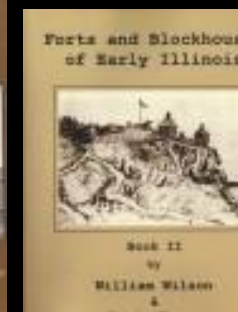
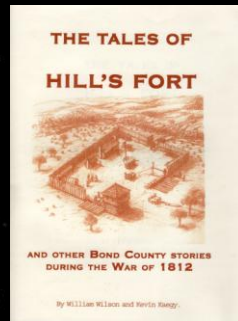


# About Hill's Fort Society



The Hill's Fort Society is a non-profit tax exempt historic corporation. The American Farm Heritage Museum near Greenville, Illinois has offered land on their site for the reconstruction of Hill's Fort. A cabin was the first building constructed, and the blockhouse such as it would have looked around the time of the War of 1812 is complete along with a smaller cabin and palisade walls. The Hill's Fort Society mission is to collect, preserve, and share an important part of our nation's history. As a federal non-profit historic corporation, we focus on the history of Bond County and Early Illinois, as well as the Forts of Illinois. Read more about the history of Hill's Fort here.

We are always looking for new members to join our society! With your support, the fort will be a place to teach the early history of Bond County and Southern Illinois. If you are interested, please contact us.



These four publications are available for purchase from the Hill's Fort Society. Proceeds benefit the Society's work.

<http://fortsofillinois.org>



## *Hill's Fort Society of Illinois*

**Our mission is to collect, preserve, and share an important part of our nation's history.**

Hill's Fort Society  
P.O. Box 682  
Greenville IL 62246

618-664-9408  
618-667-8660  
618-664-0283  
<http://fortsofillinois.org>



Driving Directions: The memorial is located southwest of Greenville off I-70, exit 41. Turn south on Millersburg Road and go 3 miles to Hill's Fort Ave.; turn right and go approximately ½ mile to the memorial.

## HISTORY OF HILL'S FORT

Hill's Fort played an important part in the opening of the Northwest Territory, making the fort a significant part of our heritage.

The British made alliances with various Indian tribes encouraging and supporting attacks on settlers. The increasing hostilities on the vast frontier were a leading cause of the War of 1812 with Great Britain, lasting until February of 1815.

With expansion of the settlements in the Illinois Country it became necessary to build a string of forts to serve as military stations to protect the scattered settlers from Indian attacks. Three forts were built in Bond County: Jones, Lindley, and Hill's Fort.

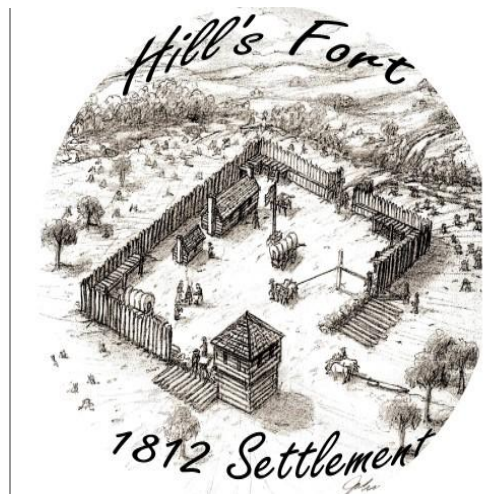
Hill's Fort may have been started as early as 1806 at the time of settler arrival. Records indicate its existence in 1808. The fort location appears on an 1808 survey map by Capt. Isaac Hill, leader of a team commissioned by Thomas Jefferson to survey the Illinois Territory. The fort consisted of a blockhouse and stockade enclosing two cabins.

Three separate Indian attacks are associated with

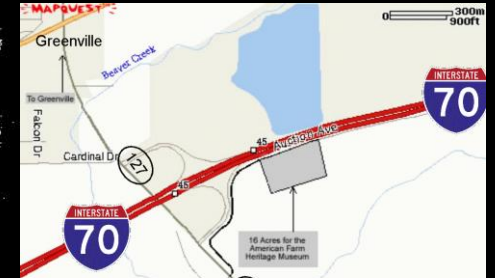
Hill's Fort. On June 2, 1811, the Cox family cabin north of Pocahontas was attacked, with one killed and one kidnapped. In August 1812, Henry Cox and his son were killed at their cabin site on Beaver Creek. On September 9, 1814, 13 Rangers and civilians were bush-wacked outside the fort. Four were killed and three injured.

In 1817, Bond County was created and named for the first Governor, Shadrach Bond. The legislature fixed Hill's Fort as the temporary county seat. At that time the boundaries of Bond County were immense, including portions of today's Clinton and Fayette counties south and east, and north to the shores of Lake Superior. Earliest records are preserved from Hill's Fort and include court and marriage docket. The Bond County seat was later moved to Perrysville and in 1821 to Greenville.

No longer useful as a fort or county seat, Hill's Fort was abandoned and fell into ruin. The site was lost over time. In 1918 the Benjamin Mills DAR chapter purchased land and placed a memorial stone near the site. Ranger gravestones were set in 1988 by the Bond County Genealogical Society. In October 2001, a local archaeology student, Jenny Simpson, with U.S. Corps of Engineers assistance and volunteers, discovered the original Hill's Fort site.



Directions: I-70 to exit 45 south on route 127; then 100 yards south of the interstate turn east (left) on Museum Ave. Follow this 1/4 mile to the reconstruction site.



## Yearly Events

- Fourth weekend of July Farm Heritage Days
- Third weekend of September Hill's Fort re-enactment.
- Every Friday and Saturday night 5-9 p.m. between Thanksgiving and New Years, Christmas at the Fort.
- Contact us to schedule tours or other events.

