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Colonel Dave Childs, 1st Regiment
Colonel Chuck Young, 2nd Regiment
Colonel Rick Dennis, Artillery

Colonel Michael Church, Cavalry
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Colonel Ken Brown, Aide de Camp
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BRIGADIER GENERAL DARRELL N. MARKIJOHN
COMMANDING

MORGAN'S RAID III

“The Pursuit”

September 15-18, 2016

I am writing to extend a personal invitation to you and your unit to participate in the 2016 Morgan's Raid III, “The Pursuit” to take place in Vinton and Meigs Counties, Ohio on September 15-18, 2016. You will be joining hundreds of fellow reenactors, teams of mounted artillery and horse drawn supply wagons, and a squadron of authentic Tall Stack River Boats in a 58 mile running fight across rural south-eastern Ohio on the same roads and trails that Gen. John Hunt Morgan and his band of Kentucky and Tennessee troopers traversed in July of 1863. For four days, you will be living the life of a real civil war soldier, living out of your pack, foraging local farms for food and fodder, steaming up and down the Ohio River on river boats, fighting Confederate cavalry, and camping overnight at the very sites that Morgan and his men, and the Union troops that were chasing them stayed. This will be an event unlike any in which you have previously participated



HISTORY

Then... On July 2, 1863, while Lee and Meade were slugging it out on hallowed ground in Pennsylvania, Confederate General John Hunt Morgan crossed the Cumberland River into Union Territory at Burkesville, Kentucky with 2,460 men and commenced the raid that soon became his legacy. Near Brandenburg, Kentucky, he commandeered two steamboats to transport his force across the Ohio River into Indiana. After a sharp skirmish at Corydon, Indiana, he arrived at Harrison on the Indiana-Ohio border by July 13th. He traversed ninety grueling miles in only thirty-five hours around Cincinnati to avoid a large garrison of Union troops and arrived at Williamsburg on the following day.

Morgan then plunged deep into southern Ohio, diverting attention of the Union forces away from General Braxton Bragg's army in Tennessee and stirring up southern sympathy among the Copperheads in Ohio. As he approached southeastern Ohio, Morgan's resolve began to wane and he soon turned his attention to securing a ford across the upper-Ohio to return to friendly soil.

At Wilkesville, Ohio, in Vinton County, he split his force in three. General Morgan and Colonel Basil Duke commanded the center group that marched due east into Meigs county. A brigade under Colonel Adam "Stovepipe" Johnson took a northerly parallel route. A small detachment under Morgan's brother, Colonel Richard Morgan, proceeded along a southern route. This allowed Morgan to strip the countryside of horses and provisions and allowed his men to reconnoiter the river for a safe crossing. The forces met in Pomeroy on July 18th where the combined army headed east through Chester and Bashan towards Portland and the river ford near Buffington Island. Along the way, Union forces led by Brigadier General Henry Judah caught up to Morgan and together with two gunboats that blocked Morgan's crossing at Buffington Island, forced a pitched battle that resulted in Morgan's defeat.

2003 and Morgan's Raid I... In 1999, we were asked to join the Ohio Bicentennial Commission Civil War Subcommittee, and brought with us the idea of reenacting the only significant Civil War battle that took place on Ohio soil. That was the birth of Morgan's Raid I.

In the years leading up to 2003, we engaged in extensive research and long hours in the field traversing the actual roads used by Morgan's men along his 440 mile ride through Ohio, and settled on the 58 mile route that Stovepipe Johnson's brigade traveled through Vinton and Meigs Counties and after arriving in Chester, Ohio, and having met up with Morgan's main body, the route along the Shade river leading to Bashan, Ohio and the eventual ford near Buffington Island. We chose this route for a number of reasons. The historical significance of this portion of the Raid cannot be over stated. At this point of the Raid, Judah's Union infantry and cavalry was in hot pursuit of Morgan's band. The battle at Buffington Island was the defining moment in the raid and led to its ultimate demise and Morgan's surrender 10 days later near West Point, Ohio. It stands as the only large engagement of Union and Confederate forces on Ohio soil and Morgan's surrender at West Point marked the farthest point north reached by a force of the Confederate army. This site and the reenactment met the committee's goal of commemorating Ohio's history in the Civil War, and gave us a wonderful platform to share this important period through the art of living history with the citizens of Ohio and surrounding states.

Another reason, and one not lost in the minds of the cavalry reenactor members of the committee, was the actual 58-mile route. Northern Vinton and Meigs counties look much like they did in 1863. The 2003 Raid started at the historic homestead of Dr. William C. Cline and Mrs. Ruth Virginia Althar Cline in Wilkesville on the very ground where Morgan and his men camped. The original two story frame farmhouse was to the right of the brick Victorian Italian Villa manor built in 1867. Legend has it that Box, Morgan's negro valet, stole money from Morgan and disappeared when the cavalry left town. Dr. Cline was supportive of the Underground Railroad and Box was said to have given money to Cline to help in that effort. Cline supposedly used some of the funds to build the majestic Villa that graces the property to this day. At one time, Dr. Cline owned over 1200 acres in the area. Today 100 acres of the original estate remains and has once again been offered to us by the Joseph and Constance White, the current owners.



