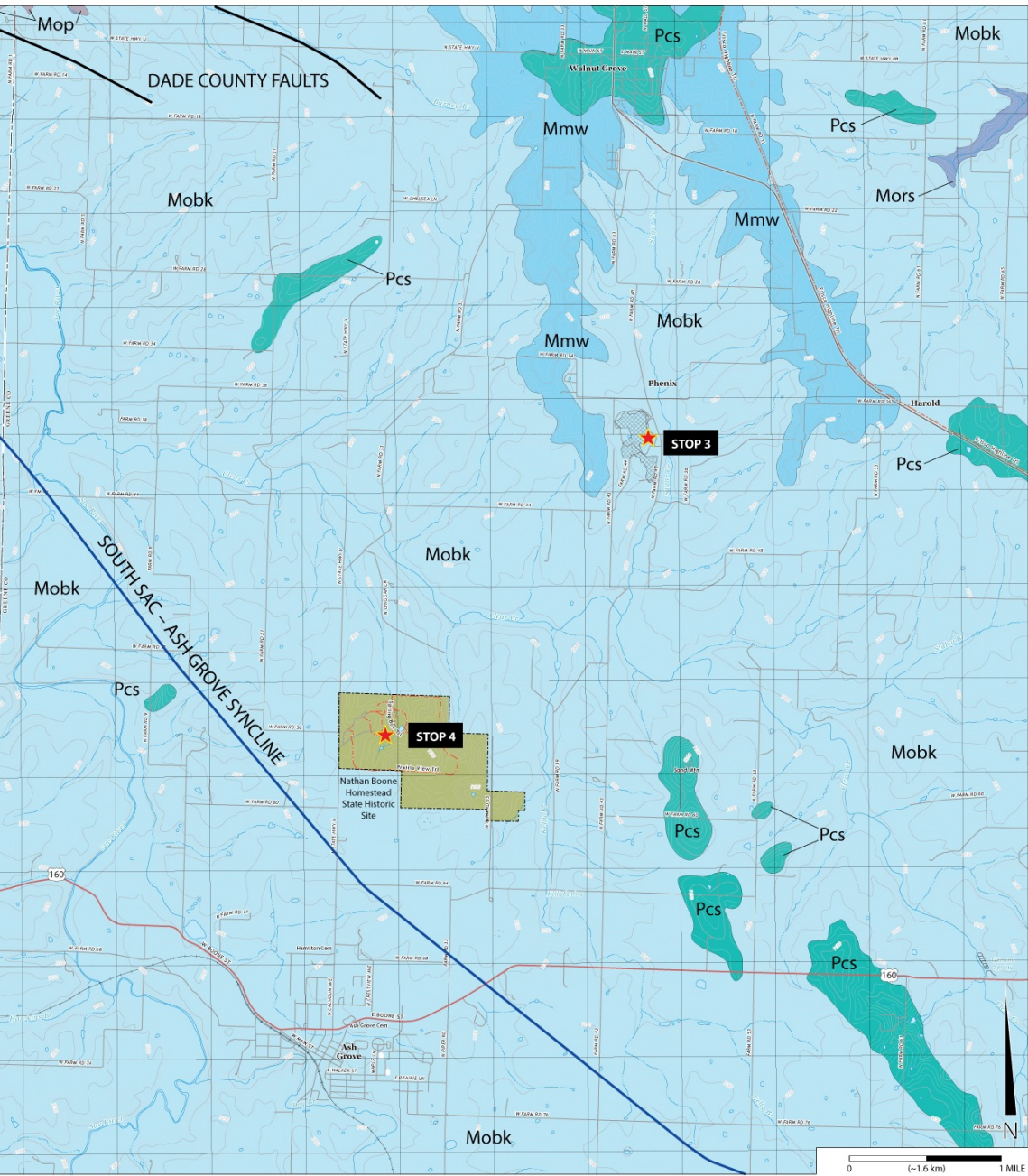
*[after 14 July 1843]*

"Throughout the region of Red Gypsum hills, we found great quantities of red cedar. We subsisted on buffalo meat from the time we reach'd the great salt plain, until we struck the settlements on the Canadian. We used the Salt from the Salt plains."

