

# KENTUCKY'S HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM

## MARKER #2281 - DR. EPHRAIM MCDOWELL, 1771 - 1830



Historical marker 2281 in **Danville, Boyle County**, commemorates the medical career of Dr. Ephraim McDowell, who performed the first successful ovariectomy in 1809.

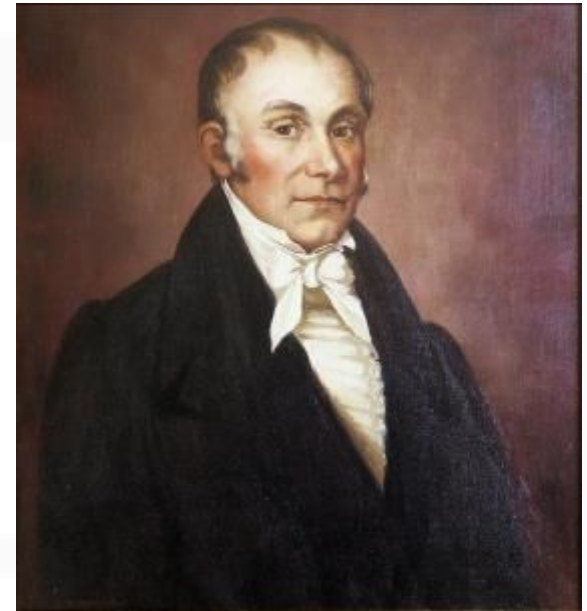
Born in Virginia in 1771, McDowell's family moved to **Danville, Kentucky**. Ephraim studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh before establishing his medical practice in Danville.

McDowell gained fame for his actions on Christmas of 1809. On that day, he successfully removed a twenty-pound cystic ovarian tumor from Jane Todd Crawford. He would perform similar procedures nearly a dozen times.

In addition to his medical work, McDowell helped establish Centre College in 1819.

KHS is proud to manage Kentucky's historical marker program, with over 2,400 markers across the state, including **43 in Boyle County**. Download the free mobile app to learn more Kentucky stories at [explorehistory.ky.gov](https://explorehistory.ky.gov).

*2022 Legislative Moments are brought to you by the Kentucky Historical Society (KHS), which is an agency of the Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet, is fully accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, and is a Smithsonian affiliate.*



Ephraim McDowell, "Ephraim McDowell," painting courtesy of KHS.



Boyle County

**Kentucky Historical Society | 100 W. Broadway | Frankfort, KY | 502-564-1792 | [history.ky.gov](https://history.ky.gov)**