



Kentucky's War of 1812: Daviness County

Some historians think of the Battle of Tippecanoe, fought in 1811, as the unofficial beginning of the War of 1812. The Kentucky Historical Society's historical marker 1158 commemorates Daviness County being named in 1815 for a casualty from this battle, Joseph Hamilton Daviess.

Born in Virginia, the well-educated Daviess became an attorney and served on several expeditions against Native Americans. In 1806, as U.S. attorney, he prosecuted former Vice President Aaron Burr for treason. He also served in the Kentucky legislature, and was "one of the first attorneys from west of the Appalachians to argue a case before the Supreme Court."

In 1811, William Henry Harrison led a campaign against Native Americans in present-day Indiana. Daviess, who was active in the Kentucky militia, eventually became a colonel in Harrison's command. At the Battle of Tippecanoe, which secured national fame for Harrison, Daviess was killed while leading a charge.

A tree-lined road in Daviess County, which was named after a War of 1812 veteran. This image, courtesy of the Kentucky Historical Society, was taken around 1920.