



Harrison Heritage News

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Evaluating Battlefield Protections on the 145th Anniversary of the Second Battle of Cynthiana - June 11-12, 1864

William A. Penn

On the 145th anniversary of the Second Battle of Cynthiana, the citizens of Cynthiana and Harrison County should evaluate the status of protecting and interpreting our Civil War heritage. The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), U. S. Dept. of Interior, surveyed Civil War sites in 1993 in order to set priorities in funding through the ABPP agency. In that survey for Kentucky, Cynthiana was listed on the top eleven most endangered sites in need of protection. The ABPP Web site explained recent updates to that 1993 study:

“This update will identify preservation opportunities and reflect changes in conditions and threats for the 384 Civil War battlefields listed in the 1993 report. The final report is intended to not only provide Congress with an update of the 1993 report, but also to provide information for Federal, State, and local agencies, and non-profit organizations to aid in planning for the preservation of Civil War battlefields.”

The preservation efforts so far, all through the Cynthiana-Harrison County Chamber of Commerce, with support of city and county governments, are as follows:

- The Chamber received an ABPP grant to identify Civil War sites (2001).
- Morgan's Men Association donated an interpretive sign on “The Civil War in Cynthiana, Ky.” which has been erected on the courthouse lawn.
- A Civil War Driving Tour brochure has been published and is to be updated this year as an audio tour CD-ROM.
- Keller's Bridge Battlefield has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, made possible by a grant from the ABPP, which gave funds to hire consultants to document the battlefield.
- A Battles of Cynthiana Preservation Plan was funded in 2006 by an ABPP grant. This plan by Gray & Pape, Inc., identified and evaluated Civil War sites and documented the battles. Copies are at the Chamber and public library.

The update ABPP report at <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/CWSII/CWSACReportKentuckyUpdate.pdf>

recognized these preservation and interpretation efforts under the activity headings: research and documentation, brochures, driving tour, living history, walking tour, and wayside signs. However, the report found several key protections absent for Cynthiana, which centers on the Keller's Bridge Battlefield, a site they say remains largely intact and retains much of its Civil War appearance:

“In Kentucky, nonprofit organizations have led efforts to preserve Civil War battlefields, often in partnership with the Kentucky Heritage Council. Of the eight battlefields where the historic landscape remains largely or somewhat intact five have nonprofit stewards. These stewards often have leveraged state or federal funds to purchase their holdings, but have retained control of the lands themselves. The USDA Forest Service and the Laurel County Fiscal Court together control most of Camp Wildcat. The Madison County Fiscal Court holds 597 acres at the Richmond battlefield. *Among the eight battlefields retaining some integrity, only Cynthiana [Keller's Bridge Battlefield] is entirely in private, unprotected ownership.*” The report made recommendations for the purchase of land or development rights to protect the battlefield and a visitor center, along with interpretation projects, a web site, and an advocacy or “friends” group. This latter function is currently being served by the Cynthiana-Harrison County Chamber of Commerce.

The American Battlefield Protection Program staff visited Cynthiana a few years ago and toured Keller's Bridge Battlefield with local government and Chamber officials and was enthusiastic about the prospects of preserving the site, which they list as “endangered.” Because of this priority status, Cynthiana is qualified to be the recipient of yet another grant to further protect battlefield land. However, an application must be sent following ABPP guidelines. This next step is important to continue building on past preservation efforts, with the ultimate goal of protecting Keller's Bridge Battlefield as a Civil War tourist destination like the other ten Kentucky sites.

Harrison County Historical Society

Bob Owen, President
 Billy Fowler, Vice President
 Janie Whitehead, Secretary
 Dorothy Slade, Treasurer
 Bill Penn, editor: pennwma@aol.com

Program Notes - May 21, 2009

Program: Members of the Eastside Elementary School Fifth Grade History Club spoke on Harrison history topics. President Bob Owen announced that **Grist Mill Day** had been cancelled this year due to an illness in the Kelly family. **2009**

Officers Nominated: Bob announced the slate of nominees for officers as follows: President - Billy Fowler; Vice President - Bob Owen; Treasurer - Dorothy Slade; Secretary - Marilynn Bell. Elections will be at the June meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

Motion to Approve Talks with City/County

Bob and Billy Fowler reported that County Judge Executive Alex Barnett and Mayor Pro-tem Jack Keith had both contacted Bob concerning the urgent need for the historical society to release our option to purchase the land owned by Jess Burrier. We explained that the articles of incorporation and by-laws both give the board the right to conduct the business of the society but we wanted to know that the membership supported what we were doing. A motion was made, seconded and passed with no opposition for Bob and Billy Fowler to negotiate on behalf of the historical society on this matter and to make the decision that we feel is appropriate at the proper time. Basically a vote of good faith from the membership that they feel we will do what is best when the time comes and that they support whatever decision we make.

(Reported by Billy Fowler)



Members of the Eastside Elementary School Fifth Grade History Club
 Photo by Sharon Fowler.

