

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,000

A formidable fortress linked to a royal power play.

2

00:00:04,000 --> 00:00:10,000

A young man has to walk like a king, talk like a king, look like a king.

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00:00:10,000 --> 00:00:14,000

An aging tomb that harbors a strange secret.

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00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:19,000

This mystery spans two continents and extends over two centuries.

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00:00:19,000 --> 00:00:23,000

And a weathered statue that celebrates a forgotten heroine.

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00:00:23,000 --> 00:00:27,000

Hell has no fury like a woman with a cannon.

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00:00:28,000 --> 00:00:33,000

Sometimes the greatest secrets lie in plain sight.

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00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:36,000

These are the mysteries of the monument.

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00:00:43,000 --> 00:00:45,000

London, England.

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00:00:45,000 --> 00:00:50,000

On the north bank of the River Thames is the borough of Tower Hamlets.

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00:00:50,000 --> 00:00:56,000

From its busy streets, visitors can gaze up at the European Union's tallest building.

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00:00:56,000 --> 00:00:59,000

Or admire the world-famous Tower Bridge.

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00:01:01,000 --> 00:01:04,000

But long before any of these landmarks existed,

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00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:08,000

one imposing structure loomed over the skyline.

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00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:15,000

These walls are 90-foot high inside their chapels, military barracks.

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00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:19,000

And it's one great giant prison.

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00:01:19,000 --> 00:01:22,000

This is the Tower of London.

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00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:26,000

Established by William the Conqueror in 1078,

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00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:31,000

this iconic fortress has witnessed nearly a thousand years of English history.

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00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:34,000

And according to historian Dr. Kate Williams,

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00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:41,000

it was once linked to a stunning tale of power and deceit that threatened to topple the monarchy.

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00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:47,000

This monument became the theatre for a fight for the country's future.

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00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:51,000

England, the 1400s.

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00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:58,000

For decades, two rival branches of the royal family have been locked in a fierce struggle for the throne.

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00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:03,000

On one side of the conflict is Margaret of York.

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00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:11,000

Margaret's two young nephews, Edward and Richard, were both heirs to the kingdom.

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00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:17,000

But in 1483, just as the older boy Edward was about to assume the royal crown,

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00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:21,000

the pair were suddenly imprisoned in the Tower of London.

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00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:25,000

At the age of just 12, Prince Edward and his younger brother Richard,

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00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:29,000

just nine, were whisked off to the tower and never seen again.

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00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:34,000

To Margaret's frustration, her family's arch-rival, Henry Tudor,

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00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:38,000

soon seized power and has ruled the land ever since.

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00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:43,000

Margaret of York sees with anger over her family's loss of control of the throne.

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00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:47,000

And she plots every day to take back the power she's lost.

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00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:52,000

And it seems she may soon have a chance to restore the crown to the House of York.

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00:02:55,000 --> 00:03:02,000

In 1492, Margaret receives a visit from a strange young man who makes a bizarre claim.

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00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:05,000

The young man's hand-sewn wife, Margaret,

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00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:07,000

makes a bizarre claim.

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00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:10,000

The young man's hand-sewn with long blonde hair is dressed in silk.

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00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:12,000

And out of the blue, he says,

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00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:14,000

It's me and nephew Richard.

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00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:19,000

My nephew? I am Prince Richard, your long lost nephew.

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00:03:19,000 --> 00:03:23,000

The man tells Margaret that after he and his brother were imprisoned,

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00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:25,000

his older brother was murdered.

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00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:28,000

But he eventually managed to escape.

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:34,000

And since then, he has been living in Europe under the protection of those loyal to the House of York.

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00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:38,000

But there's something amiss about this supposedly royal prince.

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00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:42,000

His clothes are all wrong. They're excessively gaudy.

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00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:47,000

Do you like he's found some kind of dressing up outfit and worn it?

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00:03:47,000 --> 00:03:51,000

Margaret isn't sure what to make of this strange young man's credentials.

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00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:57,000

But if he is the prince, it could be very advantageous for her family.

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00:04:00,000 --> 00:04:03,000

If she can convince the whole world that this is Prince Richard,

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00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:07,000

he could then launch an attack on Henry Tudor and get thrown back.

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00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:15,000

Margaret welcomes the young man into her home and publicly recognizes him as her nephew Richard.

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00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:19,000

She then gets to work grooming him as a prince.

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00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:24,000

Margaret sets about training him about the family tree, about history, about etiquette.

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00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:31,000

For this plan to work, the young man has to walk like a king, talk like a king, look like a king.

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00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:38,000

After months of practice, her protege becomes an impressively regal figure.

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00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:42,000

So she takes him out to the courts of Europe and everyone is charmed by him.

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00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:48,000

Evie Modicky Meats thinks he's marvelous, a true prince with a lot of kingly dignity.

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00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:51,000

But the real challenge is yet to come.

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00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:56,000

In order for him to overthrow King Henry, he's got to raise a rebel army.

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00:04:57,000 --> 00:05:01,000

So he's got to convince the English people that he's a true prince

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00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:05,000

and they've got to be so convinced that they're willing to die in battle for him.

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00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:12,000

And so in 1495, the young man finally heads out to rally his troops.

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00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:17,000

This is it. Margaret is waiting to see if her amazing training is going to work

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00:05:17,000 --> 00:05:20,000

and this young man's going to take the throne of England.

