

# The Advance

## VISITING THE PARK

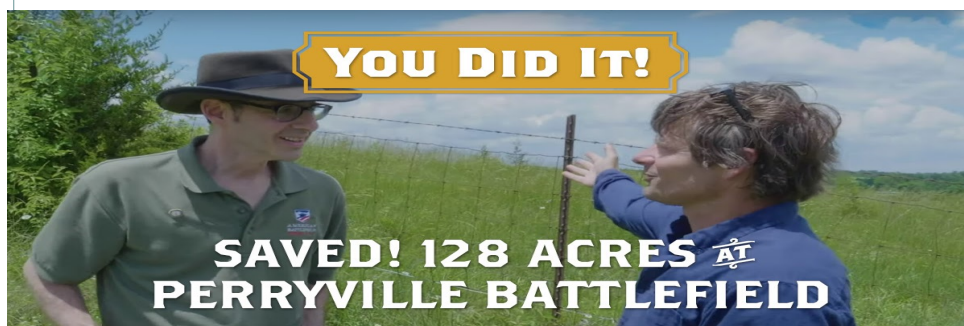
Spring has sprung and Perryville Battlefield's trail system is open and it is beautiful. The current health crisis is altering the Park's operating hours. The museum is currently not open to the public. Please check with the KY Department of Park's website for updates and current hours [www.parks.ky.gov](http://www.parks.ky.gov)

## AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST SECURES THE CONFEDERATE RIGHT FLANK

Dear Friend,

This is actor Steve Zahn, Kentucky resident and battlefield preservationist, writing you today on behalf of the American Battlefield Trust with some very exciting news. Thanks to your support, 128 acres of hallowed ground have been forever saved at Perryville! This land fills a "hole in the donut" and substantially completes the preservation of one of the most important battlefields of the entire Civil War. This is a historic accomplishment and you should feel immensely proud.

Last summer, I joined Garry Adelman in making a video to support saving this key tract of land which was a part of the largest and bloodiest battle fought in Kentucky. Perryville saw more casualties than many other well-known battles – far bloodier than Champion Hill, Resaca or Kennesaw Mountain. And after Perryville, the South would abandon all hopes of folding the state of Kentucky into the Confederacy.



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- American Battlefield Trust Saves the Confederate Right
- Jacob Goodnight's Farm and the Battle of Perryville
- Weller Coat returns to the Kentucky Historical Society
- Guns of the West



Both Marcus Toney and Sam Watkins' 1st TN, formed in front of the Walker House to begin the advance that led to the fierce fighting on the Open Knob. The wounded from this fight ended up at the Goodnight House Hospital.

## THE COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF JACOB GOODNIGHT PART I

Jacob Goodnight was born in Mercer County on January 15, 1807.<sup>1</sup> He inherited a portion of John Goodnight's land. Jacob is present in the 1850 Agricultural Census; he owned 125 acres of improved land and 30 of unimproved. His farm was valued at 1,700 dollars with 100 dollars' worth of farm implements. Jacob possessed two milk cows and four "other cows"; he had 24 sheep which produced 15 bales of wool as well as 30 hogs, with all livestock valued at 250 dollars.<sup>2</sup>

The Goodnight Farm produced 100 bushels of oats and 30 bushels of wheat as well as 250 bushels of "indian corn." During the year 1849, the farm produced five bushels of peas, five bushels of "irish" potatoes,

five bushels of sweet potatoes and 50 pounds of butter. The value of homemade goods sold at market totaled 30 dollars.<sup>3</sup>

Jacob Goodnight's farm was present on the 1860 Agriculture Manufacturing Census. Goodnight had 85 acres of improved land and 15 of unimproved – the estate value increased from 1,700 dollars in 1850 to 1,800 dollars in 1860. His livestock holdings remained stable except for sheep. The 1860 census reports that Goodnight possessed 24 sheep which produced 15 bales of wool, which increased from 1850 by 10 bales.<sup>4</sup>

The local farms were providing for the families that lived upon them, however,

*"The Goodnight House became the grisly sight of a large Civil War field hospital full of Confederate wounded."*

### THE WORK OF DEATH

"The battle of Perryville presented a strange scene. The dead, dying, and wounded of both armies, Confederate and Federal, were blended in inextricable confusion. Now and then a cluster of dead Federals and close by a cluster of dead Confederates. It was like the Englishman's grog—'alf and 'alf.