President's Corner

Bob Owen
 robert_owen@bellsouth.net

This will be my final column. The following people volunteered to be nominated as offices at the June meeting for the coming year. Billy Fowler, president, Bob Owen, vice-president, Marilynn Bell, secretary, and Dorothy Slade, treasurer. A special thanks to Billy and Marilynn for stepping up to the roles. I want to thank all who supported me during my terms as president.

Many people commented on missing Grist Mill day this year. As many of you are aware this event sponsored by the Kelly families and requires a great effort on their part. Unfortunately, health issues required that the event be cancelled this year. Again, on behalf of the Society, I extend our best wishes for a successful outcome to the health issues.

As a reminder, our guest presenter for June will be Mr. Kevin Stonerock, who will be presenting a program titled "Billy Yank-Common Soldier for the Union and will include some Civil War songs. The program will last about 55-60 minutes and should be a treat for all. I request that all members attend and bring a guest or two so that we can have a good sized audience. This program is being jointly sponsored by the Cynthiana-Harrison County Library. The June meeting is scheduled for June 18th.

As my final request, I ask every member to recruit one new member, someone who is interested in history and is willing to commit time and effort to our organization. This means attending the meetings and lending active support to its operation. We need some youth in the organization. Tally Ho!!

Harrison County History Calendar

June 18 - Kevin Stonerock, who will present "Billy Yank-Common Soldier for the Union" and Civil War History Through Song.

June 19-21 - Battle of Cynthiana - Elks Farm.

Saturday, June 20 -

9 am-5 pm: Period Shopping/Vendors

2 pm: Battle of Cynthiana;

8 pm: Period Style Dance

Sunday, June 21-

9 am-4 pm: Period Shopping/Vendors ;

10 am: Church Services

2 pm: Battle of Cynthiana

June 27 - CHS reunion 5:30 pm Elk's Club, Cynthiana, on the Oddville Pike.

Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum

Martha Barnes, President

Civil War Memorabilia in Museum

Cynthiana and Harrison County have many significant ties to the Civil War. A number of persons (especially our editor) have worked to preserve those portions of our community's history. The Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum has in its collection several special items related to the Civil War.

James Evans Wilson has loaned his great-grandfather's Union uniform to the museum. Captain James Madison Wilson volunteered to the Union Army when the Civil War began in 1861. He eventually became captain of Company A, 18th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Richard T. Wilson, another of Captain Wilson's great grandsons, has loaned his sword, blanket, belt and buckle.

Cannonballs of three sizes from the Cynthiana battles are also in the museum. Both Burton Kimbrough and Hallie Martin loaned cannonballs. The largest is from the James S. Whaley collection. Charlie Switzer purchased the cannon-

ball at the Whaley auction and presented it to the museum. During the 1864 battle, Federal Adjutant Edmund Wood and another young man hid in the courthouse clock tower when Confederates surrounded the building. A bayonet scabbard, later found in the clock tower, is believed to have belonged to one of these men. The scabbard is on display at the museum due to the generosity of Robert Lake.

Of course, the old covered bridge was an important site during the Civil War and there are a multitude of bridge items and pictures on display. Other Civil War memorabilia include flags, swords, bullets, "the cannonball hole," pictures, and books.

The museum now has a rare set of 103 original letters written from William Jones to his beloved, Mary B. Philips, of Oddville during the Civil War. Jones enlisted in the 7th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry on Sept. 1, 1862. He was captured twice by Confederate forces. The museum received the intriguing letters from Bobby Jones and his sister, Joann Whiteker, the great-grandchildren of William Jones.

