

Gen. John Hunt Morgan's 'Great Ohio Raid' through Brown County:

Auto Tour Guide: The Main Force

Wednesday, July 15. The raiders well-earned rest ended with 3 a.m. reveille. The advance riders were on the road by dawn. The last of Morgan's men were gone by 8 a.m.

Before leaving town the raiders broke up the pig pen at the John Wright farm, located on the northeast corner of Main and Front Streets. They whittled shaving off the boards and piled them up in key areas of the covered bridge, to serve as kindling. After crossing the East Fork of the Little Miami, they burned the bridge. The nearby Wright home was threatened by the flames; townsfolk hurried to the site and saved the house. The burning of the bridge was probably a waste of matches. Since the river was almost dry, fording it would pose no problem for the Union pursuers.

Hobson had lost precious time, by riding through Batavia. He and his main force arrived in Williamsburg about 1 p.m. The women of the town had prepared food and set it up on tables along the Gay Street. The men paused only long enough to eat.

Union artilleryman, Samuel Hayford, of Indiana was mortally injured when he fell under the wheels of a limber. He had been given a cup of coffee by a young lady. He stepped down to return the cup and fell under the wheel as he was attempting to climb back. The accident occurred near Kain's Tavern; he was carried to the tavern where he was placed on a table. He died during the night and was buried in the town cemetery. Later relatives came and moved the body to Indiana.

Reset your odometer when you cross the

bridge. We will travel with the main column, as they move east on Old SR 32, Tri-County Highway

Dick Morgan took the road to the right (SR 133). His company passed through Bethel and Georgetown headed to Ripley on the Ohio River. There were Union troops and gunboats at Ripley, so Dick moved northeast to rejoin his brother at Locust Grove.

See Appendix E for Dick Morgan's Ride to Ripley. This alternate includes Georgetown, Grant's boyhood home and other Grant sites. The raiders made it to the outskirts of Ripley, an abolitionist stronghold. The John Rankin house is open to the public.

The main force took the old plank road east; they burned bridges as they went to slow down their pursuers.

Morgan found Buckeyes more formidable than Hoosiers. The raiders' progress was hampered by fallen trees and small skirmishes. Basil Duke reported, "Small fights with the militia were of daily occurrence. They hung around, the column, wounding two or three men every day and sometimes killing one. We captured hundreds of them daily, but could only turn them loose again after destroying their guns."

It is 6.8 miles to the traffic light in Mt. Orab. The rebels looted the stores here, before moving on.

Forty claims were filed here. Thirty-six horses were reported stolen. Rebels looted the stores and emptied several huckster wagons before moving on. Oscar Dunn filed for the loss of 150 pounds of pork, two shirts, a razor and fifty cents paid for the release of his fiddle.

A rebel column riding along a parallel road, moved through Buford, and Sinking Spring in Highland County.

The Ursuline sisters at the girls school at St. Martins in northern Brown County shuttered their windows and kept night watch. They heard the distant thud of horses' hoofs as the raiders passed to the south. **The Priest's buggy horse was taken.**

It is 2.7 miles from Mt. Orab to White Oak



Money hidden in the rafters of a covered bridge across the East Fork of White Oak Creek went up in smoke..

Station and the bridge over the North Fork of White Oak Creek. The 115 foot covered bridge (built in 1852) that the raiders burned was on the old road just upstream, beyond the railroad bridge.

It is 2.8 miles to the bridge across the East Fork of White Oak Creek. A Sardinia man hid his cash in the rafters of the covered bridge across the creek. The raiders burned this 115 foot bridge, and with it the man's fortune.

Brown County trustees filed a claim for \$3,380 for the loss of the two bridges. The state awarded them only \$2,064.

Continue 0.8 mile to the stop sign in



John B. Mahan's "temperance" tavern and residence

Sardinia. The old building on the northeast corner of Broad and Main was the tavern and residence of John B. Mahan. Mahan, an ardent abolitionist, was forced to serve his uninvited guests from Dixie. The raiders looted the Sardinia stores of Thomas Davis, Stephen Feike and Hugh Kennedy & Elliso Purdy.

The building (c. 1835) on the northeast corner of Broad and Main was a "temperance" tavern and the residence of Rev. John B. Mahan. It was also an important station on the Underground Railroad. Mahan, an ardent abolitionist, was forced to feed Morgan's men.

The raiders looted the Sardinia stores. Thomas Davis lost a horse and \$350 worth of assorted goods from his country variety store. Stephen Feike filed a large claim of \$2,625 for dry-goods and other merchandise stolen. Hugh Kennedy and Elliso Purdy were awarded \$600 for loss of boots and shoes.

William Henderson filed two claims, one for the loss of merchandise and whiskey to the Rebels, and the other for 100 meals served to Union troops. Dr. Isaac M. Beck lost some of his surgical instruments to Morgan's men. Union forces later took the remainder.

In the Sardinia area, the raiders stole nineteen horses and the Union cavalry appropriated ten.

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Drive two blocks and bear right on Winchester Street. It is 2.3 miles to Five Points. Turn left and then immediately bear right at the "Y" onto Five Points-Fincastle Road. Drive 2.1 miles, and stop at the intersection with Heaton Road. *After crossing US St. Rt. 32.*

Ahead at Fincastle, Morgan's scouts skirmished with the home guard. With Hobson's men close behind, Morgan had no time to loose. He turned the main column aside and headed to Winchester (Scott in 1863).

The raiders stopped Charles Dietrich on his way to market in Fincastle. They not only took his produce, they also took his huckster wagon and three horses. In the Fincastle area, twelve other horses were taken by raiders and ten more by their Union pursuers. James Records lost a winter harness with sleigh bells.

Turn right on Heaton Road and go 1.4 miles to Tri-County Road (CR 26/SR 74); turn left. It is 5.0 miles to SR 136 (Main Street) in Winchester.