I helped bring off our wounded that night. The next morning about daylight a wounded comrade, Sam Campbell, complained of being cold, and asked me to lie down beside him. I did so, and was soon asleep; when I awoke, the poor fellow was stiff and cold in death.

*Sam Watkins  
1st TN Infantry*

## THE COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF JACOB GOODNIGHT

that was about to change as the Union Army of the Ohio and the Confederate Army of Mississippi invaded Kentucky during the late summer of 1862. This invasion would end in the Battle of Perryville that played out on the farms that were unlucky enough to become the battlefield. The destruction to the local families was overwhelming and it was complete for the Goodnight family and their farm would be ravaged for months as a military hospital.

During the day of October 8th, the Confederate Army assembled on the Goodnight and Walker Farms; Confederate cavalry crossed through the Walker and Goodnight properties prior to the main afternoon engagement. Confederate General Benjamin Cheatham's Division formed up in the fields in front of the Walker House and began its movement towards "Walker's Bend" on the Chaplin River. Cheatham's Division entered Walker's Bend at about 1:30 p.m. and advanced to meet Alexander McCook's Union Army First Corps. This fighting would be some of the heaviest of the battle. The Goodnight Farm on the south bank of the Chaplin River, where the river turns again northward, was squarely in the way of the Confederate advance and paid a heavy price for its location.

The Goodnight house was commandeered and turned into a hospital even before the main engagement across the Chaplin River began. Confederate troops were heavily concentrated on the property before and after the engagement. The Goodnight House became the grisly sight of a large Civil War field hospital full of Confederate wounded. Wounded Rebels began filtering back to the Goodnight Farm during the fighting in their division's front. Marcus Toney of the 1st Tennessee Infantry wrote, "Dr. Buist had taken possession of a house some half a mile from the battlefield, owned by a man named Goodnight, who had deserted it on the eve of battle. We turned it into a hospital."<sup>5</sup> The house continued to be a major hospital with soldiers arriving desperately wounded from the battle throughout the next few days. "We got to the hospital (Goodnight) after dark. I laid on the yard that night, the house being full before I got there."<sup>6</sup>

The account of Captain John M. Taylor describes the Goodnight farm as being in continuous use after the battle.



*Parsons' Battery Position on the Open Knob*

## THE COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF JACOB GOODNIGHT

"About sundown Captain Taylor, senior Captain, fell wounded three times – one shot crushing his right thigh. Lieutenant Andrews was wounded in the left hip, as was thought. Dick Love, Howard Cole, and others were wounded. Our wounded were carried back to Goodnight's, and for weeks many of us were in the horse lot. Some who were slightly wounded were removed to Harrodsburg. After our army withdrew many of us fell into the hands of the Federal and were prisoners of war."<sup>7</sup>

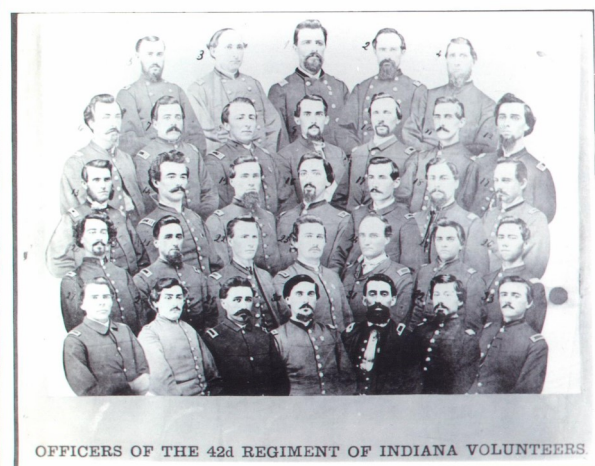
As the Confederate Army retreated it left in its wake a large amount of badly wounded men that remained at the Goodnight Farm. Soon after the southern retreat, northern troops began to fill the area. They quickly came upon the Goodnight property that was full of the Confederate wounded.

