

Falcon Rest Mansion Brings Local Civil War to Life



The Civil War in McMinnville, Tenn., comes to life in Falcon Rest Mansion's newest interactive show.

With a well-earned reputation as "the Victorian mansion where history is fun," Falcon Rest is known for its free-wheeling shows that make stars of the people in the audience.

"The Honeymoon Ball of General John Hunt Morgan" follows that tradition.

The show is based on real McMinnville history 150 years ago in the spring of 1863. It combines a ball welcoming General Morgan and his new bride to town (given by famous local poetess Lucy Virginia French) with the invasion of Federal troops attempting to capture them. Audience members take on the characters of real people living in McMinnville, soldiers involved with Morgan at the time, and even the new Mrs. Mattie Morgan. Though in the midst of war, the Morgans' days in McMinnville were happy ones, so "The Honeymoon Ball" weaves humor in with history.

A delicious meal inspired by Virginia French's description of the menu for the actual ball in her famous diary is included, as well as a tour of the Falcon Rest Mansion.



Meet the Stars of this interactive show ...

Lucy Virginia French



Writing under the name "L'Inconnue," Virginia was already a famous authoress when one of her poems so intrigued Col. John French that he married her and brought her to his McMinnville estate called "Forest Home."

Virginia kept an eloquent diary from 1861-1865, chronicling civilian life during the war and her encounters with generals from both armies.

The People in the Audience

Falcon Rest's actors, George and Charlien McGlothin, portray General Morgan and Virginia French, but audience members themselves are the stars of the show. As in Falcon Rest's popular "Murder at the Mansion," guests are given information about their characters but no lines to remember. With no pressure to participate, they're free to interact in character as much or as little as they like.

Audience members with two left feet don't have to worry, either. The setting is the ball described in Virginia's diary, but this is a show -- not a dance -- and no one will be called on to waltz.

Gen. John Hunt Morgan



A daring Confederate general from Kentucky, John Hunt Morgan took his "Morgan's Raiders" farther north than any other Rebel force during the Civil War.

But before his famous 1863 raid, the 37-year-old Morgan spent a three month honeymoon with his 21-year-old bride Mattie at her relative's home in downtown McMinnville.

He later wrote that it was the happiest time of his life.

Falcon Rest

Mansion & Gardens

Performances may be scheduled any time (lunch or dinner) for groups of 20 or more.

Call 931-668-4444 or e-mail falconrest@falconrest.com for details and reservations.

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