



# Morgan's Raid

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

## Introduction

Morgan's Raid was the only major attack by Confederate forces on Ohio during the Civil War. Led by Brigadier-General John Hunt Morgan, it spanned across four states and lasted just over two months. His parade of terror faced little opposition until he defied orders from General Braxton Bragg to stay out of Ohio. Once he entered Ohio, Morgan headed east destroying bridges and railroads to avoid capture, disrupting Union transportation. Upon reaching Buffington Island, Morgan found himself surrounded by Union troops and unable to cross the Ohio River into West Virginia. With nowhere else to go, Morgan turned north to escape. Morgan was eventually captured near Lisbon, Ohio, and taken to the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus. His imprisonment lasted only a few months when he successfully escaped by digging a tunnel underneath his cell. Morgan, along with four fellow Confederate soldiers, eventually reached safety in the south. Less than a year later, Morgan was killed on September 4, 1864, while attempting to escape a Union raid on Greenville, Tennessee.

## Important Dates

- June 11, 1863: Morgan departs from Sparta, Tennessee to divert the attention of Union forces in the state.
- July 13, 1863: After marching through Kentucky and Indiana, Morgan crosses into Ohio.
- July 19, 1863: The Battle of Buffington Island takes place. Morgan is forced north toward Nelsonville, Ohio.
- July 26, 1863: Morgan is defeated in the Battle of Salineville and later captured near Lisbon, OH.
- November 27, 1863: Morgan and six others escape the Ohio Penitentiary. All but two would make it safely to Tennessee.

## Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: John Hunt Morgan, raid, attack, capture, escape, Confederate, Buffington Island.
- Use specific date ranges when looking for articles about this event in order to narrow your results.
- Try searching for specific places or people that were involved in Morgan's Raid.

## Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- "[The Morgan Raid](#)" *Cleveland Morning Leader* (Cleveland, OH), July 14, 1863, Image 3, col. 5.
- "[Capture of John Morgan](#)" *Western Reserve Chronicle* (Warren, OH), July 29, 1863, Image 2, col. 3-4.
- "[John Morgan an Inmate of the Ohio Penitentiary](#)" *Western Reserve Chronicle* (Warren, OH), August 5, 1863, Image 2, col. 4.
- "[Escape of John Morgan-Particulars](#)" *Ashtabula Weekly Telegraph* (Ashtabula, OH), December 5, 1863, Image 2, col. 1.
- "[John Morgan Killed](#)" *Daily Ohio Statesman* (Columbus, OH), September 7, 1864, Image 3, col. 3.
- "[The Morgan Raid](#)" *Hocking Sentinel* (Logan, OH), September 19, 1895, Image 1, col. 3-4.