



## **Kentucky's War of 1812: The Burgoyne Cannon**

*Included among the KHS collections is a three-pound brass cannon tube with ties to the War of 1812. Today, this gun is known as the "Burgoyne Cannon."*

According to the artifact record at the Kentucky Historical Society, the British cannon was designed to be "a highly portable infantry support weapon." During the Revolutionary War, in 1777, American troops captured the cannon at the Battle of Saratoga, N.Y. Because the Americans defeated British Gen. John Burgoyne there, that officer's name has been forever linked to this artillery piece.

During the War of 1812, when Detroit fell to British forces, the Redcoats again seized the cannon. Later, during the Battle of Thames (fought in Ontario, Canada), Col. Richard M. Johnson's Regiment of Kentucky Mounted Rifles recaptured it from the British. It was then presented to Gov. Isaac Shelby and has since remained in Frankfort, where it is now on display at the Kentucky Military History Museum at the State Arsenal in Frankfort.

Pictured: The Burgoyne Cannon. The cannon tube, which dates from the Revolutionary War, sits on a mid-19th century carriage.