



Kentucky's War of 1812: Remember the Raisin

The Kentucky Historical Society's historical marker 508 in Georgetown commemorates the Battle of the River Raisin.

On Aug. 15, 1812, Kentucky volunteers rendezvoused in Georgetown before marching into present-day Michigan. Upon nearing Frenchtown (now Monroe), Gen. James Winchester's Kentuckians attacked that town in order to secure supplies. On Jan. 18, 1813, Winchester's men took the settlement.

British forces and their Native American allies counterattacked on January 22 in what has become known as the Battle of the River Raisin. Hit hard by artillery, the Kentucky troops ultimately retreated. After the battle, some Kentucky troops were taken prisoner and marched northwards, and between 40 and 65 wounded Americans were killed by Native Americans. "Remember the Raisin" soon became a rallying cry for Americans.

Nine Kentucky counties were named after Kentucky casualties: Allan, Ballard, Edmonson, Graves, Hart, Hickman, McCracken, Meade and Simpson.

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