Harrison County, Kentucky, Historical Publications

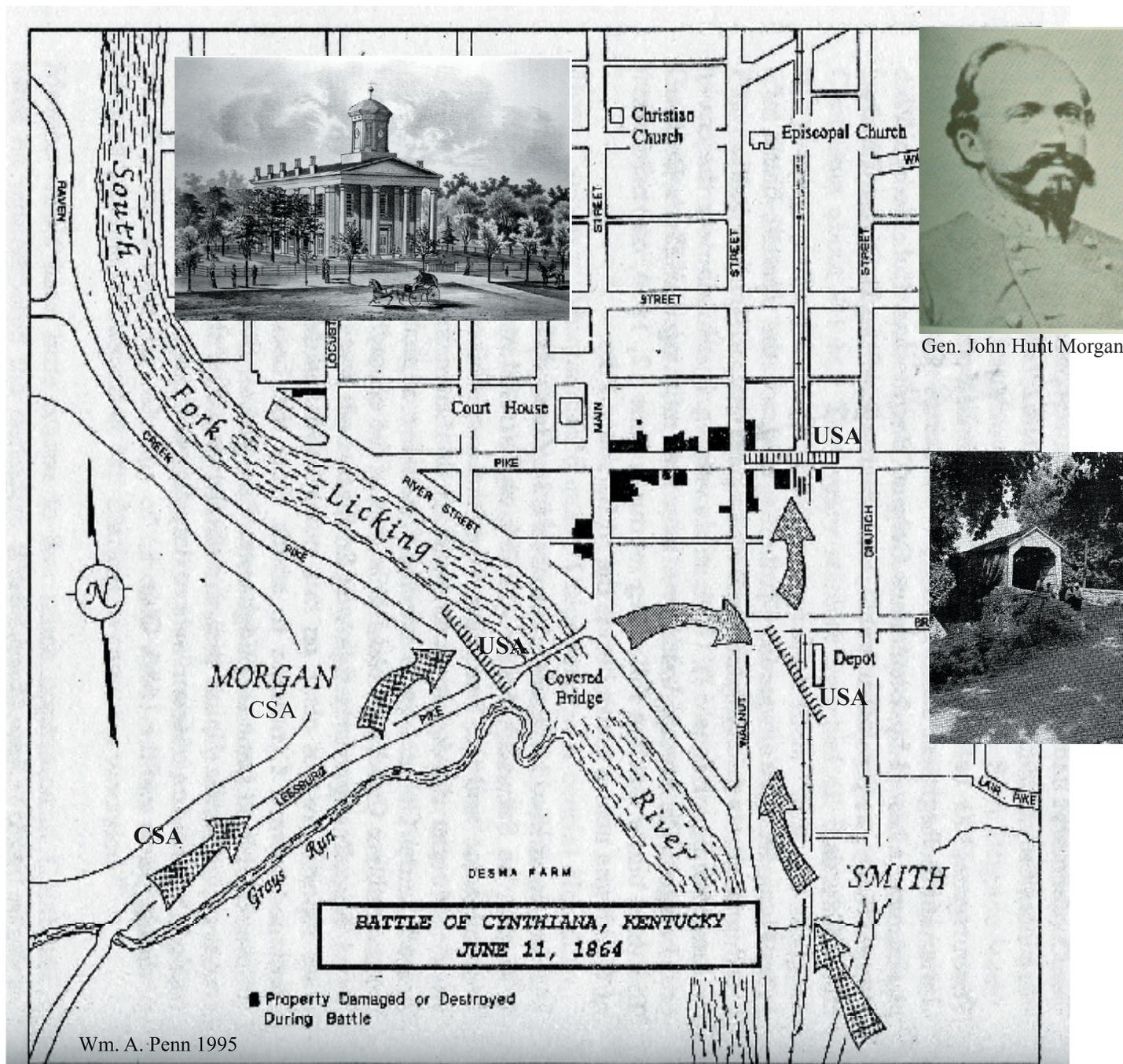
available from Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum, 124 South Walnut Street, P.O. Box 411, Cynthiana, KY 41031 (859-234-7179);

- Boyd, Lucinda, *Chronicles of Cynthiana*. This is a reprint of the rare 1894 edition, which includes family histories, the famous account of David Sheely and his ghost, and other historical sketches and scattered accounts of persons and events connected with Cynthiana and Harrison County. 262 pp. Hardbound. \$20.00.
- June 1896 *Cynthiana Democrat* reprint. This was a special edition with biographical sketches and photographs of prominent men and women; many photographs of buildings; city/county government, church and school information is included. 24 pp. Paperback, 12"x18". \$5.00
- *Cynthiana Since 1790*. Virgil Peddicord (1986). Mr. Peddicord attempted to list the owners/businesses located on each lot from the founding of the city through the mid-1980s, including subdivisions added through 1923. 171 pp. (See separate index below). Paperback. \$20.00
- *Index - Cynthiana Since 1790* (William A. Penn). Mr. Peddicord did not prepare a comprehensive index for his book. This supplemental index contains about 3,500 names and a reference city street map. 30 pp. Paperback. \$3.00
- *Writings of Colonel William M. Moore, (1837-1927)* compiled by Andrew B. "Andy" Peak (2002). Includes 1921-1922 articles he wrote for the *Cynthiana Democrat* about his life. 10 family photographs; index; paperback, 71 pp. \$10.00/\$3.00 shipping. Limited supply.
- *This Old House* by Katherine Wilson. Now back in print, this book tells the stories of twenty-six early Harrison Co. houses and the families who have occupied them. 70 pp., new index, paperback. \$15.00 (An index is available for earlier editions, which had no index).
- *Cromwell's Comments*, by John M. Cromwell (1862-1951) is a reprint of Cromwell's 1928-1941 *Cynthiana Democrat* columns on the history of Cynthiana (Harrison Co., KY). William A. Penn and George D. Slade, editors. Paperback; preface; 2 maps; 21 photos; 4 illus.; annotated; index; 200 pp. (*Cynthiana Democrat*, 2002), \$10 plus \$3 shipping.

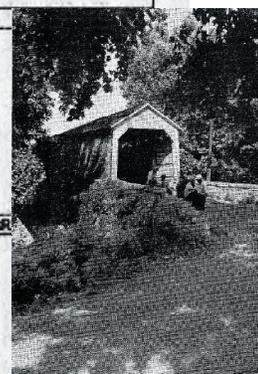
Shipping/handling for above books: Please include a handling and shipping fee of \$4.00 for first book (unless otherwise noted above), \$2.50 for each additional book; you will be notified if special shipping fees apply. No shipping fee on *Index - Cynthiana Since 1790*, if ordered with the book. Make checks/money orders payable to "Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum." No credit cards. Prices/fees subject to change.

