GEORGE MADISON

1796 - 1816

George Madison was born in Augusta County, Virginia, in 1763. He was the son of John and Agatha Strother Madison. His brother, James Madison, was the first bishop of Virginia.

George Madison came to Kentucky with his family at an early age. Madison has been described as a born soldier. As a boy, he served as a soldier in the American Revolution. In 1780, he fought in a militia group which defended the settlements from Indian attacks. He was later a commander of a cavalry company.

Madison was appointed Auditor of Public Accounts by Governor Issac Shelby on March 7, 1796, to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of William McDowell. George Madison served the commonwealth as Auditor for more than twenty years as a highly respected and much-loved public figure.

While Auditor, he continued to serve in the military. As a major in the Northwestern army, Madison fought in the battle of Frenchtown in January 1813. He was taken prisoner at the River Raisin when the Americans were defeated and was sent to Quebec but was released in 1814.

George Madison returned to his home in Paris, Bourbon County, Kentucky, after the end of the War of 1812.

He resigned as Auditor in 1816 and was urged to run for governor. His opponent, Colonel James Johnson, withdrew from the race, declaring that it was "utterly futile for him or anybody else to run against a man so universally popular and beloved as he found his opponent to be." Madison, however, did not live through the first year of his term as governor. He died on October 14, 1816, at Paris, Kentucky. He was succeeded by Gabriel Slaughter.