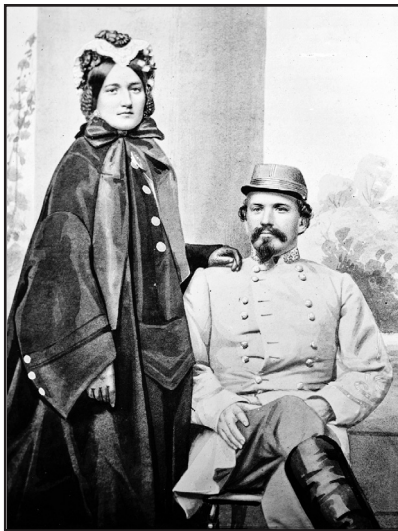


Morgan's Raid and Capture in Ohio

Confederate General John Hunt Morgan led cavalrymen into battle in southwest Ohio in July 1863. His men, also known as Morgan's Raiders, included Morgan's younger brothers Calvin, Richard, Charleton and Thomas. His Chief of Staff was his brother-in-law Colonel Basil W. Duke.



**John H. Morgan & wife
Martha "Mattie" Ready**

Courtesy of the Library of Congress,
LC-DIG-cwpb-07514

On July 2, the raid began in Kentucky with almost 2,500 men. Morgan and his Raiders moved from Kentucky into Indiana. On July 12, Ohio Governor David Tod called out Ohio's militia to protect the southern parts of Ohio from the Raiders. Almost 50,000 men from 32 counties responded to the Governor's call.

On July 14, Morgan's Raiders entered Ohio near Camp Dennison in Hamilton County. His troops burned bridges, destroyed railroad depots and threatened to burn down mills. More than 4,000 Ohio families had many items stolen.

Morgan's Raiders robbed farmhouses and looted stores, taking food, water, money and other items. Ohio farmers called Morgan the "king of horse thieves," because he and his men stole more than 2,000 horses.

On July 19, the Battle of Buffington Island was fought in Meigs County. Present at the battle were three future presidents of the United States – James Garfield, Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley. Nearly 1,200 of Morgan's men were taken prisoner while a Union gunboat kept them from escaping.

On July 26, near West Point, Ohio in Columbiana County, Morgan was tricked by a 16-year-old who gave him false information about where the Union troops were stationed. This information led to Morgan's surrender to George W. Rue of the 9th Kentucky Cavalry.

Morgan was eventually taken to the Ohio State Penitentiary in Columbus. He and six of his officers escaped in November by cutting through a stone floor with dinner knives and a spade. Once outside the prison, they returned home on a train.

Just over a year after the longest and most famous raid of the Civil War, John Hunt Morgan was killed while organizing another raid into Kentucky.

