



Harrison Heritage News

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A Special Message from President Don Wagoner

On May 15, 2014, nine of Mr. Jeff Kenney's Eastside Elementary students presented an excellent program to the Harrison County Historical Society. It was evident that each student had done much research of the person they portrayed and had well prepared themselves for their presentations. A grade of A+ to each of them.

Unfortunately, I don't believe the society itself deserves such a grade. We had only five members present to see the nine students make their presentations. They outnumbered us nearly two to one. It is the same problem that continues to plague the Historical Society: the lack of a strong turnout by the membership at the monthly meetings.

In June, July, and August 2014, we have power speakers scheduled to present top notch programs. If we continue to have only a few members in attendance for each of these presentations it will have a detrimental impact on our ability to earn their respect, to get these experts to return, and may even hinder our ability to expect others to accept our invitations to make presentations at our monthly meetings.

A lack of members' participation is detrimental to the Harrison County Historical Society. At the monthly meetings, ideas can be presented, discussed, voted on and pro-

grams/projects initiated. There, volunteers can come forward to supervise and join others to do the work of bringing forth successful accomplishments.

Several months ago, I requested that each member recruit two new members by June 30, 2014. So far, five new members have been recruited, and I recruited all five of them. IF WE FAIL TO GET SOME NEW BLOOD INTO THIS OUTFIT AND OUR CURRENT MEMBERS DO NOT BECOME AN ACTIVE FORCE IN OUR COMMUNITY TO PRESERVE OUR HISTORY AND ATTEND THE MEETINGS, THEN WE MAY HAVE TO DISCONTINUE SPEAKERS' APPEARANCES AND HAVE ONLY QUARTERLY OR SEMI-ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETINGS, WHILE CONTINUING TO PUBLISH THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. A WEAK ATTENDANCE AT MONTHLY MEETINGS REFLECTS POORLY ON THE MEMBERSHIP.

It is not my desire, duty, or job to be your adversary, nor shall I become one. It is my desire that we close ranks, bring in new members, and have all of us become active in discovering and preserving our history while looking out together in the same direction and moving forward as an organization. It's not too late to recover and have a bright future, but it is up to you.

150th Anniversary of the Civil War:

“You Never Saw Such Running” - Confederate Retreat After the Second Battle of Cynthiana

The Second Battle of Cynthiana, June 11-12, 1864, consisted of three separate battles. The first of two battles on June 11, took place when Confederate General John Hunt Morgan's 1,200 raiders surrounded and captured a small garrison of the 168th Ohio and some Harrison County Home Guards. There were two Union generals, however, on their way to Cynthiana to trap Morgan before he could get away. One was General Edward Hobson, who arrived with a regiment of the 171st Ohio by rail at Keller's Bridge, one mile north of town, about the time the battle in town was ending. Morgan's men stumbled on the Union reinforcements and forced them to surrender after the Federal forces were surrounded in a horseshoe bend of the South Fork Licking River. So ended the first day of fighting at Cynthiana, with Morgan's raiders victorious.

The next day, June 12, did not have such a fortunate ending for the Rebels. The second of

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Harrison County Historical Society

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Above - Mr. Kinney's Eastside history class. Left to Right: Kennedy Sampter as Fred Bear; Madalynn Jones as Deborah Samson; Katy Roberts as Henry Clay; Caden Maners as John Smith; Ben Lemmings as Albert Einstein; Alec Davisson as Theodore Roosevelt; Emily Crowther as Anne Frank; Elizabeth Allison as Amelia Earhart; Taylor Ross as Pocahontas.

Historical Society Meeting - May 15, 2014

President Don Wagoner called the meeting to order and read the treasurer's report. He asked members to approve donating one of the Harrison County Family History books to the Museum and one to the Methodist Church. The motion passed. Don announced the gift of \$1400.00 from the Lebus family. He also announced the donation of copies of Civil War-era newspapers to the museum mentioning Morgan's Cynthiana raids for the purpose of research by Bill Penn.