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00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:29,000

When the so-called prince arrives in Cornwall, he is greeted by peasants

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00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:33,000

who are in open rebellion against King Henry over taxes.

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00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:38,000

The prince implores the people to join in his fight for the crown.

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00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:40,000

We're taking back the throne!

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00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:43,000

And throngs of commoners answer his call.

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00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:46,000

The locals see this young man and they're enchanted by him.

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00:05:46,000 --> 00:05:52,000

He's handsome. He's got these marvelous, rousing speeches about how he'll fight for justice.

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00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:55,000

Marching towards London, the peasant army grows.

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00:05:55,000 --> 00:05:59,000

Incredibly, Margaret's training has worked.

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00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:04,000

The prince gathers together 8,000 Cornish men who are determined to die for him.

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00:06:06,000 --> 00:06:08,000

King Henry Tudor looks on in alarm.

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00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:14,000

This novice leader who has won the support of several foreign heads of state is now advancing.

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00:06:14,000 --> 00:06:16,000

On London itself.

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00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:19,000

It seems like Henry's days are numbered.

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00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:24,000

Desperate to protect the city, the king dispatches his troops.

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00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:27,000

A brutal battle ensues.

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00:06:27,000 --> 00:06:33,000

Richard's peasant army may just be a rabble of farmers and fishermen, but they fight so hard.

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00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:36,000

The fighting lasts for several bloody days.

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00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:40,000

But finally, the rebels are forced to relent.

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00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:44,000

In the end, they are no match for King Henry's most highly trained men.

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00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:46,000

They're no match for the hardware, for the cannons.

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00:06:46,000 --> 00:06:50,000

Within a few days, 500 men are dead or injured.

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00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:55,000

In the aftermath, Margaret's protégé is arrested.

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00:06:55,000 --> 00:07:01,000

Under interrogation, he confesses he is no more royal than the peasants who fought for him.

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00:07:01,000 --> 00:07:05,000

He is actually a Flemish laborer named Perkin Warbeck,

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00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:09,000

who took advantage of his good looks to pose as royalty.

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00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:14,000

King Henry is shocked by how close his con artist came to the throne.

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00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:19,000

He knows his own way of stopping future challenges is by making an example of him.

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00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:25,000

In 1499, Henry orders the hanging of Perkin Warbeck, the pretender.

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00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:33,000

Margaret of York is never punished, living out the rest of her life abroad, beyond the king's breach.

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00:07:34,000 --> 00:07:42,000

And King Henry VII's victory helps to establish England's most powerful royal line, the Tudor dynasty.

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00:07:45,000 --> 00:07:50,000

Today, the Tower of London endures as a symbol of this struggle for power,

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00:07:50,000 --> 00:07:56,000

leaving some to wonder how close England really came to being ruled by an imposter.

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00:07:57,000 --> 00:08:00,000

Wichita, Kansas.

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00:08:00,000 --> 00:08:05,000

Known as the air capital of the world, the largest city in the Sunflower State

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00:08:05,000 --> 00:08:09,000

has produced more aircraft than anywhere else on the planet.

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00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:16,000

But tucked away in a downtown park is a life-sized sculpture

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00:08:16,000 --> 00:08:20,000

that proudly celebrates a very different distinction.

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00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:25,000

The monument is the largest city in the world,

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00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:29,000

the monument is about 20 feet long, it's made of bronze,

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00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:32,000

and depicts a lunch counter from the 1950s,

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00:08:32,000 --> 00:08:36,000

with a waitress behind the counter and three patrons.

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00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:41,000

Although it looks quite ordinary, according to Professor Gretchen Eich,

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00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:48,000

this soda fountain scene tells an extraordinary tale of tenacity, bravery, and rebellion.

112

00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:53,000

These young people put their own safety on the line.

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00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:54,000

Get out of this restaurant.

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00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:56,000

To fight for justice.

115

00:08:58,000 --> 00:09:01,000

Summer, 1958, Wichita.

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00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:05,000

Segregation is prohibited by law in most public establishments.

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00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:11,000

But in practice, African Americans are still treated as second-class citizens.

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00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:16,000

You had segregated restaurants, hotels, and movie theaters.

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00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:20,000

In 1958, Wichita was one of the most segregated cities in the country.

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00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:25,000

There was a law against this, but it was not being enforced.

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00:09:25,000 --> 00:09:32,000

Frustrated by this injustice is a 20-year-old college student named Ron Walters.

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00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:37,000

Ron Walters grew up in an activist family and was beginning to get restless

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00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:40,000

with the way things are in Wichita.

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00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:46,000

But the budding firebrand will soon have an opportunity to change the racist system.

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00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:50,000

Walters is working at his summer job downtown

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00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:55,000

when he notices a troubling sight at the lunch counter of a Dockham's drugstore,

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00:09:55,000 --> 00:09:58,000

which is part of a regional chain.

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00:09:58,000 --> 00:10:02,000

You could see how African American people had to stand in the 100-degree temperatures

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00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:07,000

eating their lunch outside under no shelter, not able to sit at the lunch counters.

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00:10:07,000 --> 00:10:13,000

In fact, this shameful situation is replayed at every Dockham's in town.

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00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:19,000

But Walters thinks he can force the eateries to end their discriminatory treatment.

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00:10:19,000 --> 00:10:21,000

His plan is simple.

