



Kentucky's War of 1812: Allen County

The Kentucky Historical Society's historical marker 760 in Scottsville commemorates the naming of Allen County after Col. John Allen, a War of 1812 casualty.

Born in 1771 in Rockbridge County, Va., Allen's family moved to Kentucky when he was a child. Allen studied law in Virginia, married the daughter of famed pioneer Benjamin Logan and opened a successful law practice in Shelbyville. Allen served in the Kentucky House and Senate but lost a bid for governor.

During the War of 1812, Allen became colonel of the 1st Regiment, Kentucky Volunteer Militia. At the Battle of the River Raisin, the American lines broke and Allen's troops were pushed back into some woods. Allen tried to rally his men, but his soldiers retreated for two miles. During this withdrawal, Allen was shot in the chest and killed by a Native American.

Allen County, established in 1815, was named in his honor.

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