



John Hunt Morgan's Great Raid and Surrender: Reedsville to West Point

A Field Tour from Pittsburgh, PA

October 18 - 21
With
David L. Mowery

On July 2, 1863, Confederate Brigadier General **John Hunt Morgan** and his famed 2,500-man cavalry division embarked on an audacious three-week Special Operations mission through Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio to divert **Ambrose Burnside's** Army of the Ohio away from East Tennessee. Known as the Great Raid, or the Indiana-Ohio Raid, Morgan's operation caused 130,000 Union troops to be mobilized to chase the Confederate cavalier, including 4,000 of Burnside's cavalry, the loss of which effectively put a halt to the Army of the Ohio and its East Tennessee campaign. The Provisional Division of 3,000 veteran Federal cavalrymen, led by Brigadier General **Edward Hobson** and subsequently by Brigadier General **James Shackelford**, led the land chase, while Lieutenant Commander **LeRoy Fitch** engaged his gunboats of the Mississippi Squadron to prevent Morgan from re-crossing the Ohio River. Governor David Tod rounded up 60,000 militia to defend Buckeye soil, but the Confederates' lightning speed and effective counter-intelligence confounded General Burnside and Ohio's military leaders.

However, the Union's decisive victory over Morgan at the **Battle of Buffington Island, OH**, on July 19, 1863, sealed the fate of Morgan's once-feared division. Of the 1,800 men Morgan had present on the battlefield, only 1,100 escaped, while the rest were killed, wounded, or captured. He also lost all of his artillery and his wagon train. It was a disaster from which Morgan would have to find a miracle to recover. Yet, a miracle was not to be had. Using the rugged terrain of eastern Ohio as a way to shake off his pursuers, he was only successful in eluding those who were on his rear. What he could not avoid were the fresh enemy soldiers being placed in his front with railroad and river transportation. Finally out of options, General Morgan surrendered on July 26 with 364 of his men and officers near **West Point, OH**, the Confederacy's farthest north penetration of Union territory by a force originating from the Confederate States.

On this tour, **David L. Mowery** will lead us along the final leg of John Hunt Morgan's Great Raid path. On **Thursday morning at 8:00 AM**, we will leave by van from our base hotel near **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**, where you can safely park your cars until we return on Saturday afternoon. Our first stop will be **Long Bottom, OH**, where Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan reorganized his scattered and demoralized troopers after the Battle of Buffington Island. We'll walk the ground at **Reedsville (Belleville Island) Ford** where Colonel **Adam "Stovepipe" Johnson** and 330 of Morgan's troopers successfully crossed the Ohio River, while General Morgan returned from safety to stay with his men trapped on the Ohio shore. Next, we'll follow Morgan inland to his July 19th camp site at **Tupper's Plains**, where he fooled Brigadier

General **James Shackelford** and escaped the Union trap with over 700 raiders. As we drive on the path of Morgan's raid route in this sector, we will experience gravel and dirt roads that have changed very little from 1863. Passing through the villages of **Burlingham, Harrisonville, and Rutland**, we'll visit the **ford** and the **skirmish site at Cheshire, OH**, a critical rear-guard action with Colonel **Frank Wolford's** cavalry that thwarted Shackelford's attempt to capture Morgan and the whole of his division. We'll pass through the Ohio River town of **Addison** and then turn inland to the village of **Porter**, Morgan's camp on the dreary night of July 20, before reaching **Ewington Academy**, the site of one of the Civil War's most unusual events – a double surrender of troops from both adversaries on the same spot and at the same time – without a shot being fired! We'll end the day at the ghost town of **Iron Valley Furnace** and then **spend Thursday night** in a motel in nearby **Jackson, OH**.

On Friday morning, we'll check out, board the van, and head to **Vinton Station** and **Creola**, where Morgan and his remaining 550 men camped on the night of July 21. We'll take a short walking tour of **Nelsonville, OH**, where Morgan's men burned ten canal boats and replenished their supplies from the citizens of this prosperous coal town. We'll follow the Confederate route deep into the Appalachian foothills, driving through the small, isolated hamlets of **Hemlock** and **Chapel Hill**. In **Morgan County, OH**, we'll see the site of Morgan's headquarters and camp on the night of July 22, and then we'll visit and study the remarkable **running skirmish** and Confederate victory at **Eagleport** on the Muskingum River, the location of a recent battlefield archaeological dig. Next, we'll wind our way to the village of **Rural Dale** and to **Cumberland**, Morgan's camp on the night of July 23. Continuing through **Pleasant City** and **Buffalo**, towns that lost property to Confederate and Union troopers alike, we'll arrive at **Senecaville**, where Federal forces lost a good opportunity to end the Great Raid once and for all, and where Morgan was nearly shot by a Unionist woman. After visiting in **Lore City** the former **Central Ohio (B&O) Railroad** station, which Morgan's men destroyed, we'll finish the day on the **National Road** at **Old Washington, OH**, the site of a **skirmish** between Shackelford's advance guard and Morgan's rear guard that was made famous by *Harper's Weekly*. Confederate dead from the skirmish are buried in the town cemetery. We'll lodge for the night in a motel at **Cambridge, OH**.

