



January 2019

License Plate Follows Col. John Hunt Morgan At the Battle of Hartsville



Col. John Hunt Morgan's December 1862 raid on a Union garrison camped on a bluff overlooking the Cumberland River, has been called the "most successful cavalry raid of the Civil War." Capturing 1,800 Union troops under the command of Col. Absolom Moore, Morgan completed the snowy pre-dawn assault in two hours - so quickly that two nearby Federal brigades were unable to come to Moore's aid.

About 40 miles upstream from Nashville on the Cumberland River, Morgan's 1,300 men crossed the icy river to make their surprise artillery, infantry, and cavalry attack. Following the battle, prisoners, captured equipment, supply wagons, and Morgan's troops crossed the river at **Hart's Ferry**, depicted above, on their way to Murfreesboro.



Today, the privately owned 1834 **Averitt-Herod House** stands near the river crossing at Hart's Ferry. Field reports indicate Union troops found wounded Confederates in this home after the battle. Here also is where Morgan, while sitting on his horse, wrote a hasty note to his fiancée, Mattie Ready in nearby Murfreesboro. As he wrote, an artillery shell cut off the limb of a tree just above him.

Following the Battle of Hartsville, Morgan marched the prisoners to Murfreesboro, where Jefferson Davis promoted him to Brigadier General for his feat at Hartsville. Before moving north to Kentucky a few weeks later, he married Mattie Ready. As General Rosecrans' Union forces arrived in Murfreesboro at the end of December the stage was set for the **Battle of Stones River**, only three weeks after Hartsville.

Visit <https://www.hartsvilletrousdale.com/> for information about the Battle of Hartsville Driving Tour.

Did you receive TCWPA's year-end newsletter? If you'd like a copy please send your request and mailing address to info@tcwpa.org.

Send Us a Photo of Your Plate

Please help us acquire photos of the "Save Our Battlefields" license plate at a Civil War site in every county of the state. With a photo of your license plate at one (or more) sites, we're able to share stories about the multi-faceted and often little-known history of the Civil War in Tennessee in these monthly emails. Please keep that camera handy as you travel the backroads ...and send photos to info@tcwpa.org. Thank you!



You can purchase the license plate at your County Clerk's office for \$36.00 plus your regular registration fees. Proceeds from the sale of the plate will help protect and interpret important battlefields in Tennessee.

For more information, visit: tcwpa.org/license-plate

The Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association preserves and interprets Tennessee's Civil War Battlefields and their contributing landscapes for present and future generations.

Become a member: tcwpa.org/join Make a donation: tcwpa.org/donate [Purchase a license plate](http://tcwpa.org/license-plate)



Copyright © 2019 Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association, All rights reserved.