

## Encampment, battle set for weekend

### REENACT

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GEORGETOWN — Tensions have been building. The enemy has drawn close. Shots are sure to be fired this weekend ... at the Vermilion Valley Encampment, that is.

The Encampment is a Revolutionary War reenactment scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at the Pioneer Cabin in Forest Glen County Preserve, 20301 900 North Road.

Skirmishes and battles aren't the only thing on the agenda. There are lots of historical things happening this weekend.

Also on the docket are rope and candle making, as well as cider and sassafras tea making and tasting.

"We assume all the kids would love to make candles, but we find a lot of adults like making candles, too," said Susan Biggs Warner, historical interpreter for the event. "In fact, a few years ago, the mayor in Danville had a group of other mayors out to Kennekuk. They wanted to have a fun afternoon because they'd been in a lot of meetings. I let them dip candles and they had a ball!"

Biggs Warner will personally be manning a station making fry bread — dipping them in cinnamon and sugar — and handing them out to everyone.

This weekend-long activity

is not only free, but a great place to bring children, Biggs Warner said.

"The conservation district tries to do as many free events for the public as we can, because we're aware

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**REENACTORS** prepare to fly a kite during a previous encampment of the North West Territory Alliance, a group whose members portray life during the time of the Revolutionary War. The group will be at Forest Glen Saturday and Sunday.

Photo Courtesy Kathleen Rhoden

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that people need those kind of things. This kind of thing is fun, but it's also a learning experience."

Though a time is yet to be determined, Biggs Warner said several other children activities are planned, such

Revolutionary War reenactment organization located in the Midwest. The group touts more than 500 members.

"We are a non-profit educational organization that studies and recreates the culture, lifestyle, and arts of the time of the American Revolution, 1775-1783," their website, at [www.wnta.com](http://www.wnta.com), states. "We strive to duplicate the uniforms, weapons, battlefield tactics, and camp life of the era as accurately as possible."

as an egg toss, watermelon eating contest and more. Winners of these games will receive pumpkins, and all participants will get licorice sticks.

One of the more popular activities for families of any age is the hay ride through the park.

“We really want to stress there is so much more to a Revolutionary War reenactment than just the battle,” she said, “and some of it is very, very cool.”

However, for those into the sounds of gunfire popping, cannons exploding and horses neighing, there’s plenty of that, too, with a skirmish Sunday, and battles both days.

People in full period clothing will be showing how to throw tomahawks, demonstrating wool spinning, explaining their attire at fashion shows and living the camp life of the people of the time period.

Most of the reenactors are from the North West Territory Alliance, an American

Workers were at the Pioneer Cabin site Wednesday, preparing the grounds, cabin and barn for the weekend’s crowds.

Just past the barn is where the camp will be set up, and visitors will be able to ask questions of the participants.

“Everybody should go out and look,” Biggs Warner said. “You can walk through that area and you’ll see what camp life was like. You’ll see the women cooking — they bring food — there’ll be camp fires out there. They bring all the stuff of life with them. I think that’s interesting. People that just come to watch the battle and go home, they miss all that. They miss all the things these people brought with them, that they spent years acquiring to make it look like history has come alive.”