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SIDELIGHTS ON FAMOUS RAIDS OF MORGAN'S MEN

Scrap Book of Local Man Furnishes Interesting Item In Paper Published in Mississippi

The following highly interesting and historical article appeared in the Vicksburg, Mississippi Evening Post of July 27, and was written by V. Blaine Russell, editor of the paper.

The writer of this article is in receipt of a personal scrapbook and reunion registration book conclosed, belonging to Col. Lucian H. Taylor, of Carlisle, Kentucky, and containing registrations and other matter of the Morgan's Men Association. Colonel Taylor voluntarily sent this record to the writer with the understanding it should be retained by him.

Col. Horace M. Taylor is one of the few remaining veterans of that famous military organization of the Civil War known as "Morgan's Men" the intrepid body of cavalry commanded by Gen. John Hunt Morgan, C. S. A., who, by their daring, swift maneuvers and raids, accomplished movements seemingly almost impossible for human beings. Colonel Taylor joined Morgan's command when he was in all of December, 1862, and was with him during the entire war. "It is hard to exercise the reading of Morgan's doings that they could be done—but they were!"

Colonel Taylor is now in his 82nd year. He is one of the organizers of the Morgan's Men Association, a body composed of veterans of that famous outfit, and he is the last survivor of the 15 men who organized the association in 1903, and the last of the camp in his native county. He is secretary of the organization for life, and in one of the most active members, taking a special interest in carrying out the wishes of his fellow veterans, and looking forward to meeting them in re-union each year. He great-grandfather was Jonathan Taylor, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

The scrapbook has so many things of interest contained there in—things not to be had in histories—that it would require considerable space to touch upon all of them. The registration portion shows the names of veterans attending re-unions of Morgan's Men from 1903 until 1924. The majority of these veterans are Kentuckians. It is touching to note the list diminishing in the record book as it comes down through from 1903. Striking proof of interest noted in the muster rolls are the several gatherings of veterans passed in 1917 and 1918 when our country was in the World War, when that flaming spirit against the common enemy was shown not only in Kentucky, but in all parts of the south. There is no room to hold in Carlisle or Harrodsburg, Ky.

Original Muster Roll

In the scrapbook is a complete muster roll of John Hunt Morgan's original command. This original command should not be confused with the later augmented muster roll, which at the time of Morgan's raid into Indiana and Ohio was composed of approximately 2,000 men. The original roll bears the names of only 73 men, including its captain, John Hunt Morgan. Of this original list only two men survive, Colonel Thos. Hogg—and Peter Van William Milton. Also a complete muster roll of the command at its maximum strength was compiled and published in the Lexington (Ky.) Herald, but even this was complete only in name, as some of carriers have succeeded in getting ten points in the United States since the close of the Civil War. An instance showing the difficulty of collecting a complete muster roll is brought out with the fact that at the time of Morgan's first raid he was joined by a squad of Texas Rangers and there had been considerable number of Texans under him with Col. R. S. Cox of the Lone Star state.

Morgan Originator of the Raid

At the outbreak of the Civil War, John Hunt Morgan was a successful manufacturer, but being a lover of Fine horses, and of action, he had been, for a number of years at the head of a military company composed of the young men of Lexington. He was an educated man and had been a lieutenant of cavalry in the Mexican War. He was of strikingly handsome features and physique and had an address which inspired in those associated with him confidence, respect and friendship. He was the originator of that system of effective warfare known as the raid and his followers were really mounted light infantrymen drilled to fight on foot when necessary, and trained to long marches. He was noted for his superior drill and discipline.

Morgan, like Bruckinridge, and many others in Lexington, was at the beginning of the conflict, remained peaceful and neutral, hoping that the trouble would subside and be settled amicably, and relying upon a promise that those who remained peaceful would not be molested. But one night his farm was suddenly invaded by a force from Camp Dick Robinson for the purpose of arresting C. C. and Breckenridge and others. Hearing that he, too, was to be arrested, Morgan gathered his men and guns, eluded pickets, and rode to Bowling Green. He assured there with 200 men, having picked up recruits on the way. His force gradually increased until it was known as a squadron, with his most trusted original men as his lieutenants.

Texans With Morgan

His first raid was a small affair and he executed it after Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston had ordered from Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on his way to the north, to Bowling Green. There Morgan, with two Texas Rangers and fifteen of his own command—Captain Tom Quantrell Colonel Wood, captured 28 men, and returned with them in safety. The battle of Shiloh, Morgan's troopers having been joined by the companies of Texas Rangers. This organization must have been very impressive in appearance as compared to our present day warfare dressed in a uniform of khaki of studied efficiency. Col. Henry Lee Stone, a veteran of Morgan's Men, who ran away from his regular state of Kentucky to join them, finding them at Cynthiana, Ky., says: "I was struck with the odd appearance of some of them. Some were particularly observing their large, rattling spurs and broad-rimmed hats, many of which were pinned up on one side with a crescent or star."

Morgan had no great difficulty in getting recruits, but he did experience some trouble in supplying his outfit after it reached a condition of