The Cline Manor today

From there, we headed east along dirt roads toward our final destination in Bashan, in eastern Meigs county. About 2/3 of the route went along the actual route taken by Morgan's men and about half of that was along old roads and trails on private property that had not been open to the public since about the time of Morgan. The modern intrusions were minimal and for much of the ride, totally non-existent.

The support that we got from the local communities and landowners in 2003 was nothing short of phenomenal. Every person we have talked with along the way (and I mean every person) was excited about the project and opened up their land and barns for our use. Morgan's Raid I drew 180 horsemen, two mounted artillery pieces, and numerous supply wagons and was a tremendous success.

2006 and Morgan's Raid II "On to the Ford"... The first event was so successful, we did another, and it was even better.

We made a few changes. First off, we travelled all the way to Buffington Island, after receiving permission from the owner of the battlefield land to reenact the engagement on this historic ground. That stretched the ride to 60 miles.

Second, in order to allow more engagements, the Union Cavalry did not galvanize. Morgan and his Confederate Raiders left Wilksville early Thursday morning with rations and ammunition. After a head start, the Union Cavalry followed, and along the entire 60 mile route, we staged skirmishes, ambushes, and large scale spectator battles. The event was much more authentic. It drew over 200 horsemen, Blue and Gray, multiple horse drawn guns and wagons.

And NOW... 2016 Morgan's Raid III "The Pursuit"... We now add the last components to make this the most exciting and authentic Civil War event we know off – 300 Union Infantry [portraying the 23rd OVI, 45thOVI, and 13th (W) Virginia] and a flotilla of Tall Stack River Boats [portraying the Mississippi Squadron -and the USS MOOSE that blocked Morgan's path across the Ohio River].

Union Infantry will be camped along Morgan's Route, and will be marching and laying ambushes and engaging in pitched battles with the mounted Confederate Raiders. The infantry will have the opportunity to portray real soldiers on the campaign. They will be assigned mounted artillery pieces and horse drawn wagons. They will live out of their packs.

On Saturday and Sunday, authentic tall stack sternwheeler river boats will enter the campaign. Union Infantry will board the ships in Pomeroy and steam up the Ohio River to engage in amphibious landings and attacks on Morgan's Men.

Just consider some of these EXCITING DETAILS:

UNION INFANTRY – Garrison Troop Battalion

We will establish an authentic military/civilian Base Camp in Pomeroy, Ohio available to soldiers and family members. Pomeroy is on the Ohio River and is the county seat of Meigs County. It is incredibly historic. The camp will be on the actual banks of the River. All are welcome to pitch their tents of any nature and participate in living history from Wednesday-Sunday. Soldiers that want to participate in the daily battles will be bused from the Base Camp to hook up with the field troops. There will be some marching, but not more than you would expect at a typical reenactment.

During your stay in Pomeroy, you can take advantage of the amenities of the town, including great historic restaurants and taverns. Best of all, you will be camped in the middle of the Annual Stern Wheel Festival area, with historic tall stack ships. Thousands of spectators come each year to this very popular annual event. Your camp will be one of the exciting attractions.



a photo of Pomeroy from across the Ohio River and some of its Stern Wheelers

There will be two large Civil War Dances, one on Friday evening in Chester, Ohio (approx. 6 miles north) and one in Pomeroy on Saturday. You will be provided a wonderful dinner on Saturday evening before the Pomeroy dance by local sponsors.

On Saturday, Garrison troops will board River Boats in Pomeroy for transportation up the Ohio River for an amphibious landing, where you will engage Morgan's Raiders in a pitched spectator battle. After the battle, you will be bused back to the Pomeroy Base Camp for the wonderful Saturday evening activities. The entire Union Infantry Army will then be together for the rest of the weekend.

On Sunday morning, the entire army will once again board the boats and head up the Ohio to participate in the Battle of Buffington Island. The battle should conclude by 2pm, and you will be bused back to Pomeroy.

UNION INFANTRY – Field Troop Battalion

All able bodied Reenactors will want to be part of the Field Troop Battalion (FTB). All FTB troops will be mustered in a camp in western Meigs County on Wednesday Evening, along Morgan's Original Route, for the start of the most authentic civil war experience you will ever get.

