

Appendix E. DICK MORGAN'S COLUMN TO RIPLEY

Wednesday, July 15. By dawn the raiders were moving out of Williamsburg. John Morgan and the main force rode east. Dick Morgan's 14th Kentucky moved south towards Ripley and the Ohio River.

We do not fully understand the purpose of the ride to Ripley. It is unlikely that they were attempting to cross the river; arrangements had been made to rejoin the main force at Locust Grove. Some historians feel that it was a feint,



Colonel Richard Morgan

devised to fool the pursuing forces into thinking that the raiders were planning on crossing the Ohio River at that point. Others recall earlier threats by the Confederates to wreck havoc on Ripley, "the hot bed of abolitionism." The raiders left Williamsburg on what is now Old SR 32. To

follow Dick's company south to Ripley cross the bridge and reset your odometer when you turn right on SR 133.

As you drive from Williamsburg to Bethel, you will be passing to the right of the towns of Hennings Mill and Clover. Hennings Mill, founded about 1836, was also known as Coontown. Clover was established about 1840. Both towns were visited by Morgan's men.

Go 6.7 miles to downtown Bethel. Turn

left on SR 125 and go 2.1 miles to Spring Grove Road. A small force turned east here headed to New Hope. After shooting a volley into the New Hope hillside and terrifying the citizens, they turned south to meet Dick Morgan's main column at Wahlsburg.

Continue on SR 125 for 1.7 miles to Yankeetown Road and turn left. (The road is not well marked and is easy to miss.) Stay on Yankeetown Road for 2.9 miles. At the stop sign turn left on Lucas Road.

Go 1.4 miles to the "Y"; bear to the right on Pierce Road. After going down a hill, you will cross Unity Creek. It is only 0.5 mile to the bridge over White Oak Creek; turn right at the "T". You are passing through the 1863 community of White Oak Valley. Stay on White Oak Valley Road for 2.1 miles to SR 68; turn right.

At 1.1 miles turn right on Mt. Orab Pike; it



Raiders burned the bridge across White Oak Creek.

will take you into downtown Georgetown. The raiders arrived in town about 9:30 a.m. They stayed about three hours, picketing their horses around the Brown County courthouse square.

They met little resistance; most of the able-bodied men had gone to Ripley, where the raiders were expected to attempt a crossing. Many Georgetown residents welcomed the rebels. There were many "Peace Democrats" and southern sympathizers living there.

The house at 421 North Main Street was the home of a "War Democrat," U.S. Congressman Chilton White. His support of Lincoln's war efforts angered the Confederates (mostly Democrats), who thought their Northern party members were turning their backs on them in support of the "Black Republicans." Raiders searching for his home were told by residents, who lied, that White lived miles to the west. The raiders, expecting their Union pursuers to approach Georgetown from that direction, decided not to pursue the matter. The house still stands unharmed.



U.S. Congressman Chilton White's house

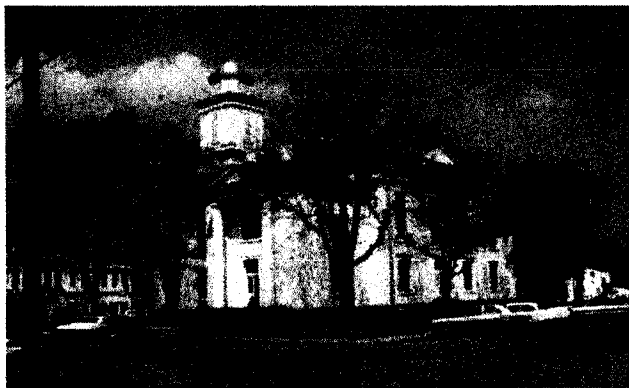
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Continue 0.2 mile to downtown Georgetown.

Georgetown was the boyhood home of Ulysses S. Grant. The Grant family moved from Point Pleasant to Georgetown soon after his birth.

Turn left on Grant Avenue. A life-size gray, granite statue of Grant, Georgetown's most famous resident, stands on the northeast corner of Grant Avenue and Main Street. Its black granite base displays laser art pictures of Grant as the commander of all Union forces and as the eighteenth president. This man, best known for waging war, left us with his most famous quote, "Let us have peace."

