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Tom O'Bedlam Correspondence with Norma Baumgartner

Ruffner

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

DIVISION OF SOLDIERS' CLAIMS - VETERANS' AFFAIRS

COLUMBUS 15

May 26th, 1960

Tom O'Bedlam
1014 Forbes Ave.
Pittsburgh 19
Pennsylvania

Dear Sir:

In response to your request we are enclosing herein a list of Ohio men of Andrews Raid, also information of the event of 1862 in which Ohio played a great part and was one of the most thrilling events in Ohio history.

J. J. Andrews, a Kentuckian, who had joined the Secret Service, suggested to General Ormsby Mitchel at Cincinnati, Ohio, that a small band of men of Union Troops, disguised as civilians, be sent to Georgia. They were to steal a train, head for the North, burn bridges, and thus put out of use the Georgia Railroad. Men from the Regiments three in number, were chosen.

Andrews men boarded a train and were to separate upon arrival in the South. Engineer selected for the Raid was William J. Enright, of Stryker, Williams County, Ohio. A party of 22 men laid aside uniforms to start for Marietta, Georgia. Plans were to seize a locomotive and dash for Union lines, tear up rails, as well as telegraph wires and spike switches. If they would have succeeded, these Raiders would have kept Confederate Troops out of Chattanooga, the gateway to the South.

At Big Shanty, now called Kenesaw, Andrews and his men boarded a train and while the crew members were at breakfast. Engineer Knight opened the throttle of the train locomotive and dashed away. The Confederate crew was near by. The Southern crew had no trouble in getting up a part of pursuers and a Yankee raid was going on. Finally there was no chance of escape, for the Andrews party. It was fight or run, no one succeeded, all were captured. Andrews went to the gallows, seven others sentenced to die as spies, others held as prisoners until the end of the war, when they were returned to the North.

Very truly yours

Norma Baumgartner
Norma Baumgartner

Office Manager
(Soldiers Claims & Records)