Second Battle of Cynthiana

June 11, 1864—Covered Bridge



Gen. John Hunt Morgan



Morgan's Raiders, with 1,200 men, again attacked Cynthiana on June 11, 1864. The battle took place in three locations: The covered bridge, Keller's Bridge and on June 12, the present site of Battle Grove Cemetery. On June 11th, Colonel Garis defended Cynthiana with 300 men of the 168th Ohio and the local Home Guards under Colonel George W. Berry. At dawn, Morgan attacked at the covered bridge and Magee Hill. The Union troops first

retreated to the depot, and then fled toward Pike Street, where they fired from buildings. To flush out Union soldiers, and with the excuse he had no artillery, Morgan ordered several buildings to be set fire. The flames spread rapidly, consuming thirty-seven downtown structures (shown on map). Col. Garis and his men surrendered after using the Rankin Hotel and courthouse for protection. Colonel Berry was mortally wounded at the depot.

Eyewitness account: William C. Davis and Meredith L. Swentor, editors, Bluegrass Confederate: The Headquarters Diary of Edward O. Guerrant (U. Press of Kentucky, 1999) 472-475. Captain Guerrant was an Confederate adjutant under Colonel Henry Giltner.

Friday 10th June 1864:

“Robbed Lexington. Pillaged Lexington. Lexington defended by negro troops against white plunderers. I did not get into the city, but saw much of what came out of it. Our brigade was kept out of town until it was ordered through its outskirts or back streets, out of range of the shells of the Fort [Clay], whose cannon were booming away at us as we passed. The 2d (Calico) Brigade entered the city by or before daylight, got all they could carry by 9 A.M. & moved out on the Georgetown pike part in advance & part in Rear of us, & part in our column. They were laden to the guards with calico by the bolt, silks, satins, baby shoes, breeches by the dozen, (tried to beg one pair for one of my couriers who was ‘out.’ No go) silver plate, silver watches, gold watches, silver prize cups, & pitchers, strung on a string, boots by the bag full, &c.... The ‘bumming’ process has greatly demoralized all the men, one corps by participation, another by association....

“Our route now via Cynthiana, Augusta, Maysville, Lewis Co., & Sandy, to Virginia. Sent two verbal couriers to Capt. Jenkins, advising him of the change of programme. It was induced by the fear or knowledge of superior forces in vicinity of Frankfort, Danville, Camp Nelson, &c....

“We marched all evening & all night in rear of 2d. Brigade which had been left in front by reversing the order of march. Its members, falling out after horses, were running up & down & through our brigade all night, very much to its disorganization & the complaint of the officers.

“We rode all night, a long, tiresome ride. Many of the men asleep, all broken down. O how tired did I get of going, going, going, my eyelids heavy as curtains of lead: with hardly strength enough to hold them up, and despite every effort I would sometimes fall asleep, too sound to dream, & ride along until some other sleeper, or some passing ‘bummer’ jostled me unceremoniously awake. So we went along, half the time in this world, & half the time dead asleep in another.

“Our brigade still had charge of the prisoners captured at Mt. Sterling, some 225 or 250, Lt. Thomas in command, secured loose & led pressed horses enough to mount the most of them, for many of them are breaking down, after the long & painful march on foot from Mt. Sterling since yesterday morning. They impeded our march very much, as our Brigade marched in their rear. At Newtown we left the Georgetown road, & turned to the left on the Cynthiana [and Leesburg] road. Just here we heard cannonading towards our rear, which we supposed to be at Lexington, or at Frankfort, As Capt. Cooper had gone there to make a demonstration....

The force at Cynthiana understood to be about 500 ‘Hundred Day Men.’ But the country people told us the cars had been busy bringing up heavy reinforcements in the last twenty four hours.

Saturday 11 June 1864:

“A little after daylight we arrived in three or four miles of Cynthiana. Here we overtook Genl. Morgan, who had just sent his own, (2d.) Brigade by the right road [Leesburg/Edgewater Pike intersection] to cross the river [on New Lair Pike] & fall in rear of the Enemy. We were to move on him & attack him in front.

“By a circuitous route we reached the hill overlooking Cynthiana from the west side, dismounted & moved upon the enemy [168th Ohio] formed behind a rock fence, about the time we heard the guns of the 2d. Brigade.

“We flanked the rock fence, routed the Yankees who ‘skedaddled’ at treble quick to town across the bridge. Some 50 or 100 were captured before getting to the river however. Our men moved down to the river, & fired across a stream of stragglers running from the town down the river. The Col. sent Col. Trimble 10th Ky. Cav. to cut off their retreat by the bridge about a mile or two below town, & at the same time moved the rest of the Brigade across the bridge into town, in the houses of which the Enemy now took refuge, as at Mt. Sterling. They raked the streets everywhere, & no head was safe around a corner. No alternative apparently was left but to burn the house occupied, & Gen. Morgan was not slow to apply the torch. Unfortunately the wind was blowing immediately over the largest block of business houses in the little town, very much to our regret & mortification