The Brown County Courthouse is on the right. **Trail Sign #12** stands at the northwest corner of the Courthouse Square lawn.



Brown County Courthouse (c. 1851)

Ohio Historical Society

**JOHN HUNT MORGAN HERITAGE TRAIL
INTERPRETIVE SIGN #12**

Arriving in Georgetown about 9:30 a.m., the raiders stayed approximately three hours. Some of the men picketed their horses around Courthouse Square. Others rested their weary mounts at the fairgrounds; squads were sent out to secure food.

Dick Morgan's men met with little resistance. Most of the town's able-bodied men had gone to Ripley, where the raiders were expected to attempt a crossing. Only one Union soldier was in the village. Lieutenant William H. Hannah of the 4th Ohio Independent Cavalry Company was home from Vicksburg to recruit. He went to the Square in his new Union uniform to see what was going on with all the horses. He was met with gunfire and fled. To this day no one knows how he avoided capture. It is suspected he hid in an out-house pit because he would never divulge his secret. Following the war, Hannah returned to Georgetown and became a pharmacist and a leader in the local GAR (Grand Army of the Republic).

The raiders looted the stores of Evans & Woodward, Cyrus Newkirk, Adam Shane, Charles Theis, and Charles Zaumseil. The Confederates not only took boots and shoes from the shop of Sampson Betts, but they also took the owner's watch.

While the raiders usually took what they wanted from stores and left the rest of the stock alone, that changed at Colthar's grocery store at the southeast corner of Cherry and Main streets. The raiders broke open a full barrel of molasses and poured it over a large pile of clothing and other items they didn't want.

The raiders visited the Henry Brunner home and cobbler shop in Federal Row, across Apple Street from the courthouse. Brunner repaired the rebels' boots while his wife cooked for the hungry men. In return, they were allowed to keep their horses. The intruders didn't find the family silver that had been lowered into the well.



A life-size gray, granite statue of Grant, Georgetown's most famous resident, stands on the northeast corner of Grant Avenue and Main Street.



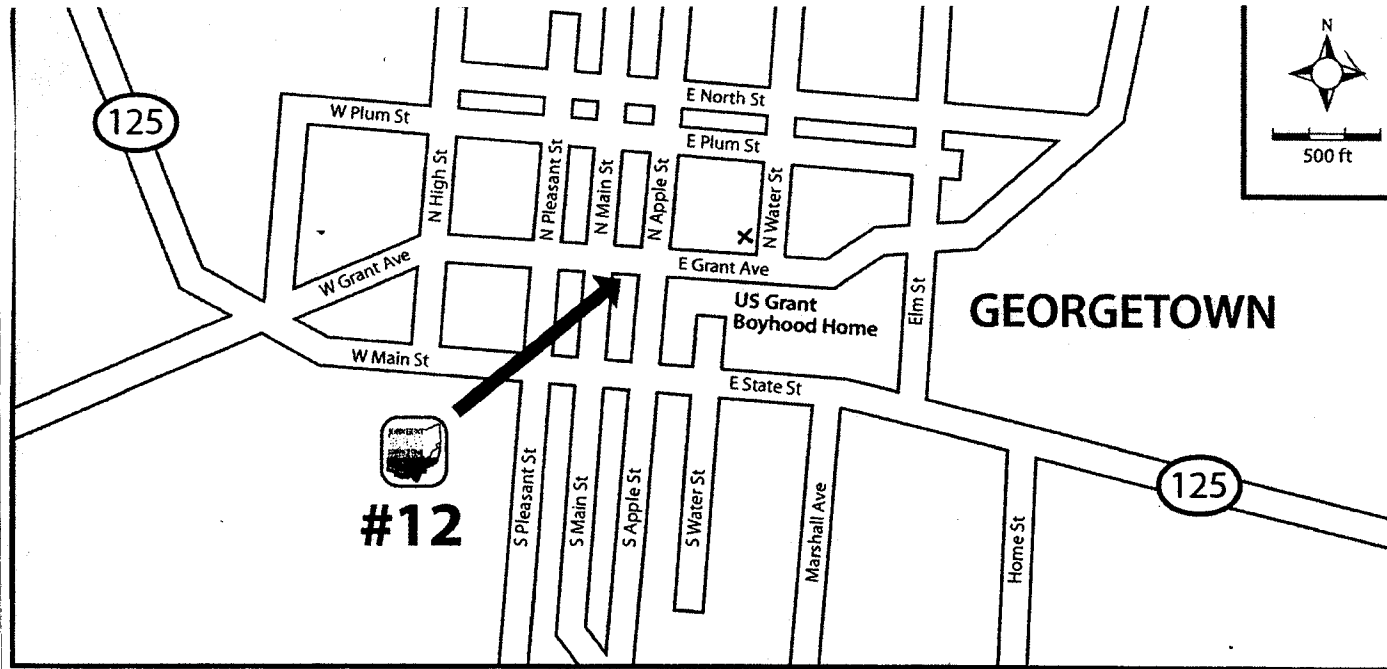
Henry Brunner cobbler shop and residence 107 S. Apple St.

