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## Chapter 1

# Born in America

Daniel Boone's destiny was set from the moment he was born. The late afternoon sun spread its light over the Boone family's log cabin on November 2, 1734, in the American colony of Pennsylvania, near a little town called Exeter. From her bed Sarah Boone, Daniel's mother, suddenly cried out in pain.

"Prepare hot water! Bring more blankets!" shouted one of the women in the room. She was a neighbor who had come to assist in Sarah's giving



“Prepare Hot Water!”

## DANIEL BOONE

birth. Mothers gave birth at home in those days, and neighbors and family would come by to help. There weren't many doctors on the American frontier, and no hospitals.

Samuel Boone, Sarah's oldest son, ran out of the small cabin, and raced toward a little hut down by the riverbank.

"Pa, Pa!" Samuel yelled. "Come quick. Mama's havin' the baby!"

Squire Boone jumped up from his weaver's loom, and with his son, hurried back to the cabin.

Squire rushed to Sarah's side. Several women were helping to prepare Sarah for the birth.

"It'll be all right, Sarah," Squire assured his wife. He gripped her hand. Sarah let out one loud, piercing cry.

Then there was great joy in the room, for now another voice was crying—the cry of a newborn baby boy. One of the women wrapped baby Daniel

## DANIEL BOONE

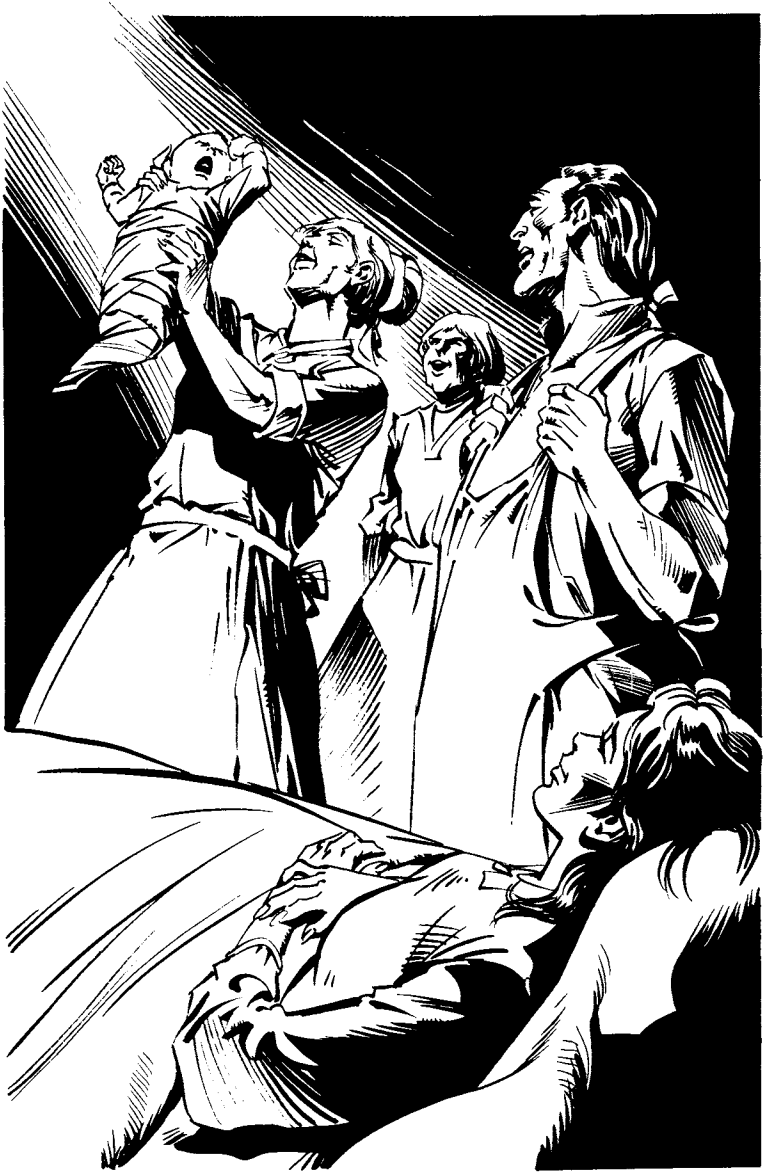
in a small blanket and held him up for all to see.

Some who were there say, as baby Daniel cried and everyone cheered and clapped, that a remarkable thing happened.

A ray of the setting sunlight shone through the window, right on Daniel. The light bathed the baby in a reddish glow. Suddenly he opened his eyes and stopped crying.

Was it fate? Or destiny? The very first thing the newborn Daniel Boone saw was the sun in the west. From that moment on, and all his life, Daniel Boone's eyes would be looking to the western frontier; a frontier that he, more than anyone else, would help open up to all Americans.

But Daniel Boone's trailblazing frontier days were still many years ahead of him. The America he was born into was a lot different from the America of today. For one thing, America was still a colony of the British empire back then. All the



The Light Bathed the Baby.