"The soil of the greater portion of the country passed over was very fine, especially amongst the Gypsum Hills. Gypsum and plaster of Paris, grey, blue. Red, & white, for one hundred miles from north to south, is as abundant as the Limestone is in Missouri, or Arkansas, in parts of the country we passed over." (Pelzer, 1917, p. 187-188)

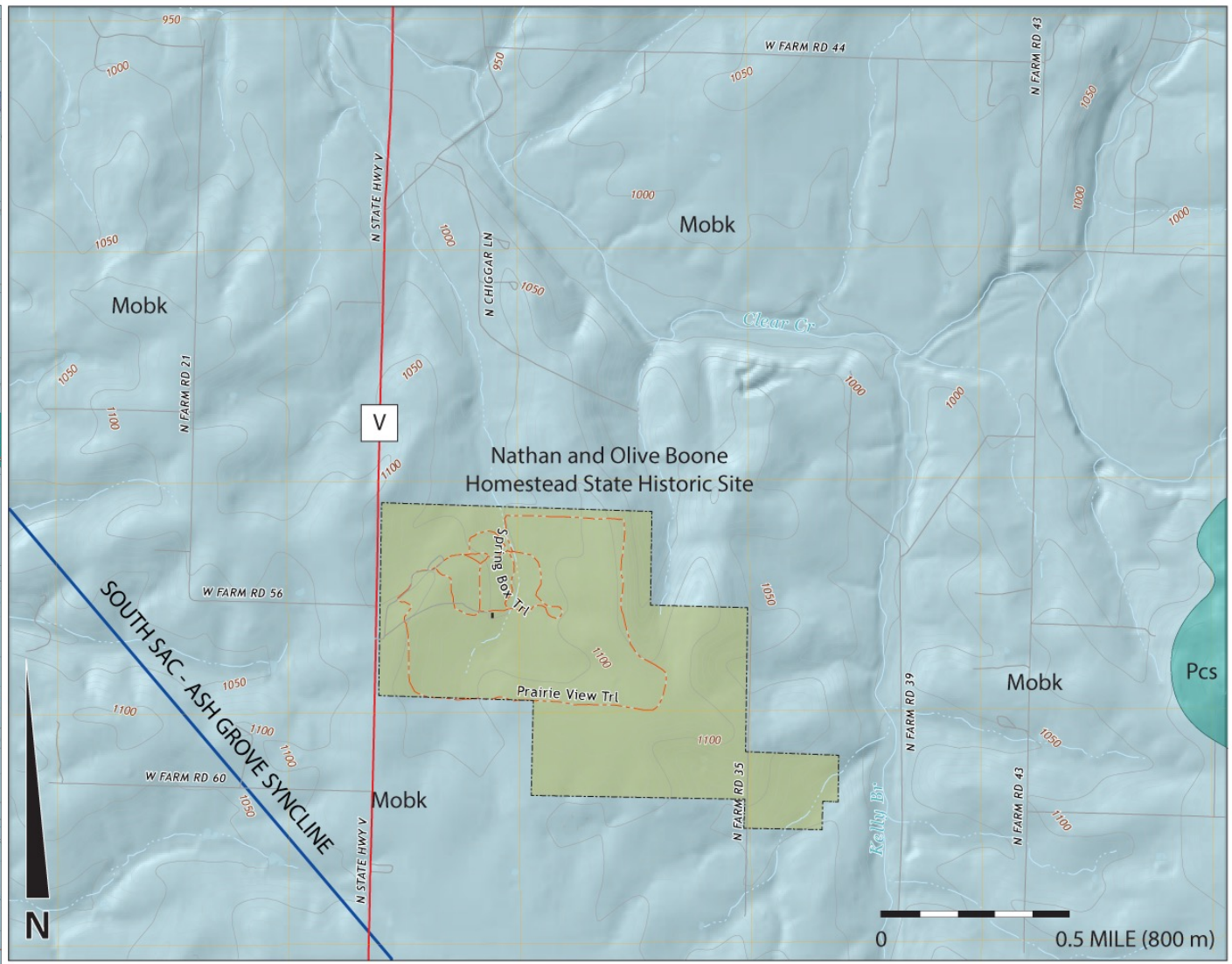
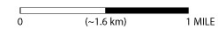


Nathan and Olive Boone Homestead State Historical Park



- Pcs Pennsylvanian channel sandstone
- Mmw Warsaw Formation (Mississippian; Meramecian stage)
- Mobk Burlington-Keokuk Limestone (undivided) (Mississippian; Osagean stage)
- Mors Reeds Spring Formation (Mississippian; Osagean stage)
- Mop Pierson Limestone (Mississippian; Osagean stage)

- Fault
- Syncline (axis)



Nathan and Olive Boone Homestead  
State Historical Park, Ash Grove, Missouri

A landscape photograph showing a sunset or sunrise over a field. The sky is a deep blue with scattered, light-colored clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm glow. In the foreground, there is a dark, silhouetted path that curves through a field. The trees in the background are also silhouetted against the bright sky. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

**Questions?**