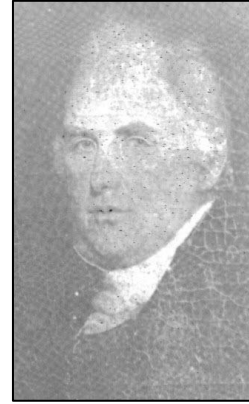


Kentucky: Samuel McDowell, Jr.

Since his birth on March 8, 1764, in Rockbridge County, VA, Samuel McDowell, Jr. was a rebellious and idealistic youth. His father was the formidable Samuel McDowell, Sr, a soldier who had participated in three wars, the leader of the movement to separate Kentucky from Virginia, and eventually a federal judge and founding trustee of Washington and Lee University.



Samuel McDowell, Jr.
Courtesy of the U.S. Marshals Service

At the age of 17, young McDowell ran away from his home in Rockville, VA and enlisted as a private in General Lafayette's small army of Continental regulars and militiamen.¹⁸⁵ As a private, McDowell participated in the Virginia Campaign of 1781, which culminated in an American victory at Yorktown.¹⁸⁶ A year after the war ended and he returned home, McDowell and his family moved to Kentucky. In the interim period between the end of the American Revolution and his appointment as a U.S. marshal, McDowell participated in numerous military campaigns against Native American tribes as American settlers pushed west.¹⁸⁷

President Washington appointed McDowell as the U.S. marshal for the District of Kentucky in the fall of 1789.¹⁸⁸ ¹⁸⁹ With this appointment, the 25-year-old became the youngest member of the U.S. Marshal Service and thus, the youngest overseer of the 1790 enumeration process. Although he initially brought a limited amount of experience to the position, but he brought an infectious patriotic fervor that enabled him to thrive in the role. ¹⁹⁰

While the final 1790 census schedules for Kentucky are lost due to the War of 1812, McDowell and his deputies (many of whom were probably his relatives) completed their task in June 1791,

¹⁸⁵ "History - The First Generation of United States Marshals/The First Marshal of Kentucky: Samuel McDowell Jr.," U.S. marshals Service, last estimated release October 24, 2019, <https://www.usmarshals.gov/history/firstmarshals/carrington.htm>. (Accessed October 24, 2019).

¹⁸⁶ "History - The First Generation of United States Marshals/The First Marshal of Kentucky: Samuel McDowell Jr."

¹⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁹ "From George Washington to the United States Senate, 24 September 1789," *Founders Online*, National Archives, last estimated release September 29, 2019, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-04-02-0053>. (Accessed October 24, 2019). [Original source: *The Papers of George Washington*, Presidential Series, vol. 4, 8 September 1789–15 January 1790, ed. Dorothy Twohig. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1993, pp. 75–80.]

¹⁹⁰ "History - The First Generation of United States Marshals/The First Marshal of Kentucky: Samuel McDowell Jr."



A National Gazette with Kentucky's state constitution
National Gazette. (Philadelphia, PA),
28 June 1792.

three months before the initial deadline of September 5, 1791.¹⁹¹ ¹⁹² ¹⁹³ The speed at which the McDowell and his deputies completed the enumeration is noteworthy because four months prior, Congress authorized Kentucky's local government to create the administrative framework that was essential to it becoming a new state and the count would determine the number of Representatives the new state would have in Congress.¹⁹⁴ Kentucky became a state on June 1, 1792 with an official population of 73, 677 people and was allocated two representatives.¹⁹⁵ ¹⁹⁶

Having completed the enumeration of Kentucky's population, McDowell continued to serve as Kentucky's U.S. marshal, until he was replaced by President Thomas Jefferson's appointee in 1801.¹⁹⁷ For the remainder of his life, McDowell continued to champion the idea of serving one's country among his relatives.¹⁹⁸ This idea appeared to have resonated after his death on June 20, 1831

because his grandson, Irvine McDowell, commanded the Union Army during the First Battle of Bull Run and served the Union war effort in other capacities after that first disastrous defeat.¹⁹⁹

¹⁹¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁹² "Kentucky". *Return of the whole number of persons within the several districts of the United States: according to "An act providing for the enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States," passed March the first, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one*, pg. 51. PDF. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/content/census/en/library/publications/1793/dec/number-of-persons.htm>. (Accessed October 24, 2019).

¹⁹³ *Gazette of the United-States*. [volume] (New-York [N.Y.]), 10 March 1790.

¹⁹⁴ Ockerman Jr., Foster, "Celebrate Kentucky's statehood; it was a slog," *Lexington Herald Leader*, May 30, 2017, last estimated release May 31, 2017, <https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article153360289.html>. (Accessed October 24, 2019).

¹⁹⁵ "History and Museums: Constitution Square State Historic Site," Danville & Perryville Kentucky, last estimated release September 28, 2007, <https://web.archive.org/web/20070928125140/http://www.danville-ky.com/attractions2.php?category=History%20and%20Museums>. (Accessed October 24, 2019).

¹⁹⁶ "Kentucky". *Return of the whole number of persons within the several districts of the United States: according to "An act providing for the enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States," passed March the first, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one*, pg. 51.

¹⁹⁷ "History - The First Generation of United States Marshals/The First Marshal of Kentucky: Samuel McDowell Jr."

¹⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*