

for services in the wars made him a large landowner. It is said that he became the owner of 250,000 acres of land on the Ohio and Monongahela Rivers. He built a stately mansion for his family and named it "Saratoga." His younger daughter was married to Major Heard. His land interest in Union County seems to have been at least partly responsible for the formation of the county, and his granddaughter, Matalida Heard, married Presley Neville O'Bannon who was prominent in its organization.

In 1794 General Morgan was again called to serve his country when he was sent to suppress the Whisky Rebellion in western Pennsylvania. In 1797-99 he was a Federalist representative in the Congress which was called by Washington to consider the threatening affairs between America and France. His health failed and he died while serving in Congress.

PRESLEY NEVILLE O'BANNON (1784-1850), the "hero of Derne" and the first person to plant the United States flag on foreign soil, deserves more than anyone to be known as "The Father of Union County." Born in Fauquier County, Virginia, in 1784, he was the son of Capt. William O'Bannon of the Continental Army. Presley O'Bannon's mother was a daughter of Gen. Joseph Neville. Little is known of his early life. In 1801, when only seventeen years of age, O'Bannon was a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

Late in the eighteenth century the Barbary pirates, natives of Morocco, Algiers, and Tripoli, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, not only seized American sailors, robbed and plundered ships of the United States Navy, but demanded huge ransoms from the United States Government to leave the shipping industry unmolested. War had been averted by the expedient of an annual tribute which increased with each new demand. Finally, the situation became intolerable and war was declared by the United States on May 14, 1801. Gen. William Eaton was at this time United States Consul at Algiers. Eaton had conceived the idea of forming an alliance with Hamet, deposed ruler of Tripoli, raising an army, and conducting an expedition to rescue American sailors confined at Tripoli. He won the consent of President Jefferson to his plan and was appointed by him Navy Agent of the United States for the Barbary Powers.

When Eaton arrived at Alexandria in November, 1804, he had with him a detachment of marines, commanded by Lieuten-