

## Saddle Holster and Pistols, ca. 1860



This brace of pistols and holster belonged to Major General John C. Breckinridge of Lexington, Kentucky. Breckinridge, a lawyer and politician, rose to the rank of major general in the Confederate army and eventually served as secretary of war under Jefferson Davis. As the secretary, he is said to have carried one navy and one army Colt to symbolize his command of both forces. The choice of Colt pistols is not surprising, as they were among the most prized sidearms of the period.

*Donated by Fred Hood, 1987.47.03*

War is not just a compilation of dates that represent a series of battles. "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)," an online exhibition that illustrates the personal stories of bravery, innovation, heartache and perseverance, provides evidence of the people and artifacts history books often neglect. To learn more about this item and others in the military collections of the Kentucky Historical Society, visit "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)."