

160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF PERRYVILLE

The 160th Anniversary of the Battle of Perryville is here! Please make plans to attend the events held both at the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site and on Historic Merchant's Row in the township of Perryville!



Event information for the Kentucky historic site can be found at: www.perryvillebattlefield.org

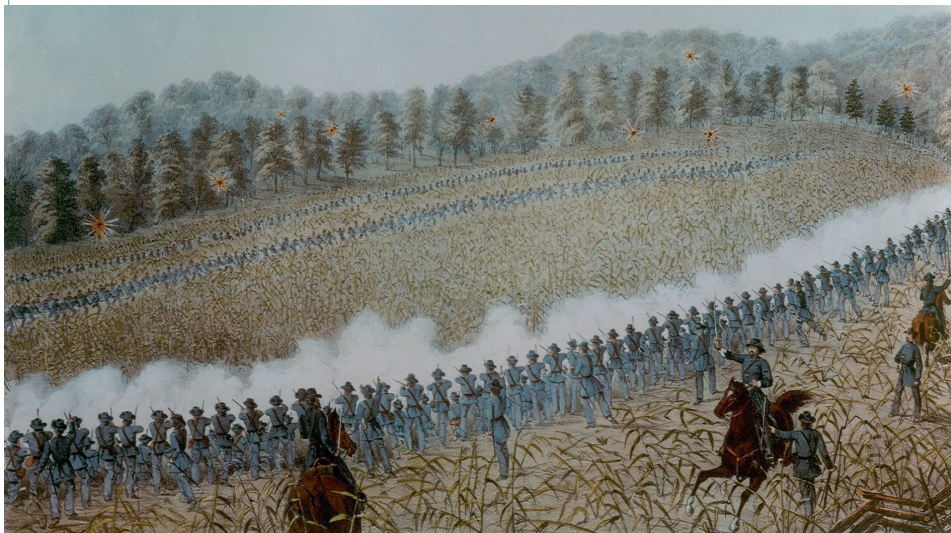


Please visit the new **Washington Artillery Exhibit** at the historic site museum!



Event Information for the township of Perryville can be found at: **Facebook Main Street Perryville**

The Perryville Visitor Center and Museum will have a new exhibit as well. Please make plans to visit all of these great exhibits sponsored by the Friends of Perryville!



Colonel Benjamin Sweet and Wisconsin Troops in the Cornfield



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Great submission from our good Friend Chuck Kays! Report of Ebenezer Gay after the Battle of Perryville!

Report of Genl. E. Gay
Chief of Cavalry
Of the Battle of Chaplin Hills
On 7th & 8th of Oct. 1862
Col. J. B. Fry
Chief of Staff, Army of the Ohio

LEBANON, KY., October 21, 1862.

Unidentified Troopers 6th KY Cavalry U.S.

I have the honor to transmit the following list of regiments of cavalry under my command:

Ninth Pennsylvania, Col. [Edward C.] Williams, about 600 effective men.

Ninth Kentucky, Col. [Richard T] Jacob, 800 effective men.

Second Michigan, Lt.-Col. [Archibald P.] Campbell, 300 effective men.

Sixth Kentucky, Colonel [Dennis J.] Halisy, 700 effective men.

Seventh Kentucky, Major [John K.] Faulkner (disorganized).

Eleventh Kentucky, Major [Milton] Graham, 400 men.

Fourth Indiana, not reported, unknown. It is now said to be on the Bardstown road.

With the exception of the Ninth Pennsylvania and Second Michigan these regiments have never been drilled at all and are perfectly raw.