On Wednesday, May 21st Don will be a guest on the radio station in Carlisle to promote the Family History book among residents who have roots in Harrison County. Don is in the process of organizing a Silver Eagles fly over for September or October. Details will be announced at the June meeting.

Jeff Kinney's Eastside History class presented a Wax Museum with students dressed and posing as characters they had studied. When approached by an adult, the "figures" came to life and gave details of the character and how they figured in our history. Represented by the students were: Henry Clay (Katy Roberts), Theodore Roosevelt (Alec Davisson), Capt. John Smith (Caden Maners), Pocahontas (Taylor Ross), Anne Frank (Emily Crowther), Amelia Earheart (Elizabeth Allison), Albert Einstein (Ben Lemmings), Deborah Samson (Madalynn Jones), and Fred Bear (Kennedy Sampter) We offer hearty support and encouragement to these students and say "Well Done."

Submitted by Marilynn Bell, Secretary

Officers Election Notice

In accordance with the Harrison County Historical Society bylaws, the election of officers will take place at the June 19 meeting.

Bill Penn, Chairman, Election Committee

Welcome New Members

Joseph Lemmon, Longmont, Colorado

Janet K. Pease, Alvada, Colorado

Harrison History Calendar

June 13-15 - Battles of Cynthiana Reenactment, Elks Farm, Oddville Pike. Info: Michael Brown, (859-533-8078; (mwbrown@sjhlex.org).

June 19 - Historical Society program on 2nd Battle of Cynthiana 150th Anniversary- Bill Penn. 7 pm 101 E. Pleasant St.

June 28 - CHS Alumni Banquet at the Prizing House, 329 South Church Street, Cynthiana. Social Hour: 5-6 pm. Buffet Dinner: 6 pm; Reservations required: \$20.00 per person. Tickets will be available at some downtown stores (notice will be in the Democrat). You can mail checks payable to C.H.S. Alumni to Elaine Blackburn, 50 Eastland Estates Drive, Cynthiana, KY 41031.

July 17 - Sam Flora, Morgan's Men Association (Descendents of men who rode with John Hunt Morgan's Rebel Raiders)

Info at :http://members.tripod.com/~Morgans_Men/

Aug 21 - Brandon Slone, archivist, Military Records and Research Branch, Dept. of Military Affairs, will speak on "Kentucky Military Records." <http://www.dma.ky.gov/hr/>.

