presented by the
KentuckyHistoricalSociety

WAR of 1812
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
administered by the Kentucky Historical Society
1812 1815

Kentucky's War of 1812:
John Littlejohn

The Kentucky Historical Society's historical markers 871 and 2275, both in Logan County, commemorate the life and burial site of John Littlejohn, the "Guardian of the Declaration of Independence" during the War of 1812.

Born in England in 1756, Littlejohn immigrated to America in 1767. At age 20, he became a Methodist preacher and rode circuits in Virginia and Maryland. During the War of 1812, Littlejohn was a sheriff and collector of internal revenue in Loudon County, Va. When the British advanced on Washington, DC, in August 1814, President James Madison ordered that that the national archives be sent 35 miles away, to Loudon County. There, Littlejohn helped hide these archives. Although much of Washington was burned, the documents were kept safe.

Littlejohn moved to Kentucky in 1818 and lived in Louisville and Warren County before settling in Logan County. He died in 1836 and is buried in Russellville.

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

100 West Broadway | Frankfort, KY 40601 | 502.564.1792 | www.history.ky.gov

Kentucky
UNBRIDLED SPIRIT
The Kentucky Historical Society is an agency
of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet.