



Kentucky's War of 1812: Shelby County

The Kentucky Historical Society's historical marker 1238 recognizes Shelby County being named for Kentucky's first governor, Isaac Shelby, who was also a War of 1812 veteran.

Born in Maryland in 1750, Shelby fought in Lord Dunmore's War and the Revolutionary War. In 1780, he fought at the Battle of King's Mountain. Three years later, he moved to Kentucky, where he took an active role in Kentucky's early constitutional conventions. On May 17, 1792, he was elected the commonwealth's first governor.

Immediately before the War of 1812, Shelby again ran for governor. His military experience was an asset and he was elected. During the war, he raised Kentuckians for the cause and even led them in the field.

Upon retirement, he moved to his farm south of Danville. He died there in 1826.

Kentucky Gov. Isaac Shelby led troops in battle during the War of 1812. Shelby County is named in his honor.