

# Morgan's Raid

Hide the horses in the hollow!! Bury the silver!! Morgan's coming!!

Those words were shouted many times on July 23rd and 24th, 1863 for those were the days when Morgan and his Confederate raiders passed through Guernsey County.

Without question, Morgan's Raid was the most exciting event in the history of Guernsey County. The Civil War came swiftly and unexpectedly to this quiet community, shots were fired here, and a few men died. Then they were gone, as quickly as they had come.

In July of 1863, big events had happened in the war. Gettysburg had been fought on the first three days of the month, and Vicksburg surrendered to General Grant on the 4th of July. Unnoticed, at first, among these truly momentous events, was the fact that Confederate General John Hunt Morgan with 2,400 cavalymen had crossed the Cumberland River deep in Kentucky and was heading north. Even when he crossed the Ohio at Brandenburg, Ky., and headed northeast through southern Indiana no one in Guernsey County would have imagined that in a few weeks he would head this way. By-passing Cincinnati on the north, he headed across southern Ohio for Buffington Bar, near Portland, where he hoped to re-cross the river. But the pursuing Federals caught up with him before he could get his command completely across the river, and a sharp little battle occurred at Portland, with Morgan losing nearly 1,000 men (mostly captured), but Morgan himself escaped with seven or eight hundred of his men. For several days, his whereabouts were not too clearly known, for the action at Portland had scattered his men so badly that they were rumoured to be everywhere. But suddenly, on about the 21st or 22 of July, the alarming news of Morgan's approach reached Guernsey County. He was crossing the Muskingum at Eaglesport, a few miles below Zanesville, and was heading directly for Guernsey County. He would be here any minute!! Hide the horses!! Hide the silver!! And then, at about 3:00 P.M. on Thursday afternoon, Morgan and his men entered Cumberland.

We take this account of Morgan's raiders in this county, from the Cambridge Times of July 30, 1863.

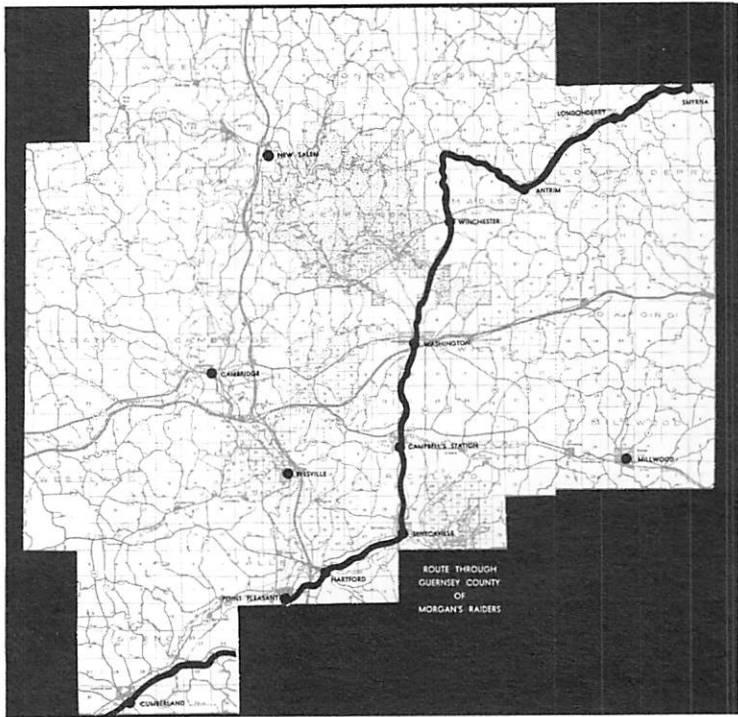
*"John Morgan, with the remnant of a band composed of the most villainous cut-throats and scoundrels, the sweepings and accumulations of two years of murdering and plundering among helpless people, amounting in number to probably six hundred, found his way into this county on Thursday, the 22nd inst., and entered the town of Cumberland about three o'clock in the afternoon of the same day. As usual, his pickets were thrown out, and the work of insult and plunder commenced.*

This page courtesy of Guernsey County Medical Society

*"The stores of Colonel Squier and Mr. Holmes, respected citizens of that place, were plundered of clothing and such articles as they seemed to need. Colonel Squier lost about four hundred dollars worth of goods, and Mr. Holmes about three hundred dollars worth. From Mr. Thomas Lindsey one dirty thief stole, or forcibly took, twenty-five dollars. After robbing Lindsey, the Butternut asked him if he was a Vallandigham man. Lindsey replied that he was not, but instead was a good Union man. Butternut then proceeded to electioneer for his friend Val., by telling Lindsey that no better man lived anywhere than Vallandigham; that he ought to support him—using a considerable number of arguments to convince Lindsey that it was his duty to vote for that glorious friend of the South and its cause, Vallandigham.*

