

# 1778

\* The British took more control over their native allies in 1778. They started offering double the reward for prisoners over scalps in hope of a more “civilized” warfare. Incentives by the British were not the only reasons for the continued attacks on the settlers. While Shawnee Chief Blackfish urged on war to regain their territory, Shawnee Chief Cornstalk favored peace. In the autumn of 1777, Cornstalk, while on a friendly visit to Captain Arbuckle at Point Pleasant was murdered. This outrage hastened the Shawnee to arms. They turned their rage first against Wheeling’s men, but withdrew after losing 1/4 of their number. Enraged by their defeat they prepared a new expedition to march on Kentucky. The war party numbered 102 men, including two Canadians, eighty Shawnee, and twenty Miami.

## **February 7-**

**Near Blue Licks-** Daniel Boone is captured by a scouting party of the above mentioned group. Boone pretended to be happy to see the Native Americans. He learned that the goal was to attack Boonesboro. He convinced the native that they did not have enough men to take the fort and that if they captured only the men he had left making salt it would bring them great honor. They could then gather a bigger force and attack the fort in the spring. He also told them that he would aid them in getting the fort to surrender if they went with his plan. Boone secured the surrender of the salt makers, and the fighting force returned home with their captives. Boone was adopted by Chief Blackfish. On June 20, Boone learned that the Shawnee were preparing to attack Boonesboro, and he escaped to warn the fort.

## **September 7-**

**Boonesboro-** The native force that Boone warned about finally arrives. The war party consisted of more than four hundred natives and twelve Canadians, led by Chief Blackfish. The War Party did not attack upon arrival instead they sent out a flag of truce, and opened up talks. The letter presented by Blackfish offered very favorable conditions for the fort to surrender. Chief Blackfish assured the settlers that “ He had come to take the people away easily and that he had brought 40 horses for the old folks, the women and the children to ride”. The settlers acted pleased and asked for two days to consider the offer. At the end of the two day truce Boone informed Chief Blackfish that they would not surrender and go with them to Detroit. In attempts to still settle this peacefully the Natives and British offered to set up a treaty that would allow them to remain at Boonesboro. After the treaty was signed, Chief Blackfish demanded that all of the men shake hands over the deal. During the hand shaking, men in the fort fired on the Indians, fearing it was a trap. The settlers made it back into the fort and fighting began. The fighting lasted 9 days, in which the Natives tried several ways to take the fort including faking retreat, tunneling under the fort, and trying to set the fort on fire. None were successful, and Chief Blackfish’s forces retreated.

September- many areas saw Native attackers while the siege was taking place at Boonesboro. A party of men moving from Fort Harrod to Logan’s fort were fired on with little damage.