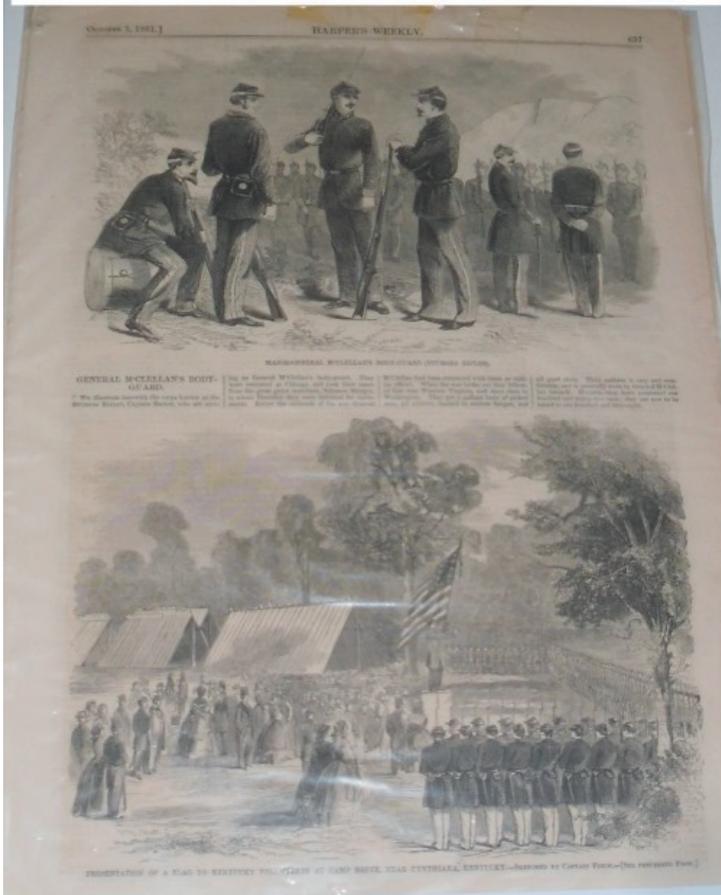


Kenny Simpson, Curator



www.HarrisonCountyKy.US/Museum

ON DISPLAY AT CYNTHIANA HARRISON CO. MUSEUM



CIVIL WAR ERA NEWSPAPERS WITH ARTICLES AND SKETCHES OF LOCAL INTEREST

CIVIL WAR ARTIFACTS IN THE MUSEUM

Newspapers - The Museum has a collection of original Civil War newspapers with articles about the First and Second Battles of Cynthiana. There is also a rare newspaper with an article on the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

Union Uniform - The uniform of a Union officer along with his original sword is displayed.

Letters - The Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum has a remarkable set of nearly one hundred Civil War letters written by William Bosler Jones to his wife Mary Phillips Jones. "Billy" Jones was in the wholesale grocery business in Brooklyn, in northern Kentucky, Billy Jones was married February 17, 1862, to Mary Philips, who was from Oddville, Harrison County, Kentucky. The museum has placed the valuable original letters and envelopes, many with patriotic letter-heads and envelopes with stamps, in safekeeping, but has had the letters carefully transcribed and has placed the typed correspondence in convenient binders for researchers. A companion binder contains photocopies of all of the letters. There is a display case with samples of the letters, family photos, and other memorabilia owned by Jones.

Relics - Cannon balls, bullets, bayonet, musket, and dug military relics from the Cynthiana area. Photos of Harrison County soldiers.

Covered Bridge - Photos and exhibits related to the famous bridge which was the focus of heavy fighting during the First and Second Battles of Cynthiana.

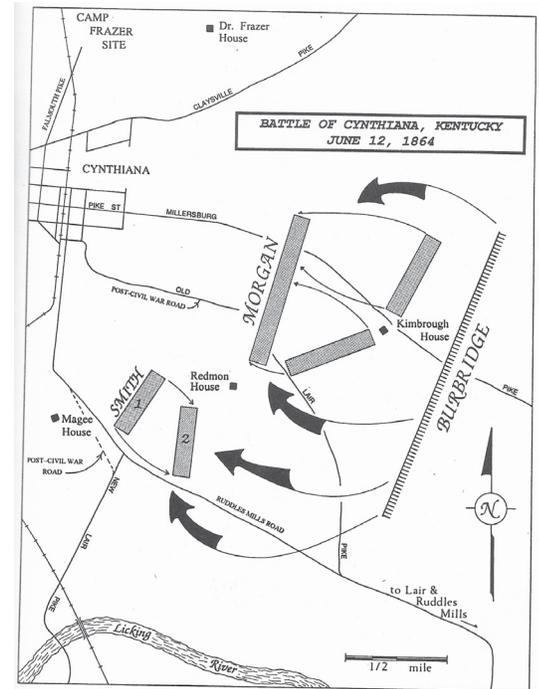
the Union generals chasing Morgan, Stephen Gano Burbridge, arrived at dawn on the east side of town by way of Ruddles Mills and the Millersburg Pike. The 2,400 Federals attacked Morgan's line, which was formed across the ridges in the area now occupied by the Cynthiana Country Club, Poplar Hall, Harrison Memorial Hospital, and Battle Grove Cemetery. More of Morgan's men under Colonel D. Howard Smith were posted near the present water tower and ball fields of Harrison County High School, overlooking the approaches from Lair. After about an hour, the dismounted Confederate soldiers, out of ammunition and outnumbered, ran for their horses. The rest of the story of the retreat follows.

