



Kentucky's War of 1812: Clay County

The Kentucky Historical Society's historical marker 836 in Manchester commemorates the naming of Clay County for Green Clay, a War of 1812 veteran.

Born in Virginia, according to one biographer, Clay “moved to Madison County in the 1780s and established himself as one of the richest, most powerful men in the state.” A founder of Richmond and a cousin of Henry Clay, Green was also politically active and served in the state legislature. During the War of 1812, Green became a brigadier general and saw service at Ft. Meigs.

Clay's children also left an impressive legacy. One son, Brutus Clay, was an active politician while another, Cassius Marcellus Clay, was a prominent emancipationist who became Abraham Lincoln's minister to Russia.

When Clay County was created in 1807, it 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.