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00:10:21,000 --> 00:10:25,000

Organize a peaceful sit-in that will drive away white customers

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00:10:25,000 --> 00:10:28,000

and impact the store's bottom line.

135

00:10:31,000 --> 00:10:37,000

If there was a way to make it costly to the owners, to make them lose business,

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00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:40,000

perhaps they would change their policies.

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00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:45,000

Convinced his plan will work, Walters reaches out to his community.

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00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:51,000

Ron was able to recruit high school students and college students, 15 to 21-year-olds.

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00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:53,000

This must be a peaceful protest.

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00:10:53,000 --> 00:10:59,000

Walters warns his recruits that their biggest challenge won't come from the business itself,

141

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:01,000

but from furious white customers.

142

00:11:01,000 --> 00:11:05,000

I don't want to see anybody getting mad. I don't want to see anybody engaging with this.

143

00:11:06,000 --> 00:11:12,000

To ensure their protest remains peaceful, he organizes strategic training sessions,

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00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:17,000

during which the students practice taunting each other and staying calm.

145

00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:24,000

If you got mad, you would just leave, walk off that anger and then come back.

146

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:29,000

This was really a huge undertaking by a lot of kids, finding the courage.

147

00:11:35,000 --> 00:11:42,000

July 19th, wearing their Sunday best, Walters and the group head into a Dockham's drugstore.

148

00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:47,000

As planned, they march up to the counter and each take a seat.

149

00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:53,000

And the waitress looked at them, and then she became very cold.

150

00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:56,000

And then she said, we can't serve you.

151

00:11:56,000 --> 00:11:57,000

We're not going to serve you here.

152

00:11:57,000 --> 00:12:03,000

It's an ugly situation, yet the students quietly exercise their right to remain seated.

153

00:12:03,000 --> 00:12:07,000

And you can imagine these teenagers looking straight ahead, being very polite,

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00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:10,000

and just not moving, just asking for service.

155

00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:18,000

Soon, white customers also begin to line up at the lunch counter and tensions skyrocket.

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00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:24,000

There's nowhere for white customers to sit, and they said nasty words, but got really ugly.

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00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:31,000

As the situation escalates, the protesters struggle to keep their cool.

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00:12:33,000 --> 00:12:35,000

Get out of this restaurant.

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00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:41,000

It's July 1958 in Wichita, Kansas.

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00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:50,000

To protest segregation, activist Ron Walters and a group of students are carrying out a peaceful sit-in at a popular lunch counter.

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00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:54,000

But as white patrons file in, tensions quickly rise.

162

00:12:54,000 --> 00:12:58,000

So will this heated situation boil over?

163

00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:01,000

I'm speaking to you.

164

00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:02,000

Get out.

165

00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:10,000

Infuriated by this show of African-American defiance, white customers try to intimidate Walters and the activists.

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00:13:10,000 --> 00:13:15,000

They were yelling, making obscene remarks, calling names in a very threatening manner.

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00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:21,000

And when police arrive on the scene, they do nothing to defuse the situation.

168

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:25,000

The police are not protecting the students. They just simply observe.

169

00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:29,000

Yet Walters and the others refuse to be provoked.

170

00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:30,000

Hello?

171

00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:34,000

They were very determined that this was not going to degenerate into violence.

172

00:13:35,000 --> 00:13:42,000

Day after day, the demonstrators reappear at the counter, taking up seats, but never able to order a thing.

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00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:45,000

And Docums is losing business.

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00:13:45,000 --> 00:13:48,000

Confrontation like this makes people uncomfortable.

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00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:52,000

So people began to take their lunch business elsewhere.

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00:13:52,000 --> 00:13:58,000

More than three weeks after the protest began, the owner of the Docums gives in.

177

00:13:58,000 --> 00:14:00,000

He threw up his hands and said,

178

00:14:02,000 --> 00:14:04,000

Serve them, I'm losing too much money.

179

00:14:05,000 --> 00:14:09,000

And with that, the young protesters are finally served.

180

00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:13,000

Walters has made history with his campaign.

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00:14:13,000 --> 00:14:21,000

From that day forward, the lunch counter at every Docums in Kansas serves all of its customers, white and black.

182

00:14:23,000 --> 00:14:24,000

This is a phenomenal thing.

183

00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:30,000

This was the first successful student-led sit-in in the United States.

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00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:41,000

Inspired by Ron Walters' courageous act, other civil rights leaders adopt his tactics as they continue the campaign to desegregate businesses across the South.

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00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:47,000

This was the first domino in what would become a nationwide movement that would desegregate public accommodations.

186

00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:50,000

This was an extremely successful strategy.

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00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:59,000

And today, this sculpture stands near the spot where a Docums lunch counter once served its first black customers.

188

00:15:00,000 --> 00:15:08,000

A tribute to those groundbreaking pioneers who, with quiet determination, brought about revolutionary change.

189

00:15:09,000 --> 00:15:24,000

Incorporated in 1854, the one-time fishing village and shipbuilding center of Rockland, Maine, is now a tourist haven known for the wind jammers bobbing in its harbor.

190

00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:30,000

And overlooking the port is a visible reminder of its seafaring heritage.

191

00:15:31,000 --> 00:15:39,000

It's about 30 feet tall, conical in shape, made of brick, and it's up on this high bluff overlooking the water that I think makes it so beautiful and unique.

192

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:50,000

Constructed in 1825, this is the Owl's Headlight, one of the region's oldest and most famous lighthouses.