While in Georgetown, Dick Morgan investigated the rumor that the Georgetown bank contained large deposits of gold, shipped there by Kentucky banks at the onset of the raid. He posted guards at the bank and sent Lieutenant Leeland Hathaway and several other raiders to locate the cashier. They found him at home. The cashier was able to convince the raiders that the rumor was unfounded. He then invited Hathaway and his men to share his dinner.

F. J. Phillips, one of the owners of the King-Phillips bank, sent his elderly black janitor to bury the bank's \$60,000 in gold coins in the woods. The raiders forced the man to go with them when they left Georgetown, claiming that he was an escaped slave.

The bank's money was never found. Five years after the war, a black couple, with the same last name as the old janitor, walked into Georgetown. When they left a few days later, they had sufficient gold to purchase a team of horses and a surrey.

Some of the Georgetown residents welcomed the rebels. There were many "Peace Democrats" and Southern sympathizers living in the area. It was reported that several local Confederate sympathizers joined Morgan's men when they left the area.



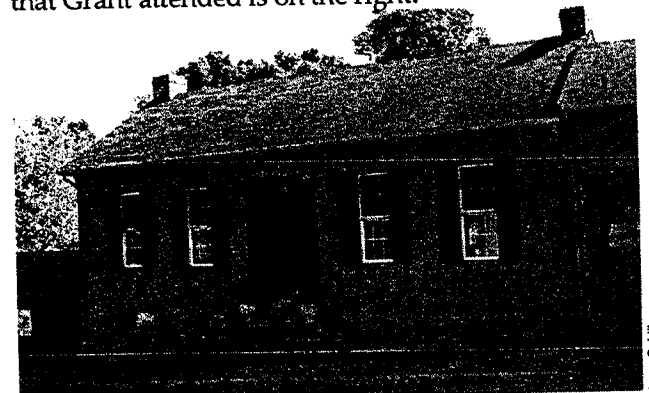
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail Interpretive sign #12 map

Another column of horsemen dressed in blue, with stars and stripes flying, arrived in town later in the day, and after a few hours rest on the fairgrounds, they continued their pursuit of the Confederates.

The men of Company E of the 7th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry were the vanguard of the Union pursuit through Brown County because Colonel August Kautz, who had grown up in Brown County, understood that these boys knew the roads of their native county. Company E was commanded by Captain R. C. Rankin, son of Reverend John Rankin, and was made up of men from every township of Brown County. The pace of the pursuit was so hurried that the cavalrymen would see a loved one along the route, but instead of stopping to talk, they would swing the person up behind them in the saddle and visit for a mile or two. Then the passenger would be lowered back to the ground to make his or her way home on foot, and the pursuit pressed on.

Georgetown was the boyhood home of Lieutenant General and President Ulysses S. Grant. There are several Grant sites in the area. Part of his father's tannery still exists, two different schools, Dan Ammen's house, the man who saved Grant from drowning, and Doctor Bailey's house. Bart Bailey was Grant's friend; he turned down the appointment to West Point that Grant eventually received. The General's boyhood home is located at 219 East Grant Avenue.

