

A KENTUCKY HISTORY MOMENT



Dr. Ephraim McDowell House, Danville, Kentucky. Lantern slide. Kentucky Historical Society, Colonial Dames Lantern Slides, Graphic 19_Box1_83.

GREEN COUNTY: PIONEERING SURGERY ON THE FRONTIER

A gutsy Green County woman and skilled frontier surgeon made history in 1809. Jane Todd Crawford, 47, rode by horseback 60 miles from her home near Greensburg to Danville where Ephraim McDowell, without anesthetics or antiseptic, removed from her a 22.5-pound ovarian cystic tumor. Crawford spent four weeks in Danville recovering and lived another 32 years. McDowell went on to have a successful career as a surgical pathologist and abdominal and gynecological surgeon.



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