"After dinner Capt. Bell and I started to visit the hospitals, a large farmhouse every room full. Many doctors amputating, a sickening sight. Rebel hospital in the yard was full, men laying in rows. They would lift one, carry him in, amputate, carry him out, and then take another. The sight was too much for me. These legs and arms were thrown out end windows, down against a fence handy (to) the building. The pile was higher than the fence."<sup>8</sup>

1. Lola B. Jones, Goodnight Family in America Volume IV (Ninnekah, OK. Lola B. Jones Publisher, 2009), 14.
2. Boyle County, Kentucky (1850). Agricultural Manufacturing Record, Microfilm Collection, 379. Reel #2 (502), Microfilm Collection, KDLA, Kentucky.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Memoires of Marcus Toney: 1st TN Infantry, Marcus Toney, 1st TN Infantry Folder, Perryville Battlefield Collection.
6. Ibid.
7. Memoires of Marcus Toney: 1st TN Infantry.
8. Captain McCahan, 9t Pennsylvania Cavalry, Gay's Cavalry Brigade, Collection of Letters, 9th PN Folder, Perryville Battlefield Collection.

## 42nd Indiana Infantry Officers

1. Colonel Gideon R. Kellams
2. Lieutenant Colonel William M. Cockrum
3. Major John H. Scamahorn (Scammehorn)
4. Chaplain Henry O. Chapman
5. Surgeon Dr. William W. Schapler (Shapley)
6. Assistant Surgeon Dr. Samuel L. Tyner
7. Captain Joshua A. Palmer, Co. G
8. Captain Joseph R. Ashmead, Co. E
9. Captain Tillotson M. Neaves (Neves), Co. K
10. Captain Thomas B. Jones, Co. C
11. Captain (Name and Company Unknown)
12. Captain Jacob D. Skelton, Co. F
13. Captain Joseph M. Keiherman (Kirkham), Co. B
14. Captain (Andrew) J. McCutchan, Co. A
15. First Lieutenant John B. T. Dearing (Daring), Co. I
16. First Lieutenant James E. Rusk (Rust), Co. B
17. First Lieutenant Ephraim Y. Perigo (Perrygo), Co. K
18. First Lieutenant William Shaw, Co. A
19. Lieutenat Brown ?
20. Captain (Harrison) Teacher (Peachee), Co. D
21. Adjutant James G. Stubblefield
22. First Lieutenant Adoniram A. Keyes (Keys), Co. F
23. Second Lieutenat John D. Linxwiler , Co. K
24. First Lieutenant William Jones, Co. E
25. First Lieutenant George T. Shook, Co. C
26. First Lieutenant Joseph C. Nix, Co. H
27. Second Lieutenant James H. Carrolton, Co. C
28. Second Lieutenant (Rosalbro B.) A. Braselton (Brazleton), Co. E
29. Second Lieutenant John R. Dorethy, Co. E
30. Lieutenant Jones (Unknown Company)
31. Quartermaster Owen C. Walker
32. Second Lieutenant William A. Myers, Co. G
33. First Lieutenant William H. Ferrias (Farris), Co. G



OFFICERS OF THE 42d REGIMENT OF INDIANA VOLUNTEERS



## THE HOMEFRONT

These are certainly trying times in our country. We are uncertain about many things, but the one thing that is very clear is that our public land is very important. Perryville Battlefield's trail system has been widely used during the Corona Virus outbreak. I've been volunteering during my off time to help mow the trails that are on the American Battlefield Trust part of the park and constantly see numerous families out walking. It makes me think that some of them may have never come here if things had not so abruptly changed in our lives. The time being out on the park has also led me to reflect on our organization and what we've been able to accomplish.

