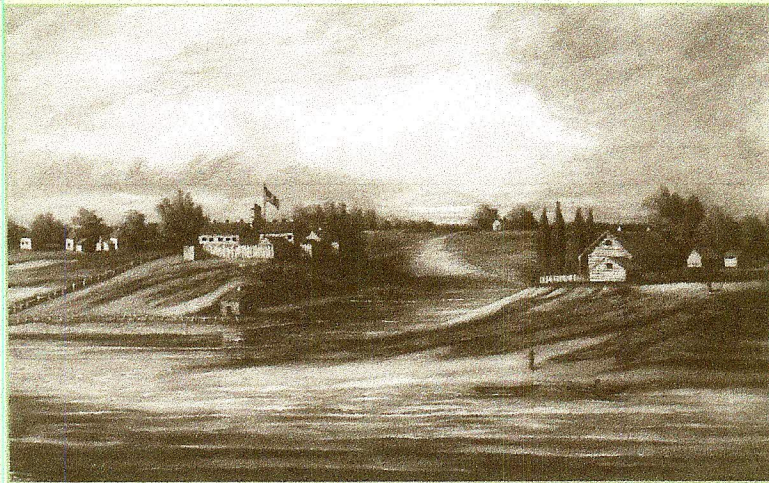


Commemoration Day at the Chicago History Museum

# BATTLE OF FORT DEARBORN BICENTENNIAL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 9:30 AM — 4:00 PM



## BATTLE OF FORT DEARBORN AUGUST 15, 1812



Encampment of War of 1812 Re-enactors (in Lincoln Park just east of the Museum's Uhlein Plaza, 9:30 AM—4:00 PM)

Reconciliation and Memorial Program (Chicago Room, 10:00 AM)

View the history of Fort Dearborn in the *Chicago: Crossroads of America* exhibition (second floor)

Today we are here to remember those who lost their lives, more than 50 evacuees of the fort and 15 Native Americans, in the Battle of Fort Dearborn, which occurred two hundred years ago on August 15, 1812. Our nation began the Bicentennial celebration of the War of 1812, also known as the Forgotten War and the Second War of Independence from the British, on June 18, 2012 with the ringing of bells across the nation. The Battle of Fort Dearborn is the only U.S. military action that took place in northern Illinois during the war.

There is one soldier in particular who lost his life that fateful day two hundred years ago whom I would like to honor, Ensign George Ronan. He was born in New York state, and attended the West Point Military Academy from June 15, 1808 to March 1, 1811, when he graduated and was promoted in the Army to Ensign (the equivalent to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant) in the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry, and was assigned for duty at Fort Dearborn on the Northwest Frontier. He died at the age of 28, and was the first graduate of West Point to be killed in combat. During the entire war from June 18, 1812 to February 18, 1815, six West Point graduates were killed in combat, but Ensign George Ronan was the first.



