

Daniel Boone's Ginseng Adventure



In the winter of 1787-88, Boone lost fifteen packs of ginseng in the Monongahela River at the first riffle below the mouth of Pricketts Creek. Boone was transporting the ginseng by packhorses from his home in Kentucky to Philadelphia, where the price of “good dry sang was very high”. As Boone drove his packers across the river, a panther screamed from a thicket; the horses, frightened, reared and bolted, losing their packs and the ginseng in the water.

Joseph Hartley told Adam O. Heck of the happening, and said that Boone, aided by Jonathon Nixon and Edward Parrish, who were passing by, and a few men from the Prickett settlement, finally recovered about half the ginseng, and was able to “dry it into marketable condition by digging a fire-pit and a flue-trench and making a screen of hickory withes and rigging it above the fire-pit and spreading the ginseng upon it”. It took about a week to dry the ginseng, Hartley said, during which time “Boone ate and slept at his cousin’s, David Morgan’s and Prickett’s Fort.

Ref. Page 654, Now And Long Ago by Glenn D. Lough