To visit Georgetown's Grant sites, continue on Grant Avenue, crossing Apple Street. The first school that Grant attended is on the right.



Grant attended this school at 208 E. Grant Avenue in 1827.

Grant's boyhood home is located on the left at 219 East Grant Avenue. He lived here until the age of seventeen, when he left to attend West Point. His five siblings were born in the Georgetown house.



Grant's boyhood home

The Grant Boyhood Home is owned by the Ohio Historical Society; check their Web page for information, or contact the Bailey House Bed and Breakfast at 112 North Water Street, Georgetown, Ohio (phone: (937) 378-3087; Web site: www.baileyhousebandb.com). The Grant Boyhood Home is open Wednesday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m., Memorial Day through Labor Day; Saturday and Sunday, noon-5 p.m., the rest of the year. Phone: (877) 372-8177; Web site: www.usgrantboyhoodhome.org.



Part of Jesse Grant's tannery building (c. 1823)

The house across the street was once part of the building that housed Jesse Grant's tannery. Young Ulysses was expected to help his father at the tannery. He did so reluctantly; he preferred working with horses. Grant was remembered by many in Georgetown for his skill with horses.

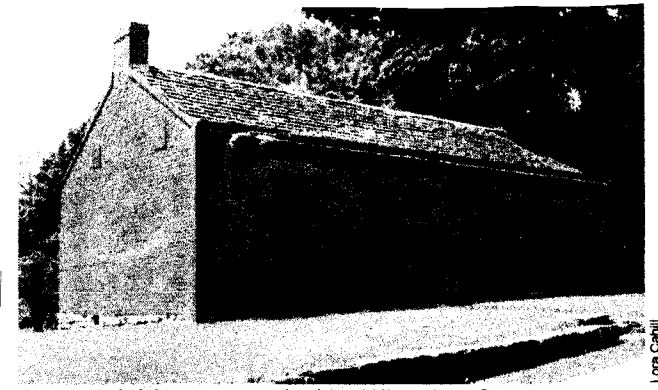
Turn left on Water Street. The large, white, Greek Revival house on the right was the home of Dr. George Bailey, the first physician in Georgetown. His son Bart, a friend of Grant's, flunked out of West Point. This provided the opportunity for Grant to receive an appointment to the academy.



Dr. George Bailey house (c. 1830)

Turn left onto Plum Street and then left again onto Apple Street. Drive four blocks and turn left onto State Street (SR 125).

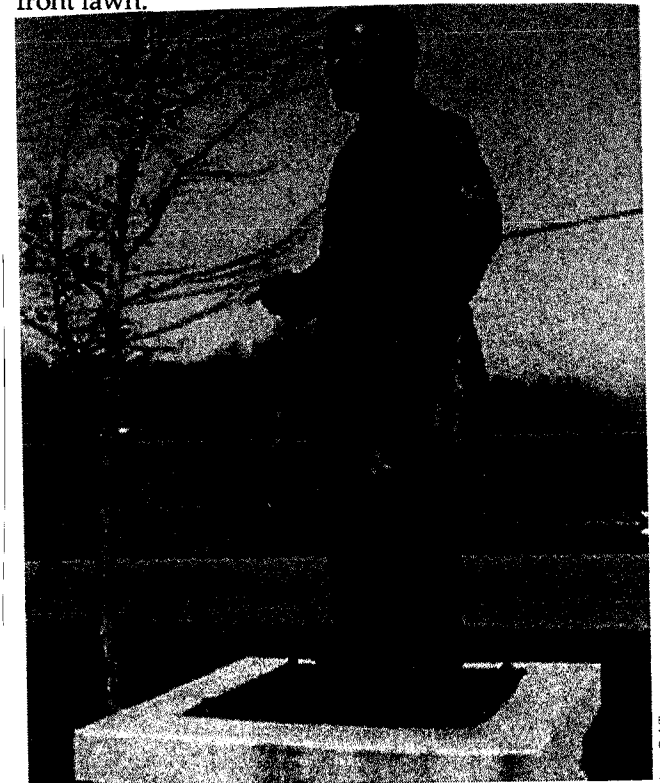
Immediately turn right onto Water Street. The Grant School House is located at 508 South Water Street. It is maintained by the Ohio Historical Society; the hours of operation for the school house are the same as those for the Grant Boyhood Home. Phone: (877) 372-8177; Web site: <http://www.ohiohistory.org/museums-and-historic-sites/>.



