



Kentucky's War of 1812: Dr. Samuel Brown

The Kentucky Historical Society's historical marker 1595 in Fayette County recognizes Dr. Samuel Brown, a Lexington professor and physician who aided America's war effort during the War of 1812.

A Virginia native, Brown was well-educated for his time, having attended medical school in Scotland. After practicing in Maryland, he moved to Lexington in 1797 and became a professor of surgery and chemistry at Transylvania University.

According to the marker, "Dr. Brown's analyses led to the use of Kentucky cave nitre in [the] manufacture of gunpowder. This added to Kentucky's role in winning the War of 1812." Brown was also an early advocate of inoculating people for smallpox and was a successful inventor. He died in Alabama in 1830.

The Kentucky Historical Society is the administrator of the Kentucky War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. For more information on KHS, see www.history.ky.gov.