193

00:15:51,000 --> 00:16:01,000

But according to historian Jeremy Dantremont, this iconic beacon was once the site of a bizarre disaster that baffled the medical community.

194

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:10,000

This monument was the scene of a strange and harrowing tale that's really captured imaginations of people on the New England coast.

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00:16:11,000 --> 00:16:15,000

December 23, 1850.

196

00:16:16,000 --> 00:16:23,000

The residents of Rockland Harbor are recovering from a huge blizzard that swept through the town the previous night.

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00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:28,000

This was one of the worst storms people remembered seeing in many years in that region.

198

00:16:29,000 --> 00:16:39,000

Henry Acorn, the keeper of Owl's Headlight, is inspecting the tower when a strange, disheveled man suddenly bursts through the door and collapses on the floor.

199

00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:48,000

This man was a staggering looking half dead and much to Acorn's surprise, the man just fell.

200

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:54,000

Shocked, Acorn rushes over and carries the stranger to a chair.

201

00:16:55,000 --> 00:16:59,000

Acorn wrapped blankets around the man. He forced him to drink some hot rum.

202

00:17:00,000 --> 00:17:04,000

The man came too enough that he was able to speak just a little bit in a very weak voice.

203

00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:07,000

He said, others on the wreck.

204

00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:12,000

Acorn realizes that the battered man is the survivor of a shipwreck.

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00:17:12,000 --> 00:17:16,000

He quickly rounds up a search party to rescue the other passengers.

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00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:21,000

And before long, they find a small schooner stranded on the rocks nearby.

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00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:31,000

A rescue party managed to climb over the side of the schooner and there in front of them they found these two people.

208

00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:34,000

A man and a woman locked in an embrace.

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00:17:35,000 --> 00:17:44,000

But as they draw closer to the seemingly loving couple, the rescuers realize something is very wrong.

210

00:17:46,000 --> 00:17:48,000

They appear to be frozen solid.

211

00:17:53,000 --> 00:17:56,000

It's 1850 in Rockland, Maine.

212

00:17:56,000 --> 00:18:04,000

Light housekeeper Henry Acorn is at the site of a recent shipwreck searching for survivors when he makes a chilling discovery.

213

00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:09,000

Two ice-covered passengers frozen in a lover's embrace.

214

00:18:11,000 --> 00:18:15,000

Acorn suspects the rescue party is too late.

215

00:18:15,000 --> 00:18:16,000

They appear to be dead.

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00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:22,000

Before they can bury the victims, the man must extract them from their icy cocoon.

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00:18:22,000 --> 00:18:28,000

So using the knives they had in their pockets or whatever they had with them, they started chipping away at the ice.

218

00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:35,000

Then the townsfolk move the bodies to Acorn's house to thaw them out and prepare them for burial.

219

00:18:35,000 --> 00:18:40,000

But within a few hours, Acorn and his men witness something astonishing.

220

00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:42,000

The woman woke up.

221

00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:45,000

She opened her eyes.

222

00:18:45,000 --> 00:18:50,000

Soon the man's eyes opened too.

223

00:18:50,000 --> 00:18:54,000

And a moment later, the pair is smiling at each other.

224

00:18:54,000 --> 00:18:57,000

He said, what is all this? Where are we?

225

00:18:57,000 --> 00:19:00,000

They were very pleasantly shocked.

226

00:19:00,000 --> 00:19:04,000

The rescuers' jaws drop in amazement.

227

00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:08,000

This frozen couple has returned from the dead.

228

00:19:09,000 --> 00:19:16,000

And as they recover from their harrowing ordeal, they share the story of their fateful voyage.

229

00:19:16,000 --> 00:19:20,000

The vessel was a packet schooner which carried passengers up and down the coast.

230

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:26,000

And these three people were on board the couple that was engaged to be married plus another sailor.

231

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:34,000

During the previous night's fierce winter storm, the ship's anchor line snapped, causing the vessel to crash onto the shoreline.

232

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:44,000

When the cabin began to fill with frigid water, they huddled together under layers of blankets in a futile attempt to stay warm.

233

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:49,000

Spray from the ocean, gradually ice encased these blankets.

234

00:19:51,000 --> 00:19:58,000

But the question remains, how did the frozen lovers survive such a seemingly fatal ordeal?

235

00:19:58,000 --> 00:20:02,000

Modern medical research may provide an answer.

236

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:10,000

It has been learned in relatively recent years by doctors that when people experience hypothermia, all the processes slow down.

237

00:20:10,000 --> 00:20:15,000

But by doing that, they're actually preserving the tissue of the body from dying.

238

00:20:15,000 --> 00:20:20,000

Such a phenomenon could explain how the couple survived the icy nightmare.

239

00:20:20,000 --> 00:20:25,000

It's also believed that Acorn's careful treatment helped save them.

240

00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:37,000

By leaving their bodies to warm up slowly, the lighthouse keeper unknowingly ensured that the couple's defrosting hearts maintained a steady blood pressure and avoided any sudden shocks.

241

00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:43,000

With their health restored, the lucky pair wedged the following June.

242

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:55,000

Today, the Owls Headlight is maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard, continuing to light the way for vessels traveling along Maine's rocky and romantic coast.

243

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:06,000

The skyline of downtown Austin, Texas is proof that everything really is bigger in a Lone Star State.