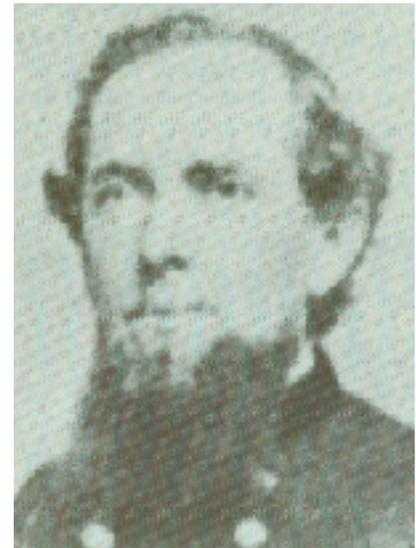
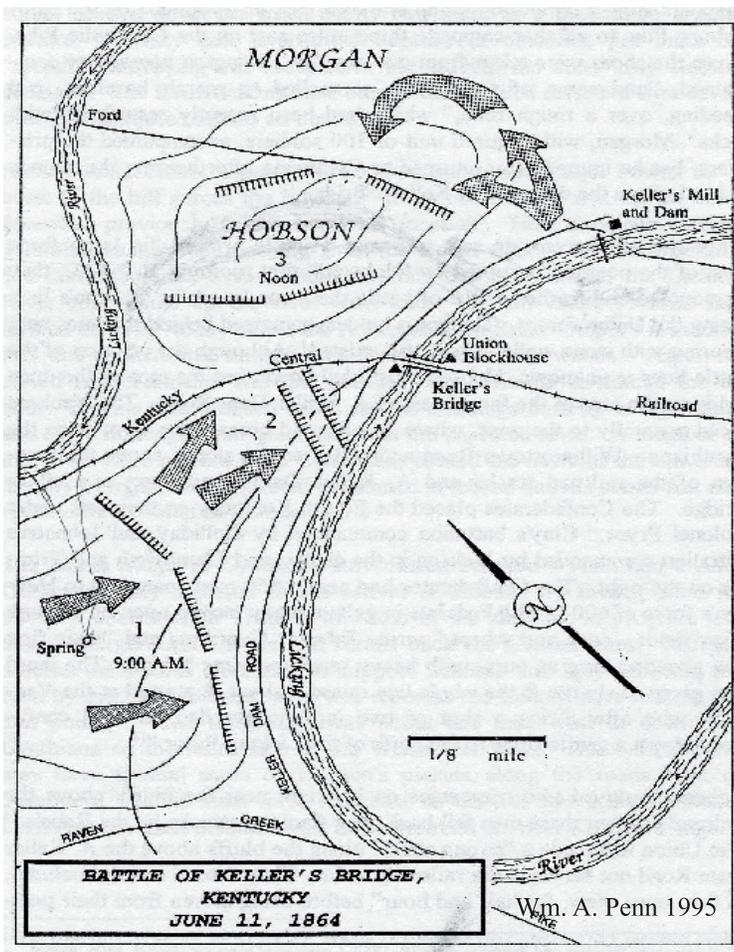
“Col. Berry, Prov. Marshall of the District, & Comdg. the forces in Cynthiana, was killed. All of his command surrendered as soon as they saw the burning begin. Some 200 I suppose surrendered to us & about the same number to Genl. Morgan. This occurred about 7 & 8 A. M. on 11 June ‘64.

“About the time the main body of the Enemy in town had surrendered, Col. Giltner recd. a courier from Col. Trimble, stating that he had met a large force of the enemy at the Bridge below Cynthiana, [171st Ohio under Hobson] & was compelled fall back, & was now holding a position against great odds. The Col. Immediately withdrew his brigade from the town, & went to support Trimble....

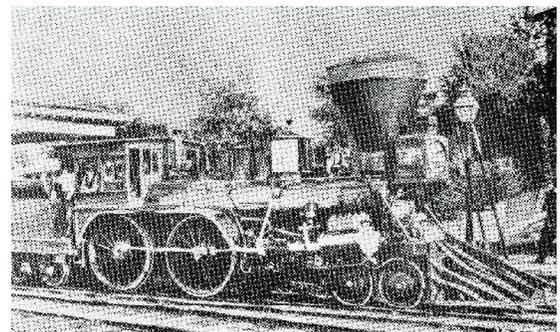
“I was in Cynthiana but a few moments as our brigade passed through. It’s hubbub, confusion, blackened walls, & sacked storehouses, wounded, prisoners, & soldiers inquiring their way had no attractions for me.”

Second Battle of Cynthiana

June 11, 1864—Keller's Bridge



General Edward Hobson, 171st Ohio National Guard.



Hobson's regiment arrived from Cincinnati near dawn at Keller's Bridge on three trains using this type locomotive.

About dawn, June 11, 1864, and at first unaware of the battle raging downtown Cynthiana, the 171st Ohio National Guard under Gen. Edward Hobson arrived by three trains one mile north of Cynthiana at Keller's Bridge. The Battle of Keller's Bridge (a railroad bridge) raged for five hours and the opposing forces moved through three positions: (See map #1) A small Confederate detachment stumbled upon Hobson about 7 a.m. and then Morgan sent in more forces about

9 a.m. on the back pastures of the present Switzer farm. (See map #2) Hobson retreated north to the adjoining hill leaving a deep railroad cut between the opposing forces. (See map #3) After three more hours of intense fighting, with the Federals in a low area of the field, Hobson surrendered at noon after being surrounded.

