



Kentucky's War of 1812: Martin D. Hardin's Epaulets

Among the Kentucky Historical Society's War of 1812 collections are a pair of epaulets that were likely worn by Kentucky officer Martin D. Hardin.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1780, Hardin was educated at Transylvania University. An attorney and state legislator, he became Secretary of State in 1812, but the War of 1812 quickly interrupted his political career. As an officer in the Kentucky militia, Hardin fought in Ohio and Michigan. After the war, he became a U.S. Senator and again served in the Kentucky House of Representatives. He died in 1823 and was buried in Frankfort.

According to the Kentucky Historical Society's artifact description, these epaulets "have brass spiral tassels, twisted brass piping, two embroidered black stars and one button with a U.S. eagle and shield on each epaulet. The lining is yellow silk and red leather. There is a padded shoulder with red velvet under each epaulet and each has one brass sliding hook on the underside. The epaulets are marked 'Right' and 'Left.'"

This epaulet was likely worn by Martin D. Hardin during the War of 1812. Image courtesy of the Kentucky Historical Society.