



Kentucky's War of 1812: Matthew H. Jouett

The Kentucky Historical Society's marker 1888 in Fayette County recognizes the work of master portrait painter Matthew Harris Jouett, who was also a War of 1812 veteran.

Born in Mercer County in 1788, Jouett graduated from Transylvania University before studying law under a local judge. The War of 1812 interrupted Jouett's law practice and he became a first lieutenant and paymaster of the 3rd Mounted Regiment, Kentucky Volunteers. When payment vouchers were lost during a campaign, Jouett was held personally responsible and became riddled with debt. He resigned from the army in January 1815, at the rank of captain.

After the conflict, Jouett left his law practice and devoted himself to art. He studied under noted portrait artist Gilbert Stuart in Boston and then found success painting portraits in cities across the South. Some of his most famous subjects include Gen. Lafayette, Henry Clay, George Rogers Clark and Gov. Isaac Shelby. Jouett died at his home near Lexington in 1827. He was buried at Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville.

Pictured: Portrait of Lucy Price Weisiger, attributed to Matthew H. Jouett. From the Kentucky Historical Society collections.