The Battle of Keller's Bridge Battlefield is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Eyewitness account: A Union soldier, Spencer George Frary: Diary of 171st ONG at the Battle of Keller's Bridge, June 11, 1864. Manuscript in Western Reserve Historical Society, Library Reference Division - LRS.

"The 171st left Sandusky [Ohio] on box cars eve of the [June] 9th; arrived at Covington Ky afternoon of the 10th. At eleven oclock that eve we were loded in box cars at Covington for Lexington to head off Morgan who was making his way north with 3000 [actually 1,200] cavalry. Two hundred cavalry many from Cincinnati loaded on same train to accompany us on our perilous way south.

"We reached the Licking River near Cynthiana Ky. about 4 oclock morning of the 11th June, found the bridge across the river had been burned during the night by Morgans men. We left the cars at this place. Amuniton boxes unloaded and each soldier ordered to fill their cartridge boxes with 60 rounds. After the boys of the 171st left the train, the cars were ordered back where the cavalry horses could be unloaded. Morgan's men had come up to the rear, torn up the rails, and burned the cars, also captured the 200 cavalry horses, so that our means of escape were cut off. The boys of the 171st having had nothing to eat since leaving Cincinnati at 4 oclock in the morning commenced building fires to make coffee when rapid firing was heard at Cynthiana a short distance away. Breakfast was abandoned and each company ordered to be in readiness for action. At Cynthiana were 4 companies of the 168th Ohio, they were attacked by Morgans guerrillas and after severe fighting were taken prisoners by Genl. Morgan and city buildings burned.

"Cynthiana being about a mile distant from where we were, could not be seen on account of hills and woods interveing. We could not tell who held the city. Genl Hobson commanding our forces came to me and asked if we had a brave and trusty man in our company who would cross the river and ascertain the strength of Morgans forces saying it would be a dangerous undertaking! After calling for a volunteer E. Smith Woodworth stepped out saying he would make the perilous attempt which he did with success and credit to himself, although he came very near being captured. (I suppose friend Woodworth is with you and he can tell you of his escape). Before Woodworths return we were attacked by 1500 of Morgans cavalry commanded by the Rebel Col. Greenwood [actually Cols. Trimble, Chenoweth, Jackson, and Holladay] and after sever fighting from 6 to eleven oclock Col. Greenwood sent a courier to Morgan for reinforcements saying help or they must give up.

"When Genl Morgan came with 1500 of his Texas Guerrillas and attackd us in our rear. To save our boys from being all cut to pieces Genl Hobson was obliged to surrender. Previous to this the fighting was terrific - thirteen nobel boys of our reft. were killed, and a large number severely wounded. Henry A. Millilliken, Ed D. Earl and Wm. Reed of [illegible] were killed - Milliken & Earl shot through the

breast, and Reed through the head. I went to see my dear friend Milliken as he lay bleeding from the gastly wound through the lungs. He sent a message by me to his wife. He lived nearly an hour after he was shot by a rebel bullet.

"After our surrender the guns and cartridge boxes were taken by the Rebels, piled up and burned. We were then marched through Cynthiana, halted, counted, and names taken. After which we were marched under strong guard 4 miles south [actually northeast] from Cynthian to a large field. It being now dark, we were left to take care of ourselves. In this large field, surrounded by over 1000 of Morgans Cavalry, having had no sleep and nothing to eat since we left Covington, we huddled together on the grass supperless. The next morning at daylight we were ordered to move immediately - destination Libby Prison, Richmond - For 20 miles some of the time on double quick, guarded by Rebel Cavalry, we reached a branch of the Licking River which we were ordered to cross. Some amusing incidents happened in wading the river which was up to the arm pits. When going down the bank to the river Capt. Mason caught one of the Rebels horses jumped on, told Goodell and myslef to get on behind, before half across the horse fell and we three went in the river.