Grant attended this two room school (c. 1829) on Water Street.

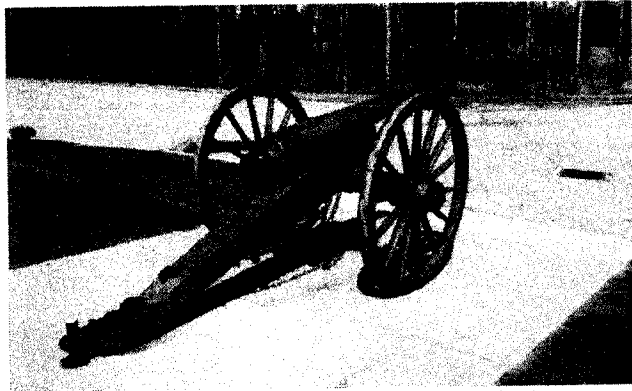
Turn around; return to SR 125 and turn right. Go 1.6 miles to US 68. To rejoin John Morgan and the main force at Mt. Orab, turn left.

Drive 1.2 miles on US 68, and then turn left onto Camp Run Road (CR 37) for less than 0.1 mile. Turn right onto Veterans Boulevard; drive approximately 0.5 mile to the Ohio Veterans' Home. There is a life-size statue of General Ulysses S. Grant on the front lawn.



Grant statue

A 12-pounder brass, Napoleon cannon is located in front of the main building. It was forged in Cincinnati in 1863 and was placed in service at Johnson's Island Confederate POW Camp near Sandusky, Ohio, where Basil Duke was held.



Twelve-pounder brass, Napoleon cannon from Johnson's Island

Go back south on Veteran Drive to Camp Run. Make a left and go to the stop sign. Make a left And go 100 feet to the stop sign at US Rt. 68. Make a right on US Rt. 68.(South)

A small group of raiders turned left on what is now SR 125. They rode to Russellville |

The raiders' first stop in Russellville was at the home of Luther Reed. The raiders were looking for the town well where they could water their horses. While in Russellville, Morgan's men looted the stores of Conn & Mooney, Thomas Mitchel, and Postlewaite & Woods. Food and forage were confiscated; ten horses were stolen to replace jaded mounts.

Go south 9.1 miles on US Rt. 68 to Ripley Rd. Turn right on Ripley Rd.

Go 2.5 miles and stop. You are approximately where Dick Morgan halted his troops about one o'clock Wednesday afternoon. His advance raiders drove in the pickets, but did not enter the town. The scouts had seen two gunboats on the river and the large force of militia in town. During the previous night, thirteen boatloads of troops had been dispatched from Cincinnati.

Colonel Morgan's force turned around and retraced their route back up the hill.

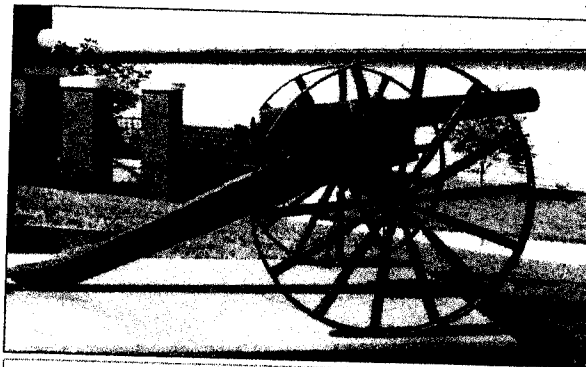
Side trip: You may want to visit this lovely old river town. It has a rich history as an abolitionist stronghold.

Drive 1.1 miles to Second Street. The 3-inch rifled Ripley Cannon is displayed in front of the library, on the left. It was purchased by the citizens of Ripley for their protection during the war. They paid \$1,000 for the cannon and a caisson. Early in the war southern raiders had sworn to burn this "...dammed abolitionist hellhole to the ground...and show no quarter to its citizens...."

