

THE CENTENARY OF ILLINOIS.

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hundred years have worked wonder in the history of the country and in the lives of individuals in this great valley. There could be no more appropriate occasion to note them than the anniversary of to-day."

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On the morning of the 4th inst., the Springfield (Ill.) Register said: "A peculiar interest attaches for the citizens of this State to the celebration of the national anniversary to-day. It is just 100 years since Illinois signed the Declaration of Independence manifested by the capture of the oldest towns in the country, then settled by the French, who readily embraced the opportunity offered by the expedition of Gen. Clark to throw off their forced British allegiance and cast their lot with the American colonists. Kaskaskia, Prairie de Rocher, Cahokia, were the outposts of the Western country. Fort Gage, near the former, readily yielded to the overtures of the General with his ragged Virginia and Kentucky troops, who, on the morning of the 4th of July 1778, presented themselves before its walls. On

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