*"In and about Cumberland they succeeded in stealing about one hundred good horses. While in town they quartered upon the inhabitants, from whom they insolently demanded food or whatever else they wished. They left Cumberland about eight o'clock in the evening, after perpetrating all the devilment they could, except burning the town and murdering the inhabitants.*

*"The next place they turned up was at Hartford, in Valley township, which place they retired from without doing any material damage. We did learn that they robbed Mr. George Miller, of Hartford, of one thousand five hundred dollars, but as we have not heard it confirmed, presume it is not so.*



Montgomery Ward

"At Senecaville they made a short stay, stole numerous horses, and took the road to Campbell's station. While at Senecaville, we learn that one of the thieves entered a stable belonging to a gentleman of that place, and, with drawn revolver, demanded a horse. The owner, instead of giving him a horse, gave him a blow alongside of his head with a club, which caused Mr. Secesh to give up all intention of dealing in horseflesh for the time being. Said Butternut is now lodged in our jail.

"When the celebrated John was sojourning in Cumberland, a certain Doctor, formerly hailing from the Hoskinsville region, and of Hoskinsville proclivities, had a horse confiscated by the Morgan thieves. The Doctor remonstrated against the proceeding, and in the bill of exceptions set forth that he had a patient that he must see and that was the only animal he had to ride. Butternut sets forth in his answer that if the said Doctor would give him seventy-five dollars, he would surrender the horse. Whereupon the Doctor forked over the amount, and when John and his thieves retired, the Doctor's horse also retired with a Butternut on his back, and left the Doctor with a feeling of goneness in the pocket and to mourn the untimely departure of his trusty pill packer.

"Query, wasn't the Doctor a little verdant?

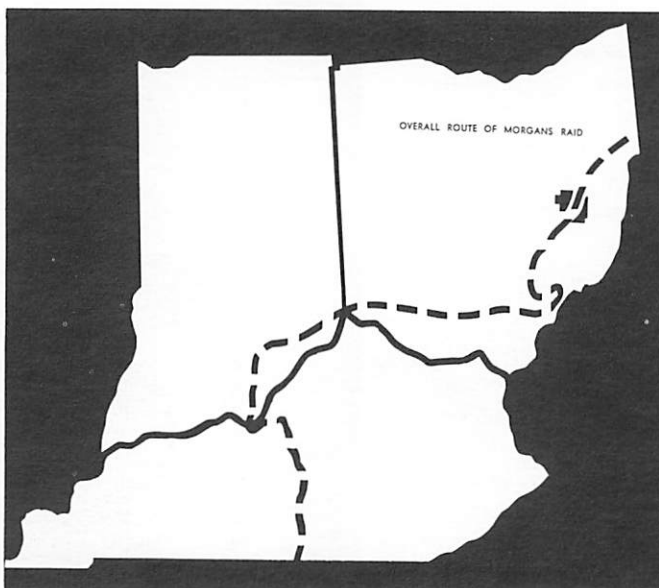
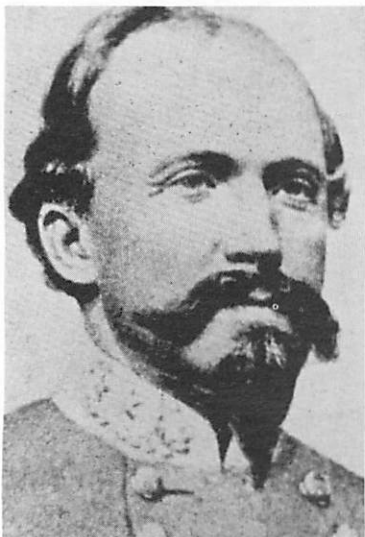
"At Campbell's Station, they burned the warehouse and its contents, belonging to Mr. John Fordyce, after robbing his safe, containing, we learn, about four thousand dollars in money, two thousand dollars of which belonged to Mr. Thomas Frame; also the railroad bridge convenient, and three freight cars loaded with tobacco, cut the telegraph wires and started

for Washington. Here they made a grand stand; threw out their pickets, and prepared for war. We believe they did no damage in Washington, at least we have heard of none, except eating up what provisions the people had on hand, and relieving them of a few horses. At this place, General Shackleton came upon the thief with one thousand Union cavalry, which caused him to skedaddle in doublequick. A smart skirmish ensued at the edge of the town, the rebels firing one volley and running, as usual. In this skirmish, three rebels were wounded, two of whom are since dead and the other expected to die. On the road from Washington to Winchester the rebels made two more stands, each for a few minutes, when they fled. During one of these skirmishes, three rebels were captured. Near Winchester, Colonel Wallace, with a few troops and one piece of artillery, joined General Shackelford.

