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

A medieval tower that inspired a children's icon.

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

This nursery rhyme still sung and spoken all over the English-speaking world today.

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

A weathered graveyard offers haven for the living.

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00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:17,000

The lives of 28 people are on the line.

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

And an elegant statue of an heroic alter ego.

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

She was way ahead of her time, but she also had a shocking secret.

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

Sometimes the greatest secrets lie in plain sight.

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

These are the mysteries at the monument.

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00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:44,000

Kansas City.

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

In the 20th century, this former frontier community blossomed into an impressive metropolis,

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00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:53,000

lined with graceful boulevards and landscaped parks.

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

But just a few miles from these urban streets,

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00:00:57,000 --> 00:01:03,000

in the town of White Cloud, stands a monument with a more rustic appearance.

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00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:06,000

It's about six feet tall.

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00:01:06,000 --> 00:01:09,000

It's made of limestone and river rock.

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00:01:09,000 --> 00:01:16,000

And it has a brass plaque in the middle of it with a little boy and a piglet.

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00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:22,000

This scene appears to portray the area's simple agrarian past.

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

But as White Cloud resident Linda Maris explains,

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00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:33,000

the image actually chronicles an event that would impact lives far beyond this rural enclave.

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00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:38,000

It inspired a piece of Americana that is found in most homes today.

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00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:41,000

Who are the figures depicted in this plaque?

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00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:45,000

And what cultural craze did they unintentionally spark?

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00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:50,000

1913, White Cloud, Kansas.

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00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:54,000

The Chapman family is entertaining a special guest.

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00:01:54,000 --> 00:02:00,000

Their friend, William Danner, a respected preacher who works with the American leprosy mission.

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00:02:00,000 --> 00:02:08,000

Mr. Danner was traveling across the country trying to raise money that would help children with leprosy.

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00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:14,000

Danner describes how the disease leaves its victims crippled and disfigured.

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:17,000

It affects families, it affects children.

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00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:22,000

Their families were kicking them out and they had nowhere to go, no one to take care of them.

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00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:27,000

Seen some terrible things. Leprosy is an awful disease.

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00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:31,000

The Chapmans are horrified by Danner's tale.

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00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:39,000

But then they learn that a donation of \$25 can help care for one sick patient for an entire year.

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00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:43,000

\$25 was a good chunk of change.

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00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:46,000

It amounted to about \$600 today.

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00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:52,000

The family had become so inspired by listening to Mr. Danner that they felt like they needed to do something.

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00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:59,000

The family vows to raise a staggering \$250 by the time Danner leaves town.

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00:02:59,000 --> 00:03:03,000

That's enough cash to care for 10 children with leprosy.

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00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:11,000

They went from door to door, neighbor to neighbor to raise money.

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00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:13,000

Thank you.

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00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:19,000

But after making the rounds, they discover they've only raised \$225.

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

\$25 short of their goal of supporting 10 children.

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00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:26,000

It only was enough for nine.

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00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:32,000

One family member is especially disappointed by the shortfall, 10-year-old Wilbur.

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00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:35,000

Wilbur was a very compassionate boy.

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00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:40,000

He wanted to help those children and he felt like he had left that 10th person down.

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00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:48,000

The disheartened Wilbur is determined to find a solution and what he comes up with will inspire a cultural phenomenon.

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00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:59,000

Despite the shortfall, a grateful Mr. Danner thanks Wilbur for his efforts by giving him three silver dollars to spend however he likes.

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00:03:59,000 --> 00:04:04,000

But the boy isn't about to waste his cash on candy or toys.

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00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:08,000

He would find a better way to spend it.

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

A few days later, Wilbur is walking by a neighbor's farm when he spots a curly pink tail.

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00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:17,000

He saw a piglet.

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00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:22,000

He asked the farmer how much the little piglet was and the farmer told him \$3.

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00:04:22,000 --> 00:04:26,000

Wilbur hands over the money, but he's not purchasing a new pet.

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00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:29,000

He's investing in the future.

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00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:37,000

He plans to raise the last \$25 for the leprosy mission by fattening up his small pig and bringing it to market.

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00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:40,000

So Wilbur names the pig Pete.

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00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:47,000

For several months, Wilbur feeds and cares for Pete.

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00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:55,000

And Pete is becoming a very healthy pig. He's growing into quite a huge hog.

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00:04:56,000 --> 00:04:59,000

And finally, Wilbur is ready to take the pig to market.

