CAMBRIDGE
GUERNSEY COUNTY
Let your spirit roam free

On July 2, 1863, John Hunt Morgan and his Confederate Cavalry started moving north through Kentucky on a raid that would encompass three states and 950 miles. His 2,000 man cavalry entered Ohio on July 13, 1863 spreading fear throughout the villages in Ohio.

Morgan and his men entered Guernsey County near sundown on July 23. Worn out from the constant pursuit of Union forces and hours in the saddle, the Southern men sought a brief respite in the village of Cumberland. The uninvited guests visited homes and demanded food and rest. Nearly 100 horses were also either bought or stolen by the Confederates to replace the worn out steeds that they had thoroughly abused. The local population complied with these demands, seeking only to remain uninjured as trepidation spread throughout the region.

By 10 p.m., the raiders had vacated Cumberland. With the forced aid of local men as guides, they traveled east through Point Pleasant, (now Pleasant City), Hartford, (now Buffalo), and arrived at Senecaville in the early morning hours of Friday, July 24. With reports of Union reinforcement to the east, the raiders turned north towards Campbell's Station, but not before acquiring more food and horses from residents.

Near dawn, Morgan and his men arrived at Campbell's Station, (now Lore City), inflicting the harshest damage of the raid. They burned a bridge, several railcars, a tobacco warehouse and stole nearly $4,000 from a safe.

From there, the Confederates thundered north to Washington, (now Old Washington), and commandeered meals from the proprietors of the American Hotel. Many of the raiders spread out through town to rest, or ravage the local stores of wares and supplies.

This respite proved dangerous for Morgan's men as Union Cavalry had now arrived at Washington, shelling the city from a hill south of town and attacking the surprised Confederates, Morgan and his men escaped both North and East…to fight another day.

Morgan's raid route

Map shows the entire 1,100-mile route Gen. John Hunt Morgan's cavalry troops took. The raid started June 6, 1863, in McMinnville, Tenn., and ended July 26, 1863, near West Point, Ohio. Morgan led about 2,500 men on the raids.

West Point
Pittsburgh
Amsterdam
New Alexandria
Columbus
Pleasant City
Nelsonville
OHIO
WEST VIRGINIA
Cincinnati
Athens
INDIANA
Sunman
Piketon
Cheshire
Seymour
Batavia
Locust Grove
Salem
Dupont
Ohio River
Palmyra
Louisville
Frankfort
Brandenburg
Bardstown
Lebanon
Columbia
KENTUCKY
Burkesville
Carthage
Sparta
TENNESSEE
McMinnville
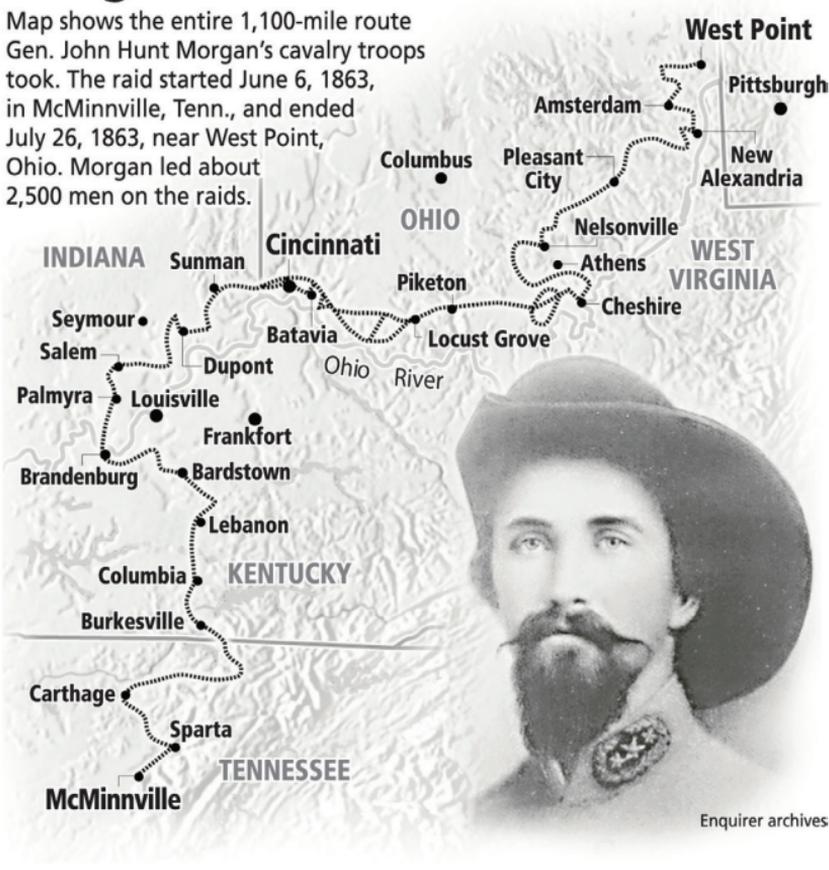
Enquirer archives

As you travel Guernsey County's portion of the Morgan Heritage Trail, be sure to stop at the four interpretive signs to learn more about this great and historical period. Follow the way finding markers to each location.