"From this moment was a stampede of the entire command," remembered Confederate soldier John W. Headley. Colonel Garrard watched as Smith's brigade fled west toward the Licking River "over the whole face of the country in front of us." A portion of them went "through the bottom lands to the left of the range of bluffs" through Henry Clay Magee's farm [present site of 3M], while others headed "in a direct line over the high ground" into Cynthiana on the old Ruddles Mills Road, Redmon's farm road (later the Old Lair Pike), and Pike Street. Three companies of the 7th Ohio Cavalry chased some of Smith's men through the fields on the Union far left, and followed the Lair Road into town. Company H captured a Confederate company that fled down a dead-end lane to a stoutly fenced stallion paddock.

Trying in vain to hold eight horses, Confederate John N. Johnson wrote, "...Some of my horses were shot, some got loose, one reclaimed by its owner, and I still held on to one. A pandemonium that was really pitiful, through fields and fences, now and then I would lose one of my horses. As I came down the [Magee] hill to the railroad I looked back and saw a few of our men trying to reach us, the enemy close after them." One was a friend, whose horse Johnson still held. "He just reached me in time, mouth wide open, pale and deathlike, he mounted. We rode hard along the railroad, subjected to a heavy fire from the enemy at close range."

A veteran of the 7th Ohio Cavalry, T. F. Allen, wrote an article in the Cynthiana Log Cabin, September 23, 1898, about a possible Cynthiana reunion of his unit, and mentioned that he visited "that portion of the hills overlooking the south part of the town, where there is now built a very magnificent residence, this being the ground we occupied in the fight of June 12, '64." That residence was Monticello, built in 1883. He did not clarify at what point in the battle they "occupied" the hill; however, the official report of Colonel Garrard of the 7th Ohio Cavalry stated their unit chased Morgan's right line toward Cynthiana across both the bottom-land and the nearby hills, which would have taken them over the site of Monticello. The "occupied" designation did not refer to a camp, for immediately after the battle the 7th Ohio left Cynthiana in hot pursuit of Morgan and did not return. Allen's diary stated: "At the top of the hill I captured a splendid bay colt three years old [and]... I could see the rebels running through Cynthiana and across the bridge."

As the Union troops from the battle on Millersburg Pike occupied the town, George Mosgrove described the scene: "the confusion was indescribable—pandemonium reigned supreme. There was much shooting, swearing and yelling—some from sheer mortification were crying." Morgan's 4th Kentucky troops, whose horses stampeded before they could reach them, were cut off from the main escape routes: the Claysville Pike and the covered bridge leading to the Leesburg Pike and other numerous roads leading south and west of Cynthiana. This is probably where the 9th Michigan Cavalry captured many Rebels trying to reach their horses. Although Col. H. L. Giltner planned a retreat on the Claysville Pike, Union forces occupied that road by the time Morgan issued the order. Federal reports of the battle did not specifically mention capturing Morgan's wagon train or give its location, but a newspaper reporter wrote that wagons and other impediments to a "rapid flight" had been abandoned along the roadway to Claysville. Giltner then ordered a retreat across the covered bridge, but learned Burbridge had closed off that escape route, too. A handful of Morgan's men crossed the bridge just as the Union cavalry approached. "Lieutenant Barbour, Major Gasset, of General Morgan's staff, and I were the last to cross the bridge," John Headley recalled. The only other choice for the panicked Confederates was to ford the river above the bridge under enemy gunfire. From the Leesburg Pike Headley could see Federal soldiers open fire on half a dozen Rebels swimming across the river about 100 yards from the bridge. "We recognized Colonel Martin.... Several



