



## Artist Profile

### Rush and Ruby Butcher

In 1999, Rush Butcher and his wife, Ruby, were honored at the annual Vandalia Gathering in Charleston for "devoting their lives to furthering West Virginia's dance heritage." They received the prestigious Vandalia Award from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. They have spent 50 years learning and teaching traditional Appalachian dances to youths and adults throughout the state. This is the first time the award has been given to a couple. Rush and Ruby met when they were students at Berea College. He grew up in the Flatwoods area, and she is a native of Fuget, Kentucky. They live in Summersville. Their names are inscribed on the permanent Vandalia Award plaque displayed at the Cultural Center.

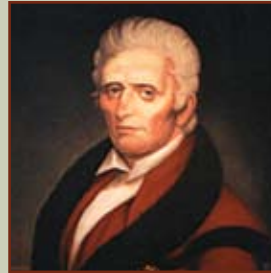
In *Traditions* magazine, 2002, Rush Butcher wrote about the importance of dance: "We believe that folk dance plays an important role in people's lives, especially youth. Not only is this activity fun and enjoyable, but it teaches much in movement, social adjustment, and an appreciation of our cultural heritage and background. Ruby and I have been married for over fifty-two years and dancing has made us 'real' partners. I believe that it has held our family closer together as we taught and danced with our children and grandchildren."  
(Byers and Tenney)



(Byers and Tenney)

### Profile

#### Daniel Boone



Daniel Boone was a dancer whenever the occasion arose. The account is from *Daniel Boone: The Life and Legend of an American Pioneer* by John Mack Faragher: "It was May 1771 by the time Boone returned to Beaver Creek on the Upper Yadkin. A delightful tale recounts his reunion with Rebecca. He arrived one evening to find his family at a neighborhood frolic. Standing at the edge of the dancing, watching the fun, he realizes that his hair and beard have grown so long and disheveled that he is unrecognized. Delighting in his disguise, Boone steps boldly up to Rebecca and extends his hand for a dance. Repulsed by the stranger's uncouth appearance, she refuses. 'You need not refuse,' says Boone, laughing aloud, 'for you have danced many a time with me.' Now recognizing his voice, she throws her arms around his neck, her eyes filling with tears, while the neighbors gawk in amazement to see Mrs. Boone in the arms of the rough old hunter. All soon realize the truth and 'the dancers now took a rest while Boone related the story of his hardships and adventures in the romantic land of Kentucky, where he had encountered bears, Indians, and wild cats – and had seen a country wonderful in its beauty to behold. Thus passed the night with Boone and his friends.' "

(Mack Faragher)