

Relative of Cromwell's right-hand man comes to Naseby site

Descendant is back at scene of victory

A RELATIVE of Cromwell's right-hand man has returned to the Naseby battlefield site to help begin its revival.

The Honourable Rupert Fairfax is an ancestor of Sir Thomas Fairfax, who in 1645 led the New Model Army with Oliver Cromwell to defeat the army of King Charles I.

Mr Fairfax returned to the Northamptonshire battle site yesterday to officially open a new visitor attraction on the exact spot where his relative once stood.

Fairfax's View is a platform which has been built on the edge of the ancient battlefield to give visitors the exact perspective Sir Thomas Fairfax had on the day of the battle.

Mr Fairfax said: "I think it's fantastic that people can now come here and get the same viewpoint my ancestor once had.

"The Battle of Naseby was such a pivotal time in Britain's history I think it's very impor-



■ **Martin Marix Evans (left) and Rupert Fairfax with re-enactment members at Naseby**

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tant that it's kept alive and people have an understanding of it.

"In many ways, it's remarkable that the battle site is still very similar to how it was then.

"And it's fantastic to bring history back to life like this."

The victory of the Parliamentary forces at Naseby on June 14, 1645, eventually led to

King Charles I being beheaded and Parliament taking control of the country.

The battle was the turning-point of the Civil War and only about 4,000 Royalists escaped the field after Parliamentarian forces triumphed.

The creation of Fairfax's View and one giving the perspective of the King's chief military advisor, Prince

Rupert, on the other side of the battlefield, is the first step to boost Naseby's national reputation.

The project, which will eventually see the creation of a visitor centre, has been led by Naseby historian Martin Marix Evans.

He said: "Both Cromwell and Fairfax would have come to Fairfax's View when they were making the crucial decisions which led to the New Model Army's victory.

"But this is just the first step towards something that's going to be much more substantial.

"We'd like the visitor centre to be open by 2014 and we're even looking at a project where people can download a tour of the battlefield from our website so they can listen to it on their i-Pods when they visit."

Fairfax View is on the road between Naseby and Clipston. Rupert's View is in Welland Park, Market Harborough.