All the fences remind me of our ongoing project of "Defining Our Space" which provides interpretive split rails and recreates some of the historic fence lines. We helped to create a tour App and we constantly assist with educational programs. We successfully renovated the Battlefield Museum with new exhibit space and produced the interpretive panels. These are just some of the highlights of our work at the park.

Our largest project by far was the introduction of native grasses and wildflowers on the park. As one of our board members said, "It wrapped the battlefield in a living wreath." The habitat has created a haven for wildlife, so the park not only draws history nerds, but those who enjoy the outdoors. It expands our audience and creates an appreciation for what happened here with those who otherwise might not have known about the Battle of Perryville.

I've found myself often in the position to lobby our heads of state as we planned for Perryville's future. I've reminded some of our leaders they are lucky enough to get to do this work for 4 or 8 years whereas the Friends are a constant fixture. The organization campaigned on the motto "This Place Matters." A culture resource is sometimes not always profitable, and we have to stand that line with our elected officials. This is a guiding principle and we must champion that idea—now more than ever now!

So what is our vision for the future? We must keep it relevant and protect it. It is, without a doubt, one of the best-preserved Civil War landscapes in the United States. We must continue to work with our partners in the American Battlefield Trust and the Kentucky Department of Parks to complete the battlefield's full preservation. We must always remember that this is hallowed ground and always be mindful as we move forward with whatever opportunities lay ahead. We must remember that the land is not a consumable commodity and understand that it is a landscape that must be elevated and above all, protected.

Chad Greene  
President Friends of Perryville  
Battlefield

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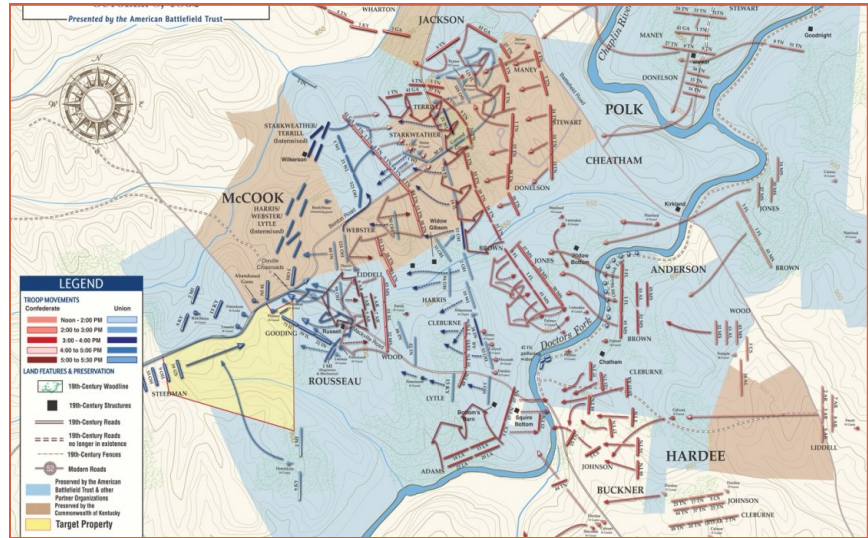
## CALL TO ACTION! STEEDMAN'S ADVANCE!

### Help Save 57 Acres at Perryville and Stones River!

Your help is needed to join this tremendous effort to help save 51 acres at Perryville plus the crucial 6 acres at Stones River, on part of the battlefield that was all but lost just a few short years ago! Preserving this vulnerable hallowed ground would be a huge preservation victory to save the places where America was made. Every \$1 of your donation will be multiplied by \$5.82-to-\$1 to save these two tracts!

