



Kentucky's War of 1812: Hopkins County

The Kentucky Historical Society's historical marker 849 in Madisonville commemorates Hopkins County being named in honor of a War of 1812 veteran.

Samuel Hopkins, a soldier and politician, was born in Albermarle County, Va., in 1753. He fought in the Revolutionary War, where he saw active service at Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine and Germantown, Pa., where he was wounded. A lieutenant colonel of the 10th Virginia, he was captured by British troops at Charleston, S.C.

In 1797, Hopkins moved to Henderson County, Ky., where he served in the Kentucky House and Senate. He also served in the U.S. Congress. During the War of 1812, Hopkins was a major general of the Kentucky State Militia. Throughout 1812, he led Kentucky and Indiana troops against Native Americans in Illinois.

Hopkins died in 1819. When Hopkins County was formed in 1806, it was named in his honor.

A view of Hopkins County, circa 1892. Courtesy the Kentucky Historical Society.