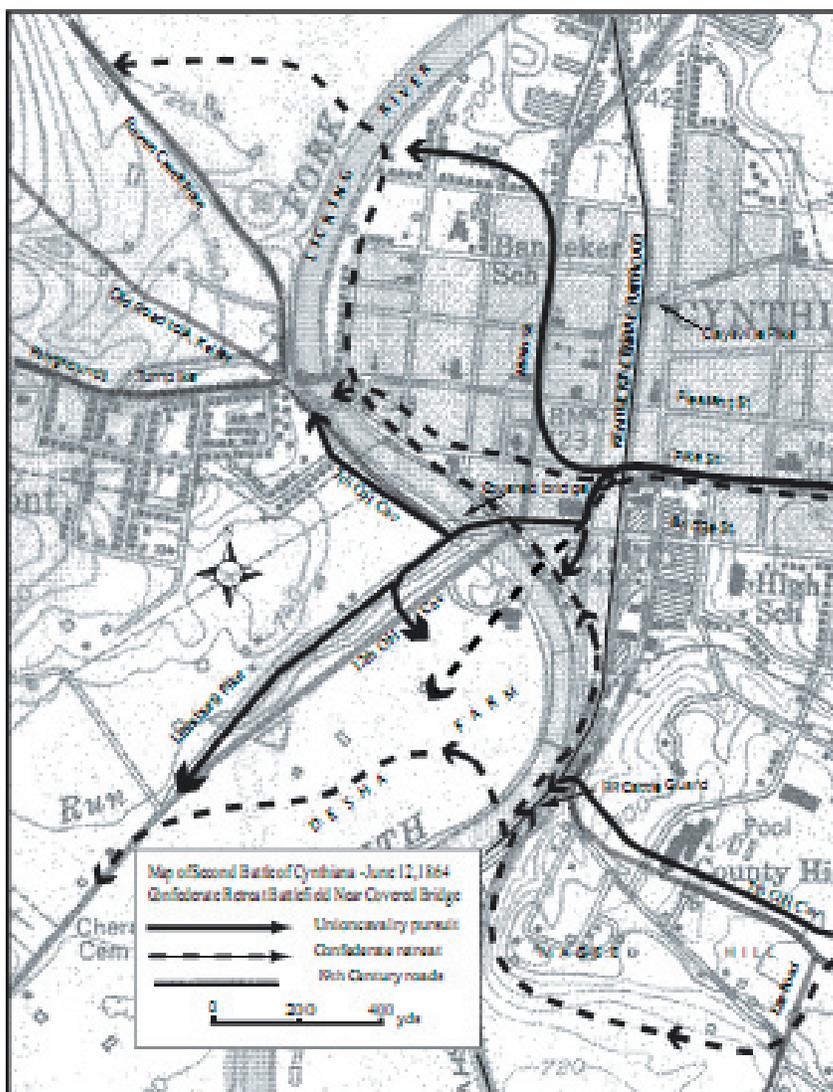
Map of the battle leading up to the retreat described in this article. Wm. A. Penn, 1995

Federals galloped from the bridge to capture them as they came out. Martin was off his horse as it came up the bank, but was trying to mount and succeeded. He then led the squad and opening fire on the enemy, broke through and escaped across the fields along the river.”

Many Rebels, such as John N. Johnson, who fled through the bottom-land of Magee’s farm, followed the railroad tracks toward the covered bridge, but some were cut off by Captain R. C. Rankin and Company E of the 7th Ohio Cavalry at the south edge of town on the narrow strip of land next to the river. As the Rebels approached the crossing, they encountered a railroad cattle dyke or guard. This was where Henry Clay Magee’s pasture ended and a “wagon road” crossed from South Church Street to River Street, later named Water Works/Abdallah Park Road [see illustrations]. A soldier noted that the tracks at this point were enclosed by a board fence, which would have abutted the cattle guard to prevent livestock from walking down the track. The cattle guard was constructed by digging a pit under a section of the tracks and then covered with a row of iron bars on which the tracks were laid. As Johnson rode alongside the railroad tracks, he ran upon the pit, which extended beyond the tracks on each side: “In the cattle guard were men and horses crippled.” To avoid the obstacle, he guided his horse to one side and jumped a stone wall that ran along the tracks near the cattle guard. Soon, Captain Rankin arrived and seeing the Confederates’ predicament “drew his saber and entered the columns cutting it in two, using his saber right and left as he passed up the track to the dyke, the enemy passing on either side, and thereby he cut off and held all that had yet to cross the dyke...” Aided by five comrades, he captured forty-seven Confederates with their horses.