We'll depart from the motel at **8:00 AM on Saturday morning** and will drive along Morgan's path through **Winterset, Antrim, and Londonderry**, pausing briefly at the Big Stillwater Creek crossing and the former town of **Collinsport**. We'll see the **Mills Hotel** at **Moorefield, OH**, where General Morgan unwittingly slept for three hours on a bed filled with cash and stamps, and then we'll see the site of the raiders' July 24th camp near the abolitionist college town of **New Athens**. We'll pass through the villages of **Georgetown, Harrisville, and Deyarmonville**, the closest to the Ohio River that Morgan's men would attain after leaving Addison, and then we'll see the location of the **Smithfield ruse**. Next, we'll visit the **skirmish site at Wintersville, OH**, where Major **William B. Way's** 9th Michigan Cavalry had a friendly fire encounter with the Steubenville Militia, allowing Morgan's men to escape yet again. Driving through Way's camp at **The Eastern** mine, we'll stop at the ghost town of **Nebo** near **Bergholz**, the place of Morgan's last camp of the raid (July 25). Next, we'll visit the sites of the two-hour **Skirmish at Salineville, OH**, considered by many historians to be the **northernmost Civil War skirmish** east of the Mississippi River. Morgan lost about 100 men killed, wounded, and captured in this running fight with Way's cavalry force. We'll pay our respects to the raiders buried at **West Grove Cemetery**, the northernmost Confederate graves on a Civil War battlefield east of the Mississippi, and perhaps in all of the United States. We'll finish our tour at **General Morgan's surrender field** near **West Point, OH**, where a boulder commemorates the spot at which the famous leader and nearly 400 of his men ended their 958-mile raid by giving up to a Kentuckian, Major **George W. Rue**, of the 9th Kentucky U.S. Cavalry. We'll arrive back to the base hotel near **Pittsburgh, PA**, at around **6:00 PM**.

About Our Tour Leader

David Mowery is a native resident of Cincinnati, Ohio. In 2001, he joined the Ohio Civil War Trail Commission and his role has included developing the final design for, and the historical validation of, the entire length of the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail of Ohio. He is the co-author (with Lora Cahill) of *Morgan's Raid Across Ohio: The Civil War Guidebook of the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail*, all proceeds from which go to the Ohio Historical Society for the maintenance of the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail in Ohio.

Itinerary

Wednesday, October 18

7:30 PM Tour Overview at base hotel near Pittsburgh, PA

Thursday, October 19

8:00 AM Depart and start tour

Lunch at *Portland Community Center*, Portland, OH

6:30 PM Arrive at motel in Jackson, OH

Friday, October 20

8:00 AM Depart and continue tour

Lunch at *Boondocks BBQ & Grill*, McConnelsville, OH

6:30 PM Arrive at motel in Cambridge, OH

Saturday, October 21

8:00 AM Depart and continue tour

Lunch at *Kings Family Restaurant*, Wintersville, OH

6:00 PM Arrive back to base hotel near Pittsburgh, PA

Registration Fee - \$695

What is included in your registration:

- The services of an expert historian chosen for his knowledge and experience
- Transportation to all sites as described
- 3 lunches
- **Thursday & Friday** night lodging
- Refreshments and snacks during the tour
- Map package and handouts

LODGING: We will be based at a hotel in Pittsburgh soon to be announced.

(Wednesday & Saturday night lodging is NOT included in your registration fee.)

We will post hotel information on www.cwea.net – and this information will be sent to all registrants.

Enroll **Online** at WWW.CWEA.NET, or Call **800-298-1861**, or Complete and **Mail in** the form below:

John Hunt Morgan's Great Raid and Surrender: Reedsville to West Point

October 18 – 21 Registration Fee: \$695

Name _____ Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # (____) _____ E-Mail Address _____

Enclosed is Payment in amount of \$ _____ Check to CWEA Charge my MC, VISA, Discover or AMEX
Card # _____ Ex Date _____

Security# (3 digit # on back of VISA, MC or DISC or 4 digit # on front of AMEX) _____

Signature _____

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