On Thursday morning, you will begin your pursuit of Morgan's Confederate Raiders. You will be accompanied by horse drawn artillery and supply wagons. You will be moving by the march and by bus (no you will not have to march the full 60 miles – unless you want to). You will be laying ambushes, and engaging the enemy at least twice per day. Each day will have a spectator battle. But along the way, you will be marching under arms, and will be subject to the threat of Confederate ambushes.



Horse-drawn Artillery from Morgan's Raid I

On Thursday evening, you will camp at the Historic Sheets Farm. Horses from the historic barn were stolen by Morgan in 1863. The members of the Sheets family are big Blue Grass Fans and you will be entertained that evening by some of South Eastern Ohio's finest musicians.

On Friday, you will be back at war. More marching and busing. You will arrive just west of Chester Ohio where you will engage Morgan's men in a large battle. You will then march into Chester to set up camp and participate in a wonderful Friday evening Dance in the town square. An armistice will be signed, and the dance will be frequented by troops of both armies.

On Saturday morning, you will be bused to Pomeroy, where you will join up with the Garrison Troops at the Base Camp. From there, you will board River Boats and steam up the Ohio River for an amphibious assault of Morgan's men. Once the battle is over, you will be bused back to Pomeroy. You will camp in the Garrison Base Camp that night where you will receive a wonderful meal and attend another Civil War Ball. Take advantage of the amenities in historic Pomeroy or take in the rest of the historic tall stacks that will be docked in town for the Stern Wheel festival.

On Sunday morning, all federal infantry troops will once again board the river boats and steam upriver to participate in the Battle of Buffington Island. One of the ships will be manned with artillery pieces and together, we will block Morgan's efforts to ford the Ohio.

Throughout the 4 days, you will live out of your pack. All meals will be provided. The experience will be remembered forever.

NAVAL REENACTORS

We need period sailors to help man the river boats. Professional crews will of course man the ships, but there is room for naval reenactors. Commodore Larry Golding will be putting together the reenactor crews for anyone that wants to participate. He will be establishing a chain of command, review impressions, and provide uniform information.

All sailors will be camped in the Garrison Base Camp in Pomeroy for the weekend.

A TRULY UNIQUE CAVALRY EVENT

This event will once again bring together the best skilled mounted cavalymen and women from both sides of the hobby's Mason-Dixon Line.



We will ride under arms the entire way relying on forward videttes to guide us through the dangers of enemy territory. Morgan's men will be pursued and harassed by Union Cavalry and Infantry at ambush sites along the route (all of which will be unknown to the raiders). We will have to fight our way through roadblocks. We will be forced to forage the countryside for provisions for horse and rider. We may have to liberate a horse or two, and certainly will requisition every fresh pie that we find on the windowsill of local inhabitants. We will simulate as best we can the danger, fatigue, and excitement that Morgan's men must have experienced during the actual raid.

Finally, do not trivialize the physical challenge to horse and rider that this event poses. Again, you have been invited to participate because we feel your unit can handle the arduous task of riding 60 miles in three days. Having said that, there may be horses and riders in your unit that will not be able to handle this ride. **DO NOT TAKE THIS LIGHTLY. THIS IS NOT FOR BEGINNERS OR THE FAINT OF HEART. YOUR HORSE MUST BE IN TOP PHYSICAL SHAPE OR IT WILL NOT MAKE IT (LITERALLY). YOU MUST ALSO BE IN SHAPE OR YOU WILL NOT MAKE IT EITHER.** We will be covering 20 hard hilly miles the first day. That will include skirmishes and foraging expeditions. If you have not logged long distances on horseback, do not make this your maiden voyage. Prepare your horse. You better do a few 20-mile days ahead of time before you put a burden on the event organizers with a jaded horse that we have to transport to a local veterinary hospital.

Your horse must not only be in physical shape, it must be a seasoned cavalry horse. It must be accustomed to gunfire. You never know what will be lurking behind that boulder or tree. It also better be totally trail safe. We will be fording rivers and streams, traversing steep hills, and riding over wooden unguarded bridges. It must also be safe on a picket line. All seasoned cavalry horses can do these things. If yours cannot, it better stay home.

CONCLUSION. This is an event planned and organized by the USV with the full cooperation of Vinton and Meig's County. More information is being assembled and we will be providing numerous updates throughout the year. In the meantime, save your vacation time and mark September 15-18 on your calendars.

You can reach me at dmarkijohn@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 330 495-4952. Col. Mike Church can be reached at sixthohcav1@yahoo.com or 740 590-2623. Commodore Golding can be reached at asstadjgen@aol.com or 914-393-0267. Any of us are available to respond to any questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,

Brig. Gen. Darrell Markijohn
Commander, USV Brigade

Colonel Mike Church
Commander, USV Cavalry Regiment

For more history of the raid, check out chapter 5 of the Morgan's Raid guidebook at <https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0989805433>