

Lebanon National Cemetery
20 Highway 208
Lebanon, Kentucky 40033

Description

The Lebanon National Cemetery, established in 1867, is located one mile southeast of Lebanon, off Kentucky 208. The site is nearly triangular in shape and enclosed by a stone wall. The main entrance is located near the apex of the triangle and is protected by steel gates supported by stone piers which were constructed circa 1870. Graves are marked with upright marble headstones.

The brick lodge with a stone foundation was constructed in 1870, with an addition in 1927. It was designed by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs from the original standard plan for Civil War era national cemeteries. It is a one and one-half story brick structure, Second Empire design with an asphalt shingle mansard roof and dormer windows. The front porch has been enclosed with brick and jalousie windows. There is also a rear porch.

There is a brick utility building containing public restrooms.

The 18 foot by 15 foot iron octagonal rostrum was constructed in 1932. The tin roof was removed in 1962.



Civil War Activity in Area

After the Battle of Stones River in December 1862, General Braxton Bragg had ordered General John Hunt Morgan to raid the railroads in Kentucky and, if possible, threaten Louisville. Morgan wanted to invade Ohio, but Bragg refused his consent to this plan. Starting out on July 2, 1863, Morgan swept through Kentucky, crossed the Green River, captured Lebanon, and, on July 9, reached the banks of the Ohio.

Morgan was one of the most glamorous figures in the Confederacy. He had fought in the Mexican War and as early as 1857 had organized the Lexington (Kentucky) Rifles. Commissioned Captain in 1861, he began the series of raids that were very effective in disrupting Federal communications in the West.

On July 5, 1863, Morgan and his men moved on Lebanon. After a fight of seven hours, Morgan, finding the town could be taken in no other way, ordered a charge to be made. Morgan had said that he wished to avoid the destruction of private property as much as possible and that he would only permit a charge as a last and final resort. The enemy surrendered after several

buildings had been burned. By this surrender, Morgan's army obtained a sufficient quantity of guns to arm all men who were without them and a quantity of ammunition. At the order to charge, Tommy Morgan, who ran forward and cheered the men with great enthusiasm, fell back, pierced through the heart. This was a crushing blow to General Morgan, as his affection for his brother was great. It caused a terrible excitement, and the men were in a state of frenzy. It required the utmost energy and promptitude on the part of the officers to prevent a scene of slaughter.

At the end of the raid, superior forces converged on Morgan from all sides, and he was captured at New Lisbon, Ohio, and imprisoned in the state penitentiary at Columbus. On November 26, 1863, he and a handful of his men effected one of the spectacular escapes of the war. Morgan then was given command of the Department of Southwest Virginia, but was killed in September of the following year.