

The Daily Herald.

Scout restores naval gun as Eagle Project

Will Davis, a Troop 103 Life Scout, recently completed a restoration project on the naval gun located in front of the Memorial Building in Columbia as his Eagle Scout project.

The gun mount is from the Spanish battleship Viscaya which was defeated at the Battle of Santiago Bay during the Spanish-American War. It was originally located on the campus of Columbia Military Academy. While unconfirmed, it may have come to Maury County as a trophy in honor of Rear Admiral William Banks Caperton, an officer on the Marietta at the time of the battle. Caperton would later become the Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet during World War I.

Will has researched the history of the gun and plans to make application to the state for a Tennessee State Historical Marker to be placed at the site.

He would like to thank the following people for their donations to help make this restoration possible: Jack Jones, Mike Penrod, Zeke Maddox, Bob Duncan, Howard Robinson and the Maury County Historical Society.

Will hopes to complete all requirements of Eagle Scout rank in the next few weeks.



Will Davis is pictured with with the gun mount from the Spanish battleship Viscaya which he restored for his Eagle Scout Project. The naval gun is located in front of the Memorial Building. Courtesy photo