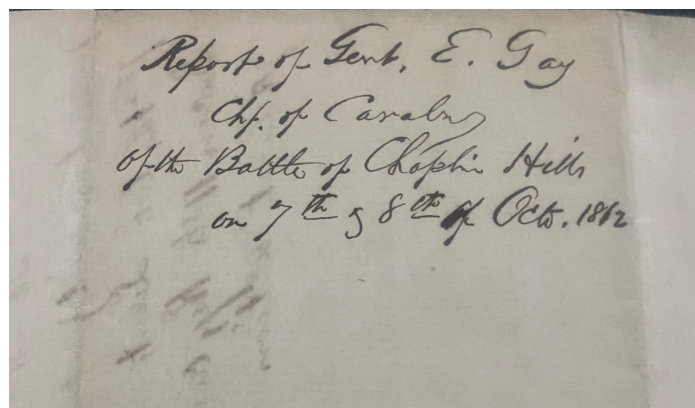
SIR: Being in the advance on October 7, with 500 of the Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel James; 500 of the Ninth Kentucky Cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Boyle, and 350 of the Second Michigan Cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, I drove the enemy a distance of 9 miles, skirmishing from daylight until dark, to a point on the northwest of the Chaplin Hills, within 3 miles of Perryville, on the road from Springfield. In this action the rebel General Cleburne was mortally wounded. I occupied the point held by the enemy's battery this day with a portion of my command during the night, and removed the main body to a place of rest in the rear.

At 3 a.m. on the 8th instant my advance was joined by a brigade under Colonel McCook. At daylight, hearing firing in front, I moved my command to that position, still held by Colonel McCook, where I found slight skirmishing going on between him and the enemy. I moved on to take the advance, and had hardly passed our skirmishers when I was received by a volley of musketry from a wooded hill on the left side of the road. I formed the Ninth Pennsylvania to the left and perpendicular to the road (its right resting near it) and fronting the woods, supporting the Second Michigan, which was dismounted and sent forward as skirmishers. The Ninth Kentucky was held in reserve. My skirmishers had not advanced far when a heavy musketry fire from the enemy showed that he held the position in force. Four men of the Second Michigan were killed here and 2 commissioned officers and 11 privates wounded.

The Ninth Pennsylvania was now ordered to take position to the left and front, in open ground, in order to ascertain the situation of the enemy's batteries. They had proceeded about a quarter of a mile when the enemy opened upon them from two batteries and his position became known. I placed two pieces of artillery, under Captain Hotchkiss, in position opposite these batteries, and opened fire upon them. In twenty minutes they were silenced and the enemy was driven from the wooded hill. Observing that the enemy were showing themselves farther to my left and front, I moved forward to a more advanced position, near a fork of Chaplin Creek, placing my battery in position on a knoll near it, and throwing out portions of the Ninth Pennsylvania and Second Michigan as skirmishers in advance. The enemy's batteries were again silenced here, and his cavalry, broken and disordered, were driven toward Harrodsburg.

The advance of General McCook's army was now seen on the Mackville road, to the rear and left. At my request, General Rousseau sent forward two Parrott guns, from which a few shells were thrown into the woods far in advance without meeting with any response. My command was then dismounted and rested for about an hour and a half. At the end of this time clouds of dust were seen rising in the direction of Harrodsburg, and it became evident that the enemy was being strongly re-enforced. In a few minutes fire opened from a heavy battery in front, to which my howitzers replied without effect, the distance being too great. The two Parrott guns before mentioned, belonging to Loomis' battery, opened with apparent effect, and were soon joined by the rest of the battery. Another battery of the enemy now opened farther to the left and soon another to the right and his infantry was seen advancing in line, and it became evident that the engagement would become general. An infantry regiment coming to the support of the battery, I withdrew my command to a position to the left of the one first occupied, holding the interval between the Springfield and Perryville and the Mackville and Perryville roads. In an hour the engagement had become general, the enemy attacking the extreme left of General McCook and General Gilbert's left (on my right). I sent a regiment to operate on the extreme left of General McCook and opened fire with my howitzer on the advancing line of the enemy. These howitzers were in position on the right of General McCook and remained there until nearly dark, effectively checking the enemy. Observing that our lines to the left were gradually giving way, I moved my command to the left. Arriving on the ground, I found that a portion of General Schoepf's division, of General Gilbert's army, had come up and checked the enemy's advance. Night came on and the battle ended.

