



## **Kentucky's War of 1812: McCracken County**

*The Kentucky Historical Society's historical marker 918 at Paducah in McCracken County notes the county's namesake, Virgil McCracken, who was killed during the War of 1812.*

Virgil McCracken's parents were early Kentucky settlers who lived near present-day Frankfort. The family was sadly familiar with military casualties. Virgil's father, Cyrus, was killed in Ohio in 1782 while fighting under George Rogers Clark. Virgil, a state legislator representing Woodford County, would also be killed in the service.

At the outbreak of the War of 1812, McCracken raised a company and was commissioned captain in the 1st Kentucky Riflemen. Marching into present-day Michigan with Gen. James Winchester's army, McCracken was wounded at the Battle of River Raisin. After the fight, McCracken was captured by a Native American soldier and was never seen again. He was likely one of 40 to 60 Kentuckians killed by the Native Americans.

Pictured: A postcard image looking at Paducah from Owen's Island. Courtesy of the Kentucky Historical Society.