



Kentucky's War of 1812: Gen. William O. Butler

The Kentucky Historical Society's historical marker 823 in Jessamine County commemorates the birthplace of Gen. William O. Butler, a War of 1812 veteran.

Born in Jessamine County in 1791, Butler was raised near present-day Carrollton. He graduated from Transylvania University and studied law. During the War of 1812, he was named ensign to the 17th Regiment, U.S. Infantry. He fought at the Battle of River Raisin, where he was wounded and captured. Imprisoned at Fort Niagara, he was eventually released.

By 1814, his military service sent him south to New Orleans. He fought at the Battle of New Orleans, and then became an aide to Gen. Andrew Jackson. After the war, he served in the state legislature, was elected to Congress, and unsuccessfully ran for governor. During the Mexican War, he was appointed major general, was wounded at Monterrey, and ultimately commanded all American troops in Mexico.