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

To his delight, Pete the Pig fetches a price of \$25.

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

The very amount Wilbur needs to fulfill his family's pledge.

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00:05:09,000 --> 00:05:13,000

He immediately sends it to Mr. Danner to keep his promise.

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00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:19,000

But just when the boy thinks his mission is over, it takes on a life of its own.

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00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:26,000

A story about Wilbur and the pig soon appears in a national newspaper

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00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:30,000

and triggers a wave of interest in the American leprosy mission.

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00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:38,000

To capitalize on this momentum, the group's organizers decide to give their supporters their very own Pete.

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00:05:39,000 --> 00:05:45,000

They distribute hollow cast iron hogs that have a coin-sized slot on top.

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00:05:46,000 --> 00:05:51,000

People are encouraged to feed the pig with coins instead of corn.

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00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:54,000

The campaign is a huge success.

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00:05:55,000 --> 00:06:00,000

Collecting a staggering \$1 million to help fund the American leprosy mission.

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

Over the next few years, thousands of these cast iron miniatures appear in homes throughout the U.S.

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

Because of Wilbur's campaign, the Piggy Bank becomes the ubiquitous cultural icon it is today.

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00:06:14,000 --> 00:06:20,000

It's incredible how the Piggy Bank movement in America could start with a small boy and a piglet.

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00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:32,000

And in 1938, this monument is erected in white cloud to celebrate the heartwarming tale of Wilbur Chapman, Pete the Pig,

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00:06:32,000 --> 00:06:37,000

and the astonishing dividends that a child's selfless act can inspire.

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00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:45,000

Just 20 miles outside of Boston sits the quaint community of Sharon, Massachusetts.

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00:06:46,000 --> 00:06:51,000

Today, the area is known for its hiking trails and the placid waters of Lake Massapok.

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00:06:54,000 --> 00:07:02,000

But standing outside the public library on Main Street is a statue that harkens back to the town's colonial past.

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00:07:03,000 --> 00:07:09,000

It's 2,000 pounds. It's 5'7 inches tall. It's made of black and bronze.

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00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:18,000

In her right hand is a powder horn. In her left arm, she has a musket. In her left hand, a tricornered hat.

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00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:29,000

According to local historian Stephen Connolly, this statue's peaceful expression belies a sensational saga of valor, hardship, and deception.

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00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:37,000

This is the story of an incredibly brave woman that was way ahead of her time, but she also had a shocking secret.

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00:07:41,000 --> 00:07:52,000

1782. As the Revolutionary War drags on, the Continental Army, in its fight against the British, is stretched dangerously thin.

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00:07:52,000 --> 00:07:57,000

Morale was low. For the Army to recruit men, it was a difficult task.

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

There weren't many young, able-bodied men around anymore.

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00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:06,000

Amidst this turmoil, one Massachusetts native wants to do her part.

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

21-year-old Deborah Sampson.

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00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:17,000

Deborah was a patriotic person. She was a self-driven person. This was a fledgling country at the time. She wanted to be part of it.

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00:08:18,000 --> 00:08:23,000

Deborah believes she can best support the cause by becoming a soldier.

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00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:28,000

But there's a problem. Women aren't allowed to serve in the Army.

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00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:36,000

So she comes up with an audacious idea. She will disguise herself as a man.

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00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:47,000

She cut her hair slightly short. She also had to wrap her breasts in bandages to disguise herself more. She looked like a man.

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00:08:48,000 --> 00:08:55,000

On May 20th, Sampson travels to a nearby recruitment center and puts her disguise to the test.

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00:08:56,000 --> 00:09:01,000

Deborah walked into the enlistment home. She sat down and discussed her intentions.

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00:09:02,000 --> 00:09:06,000

To her relief, the recruiting officer never questions her identity.

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

She's soon enrolled in the Continental Army under the alias Robert Shurtliff

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00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:18,000

and is dispatched with her regiment to the Hudson Valley.

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00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:23,000

Deborah was quite relieved at this stage. She was proud of her accomplishment.

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00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:30,000

To keep her secret safe, Deborah changes only at night and far away from her fellow soldiers.

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00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:36,000

Over the next year, she participates in several battles throughout the region.

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00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:42,000

With each skirmish, she distinguishes herself as one of the best combatants on the line.

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00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:49,000

Deborah was country strong. She grew up on a farm. She could handle all the instruments of war that were handed to her.