In 1862, when Basil Duke was threatening northern Kentucky, the Home Guard took their gun across the river. They attacked Duke at Brooksville and helped drive-off the rebels.

When Morgan threatened in July 1863, the cannon was placed behind a barricade on the Georgetown Pike at Cornick's Run. No shots were fired; the raiders turned back before reaching the run.

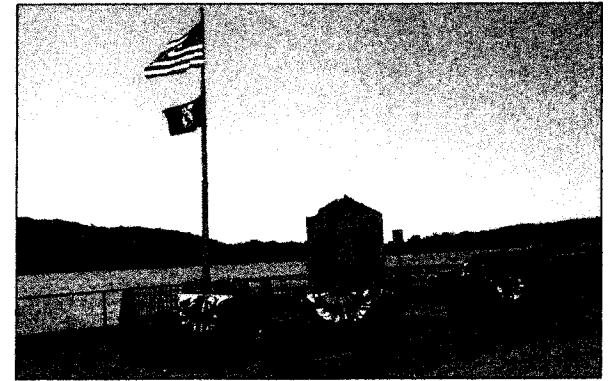
After the war, it was fired in salute to Generals Grant and Sherman when they visited Ripley.



Ripley cannon

The Ripley Museum at 219 North Second Street is open weekends, 1:30-5. Phone: 513/392-1627.

It is one block to Front Street and the monument to the those who fought for the cause of freedom, both abolitionist and military leader



Monument to those who fought for the cause of Freedom

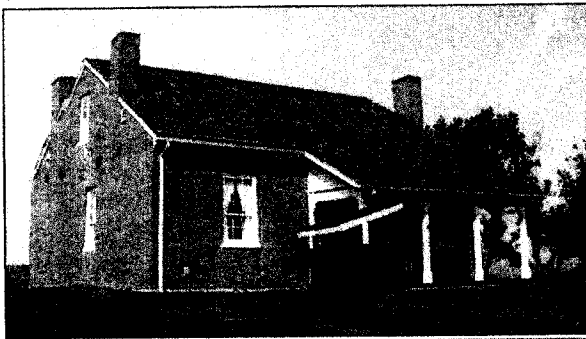
From Monument continue north on Front St. 0.3 mile to the Parker House

Federal style architecture, built in 1846. Home of John Parker, a former slave who Became a successful inventor and businessman in Ripley before the Civil War. He was a well-known "conductor" on the very active area Underground Railroad.

**Parker House -Open Weekends
330 N. Front St.
Ripley, Ohio
937-392-4188**

When you leave the Parker House continue East on Front St. to Sycamore St. and turn right. Go a block to the stop sign and turn left on US Rt. 52. (Second St.). Drive 0.1 mile and when US Rt. 52 bears left you will bear right onto Rankin House Hill Rd. Signs will direct you to the Rankin House.

The John Rankin house, on Liberty Hill, is open weekends: last of April through September. Open also on Wednesdays during June, July and August. Hours are 12-5. Phone: (513)392-1627. This was an important stop on the Underground Railroad. It is thought over 2,000 slaves stopped here in route from Kentucky to Canada.



Home of Reverend John Rankin immortalized in "Uncle Tom's Cabin"

Leave Ripley by turning left on US 52 East. Turn left on again onto US 62/68 North and reset your odometer.

Go 5.0 miles and turn right on Cemetery Road.



Red Oak Presbyterian Church

Follow the gravel road to the Red Oak Presbyterian Church. Built in 1816, the church was used for abolitionists' meetings. Both blacks and whites are buried in the adjoining cemetery.

Return to the highway. Take US 62 to the right. Go 0.6 mile to SR 353 in Red Oak; turn right.

If you opted to skip Ripley, turn around and retrace your route back to US62/68. Go 2.0 miles on US 62 to Red Oak and the junction with SR 353; turn right.

The citizens of West Union expected to be visited by the raiders, Wednesday night. They rebels never came. After leaving Ripley, a small company of raiders rode along the river passing through the Taylorsville-Aberdeen area. The main force headed northeast.