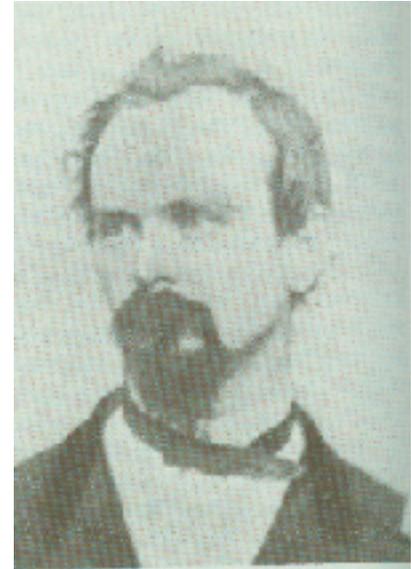
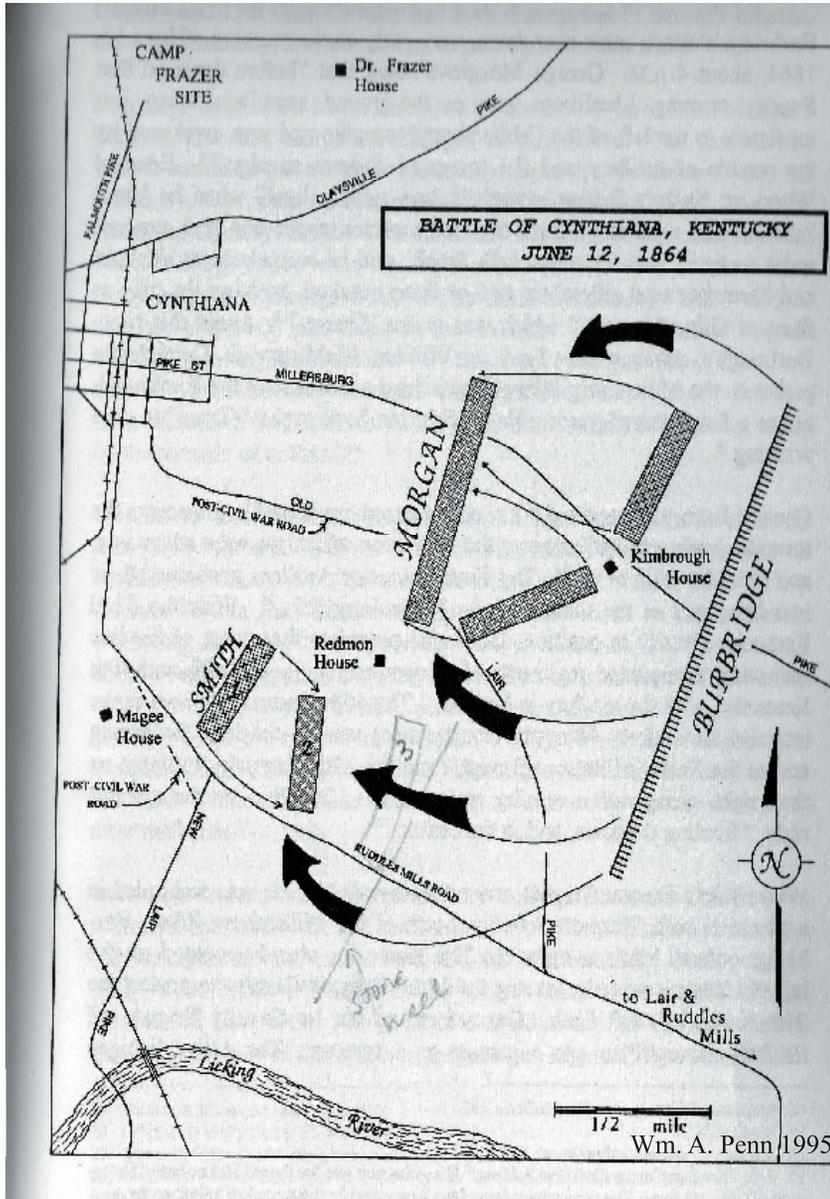
"After crossing this river we learned that Morgan had been attacked near Cynthiana (a part of his cavalry brought this) early in the morning by Genl Burbridge and many of his guerrillas and Genl Morgan killed [Morgan wasn't shot]. Now being afraid of being overtaken at Claysville the prisoners were ordered to halt and officers to the front. (I will say here there were about 1200 captured tho 4 companies of the 168th Regt & officers also part of the 12th Ohio Cavalry captured two days before at Mount Sterling). At this point the men were drawn up in line and gave us our destiny saying they were going to take the officers to Richmond. If we would agree to go peacibly they would furnish us horses to ride if not they would trot us there on foot.

"Of course we all demured and requested Maj. Allen to send for Morgan. After a long parley Morgan agreed if we would each sign a written parole not to engage in any military service against the Southern Confederacy until duly exchanged with officers of equal rank & with ourselves not wishing to go to Libby we signed the parole a copy of which I have.

"This was about one oclock [illegible] Sunday June 12th with mercury 100 as were now over 20 miles from the Ohio River which we made that eve having marched over 40 miles with another day without any thing to eat. The next morning we hailed a boat and ordered them to take us to Cincinnati the day following what was left of the 171st Regt were sent to Camp Dennison Ohio."

Second Battle of Cynthiana

June 12, 1864



General Stephen G. Burbridge

June 14, 1864—

Gen. S. G. Burbridge:

Have just received your dispatch of action at Cynthiana. Please accept my congratulations and thanks for yourself.