244

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:14,000

The football stadium here is the state's biggest, and the imposing capital building is the second largest in the nation.

245

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:20,000

And in the capital, shadow is an equally oversized effigy.

246

00:21:20,000 --> 00:21:26,000

Well, it's a large statue made out of bronze. It stands about seven feet high and weighs over 2,000 pounds.

247

00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:33,000

There's a frontier woman standing over a cannon, and she's about to fire that cannon.

248

00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:44,000

As author Jeffrey Kerr can attest, the woman depicted by this sculpture changed the course of this great state's history with one heroic act.

249

00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:51,000

This is the tale of a prototypical tough frontier woman. If it wasn't for her, Texas could be a very different place today.

250

00:21:52,000 --> 00:22:05,000

1842. The Republic of Texas is an independent sovereign nation, and its capital is located in the frontier town of Austin.

251

00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:16,000

Austin was the farthest extent of Anglo-civilization in Texas in those days. People dreamed that one day the country of Texas would extend all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

252

00:22:17,000 --> 00:22:20,000

And Austin was intended to be the seat of a vast empire.

253

00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:26,000

As such, the town is where the archives of the General Land Office are located.

254

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:32,000

Aside from Congress, it's the most important department of the young republic's government.

255

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:37,000

The General Land Office is where all the records were stored, showing who owned what piece of land in Texas.

256

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:44,000

And that was hugely important because that is the reason that most people came to Texas in those days to get free or cheap land.

257

00:22:44,000 --> 00:22:54,000

But the recently re-elected President of Texas, 48-year-old war hero Sam Houston, vehemently opposes Austin's status as the seat of government.

258

00:22:55,000 --> 00:22:59,000

Rather, he wants to shift the power to the heavily populated towns on the Gulf Coast.

259

00:23:00,000 --> 00:23:06,000

Sam Houston was a very divisive figure. He was accused of having said that he intended to desolate the city of Austin.

260

00:23:07,000 --> 00:23:10,000

And the wily politician soon gets an opportunity.

261

00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:17,000

In the spring of 1842, Mexican forces capture San Antonio, only 80 miles west of Austin.

262

00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:21,000

This was just the excuse Sam Houston might have been looking for.

263

00:23:22,000 --> 00:23:26,000

Houston seizes on this threat to pull the government back from the frontier.

264

00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:37,000

He proclaims that Austin is no longer the capital and orders it to be moved to a town 100 miles to the east, Washington on the Brazos.

265

00:23:38,000 --> 00:23:41,000

He said, as president, I have the authority to take action.

266

00:23:42,000 --> 00:23:49,000

To make the change official, Houston announces his intent to remove the government archives from Austin's possession.

267

00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:55,000

The archives were crucial to everybody in Texas because they contained records of all land ownership.

268

00:23:56,000 --> 00:24:00,000

Without the archives, you didn't know who owned what and utter chaos would prevail.

269

00:24:02,000 --> 00:24:05,000

But the people of Austin are determined to prevent the move.

270

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:07,000

That man is a stone truck.

271

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:10,000

And refused to give up the archives.

272

00:24:12,000 --> 00:24:16,000

The people of Austin were concerned that without government, the city would eventually die.

273

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:22,000

After months of political back and forth, Houston reaches his boiling point.

274

00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:27,000

Houston was very angry and accused the populace of being traitors.

275

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:35,000

So on December 31st, the president recruits 20 Texas Rangers to go in and steal the archives.

276

00:24:37,000 --> 00:24:43,000

The Rangers slip into town with wagons, ready to load up the files at the general land office.

277

00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:48,000

Everything was going perfectly, but the Rangers have no idea something bad is about to happen.

278

00:24:53,000 --> 00:24:54,000

It's 1842.

279

00:24:55,000 --> 00:25:03,000

The Republic of Texas, at this time an independent sovereign nation, is in a fierce debate over the permanent location of its national capital.

280

00:25:04,000 --> 00:25:10,000

To settle the issue once and for all, the president of Texas, Samuel Houston, is in a fierce debate over the permanent location of its national capital.

281

00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:19,000

All the president of Texas, Samuel Houston, has dispatched a team of Texas Rangers to seize the National Archives from the city of Austin.

282

00:25:21,000 --> 00:25:30,000

As the Rangers are loading these records onto the wagons, all of a sudden, boom, a round of grapes shot came flying right at them.

283

00:25:31,000 --> 00:25:35,000

The Rangers were all about in surprise and come face to face with a culprit.

284

00:25:36,000 --> 00:25:38,000

They looked down the street and there's a cannon pointed at them.

285

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:42,000

With a very angry woman standing behind it.

286

00:25:43,000 --> 00:25:48,000

The woman behind the cannon is a 44-year-old innkeeper named Angelina Everly.

287

00:25:49,000 --> 00:25:51,000

Angelina Everly is a tough Texas frontier one.

288

00:25:52,000 --> 00:25:56,000

From her inn, Everly had noticed the Rangers stealing the archives.

289

00:25:57,000 --> 00:26:00,000

So she decided to take matters into her own hands.

290

00:26:03,000 --> 00:26:05,000

Hell hath no fury. I feel like a woman with a cannon.

291

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:14,000

But while the grapes shot misses the soldiers, the resounding blast of the cannon has succeeded in raising the alarm to Austin's fighting men.

292

00:26:15,000 --> 00:26:16,000

They're stealing from us!