After 4.5 miles, the road merges with SR 125. It is 0.7 mile to the town square in Decatur. There is a Civil War monument in the center of the park. The town of Decatur was established in 1801 as St. Clairsville. The name was later changed to honor Commodore Stephen Decatur, naval hero of the War of 1812.

Turn left on CR 14, (Decatur-Eckmansville Road). In 1863, this was known as the Ripley and Locust Grove Plank Road.

At 1.0 mile the road splits three ways; take the middle road. Continue 3.8 miles to Eckmansville.



Decatur Civil War Monument

The raiders helped themselves to dry goods and clothes at the John Morrison store. Turn right on Narrow Gauge Road.

In Eckmansville, the raiders shot and killed William Johnston, an elderly man that they thought had fired on them. They killed the wrong man; Doctor VanMeter had fired the shot and disappeared from sight. When the raiders discovered the mistake, they threatened to burn all the homes in the town. They asked Rev. David McGill to point out the culprit. He refused and was taken captive. McGill was forced to ride with the raiders when they left town; they released him later that day.

Johnston is buried in the Cherry Fork Cemetery. His grave marker reads, "WILLIAM JOHNSTON came to his death by a ball in the head fired by a rebel guerilla, in the Village of Ecksmanville, July 15, 1863. Aged about 60 years."

It is less than 0.2 mile to a "Y"; take the main road to the left. Follow Decatur Road 1.9 miles to SR 136. The Cherry Fork Cemetery is high on the hill on your right.



Cherry Fork Cemetery on hill

To visit Johnston's grave, turn right on SR 136. Turn right into the cemetery and turn right again. The grave is near the highway, but the marker is well hidden. It is behind a large gray monument.

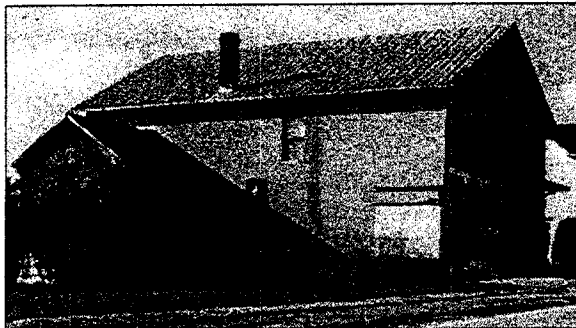


William Johnston's grave

mile. You are crossing Cherry Fork; the rebels burned a covered bridge at this location.

In 1863, the village of Cherry Fork was known as North Liberty.

After crossing the bridge, notice the large green building on the left at the south end of town. This was Jacob N. Brown's general store. The raiders "cleaned-out" the store, damaging everything they did not take with them. They also stole his horse valued at \$100.



Jacob N. Brown's general store

Drive 0.2 mile and turn right on SR 137. Reset your odometer.

Drive 2.9 miles. Graces Run Road comes in from the left; crosses SR 137 and exits on the right.

At this point you may choose to turn right; this was the route taken by Col. Richard Morgan's col-

umn. Grace's Run Road was also used by Gen. John Hunt Morgan main column as he moved from Winchester to Dunkinsville. For route directions and descriptions see "16. Williamsburg to Locust Grove."

**Alternate: A small company of raiders used the following route through Youngsville and Tranquility in route to Locust Grove. Continue 0.6 mile on SR 137. Turn left on SR 247 and immediately turn right on Tranquility Pike. You have just passed through Youngsville. William and James Young's general store had a marked inventory reduction after the raiders' visit.*

After 1.4 miles on the Pike, bear right on SR 770. Another 2.0 miles and you are in Tranquility. When SR 770 turns left, continue straight on Old SR 32.

Go 5.5 miles and turn left on Marble Furnace Road. It is 0.2 mile to a "Y" where you will bear right. Go another 0.2 mile to another "Y" and bear right again. You will have crossed Ohio Brush Creek.

*Drive 0.2 mile to yet another "Y"; this time turn left on Cemetery Road. Continue 2.4 miles to the junction with SR 41. Turn left; it is 0.7 mile to Locust Grove.**