A. Lincoln

Morgan was optimistic he could defeat General Stephen G. Burbridge, who was pursuing the raiders from Paris. Morgan placed his dismounted cavalry about one mile east of Cynthiana on the Millersburg Pike near Poplar Hill, home of John W. Kimbrough east of the present site of Battle Grove Cemetery. Colonel Smith, protecting Morgan's right line, was deployed on Magee Hill, a site overlooking the New Lair Pike near the present Harrison County High School. Burbridge, with 2,400 men and two cannons, arrived at dawn June 12th on the Millersburg Pike and

attacked Morgan's position. Morgan's center and left line soon collapsed and they were forced to run for their horses. Colonel Smith held Morgan's right line somewhat longer behind a stone wall, but both a determined Union frontal attack and a cavalry flanking movement from the south compelled Smith's last resisting men to retreat. Morgan escaped and his men who were not captured dispersed in all directions, ending the last Civil War engagement in Harrison County

Eyewitness account: John Weatherred's diary entry for June 1864, while he was assigned to Capt. Kirkpatrick's Second Battalion Cavalry, CSA, part of Colonel Smith's Second Brigade of Morgan's Command.

“About the middle of March 1864 we were ordered (Kirkpatrick Battalion) to report to Wythville, Virginia, to the west Virginia department of Lee's Army. We marched from Atlanta to South Carolina and through the state and through North Carolina. We marched leisurely along. We stopped 10 days at Spartanburg, South Carolina. The good people brought us into camp many good things to eat. In fact they furnished us very near all we eat on the entire march. And the darkies would come in at night and sing and dance for us. We were treated extra well all the way to Wythville, Virginia. Morgan's command was very popular through the south because perhaps we were better advertised from the raids we made behind the Federal Army at different times.

“We soon mounted the footmen¹ and moved on towards Lexington, Ky. This was known as Morgan's June Raid² into Kentucky and his last raid. I got a good horse in Lexington, Ky and left my chestnut sorrel in place of this bay horse.

“We had more or less fighting each day. Quite a fight at Georgetown, Ky., the 10th³ and on to Cynthiana, the 11th of June, where we had quite a fight with Colonel Berry's regiment, who fought us from the brick building.⁴ Colonel Berry was killed. We had to set fire to some of the buildings before they would surrender.⁵ We lost several, killed and wounded. Nathan Lyons was shot by my side and died soon after. I was slightly wounded on the back of the middle finger of my left hand, but not disabled: all the prisoners were put under guard and fifteen hundred or more were captured of General Hobson's command,⁶ then we had more prisoners than we had men and could have mounted them and carried them out to Dixie if Morgan had left Cynthiana that afternoon of the 11th of June. This raid to this time had been very successful and had General Morgan left this place at 6 P.M. he could have got away with all the prisoners but by staying all night he lost more than half of his command and got away with a few hundred: at day break on the morning of the 12th, General Burbridge with about 5000 federals⁷ had him very nearly surrounded and captured many and scattered or divided the command.

“Morgan got away with 4 or 5 hundred through the eastern Kentucky mountains and quite a few came out by other routes. We lost over half of the twenty two hundred men we went into Kentucky with. After the fighting on the 11th I had charge of prisoners until they were paroled and just about sun down I was detailed on sergeant of a picket squad of 12, with Lieut.. Arthur Andrews chief in command was ordered two at a time on guard on the bank of the river⁸ every two hours through the night and at day break the fight began at Cynthiana and continued for half an hour or more: I then rode up the rise in the direction of the town and the fighting and I saw several hundred Blue

Coats coming towards our picket post. I would get orders from the yanks: they charged us and we had run to the river and cross with them shooting at us. This two or three hundred did not follow us very far. We left them behind but very soon, passing through a long lane we saw many Blue Coats meeting us at the other end of the lane, so we had to break through the plank fence and through corn fields and wheat fields, for some distance, but we out ran them and got away, of course there were many shots fired by the pursuers and pursued but none of us were hit by their bullets. That night we camped in a sugar orchard and the owner gave us feed for our horses and selves and plenty of maple sugar and syrup and he would bring it to us after dark. We remained here three days and two nights and left after dark the third day and marched all night and slept and lay in the woods all day and marched all night. After this we were well in the mountains of eastern Kentucky and we made our way through to Abingdon, Virginia about the 23rd or 24th of June. Capt. Peter Everett came to us rather we caught up with him at the sugar orchard. So he was our commander from there to Abingdon: he seemed to know the country we came through very well. This ended the June raid and the last raid and John H. Morgan's command ever made.”

(Endnotes)

¹ On this raid many of Morgan's men were dismounted and it wasn't until reaching the Blue Grass area that they captured horses from Union cavalry and stables in Lexington and central Kentucky horse farms.

² Now referred to as the Morgan's Last Kentucky Raid.

³ No skirmish or action at Georgetown has been found, so it is unclear what fight took place here.

⁴ Apparently he is referring to the brick depot, for this is where Colonel Berry was mortally wounded. He actually died a few days later.

⁵ CSA reports for this battle stated they had to set the fire because the Union soldiers were firing from the protection of buildings and the Rebels had no artillery with them.

⁶ The prisoners were from the Battle of Keller's Bridge, June 11, 1864, mainly 171st Ohio National Guard and 168th ONG.

⁷ Burbridge actually had 2,400 soldiers.

⁸ This picket post was probably at near a road into Cynthiana, possibly on the present New Lair Road., or between there and the covered bridge in town. The lane could not be identified.

Source: The Wartime Diary of John Weatherred - 1864 - <http://userweb.nashville.com/~jack.masters/we1864.htm>.