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LIFE AS A FRONTIERSMAN



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IN LITERATURE: Daniel Boone, played by Hoosier actor Danny Russel, reading from a book about his life.

Actor portrays Daniel Boone at Historical Museum

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Daniel Boone visited the Huntington County Historical Museum to talk about his life, family and accomplishments during an event on Wednesday evening.

Stage actor and Famous Hoosiers actor Danny Russel portrayed Boone, while Russel, as Boone, talked about his life on the frontier.

Boone told the audience that there are three things a frontiersman must have, and that's a good gun, a good horse and a good wife.

He said he was lucky in all three of those categories, further saying that he called his gun "Tick licker" because he could shoot a tick off a bear's nose at a great distance.



INTRODUCTION: Gib Young, president of the Huntington County Historical Society, talk to the audience just before Danny Russel took the stage as Daniel Boone on Wednesday night.

Boone's wife was Rebecca (Bryan) and was said to have been very attractive with black hair and dark eyes. They had 10 children. Boone himself was one of 11 children.

Russel also portrays Abraham Lincoln, Indiana poet James Whitcomb Riley and of course the famous frontiersman, Daniel Boone. Russel said he started doing historical figures

as a "complete" accident.

Russel was looking for another source of income to supplement his stage career. His wife, a native Hoosier from Indianapolis, told him that if he "picked up" more Hoosier characters he could still make a living acting.

Performing as a historical figure has an educational, theatrical and a historical component, which makes it appealing because there are more avenues in which to perform, according to Russel.

"This is perfect. With my Hoosier characters I can go to schools, museums, libraries, nursing homes," Russel said.

Russel's favorite character to perform is the 16th

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president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln.

"You're talking the best of America," Russel said. "Log cabin to the White House."

Lincoln came from poverty and illiterate parents, but he rose to the "highest

office in the land by his own efforts."

Russel quoted Lincoln stating, "I couldn't do what I did in China or Russia and make no pretense of loving liberty. Only in America could I achieve this stature."

Jim Dinius, museum member, said Russel is a good actor and said he didn't have a favorite part of Russel's

Boone and "enjoyed the whole thing."

The museum employs historical character actors about five times a year, according to Lowell Richardson.

"He has that special talent where you almost think he's going lose himself, the balance, and he maintains it," said.