



## Neck of the Bottle Used to Christen the USS *Kentucky* (BB-6), 1898

The neck of this bottle is a souvenir of the christening of the USS *Kentucky* in 1898. Christine Bradley, the daughter of Kentucky governor William O. Bradley, performed this duty as the sponsor of the ship. Traditionally, ships are christened at launch by breaking a bottle of champagne on the bow. Bradley's convictions, as a member of a Christian temperance group, prevented her from using alcohol to christen the vessel. To accommodate her concerns, a bottle of water, from a spring near Abraham Lincoln's birthplace, replaced the champagne during the ceremony.

*Donated by Christine Bradley Scott, 1943.4*

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](#)."