293

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:18,000

Oh hell, no right gonna do it!

294

00:26:18,000 --> 00:26:23,000

A posse of Austin vigilantes forces the Rangers to surrender at gunpoint.

295

00:26:24,000 --> 00:26:29,000

The Rangers tried to negotiate their way out of this by claiming that they had presidential authority.

296

00:26:29,000 --> 00:26:32,000

The Austin mob said, you may have a letter, but we've got a cannon.

297

00:26:33,000 --> 00:26:37,000

Victoria's, the townsmen haul the records back to Austin.

298

00:26:38,000 --> 00:26:41,000

They buried them for safekeeping in Angelina Everly's backyard.

299

00:26:41,000 --> 00:26:44,000

Probably because she wouldn't have taken a gun from anybody.

300

00:26:45,000 --> 00:26:51,000

For the remainder of Sam Houston's presidency, the National Archives remain safeguarded in Austin.

301

00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:58,000

And in 1850, residents of the Lone Star State vote by a large majority to make Austin the permanent state capital.

302

00:26:59,000 --> 00:27:04,000

The fact that the archives stayed in Austin, I think played a major role in the government eventually returning.

303

00:27:08,000 --> 00:27:16,000

In 2004, over 160 years after the Texas Archive War, renowned sculptor and cartoonist Pat O'Leary,

304

00:27:16,000 --> 00:27:23,000

creates the statue, a testament to the fact that one woman and a cannon can truly have a lasting

impact.

305

00:27:24,000 --> 00:27:31,000

And today it stands in the very spot where the fearless heroine forever changed Austin's destiny.

306

00:27:34,000 --> 00:27:39,000

Nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains is the city of Monrovia, California.

307

00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:45,000

Established in 1887, this tranquil suburb began as a scattered group of orange farms.

308

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:53,000

But one of its most renowned early residents was far removed from the agricultural community.

309

00:27:54,000 --> 00:27:59,000

In fact, some of his greatest achievements were realized at a gracious home on the outskirts of town.

310

00:28:00,000 --> 00:28:02,000

It is too small to be a home.

311

00:28:02,000 --> 00:28:06,000

It's done in the style of Spanish colonial and it is surrounded by a wrought iron fence.

312

00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:13,000

Now privately owned, this residence once belonged to Upton Sinclair, a Pulitzer Prize winning novelist.

313

00:28:14,000 --> 00:28:20,000

But according to author Lauren Kudley, the popular writer was also at the center of a campaign.

314

00:28:21,000 --> 00:28:27,000

The Pulitzer Prize winner was Lauren Kudley, a famous writer and writer.

315

00:28:27,000 --> 00:28:30,000

The Pulitzer Prize winner was Lauren Kudley.

316

00:28:31,000 --> 00:28:36,000

The popular writer was also at the center of a campaign that forever changed the face of electioneering.

317

00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:41,000

This was one of the nastiest fights in the history of U.S. politics.

318

00:28:45,000 --> 00:28:47,000

August 1934.

319

00:28:48,000 --> 00:28:51,000

The Golden State is in the throes of the Great Depression.

320

00:28:52,000 --> 00:28:56,000

Abandoned factories, withered farms and droves of homeless families dot the California landscape.

321

00:28:57,000 --> 00:29:03,000

With the situation so desperate, all eyes are focused on the upcoming election for governor.

322

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:08,000

The incumbent is a Republican named Frank Merriam.

323

00:29:10,000 --> 00:29:19,000

Frank Merriam spoke for the class of Californians who owned banks, who owned major industries, the wealthy and influential people of California.

324

00:29:20,000 --> 00:29:24,000

Merriam's challenger on the Democratic ticket is his polar opposite.

325

00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:28,000

56-year-old writer and social reformer, Upton Sinclair.

326

00:29:30,000 --> 00:29:36,000

Upton Sinclair was one of the biggest celebrities of his time. Everywhere he went, people wanted to know his opinion.

327

00:29:38,000 --> 00:29:43,000

Sinclair fervently believes in supporting and elevating the working class.

328

00:29:45,000 --> 00:29:50,000

Translated into today's term, we would say jobs for everybody and a chicken in every pot.

329

00:29:50,000 --> 00:29:53,000

I have been asked to stand as candidate for governor.

330

00:29:54,000 --> 00:30:01,000

The progressive Sinclair embarks on an intense campaign, and it's not long before his populist ideals strike a chord with the voters.

331

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:04,000

Let's bring jobs back to the jobless.

332

00:30:06,000 --> 00:30:16,000

The public was thrilled. They thronged to see him. They participated in parades, quilting bees, newspapers. It was a very grassroots campaign.

333

00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:26,000

With the election only two months away and Sinclair skyrocketing up the polls, it seems clear which way the pendulum of politics will swing.

334

00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:32,000

Sinclair was like a shooting star. There was nothing to stop him. This is what people were excited about.

335

00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:39,000

We are going to show how the whole people can end poverty in civilization.

336

00:30:41,000 --> 00:30:44,000

But then there's a shocking reversal.

337

00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:50,000

His campaign is about to be rocked by something that no one saw coming.

338

00:30:51,000 --> 00:30:54,000

Nothing like this had ever been done before.

339

00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:18,000

The opposition has entered the ring.

340

00:31:21,000 --> 00:31:27,000

Suddenly, with the election just three weeks away, Sinclair's numbers in the polls plummet.

