



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
Contact: Erika Pribanic-Smith
Phone: 205-239-5973
Email: epsmith@uta.edu

AKRON PROFESSOR'S CIVIL WAR PIRATE DOCUMENTARY FEATURES AJHA VOICES

AKRON, Ohio – Kathleen “Kitty” Endres used the voices of several fellow American Journalism Historians Association members in her latest documentary, “Rebels on Lake Erie.”

Endres’ fourth film, “Rebels on Lake Erie,” examines a southern pirate’s attempts to liberate a Civil War prisoner-of-war camp on Lake Erie.

The genesis for the project came from an assignment Endres gave students in her Magazine Article Writing course at The University of Akron. She charged them with finding an unusual newsstand magazine, and one student came back with Pirates Magazine.

“I thought, ‘Now, wouldn’t it be interesting if there had been a pirate on Lake Erie,’” said Endres, distinguished professor of communication.

Endres’ research found that there had been one: a college-educated Virginian, John Yates Beall, who set out in September 1864 to free Confederate prisoners held on Johnson’s Island, near Sandusky, Ohio.

Endres wrote in her blog, “Rebels on Lake Erie: A Pirate, A Prison, A Plot,” that although the wealthy plantation owner served under legendary Confederate General Stonewall Jackson, Beall is best known for his pirate exploits.

“Rebels on Lake Erie,” which received grant funding from the Ohio Humanities Council, was filmed in several locations, including Johnson’s Island and Governor’s Island in New York City harbor. It features interviews with several leading Civil War historians from the state of Ohio.

Endres also used AJHA members from Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Mississippi to provide the southern drawls she needed to represent the Confederates. She recorded the voices of Jim Aucoin, David Copeland, Patrick Cox, David Davies, Jim Martin, William David Sloan, Glenn “Pete” Smith and Leonard Teel during AJHA’s 2010 national convention in Tucson.

Overall, “Rebels on Lake Erie” took three years to complete.

“By the end of each project, I swear I’ll never do it again,” Endres said.

However, Endres said she always comes back, drawn by her love of history and the belief that many of her projects make better documentaries than traditional research publications.

“Rebels on Lake Erie” was no exception.

“It’s a better story told visually,” she said.

Since its premiere in April, “Rebels on Lake Erie” has been broadcast by Western Reserve Public Media, Ohio’s largest Public Broadcasting Service station, and it is being considered for national distribution to other PBS stations.

Founded in 1981, the American Journalism Historians Association seeks to advance education and research in mass communication history. Members work to raise historical standards and ensure that all scholars and students recognize the vast importance of media history and apply this knowledge to the advancement of society.

For more information on AJHA, visit <http://www.ajhaonline.org>.

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