

ANDREW'S RAIDERS

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"Less than eight hours of a wet April Saturday in 1862 along a stretch of Georgia railroad track, have been widely acknowledged to contain the most melodramatic single sequence of events of the Civil War: the capture of a locomotive deep in the Confederacy by a party of twenty-two Union raiders and the ensuing eighty-six-mile chase led by a handful of determined and resourceful Georgia railroadmen." This is the description given by author Charles O'Neill in his book, Wild Train - The Story of the Andrews' Raiders, published in 1956.

The historical truth about the Andrews' Raiders is somewhat different from the film you are about to see. In order to better appreciate the story let us first remember the important role that railroads played in the Civil War and the Western and Atlantic Railroad, in particular.

This line ^{SHOWN HERE} was the pride of Georgia and one of the best railroads in the South. In fact, it was proving itself to be as strategically valuable a line as the South had. It was a crucial link in transporting men, equipment and supplies to the areas most needed. Many Southerners looked upon any threat to its operation in the same way they would look on interference with their own property.

The Equipment of the Western and Atlantic was well maintained and had dozens of locomotives to look after and call

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on. ✓ Two of the best of these were the General and the Texas. Both had been built in Paterson, New Jersey: the Texas by Danforth, Cooke & Co. and the General by the rival firm of Rogers, Ketchum and Grosvenor. Locomotives of both companies were rated highly throughout the country. To give you a little more detail - since there are a lot of railroad buffs here - the

SLIDE 3 > General was an eight-wheel, wood burning locomotive of type 440-50 with four driving wheels, a Wagon top boiler covered with felt and Russian iron containing 130 flues eleven feet long and ^{two} ~~two~~ inches in diameter with an old balloon type smokestack and a cowcatcher.

The men that worked for this line were valued as experienced railroaders and were exempted from military duty to perform their ~~valuable~~ service ^{for} to the Confederacy. ✓ William A. Fuller the conductor, ✓ and Anthony Murphy, forman of the railway shop at Atlanta, were the heroes of the South that chased the "train thieves" and prevented the destruction of the Atlantic and Western Railroad. It is the role of ^{ONE OF THESE TWO} ~~the~~ Southerners that Buster Keaton plays in tonight's presentation.

The men that posed such a threat to the pride of Georgia was a group of 24 Union volunteers including two civilians and 22 Union soldiers led by one of General Buell's best spies - ✓ James J. Andrews.

SLIDE 4 ✓ These men were to make their way to Big Shanty, Georgia, steal a train and drive ¹⁻²⁰⁰ ~~100-200~~ miles burning bridges, railbeds and cutting telegraph lines on their way to Chatanooga.

Unfortunately for the Raiders, the bridges wouldn't burn because of recent rain storms and the best they could do was cut a few telegraph lines. The group had to abandon The General when they ran out of fuel 18 miles south of Chatanooga.

Had this group been successful, they would have left much of the Confederacy without food, clothing, arms and a rapid means of moving troops and communication within the deep South.

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Aside from the locomotive connection with this part of the country, we in ~~the north of~~ ^{NORTHWEST} Ohio have a direct link to the incident because ~~not only were~~ ^R all but ~~two~~ ^{WEE} of the Raiders from Ohio ^{AND} ~~the~~ nine of them were from the 21st Ohio Regiment organized in Findlay ~~and~~ Several of these men came home after the war and lived out their lives in nearby cities and towns.

— Those that made it back, that is. For 8 of the twenty-two captured were hanged as spies. Another eight escaped in October, 1862 and the remaining six were exchanged in March of 1863.

I won't show you photographs of all of the Andrew's Raiders but I will briefly run through the list of those that came from this area.

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VV ✓
1. William Bensinger and John Reed Porter were from McComb, Ohio, just northwest of Findlay and they are buries there. ^ ^ ^
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2. John Scott was from Findlay and he was one of the eight hanged.

AN ENGLISHMAN, BY BIRSA

✓ 3. Mark Wood, was from Toledo and is buried there.

✓ ✓ ✓ ELLIHUE 
4. Elihu Mason was from Pemberville, Ohio East of Bowling Green
and is buried there. *IN A CEMETERY THERE*

✓ ✓ ✓ 5. John Alfred Wilson was from Bowling Green and is buried just
north of the city.

✓ ✓ ✓ 6. Wilson Brown, the engineer for the Raiders was from Dowling
which is a small town northeast of Bowling Green.

✓ 7. And Jacob Parrot was from Kenton and is buried there. He was
recently honored with a State historical marker at his gravesite
this past year.

✓ ✓ THE ANDREWS RAIDERS WERE THE
FIRST RECIPIENTS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL
MEDAL OF HONOR
(Something about winning Cong. Medal
of Honor)

ALL OF THE RAIDERS

I'LL TURN OVER THE SHOW TO
DR. NACABAR