The Yankees “caught the enemy among their horses on the railroad track, between the bluff and the river, a narrow place to operate in.” Morgan’s men attempted to escape by crossing the river’s steep banks. “The river was crowded with men and horses struggling together in the deep water,” wrote a Union soldier. “Many were drowned, and the opportunity was had for firing several hundred shots into them, while on both banks, as well as while in the water.” A Michigan soldier recalled, “In their attempt to cross the River 12 or 15 of them were drowned.” Giltner reported that some 500 Confederates chose to swim the river to avoid being captured: “The men were uncontrollable, every one seeking to make his escape as best he could...throwing away their guns on account of the want of ammunition in swimming the river.”

Another scene of confusion occurred next to the covered bridge as Giltner’s mounted troops attempted to cross, after he ordered a retreat on the Leesburg Pike. “We descended a steep bank and crossed the river under the enemy’s fire from the bridge,” Guerrant recalled, and “the deadly balls of the Yankees fell like vengeful hail drops in the water. Many horses came over riderless and many riders horseless, and they were fortunate who came over at all.” The remnants of Giltner’s men “raised a shout” and charged through the Union line along the pike leading to the covered bridge while



The Desha Farm battlefield, the site of part of the Confederate retreat, remains relatively undisturbed. The area near the present 3M plant was also part of the retreat battlefield.

Map, Wm. A. Penn, 2014

firing pistols and fled down the Leesburg Pike. One Confederate recalled that the rock wall along the river created an additional obstacle. It was the same wall Federal soldiers crouched behind in the previous morning's battle. Captain G. W. Jackson was attempting to cross the river when Federal soldiers shot his horse. Only one other Confederate crossed behind him, and he was too busy cursing and striking his horse with his saber to retrieve Jackson, who then with difficulty waded to shore. Before being captured, he threw his pistols and spurs into the river to prevent the Yankees from using them.

Pvt. William Jones, 7th Ohio Cavalry, wrote about the Confederate retreat to his wife Mary a few days after the battle: "We had a fight with that Dreaded Morgan and whipped him beautifully. You never saw such running in your life. We run them through the town of Cynthiana capturing and killing when they would not stop. There was a great many drowned in Licking trying to cross their by the bridge. I tell you, Mary, I saw sights that day that made me heart sick – dead and wounded lying all around me after the battle." Another 7th Ohio cavalryman, Captain Rankin, captured five Rebels on horseback behind a shop on the river bank.

Colonel Smith and some of his men, cut off from Morgan's planned escape route, became trapped in Cynthiana unable to cross the covered bridge. Smith's horse, "in the confusion, leaped down a steep embankment into the river, taking him almost entirely under and drenching him thoroughly." After they crossed the river, apparently near the west end of Pleasant Street, the pursuing Union troops crossed the covered bridge and moved down the Colemansville (Williamstown) Road in his direction. The Confederates, putting spurs to their horses, charged past the Union soldiers, split into squads, and escaped on back roads. Captain Allen led part of the 7th Ohio across the covered bridge and down the river road in an attempt to overtake a large body of Rebels who crossed the river in town a few blocks north of the bridge. In the close-quarters fighting, Captain Allen and his men captured "these Johnnies we took in 'out of the wet'" as they forded the river. After Allen wounded one Confederate six feet from him, "my next shot was at a fellow who I shot in the head the ball glancing around & coming out his face below the eye. The blood from the man... spilled all over my horse's ears & face." He brushed by a Rebel officer with gold braid on his sleeves, and both fired pistols at each other point blank, but in the confusion and dust and smoke each "missed our mark."

