

LETTER 108 years old, from an imprisoned Union soldier is in the possession of Roderick Martin, Division St., Olean.

The soldier, George Davidson, was in Belle Isle, Va., Confederate Prison, where he had lost 100 pounds, emaciated to 90 pounds, before he escaped. Written on a page from an old diary, the note from the 156th Regiment soldier who had been taken near Gettysburg was not long. It was delivered to the Lyndon home of his sister in the middle of the night by a runner. It said, simply: 11-15-71

Dear Sister, I now set down to write you a few lines that I am well and Jack Hogge is well and we expect to get out before long. Giv (sic) my regards to all my friends, Goodby from Georgy.

Davidson descendants — there were many, attesting to the success of the 20-year-old's successful escape and subsequent conjugal bliss — have handed down a legend about the escape. George and Jack Hogge persuaded their guards to carry them out with the prisoner dead, which was done on the assumption that when they attempted to rise and run they would be shot down by guards of the burial detail. However, the two foiled the rebel trick. George lived on a Rawson farm, near Cuba, always keeping a moon and sickle insignia of his regiment painted on his barn door.

Courtesy of Sandra Bull,  
Machias, N.Y.

Subj: **no diary**  
Date: 4/9/01 4:25:48 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
From: morganjb@localnet.com (Jack Morganti)  
Reply-to: morganjb@localnet.com  
To: NYVI154th@aol.com (Mark Dunkelman)

Dear Mark,

I hope you weathered the winter. We had a doozy here. George H. Davidson's great granddaughter tried to locate a diary of George's and came up empty handed. Her name is Sandra Bull (wife of Lee Bull) and lives in Machias, NY. (I told you I'd find a direct descendant of George and I did). She did have a newspaper clipping from the Olean paper from 11/15/1971 which her late uncle put contributed to the paper.

It reads (all errors included): "Letter 108 years old, from an imprisoned Union soldier in the possession of Roderick Martin, Division St., Olean.

"The soldier, George Davidson, was in Belle Isle, Va., Confederate Prison, where he had lost 100 pounds, emaciated to 90 pounds, before he escaped. Written on a page from an old diary, the note from the 156th Regiment soldier who had been taken near Gettysburg was not long. It was delivered to the Lyndon home of his sister in the middle of the night by a runner. It said simply:

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Jack Hogge is Jack Hogg.

Have a good Easter.

Judy Morganti

----- Headers -----

Return-Path: <morganjb@localnet.com>  
Received: from rly-xa03.mx.aol.com (rly-xa03.mail.aol.com [172.20.105.72]) by air-xa01.mail.aol.com (v77\_r1.36) with ESMTP; Mon, 09 Apr 2001 16:25:48 -0400  
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Message-ID: <3AD246AC.41076BF@localnet.com>  
Date: Mon, 09 Apr 2001 16:33:00 -0700  
From: Jack Morganti <morganjb@localnet.com>  
Reply-To: morganjb@localnet.com  
Organization: Home Computer  
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.6 [en] (Win98; I)  
X-Accept-Language: en  
MIME-Version: 1.0