

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

John Hunt Morgan
Escapes
Thru Northern Kentucky

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ONE OF MORGAN'S PILOTS THROUGH KENTUCKY.

(The following account of General Morgan's passage through Boone County, Ky., on his way south after escaping from prison at Columbus, Ohio, was written by W. P. Corbin, of Union, Ky., who piloted General Morgan and Captain Hines through the county. He is now eighty-nine years of age. The Corbins are a remarkable family as regards age, there being three sisters and two brothers still living whose average age is over eighty-six years.)

On the night of November 26, 1863, Gen John H. Morgan and eight other Confederate soldiers confined as prisoners of war in the penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio, escaped by tunneling out. As soon as they were beyond the prison walls the party divided into twos, and General Morgan and Captain Hines were to be companions. Going to the depot, they bought tickets for Cincinnati, where they arrived before daylight. At the lower part of the city they pulled the bell rope, a signal for the train to stop. As the train slowed up Morgan and Hines jumped from the rear end of a coach just as the conductor appeared on the platform and asked, "What in h-- did you want to get off here for?" to which they answered: "What do we want to go to town for when we live here?" They made their way down to a

place opposite Ludlow, Ky., where they found a boy with a skiff, and to him they gave two dollars to set them across the river. As soon as they were on the Kentucky shore they started for the home of the widow Ludlow, near by, where they were well acquainted, and were given a refreshing breakfast. From there they were taken by a friend to John Dulaney's, in the neighborhood of Florence, and his son, Dr. J. J. Dulaney, piloted them to the home of Daniel Piatt, at Union, the place now owned and occupied by James A. Huey, and from this place they were brought by R. G. Adams to the home of my father, Henry Corbin, on the Burlington and Big Bone Road.

It was Saturday night when they got there, and they rested over Sunday, receiving visits from many friends in that vicinity, who had been notified of their presence as well as their destitute condition. It was at this point that they were supplied with money, horses, and firearms, and when they resumed their journey on Sunday night they were mounted on two as good horses as were in the county. Captain Hines's mount had been furnished by Charles B. Smith, of Big Bone, while General Morgan was on a handsome bay mare which I had but lately purchased at a fancy price from Jacob Piatt, of East Bend. General Morgan was wearing a suit of black cloth entirely too light for the weather that prevailed, and I pulled off and presented to him a pair of blue jeans which I was wearing for the first time and which General Morgan pulled on over his own. I also gave him his saddle, bridle, and spur.

They left in my charge, and we traveled the road leading by Big Stone Church to Big Bone Springs, thence to B. B. Allpin's, on Mud Lick Creek, and over the hill to South Fork, where, on account of the entire party's being so very cold, there was a stop at old Mr. Richardson's about midnight. We were received very kindly, the old gentleman saying: "There is plenty of wood in the corner; build a good fire and get warm." This invitation was accepted and acted upon promptly. The old people were curious to know why we were traveling at that time of night, so General Morgan told them we had been to the city with hogs, and a sudden rise in the market was hurrying us back to Owen County, where we lived, to buy more hogs before the people down there got word of the rise.

After a stay of about thirty minutes we resumed our journey by way of Napoleon, in Gallatin County, to Clay Castleman's, where we arrived about **four** o'clock in the

Morning. He directed us to a man named Thomas, living Below Castleman ford on a branch of the Big Eagle Creek. Leaving General Morgan and Captain Hines with Mr. Thomas, I returned to Castleman's for breakfast. On my way home that day I stopped by Colonel Landrum's, representing myself as a turkey buyer.

I have a lock of General Morgan's hair which was cut by my sister, Sallie Corbin, and Miss Mary Huey the night he stayed at my father's home. I also have a handkerchief that belonged to the General, which is now yellow with age.

James L. Huey told me that he met the General in camp at Wytheville, Va., after his escape from prison at Columbus, and his curiosity was aroused by the jeans pants, which General Morgan said were given him by W. P. Corbin as he and Captain Hines were making their way south after escaping from prison.

Note: Local versions of Morgan's escape disagree. The Wm. Behringer Museum in Devco Park, Covington, Kentucky, has a saddle reported to have once belonged, or to have been used by General Morgan.