"The rebels, after the last skirmish, succeeded in getting some distance ahead of our forces, we failing to get in sight of them again in this county.

"It appears, from conversations with eight of Morgan's men, who were captured, and are now in the county jail here, that the scoundrels despaired of reaching home many days ago, and that they roamed about without any definite object beyond a very slight hope that they might find an unguarded crossing on the Ohio river. They claim to have had plenty to eat, and but little time to eat it, so hard were they constantly pressed by our troops. They made it a point to take every horse they met with that was of any value, and when they stole a horse they generally turned loose some poor tired-out animal. How many horses they stole in this county we cannot possibly say, but as

General John H. Morgan



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Guernsey Exterminating Company

Confederate Graves at Old Washington

they stole all along the route, they must have picked up a considerable number.

"As John Morgan and his band are now captured, the people can settle down and content themselves with at least a hope that one horse-thieving scoundrel and disturber of the peace of the country, will get his just deserts. If our people don't shoot him for the raid, the rebel authorities will be sure to, if they ever lay hands on him. He has wasted and destroyed, on a fool's errand, the best body of cavalry they had in their service, and all to no purpose in the world. Such a senseless expedition never started since the world began. He has failed to perform a single achievement that is worth thinking of a second time.

"Rebel raids into loyal states—whether on a great or a small scale—have but one ending, the defeat and utter route of those attempting them. John Morgan ventured this time something out of his usually safe line, and, in crossing the Ohio river, marked his track with foul murders—the killing of peaceful and unoffending citizens. It was but a little while until he found the spirit he had aroused,—the greatest mistake he had made,—and his fate will be the fate of all such scoundrels who undertake similar expeditions. They are the disgrace of civilization, and the villains will in future be hunted down as men hunt down wild beasts, and when caught, a 'short shrift and a long rope' will be all the compensation these blood-stained wretches will receive at the hands of a justly outraged people. We are told that in one section of this county they were so very urbane and polite that they quite charmed our people. We, for one, are sick of this accursed cant about 'politeness,'

'chivalry,' etc., this trifling with murder and every black crime. And when we look at the horrors so long carried on with impunity by this vile, black-hearted cut-throat and his land-pirate gang, we cannot say that we would object should the result of the whole matter be a 'short shrift and a long rope,' from the friends and relatives of the persons he and his band have so foully murdered, and whose property he has so wantonly destroyed."

Morgan was finally captured a few miles from East Liverpool on July 26th.

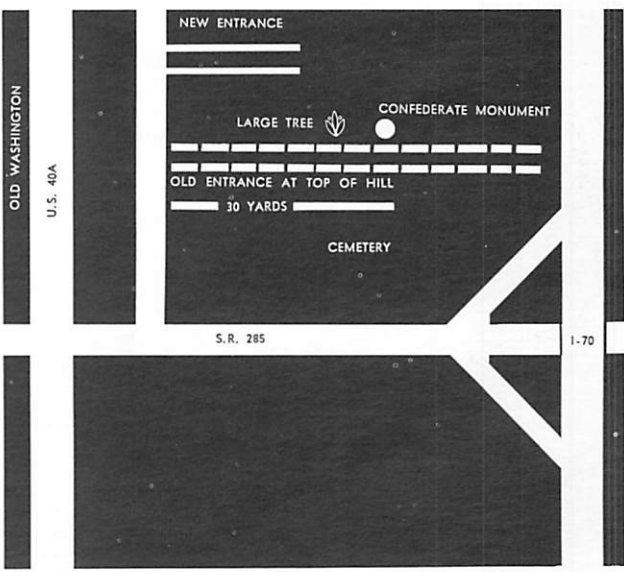
Instead of being treated as prisoners of war, Morgan and some of his officers were placed in the Ohio Penitentiary at Columbus. In November of 1863, Morgan and several of his officers escaped, made their way south and rejoined the Confederate forces. The next year, Morgan was killed in Greenville, Tennessee.

The raid was only a sideshow as far as the war was concerned, and is not even mentioned in many histories of the war. And by Civil War standards the action at Washington was only a skirmish, just one of thousands that occurred during the four years of war.

But to the citizens of Guernsey County, the raid was probably the most exciting event of their lives, one that would never be forgotten by those who had experienced it. And to the three Confederates who died in a town and a county whose name they probably did not even know, and who are buried in the cemetery of that town, the raid was the last great event of their lives.



Morgans Raid entering Washington  
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Location of Confederate Monument  
in Old Washington Cemetery