John N. Johnson and others, after jumping their horses over a stone wall to avoid the cattle guard, continued down the riverside streets to the covered bridge, but found it occupied by Federal troops. Riding past it under heavy fire, they rode along the east bank of the river until Federal cavalry appeared from town and cut them off. Johnson later wrote, "The men ahead of me... threw their guns and everything away that encumbered them, forced their horses over the steep bank and down into the [river]. Some were on their horses but did not know how to swim them, some alongside of horse, holding to stirrups... some holding their horses by the tail." Johnson, "with my gun still strapped over my shoulder," and his horse made it to the opposite bank, but his mare received a mortal wound. A fellow soldier riding by his side, John Newberry, was shot in the back of the head. Johnson then grabbed a loose horse and fell in with a group of Confederates led by Colonel Smith going out the Raven Creek (Williamstown) Pike. At an intersection, Smith ordered Johnson to go straight, while he and others turned east. "I suppose he had his own reasons for it, but it sounded queer to me and I always hoped the Yankees got him." Johnson soon joined with 106 mostly unarmed comrades led by Captain William Campbell and eventually reached the Ohio River above Louisville before turning south through Bardstown and on to Tennessee.

By the time the 12th Ohio cavalry arrived at the riverbank, they observed "a number of hats floating in the water, and correctly concluded that a number of the enemy had been drowned in attempting to cross." The regiment at first began to follow the Confederates and ford the "deep and wide" river, but Colonel Bentley arrived and ordered his cavalrymen instead to cross at the less dangerous covered bridge.

Lt. Arthur Andrews had led a squad of twelve Confederates to picket a Licking River ford, apparently at the Lair Road crossing at Kimbrough's Bridge, overnight "until relieved," and refused to allow his men to leave their post until receiving orders, even as a company of Federal cavalry charged them early that June 12 morning. Sgt. John Weathered "told him to get on his horse, that in a moment we would get orders from the yanks." The squad barely escaped while crossing the river under intense fire. Pursuing Federal soldiers captured Lt. Col. Bowles and Lt. Col. Pryor, who were eventually transferred to Johnson's Island prison for the remainder of the war.

About a hundred of Giltner's men on horseback successfully reached Desha's farm on the other side of the Licking River from the town, crossing about a hundred yards from the covered bridge. They found themselves cut off in the river bend by the 12th Ohio Cavalry, who had crossed the covered bridge and "came thundering down the pike." Guerrant recalled, "Among that body of the Enemy [12th Ohio Cavalry] which endeavored to cut us off was a flag bearer, who bore gallantly to the front a most beautiful little U. S. battle flag cut like the 'American Jack.' This saucy fellow, whose cour-

age was not guided by reason, came at headlong speed until he met a squad of charging rebels, when he about-faced & charged as furiously back towards the bridge. Notwithstanding our straitened circumstances in which we were placed, I could not suppress a smile at the ridiculous figure this gallant Ensign cut as he charged up the road & then charged back again.”

The Confederates scattered, but eventually joined two main groups. One party followed Morgan on the Augusta Road and the others under Giltner and Smith found the Leesburg Pike toward Scott and Woodford counties. Smith’s guides took him at first across “the Mill Creek Road.” Some of the Confederates trapped in the horseshoe bend of the river beyond Keller’s Bridge tried to cross the river, and about eight drowned. Those who did cross spread “in every direction, some through fields and other by roads.” One group of Confederates stopped briefly about ten miles north of town at the Newell residence, Stony Castle, before joining their comrades. The family hastily prepared a meal and served it to the soldiers on the lawn, while the officers ate in the house. John Headley’s squad, after crossing the covered bridge, “went along the [Leesburg] pike to the first woods on the left and turned off, making our way some fifteen miles through the country before we camped.”