The Second Michigan in this action well sustained the good reputation it had previously earned. The Ninth Pennsylvania sustained a fire from three batteries for forty-five minutes without any disorder in its ranks. The Ninth Kentucky, although a new regiment, which had not been in action before, behaved admirably.





THE HOMEFRONT

Greetings Friends! The 160th Anniversary is just days away! I hope to see you all at the Friends of Perryville tent at the Kentucky State Historic Site on October 8-9, 2022! Please drop by for a visit!

With the coming anniversary it is certainly time for reflecting as well as looking to the future! Over the last 20 years, we've seen huge preservation efforts and the state park grew by hundreds of acres. The park museum underwent a major transformation and this organization has grown tremendously with members all across the United States. The American Battlefield Trust, The Kentucky Department of Parks, the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves and the Friends of Perryville Battlefield combined forces to create one of the best preserved battlefields in the nation. The habitat the Friends installed is a tremendous success and wildlife flourishes in these areas. We all continue to work hard to ensure that if a soldier who fought on these hallowed grounds returned he would know it was the Battlefield of Perryville.

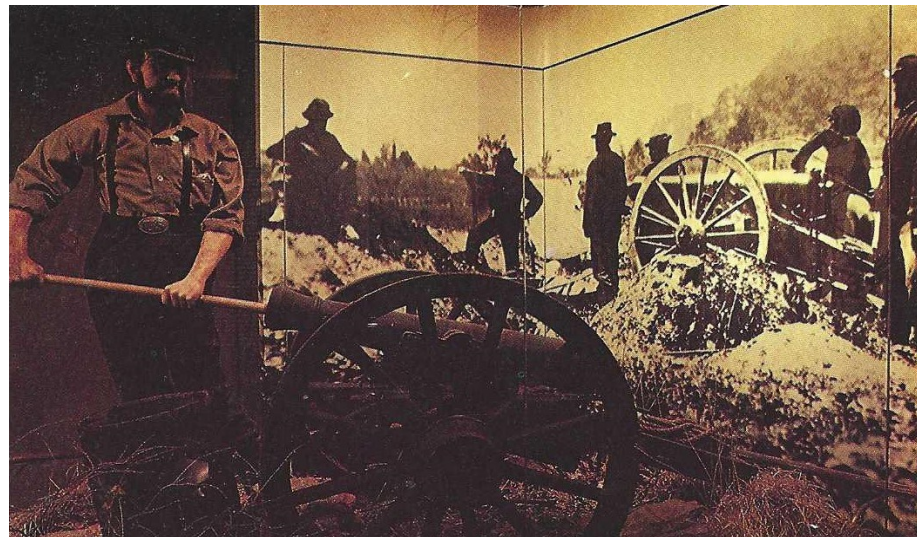
The future looms large and our organization continues to assist with the preservation and interpretation of the state historic site as well as forming new partnerships to help educate, interpret and preserve Kentucky's national treasure! However, questions about the future are on my mind now more than ever. How will the battlefield be interpreted in the future? Will there be enough state resources to properly interpret and maintain the state park? Will our organization continue to be a valued partner? Will additional battlefield land be acquired and how will that be interpreted and maintained? What are the plans for the Dye and Crawford Houses that are sitting empty and deteriorating?

Our members and supporters need to ask these questions now. We must, as an organization, be the vigilant guardian of our battlefield. We must demand accountability and with that ensure that proper resources are allocated in order to maintain the hard work that all contributed to. We must make sure that our work does not unravel and that our support and input is wanted and welcome. Our voices are needed now to ensure that the next 20 years is as successful as the last.

Make no mistake! This is a call to action! This is our responsibility as caretakers of our history and the guardian of those men who sacrificed all. The veterans of the Civil War came here to dedicate the monuments; they traveled back time and again to remember their lost comrades. Thousands will travel there during the commemoration event weekend drawn by their need to remember. Those who fought at Perryville are gone and now the responsibility of preserving their memory falls upon us all.

