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Locals join in bicentennial plans for War of 1812

By **Brian DeNeal**
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MUSEUM GROUNDS — The War of 1812 is an often overlooked, but important part of our nation's history that is soon to be celebrating its 200th anniversary.

It proved to the British America was indeed serious about maintaining the sovereignty it had earned in the Revolutionary War. It opened two centuries of peace with our Canadian neighbors. The war also brought us our National Anthem "The Star-Spangled Banner."

A local group of reenactors wants to make sure Illinois remembers the war as we approach its 200th birthday.

Mike Bolin of Rudement is a member of the local 17th Illinois Territorial Rangers, the reenactment group that has guarded the block house at the Saline Creek Pioneer Village and Museum several years during the annual sp... at Fort Massac in Metropolis. The Rangers are joining a multina

Rangers Mike Bolin, Dave Cummins, his wife Kathy and son Don... organizing Illinois' 200th year anniversary of the war.

Bill Wilson of Greenville in Madison County is chairman of the I... girlfriend Krysta Wise and Bolin are also helping the commissio

Wilson says though the war is named after the year 1812, it invol... Battle of New Orleans. Though the United States of America had... desiring British trade to attack the settlers.

The U.S. had its federal troops, but the outlying frontier mainly... Rangers to keep families safe. In what is now Saline County ther... location of the flag pole at Wolf Creek Cemetery -- the Coleman

Wilson said there were two attacks by Native Americans on the C

"The idea of the block house is it was a structure so imposing it v

"There are no documented cases of a fort or a block house being

For the Bicentennial, there are several regional groups organizin... <http://www.illinoiswarof1812bicentennial.org>.

Wilson and the other officers are also organizing a sort of freelan... The company is to be composed of volunteers from anywhere in... some living history.

"All they have to do is have a flintlock and have an interest," Wil

In our area people interested may contact Mike Bolin at (618) 23

Wilson is supporting school children submitting projects regard... state's libraries. The bicentennial commission can provide a mer

A sixth grade bicentennial logo contest is in the works.

The group envisions talks at libraries, talks at historical societies... the War of 1812 and all kinds of stories told about the region dur

Wilson hopes to interest black men to tell stories of the Ponds S... whom was killed.

◦ DeNeal receives e-mail at <mailto:bdeneal@yourclearwave.com>.

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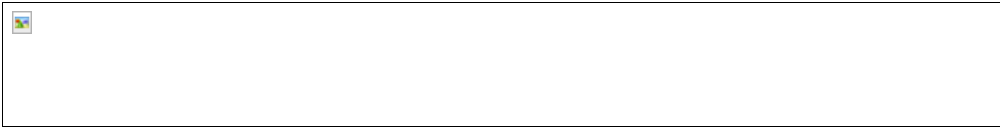
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