341

00:31:28,000 --> 00:31:35,000

And behind it all is a series of inflammatory newsreels that have just started playing in movie theaters throughout California.

342

00:31:36,000 --> 00:31:44,000

When you went to the movies in the 30s, there'd be a newsreel about 10 minutes before the feature film, summing up what's going on in the world.

343

00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:53,000

But rather than report on current events, the latest newsreels malign Upton Sinclair himself.

344

00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:57,000

We have something like a million and a quarter people dependent on public charity.

345

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:06,000

The newsreels said that these were homeless men on trains saying that as soon as Sinclair was elected, they would flock to California.

346

00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:13,000

Thirty stated that they were on their way to California to spend winter and to remain there permanently.

347

00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:21,000

Seen by millions of moviegoers, the newsreels feature what purport to be actual man on the street interviews.

348

00:32:22,000 --> 00:32:26,000

But what viewers don't know is that the interview subjects are actors.

349

00:32:27,000 --> 00:32:30,000

Criminal, homeless, and vagabond. We need to scare them out.

350

00:32:31,000 --> 00:32:35,000

I heard that if Upton Sinclair gets elected, he's going to give homeless people jobs.

351

00:32:36,000 --> 00:32:42,000

What they did was really ramp up the anti-Sinclair movement and get people out to vote against him.

352

00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:44,000

What's up?

353

00:32:46,000 --> 00:32:53,000

On November 6th, 1934, Sinclair is defeated at the ballot box by nearly a quarter of a million votes.

354

00:32:56,000 --> 00:33:00,000

The newsreels were a game changer in terms of politics.

355

00:33:01,000 --> 00:33:10,000

After his devastating loss, Sinclair publishes a series of articles in which he claims he was the victim of what he terms the lie factory.

356

00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:14,000

A secret campaign to spread misinformation about him.

357

00:33:18,000 --> 00:33:27,000

And his complaints are vindicated when MGM film executive and staunch Republican Irving Fahlberg admits that he funded the fake newsreels.

358

00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:30,000

What are you doing out here, bud?

359

00:33:30,000 --> 00:33:33,000

There had never been any lies in campaigns until this one.

360

00:33:34,000 --> 00:33:37,000

This is really the first example in our political history of smear campaigns.

361

00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:39,000

Everybody gets things but not...

362

00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:43,000

This was enormously controversial and sadly very effective.

363

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:50,000

In the aftermath of his crushing defeat, Sinclair retires from politics and returns to writing.

364

00:33:52,000 --> 00:33:58,000

And in 1942, he settles into this Spanish colonial style residence in Monrovia.

365

00:33:59,000 --> 00:34:02,000

Now on the National Registry of Historic Places.

366

00:34:03,000 --> 00:34:07,000

This home is where Upton Sinclair produced some of his greatest fictional works.

367

00:34:08,000 --> 00:34:13,000

Solidifying his place in history as one of America's most influential authors.

368

00:34:19,000 --> 00:34:25,000

In the heart of North Carolina's hilly Piedmont region is the quaint farming village of Cleveland.

369

00:34:26,000 --> 00:34:37,000

And amid the rustic barns and historic houses is a centuries old graveyard that is home to a rather unconventional site.

370

00:34:38,000 --> 00:34:40,000

It's an enclosure made of glass and brick.

371

00:34:41,000 --> 00:34:43,000

It has a window that you can see through it.

372

00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:46,000

Inside is a wafer thin headstone.

373

00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:52,000

There's no monument like it in any cemetery in this part of North Carolina.

374

00:34:53,000 --> 00:34:59,000

This peculiar tombstone is the century old grave site of a distinguished Cleveland resident.

375

00:35:00,000 --> 00:35:07,000

And according to history professor Gary Fries, there is more to the man memorialized here than meets the eye.

376

00:35:08,000 --> 00:35:14,000

This tomb is tied to a mystery that spans two continents and extends over two centuries.

377

00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:19,000

It's the 1820s in South Carolina.

378

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:24,000

The small rural town of Brownsville has just hired a new school teacher.

379

00:35:25,000 --> 00:35:29,000

A brilliant but mysterious Frenchman named Peter Stuart Ney.

380

00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:36,000

Ney was a phenomenon. He seemed to have an incredible breadth of knowledge.

381

00:35:37,000 --> 00:35:42,000

He was also the strictest of instructors and the gentlest of teachers.

382

00:35:42,000 --> 00:35:52,000

But at the same time, no one really knew who he was. No one is sure where he got the knowledge that he had.

383

00:35:53,000 --> 00:35:57,000

He kept his story to himself.

384

00:35:58,000 --> 00:36:03,000

The secretive instructor also exhibits some unusual behavior in the classroom.

385

00:36:05,000 --> 00:36:10,000

Ney was lined up with students along the wall then inspect them as if they were in the military.

386

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:15,000

And if they were out of line, he would take measures to make sure they measured up.

387

00:36:16,000 --> 00:36:23,000

He always ensured that fencing was part of this curriculum, using sticks or corn stalks in his demonstrations.

388

00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:32,000

Despite his eccentricities, Ney is an effective teacher and continues instructing the area's school children for years.

389

00:36:34,000 --> 00:36:39,000

Then in 1846, the gentile educator falls gravely ill.

390

00:36:40,000 --> 00:36:44,000

And on his deathbed, he makes a stunning declaration.

391

00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:49,000

As Ney lay dying, he seemed together the last of his physical strength.