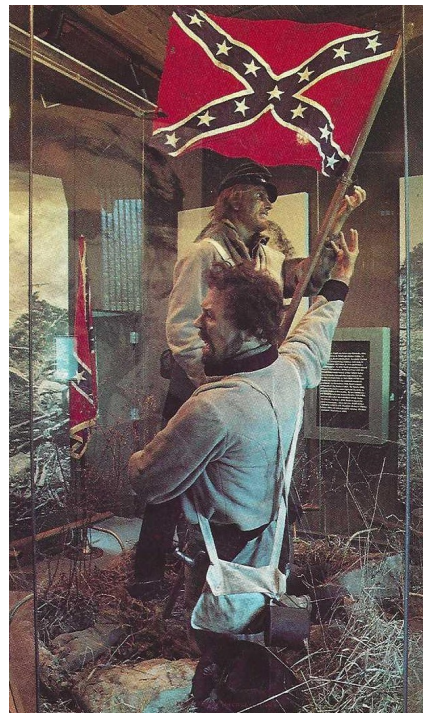
I encourage you to visit the 160th Commemoration of the Battle of Perryville and while you are enjoying the fantastic events please speak to those who make the policies for the battlefield. Let them know that you care. If you cannot be at the events please reach out to them and let them know that you are speaking for those who cannot. It is up to all of us to make sure that the Battlefield of Perryville will be preserved, interpreted, maintained and that their memory remains!

Thank You,
Chad Greene



BLAST FROM THE PAST!

We thought you might enjoy these images. These are the original exhibits from the Perryville Battlefield Museum at the state park. The park museum was dedicated in the mid-1960s and these exhibits were installed sometime during the 1970s.



LIVING HISTORIANS AT PERRYVILLE!

The picture above is the Federal line during the 2006 National Event at Perryville. Over 3,500 reenactors attended!

The image on the right is during the Wide Awake film shoot in 2006. The movie was made during the fall of 2006 utilizing footage shot during the National Event.



**FRIENDS OF
PERRYVILLE
BATTLEFIELD**

Mission Statement:

The purpose of The Friends of Perryville Battlefield shall be to sustain, foster, promote and further the interests of the Perryville Battlefield. The Friends Group shall conduct fund raising and friend raising activities in connection with these purposes. The activities of the group shall be charitable in nature within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**The Monarch Migration
is Underway!**

Monarch's are making their way to south and utilizing the habitat plantings at Perryville on their journey.

This is truly one of nature's miracles and you can visit the state park and watch one of the longest migrations ever recorded take place. Monarchs will make their way to the mountains



of Central Mexico to overwinter. The butterflies that are visiting the battlefield are part of that "super generation" that are Mexico bound.

Monarch butterflies will nectar in the fields during the morning and late afternoon hours and often roost in the trees around the park. The fields behind the Dye House on Battlefield Road is a prime place to spot the nectaring butterflies and along the trail behind the Dye House is often a hot spot to see roosting butterflies.

This awesome show will be over by mid-October or before if the weather turns cold!

**Friends of
Perryville Battlefield**

PO Box 302
Perryville KY 40468

www.friendsofperryville.org
info@friendsofperryville.org



Gay's Report Conclusion:

Too much praise cannot be awarded Captain Hotchkiss and his men for their brave and effective services. To Mr. E. McKinney, chaplain of the Ninth Pennsylvania, volunteer aide, and to the members of my staff, Captain Newlin, Seventh Pennsylvania, Lieutenant Farrell, Ninth Pennsylvania, and Lieut. J. M. Bacon, Fourth Kentucky, I am much indebted for their gallant action and valuable services.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. GAY, Inspector and Chief of Cavalry.

Col. J. B. FRY, Chief of Staff, Army of the Ohio.