The remnants of Giltner’s men, joined by others, swelled to nearly 300 but thinned as some took different routes. To avoid a large column of Union soldiers in pursuit on the Leesburg Pike, the Confederates took roads slightly north of it, with Colonel Jessee’s men protecting their rear. They traveled through Oxford, Georgetown, and Payne’s Depot, and passed near Versailles and Keene before crossing the Kentucky River. After hearing news of Morgan’s defeat, storekeepers in Versailles hid boots, clothing, saddles and bridles that would be attractive to the fleeing cavalry. The group, now numbering about 200, quickly followed “highroads and byroads” toward “God blessed Old Virginia.” [cont. p. 9]



The Yankees “caught the [Rebels] among their horses on the railroad track, between the bluff and the river, a narrow place to operate in.” Google Earth photo, 1997.



Above: Desha Farm battlefield site looking north from present location of the Cynthiana post office on Ladish Road. Photo, 1970s.

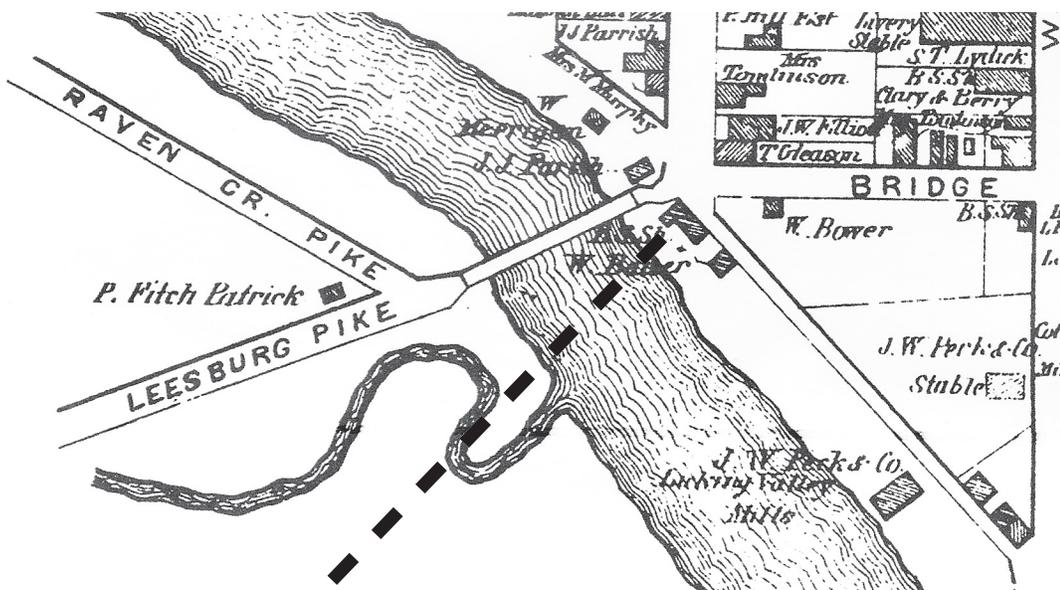


Site where on June 12, 1864, Morgan's retreating soldiers were cut off by Union Cavalry. This view is near Terry Dam along a section of Water Works/Abdallah Park Road that is now closed to auto traffic but is accessible walking. Photo is looking south toward Ladish Road. Photo, 2014, courtesy of Denny Lipscombe.

Note: This article is an excerpt from the draft of the revised edition of William A. Penn, *Rattling Spurs and Broad-Brimmed Hats: The Battles of Cynthiana and the Civil War in Harrison County, Ky.*, (unpublished manuscript, 2014) 265-271.



View from present Parkland Heights looking toward the Abdallah Park Fair Grounds, now site of Ladish. Confederates retreated along the railroad tracks from the left attempting to reach the covered bridge. Parkland Heights (“Magee Hill”) and the farm in this scene was owned by Henry Clay Magee during the Civil War. Postcard, 1910, courtesy of Denny Lipscombe.



Beers map of Harrison County, Ky. (detail), 1877. Dotted line shows approximate route of the present U. S. 27 bridge.