



Kentucky's War of 1812: Graves County

The Kentucky Historical Society's historical marker 869 in Mayfield commemorates the establishment of Graves County, which was named in honor of a War of 1812 veteran.

Maj. Benjamin Franklin Graves was born in Virginia in 1771. He moved to Kentucky with his family at age 20 and settled in Fayette County, where he was a farmer and state legislator.

During the War of 1812, Graves was commissioned major of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Regiment, Kentucky Volunteers. On Jan. 22, 1813, he fought in the Battle of the River Raisin. Wounded there, he was taken prisoner by Native Americans after the battle and was never heard from again. When Graves County was created in 1824, it was named in his honor. Several counties are named after Kentuckians killed at the Battle of the River Raisin.

The Graves County courthouse at Mayfield. This county is named after a War of 1812 casualty. Courtesy of the Kentucky Historical Society.