392

00:36:50,000 --> 00:36:53,000

And he set up in bed with great force and he declared,

393

00:36:54,000 --> 00:36:56,000

I am martial Ney, a France.

394

00:36:58,000 --> 00:37:00,000

And then collapsed back into the bed.

395

00:37:03,000 --> 00:37:06,000

Soon after, Peter Stuart Ney passes away,

396

00:37:06,000 --> 00:37:10,000

leaving those in attendance to puzzle over his parting words.

397

00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:15,000

The man he claimed to be, Marshal Michel Ney,

398

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:20,000

was a well-known commander under the legendary French leader, Napoleon Bonaparte.

399

00:37:21,000 --> 00:37:25,000

Michel Ney was one of Napoleon Bonaparte's most trusted generals.

400

00:37:26,000 --> 00:37:28,000

Napoleon called him the bravest of the brave.

401

00:37:29,000 --> 00:37:31,000

Yet something doesn't add up.

402

00:37:31,000 --> 00:37:36,000

Marshal Michel Ney was killed by a firing squad decades earlier.

403

00:37:37,000 --> 00:37:45,000

After the battle of Waterloo, Napoleon was exiled and Ney was declared a traitor and ordered to be executed.

404

00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:51,000

The execution was then performed in the middle of a Paris street.

405

00:37:52,000 --> 00:37:54,000

It was witnessed by hundreds.

406

00:37:55,000 --> 00:38:00,000

So could Marshal Ney have cheated death and end up in the American South?

407

00:38:02,000 --> 00:38:07,000

It's 1846 in North Carolina.

408

00:38:08,000 --> 00:38:13,000

Southern school teacher Peter Ney has just made a stunning declaration on his deathbed.

409

00:38:14,000 --> 00:38:19,000

He claims to be one of Napoleon Bonaparte's most trusted commanders, Marshal Michel Ney.

410

00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:21,000

But there's a problem.

411

00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:26,000

Michel Ney was apparently executed decades earlier in France.

412

00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:29,000

So was the educator telling the truth?

413

00:38:31,000 --> 00:38:39,000

Following his death, friends of Peter Ney remarked that the school teacher did in fact bear a great resemblance to the legendary Marshal.

414

00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:46,000

And while preparing his corpse for burial, workers at the funeral home make a surprising observation.

415

00:38:49,000 --> 00:38:51,000

Ney's body was covered in scars.

416

00:38:53,000 --> 00:39:00,000

The scars seemed to represent the same places which Marshal Ney had been wounded during Napoleonic battles.

417

00:39:01,000 --> 00:39:12,000

But while these similarities are striking, the late instructor's claims seem hollow, since Marshal Ney's demise in the early 19th century was a well-documented event.

418

00:39:13,000 --> 00:39:15,000

The execution is witnessed by hundreds.

419

00:39:16,000 --> 00:39:20,000

People also knew that Marshal Ney was buried in Paris and there was a grave.

420

00:39:21,000 --> 00:39:27,000

So Peter Ney's friends dismiss his claim as merely the delirious rantings of a dying man.

421

00:39:28,000 --> 00:39:30,000

But that's not the end of the story.

422

00:39:32,000 --> 00:39:38,000

Fifty years later, scholars uncover stunning new evidence about Marshal Ney's demise.

423

00:39:39,000 --> 00:39:44,000

It seems the legendary French figure may not have been executed after all.

424

00:39:46,000 --> 00:39:57,000

Records suggest Marshal Ney belonged to the Freemasons, the secretive and powerful fraternity that prides itself in faithfully protecting its members.

425

00:39:57,000 --> 00:40:02,000

They say that Freemasons, they are bound by their oaths to help one another live.

426

00:40:03,000 --> 00:40:13,000

According to the theory, upon his sentence of death in the aftermath of Napoleon's defeat, Ney arranged for the soldiers to fire blanks at his execution.

427

00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:19,000

And the clever Marshal also prepared some theatrics to fool the crowd.

428

00:40:19,000 --> 00:40:24,000

They say that Ney brought the execution a bladder of blood.

429

00:40:25,000 --> 00:40:33,000

At the moment of execution, he fell forward and the blood splattered all across the ground to make

sure it looked like he was dead.

430

00:40:34,000 --> 00:40:35,000

But he wasn't.

431

00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:43,000

Fellow Masons then supposedly helped smuggle Ney out of France and sent him to America.

432

00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:50,000

The theory seems outlandish. However, there is one final twist that makes it hard to dismiss.

433

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When Marshal Ney's coffin in France was being transferred in 1903, the Gravedigger reportedly made a stunning discovery.

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It did not find the body. They don't know what happened to it.

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So were Peter Ney the schoolteacher and Marshal Ney the Napoleonic hero really one and the same?

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To this day, opinions are split. But the locals of rural North Carolina have made their position clear.

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In my heart of hearts, the consistency of the evidence convinces me this truly was Marshal Michel Ney.

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And so at the grave site of Peter Stuart Ney in Cleveland, North Carolina, the plaque bearing his name proudly declares him a soldier of the French Revolution under Napoleon Bonaparte.

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00:41:46,000 --> 00:41:53,000

From a pretender prince to a campaign of lies, a chilling rescue to a missing Marshal.

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00:41:54,000 --> 00:41:58,000

I'm Don Wildman and these are the Mysteries at the Monument.