Donate now at: <https://www.battlefields.org/save-57-acres-perryville-and-stones-river>

Or call 1-888-606-1400



## ARTIFACT RESTORATION

### The Weller Overcoat

The overcoat belonged to David Fenimore Cooper Weller, who served in the 2nd Kentucky Infantry, Co. C, C.S.A. In 1861, the “good people of New Orleans” sent the 2nd Kentucky Infantry five hundred overcoats. This gift was well received by the regiment and Private Charles Herbst makes note of it in his diary, “500 overcoats were sent 2nd Ky Rgt while at Bowling Green, Ky the winter of 1861...”



Wounded several times at Fort Donelson, Weller served the remainder of the war as a nurse. The young private seems to be named for one of the 19th century’s most famous writers - James Fenimore Cooper. Cooper wrote the Leatherstocking Tales, with the most famous of his books, The

Last of the Mohicans eventually made into several movies.

The coat is made of wool with a cotton ticking liner of blue and white stripes. There are two side openings present in the coat to allow access to under clothing. It has a four button front closure and waist pockets.

The coat is currently in the collection of the Kentucky Historical Society. In a partnership with KHS the Friends of

Perryville solicited funding and received a grant from the Order of the Southern Cross to preserve the overcoat.

It was sent to Kate Daniels in Atlanta, Georgia who completed the restoration. The coat is now back at KHS but will be on exhibit again soon at Perryville Battlefield!

Thank you to all of you who made our latest artifact restoration project happen! A special thanks to Gregory Fleitz and the Society of the Order of the Southern Cross for providing a generous grant for this project.



## FRIENDS OF PERRYVILLE BATTLEFIELD

### Mission Statement:

The purpose of The Friends of Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site shall be to sustain, foster, promote and further the interests of the historic site which will be encompassed by the boundaries of the park. 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.

### Friends of Perryville Battlefield

PO Box 302  
Perryville KY 40468

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[info@friendsofperryville.org](mailto:info@friendsofperryville.org)

Follow us on Facebook!



## AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST SECURES THE CONFEDERATE RIGHT FLANK (CONTINUED)

During the shoot I did with Garry, I told him a story about when I was performing in the production *Bye Bye Birdie* more than 20 years ago, and spending my free days checking out historic sites before the evening shows. On one occasion I pulled over at a yard sale near Harpers Ferry and saw a table with a real Confederate Zouave coat for sale.

I asked the woman in charge about it who said it belonged to her husband, who was out getting food, and said that I could have it for \$50.

As I drove away with the coat, I imagined the husband coming back with a handful of burgers and look on his face when he learned that his coat had been sold for \$50! That incredible artifact now sits in the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site Museum and Visitors Center where I donated the coat years ago, and where I remain actively involved.

I look forward to walking this newly preserved land – a tract I had never been allowed to walk – and follow in the steps of those who fought. It still looks much like it did a century and a half ago. A soldier who fought there would recognize the place. I hope you too will get that chance soon.

I'm in awe of what the members of the Trust do year after year. We are all custodians of the past. This is our history. These our fallen ancestors. This is our park. And it could not exist without you. You are patriots.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Steve Zahn



AMERICAN  
BATTLEFIELD  
TRUST ★ ★ ★

## GUNS OF THE WEST

The upcoming artillery exhibit is nearly complete. The exhibit features “Greenwood Number 20” Six-Pounder Smoothbore Field Gun.

This cannon was cast in 1861 by the Eagle Foundry of Cincinnati Ohio, and was one of twelve sold to the State of Indiana. Serial numbers 20 and 21, both six-pounder smoothbore cannon, were issued to Peter Simonson’s Fifth Battery, Indiana Mounted Light Artillery.

The battery moved into Kentucky and fought in the Battle of Perryville in which the battery lost two men killed and fourteen wounded. During that same battle, the battery also lost one caisson and a limber, as well as twenty-one horses. This cannon was also heavily engaged in the Battle of Stones River at Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