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00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:53,000

She was asked to join the elite light infantry.

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00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:58,000

They were more agile and generally more intelligent than the other forces in the Army.

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00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:01,000

And Deborah easily held her own.

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00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:08,000

But this fighter's stellar military career is about to come crashing down.

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00:10:09,000 --> 00:10:15,000

In the summer of 1783, Deborah's regiment is sent to defend Philadelphia.

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00:10:16,000 --> 00:10:21,000

But upon their arrival, the troops discover that the British are not the only enemy in town.

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00:10:23,000 --> 00:10:26,000

A malignant fever is raging in the city.

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00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:29,000

And Deborah unfortunately caught this fever.

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00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:37,000

As her condition worsens, the ailing soldier is taken to a nearby hospital to be examined by a doctor.

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00:10:39,000 --> 00:10:42,000

Deborah was terrified that her true identity would be discovered.

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00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:52,000

It's summer 1783, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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

For a year, Deborah Sampson has been masquerading as a man so she could fight in the Continental Army.

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

But when she falls ill and is taken to a hospital for treatment, her true identity is in danger of being revealed.

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00:11:06,000 --> 00:11:10,000

So will doctors uncover Deborah's revolutionary ruse?

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00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:21,000

Camp physician Dr. Barnabas Binney examines Deborah's unconscious body and observes something unusual under her shirt.

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00:11:22,000 --> 00:11:26,000

He noticed that there were bandages around her chest and he wasn't quite sure what this was about.

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00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:29,000

Possibly there was another wound that had to be dealt with.

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00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:35,000

When Dr. Binney unwraps the dressings, he gets the surprise of his life.

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00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:41,000

He discovered that this man was actually a woman.

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00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:44,000

It was a tremendous shock for him.

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00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:48,000

Deborah eventually comes to and confesses to the deception.

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00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:51,000

She waits for the doctor to summon the guards and arrest her.

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00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:58,000

But instead of reporting her, Dr. Binney offers to nurse her back to health.

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00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:05,000

He realized that this was a woman who defended her country almost up to the point of death.

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00:12:06,000 --> 00:12:10,000

At a time when women weren't allowed to fight, he had a patriot on his hands.

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00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:19,000

When the female soldier's health finally improves, Dr. Binney writes a letter to her commanding officer, revealing her true identity.

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00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:26,000

But he also extols her service and arranges for her honorable discharge from the Continental Army.

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

She had performed a full service of duty up until the end of the war.

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00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:35,000

She was a valiant and good soldier of the time.

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00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:43,000

After the war ends, the pioneering figure publishes a memoir recounting her incredible life.

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00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:47,000

She is ultimately celebrated as a national hero.

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00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:54,000

Women weren't allowed into the army until 1901. She was almost 120 years ahead of her time.

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00:12:56,000 --> 00:13:03,000

In 1989, Deborah Sampson is honored in Sharon, Massachusetts with a life-sized bronze statue,

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00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:09,000

a testament to the female fighter who proved that patriotism knows no gender.

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

Cincinnati, Ohio. The late 19th century saw the construction of famous works of architecture,

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00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:23,000

like the Tyler Davidson Fountain and the Cincinnati Inn Hotel,

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00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:28,000

or Nate Structures that inspired the title, The Paris of America.

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00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:37,000

But just north of the city's central district is a landmark that boasts monuments on a much smaller scale.

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00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:43,000

It was established in 1843. It's approximately 24 acres.

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00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:50,000

It's a beautiful area with trees and green grass, and there is a big iron gate right at the front entrance.

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00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:58,000

This is Wesleyan Cemetery, the region's oldest continually operating burial ground.

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00:13:59,000 --> 00:14:06,000

But as historian Kathy Dahl attests, this resting place was once an unlikely haven for the living.

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00:14:07,000 --> 00:14:11,000

This graveyard was the setting for a daring tale of deception and escape.

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00:14:14,000 --> 00:14:22,000

1853, Boone County, Kentucky. Virginia farmer John Fairfield has just arrived in town.

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00:14:23,000 --> 00:14:29,000

But he's not here to buy seed or trade cattle. Fairfield is on a secret mission.

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

John Fairfield is an abolitionist of the Underground Railroad, and he has come to Boone County to liberate as many slaves as he can.

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00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:51,000

The unlikely abolitionist grew up on a slave-holding plantation and came to despise the practice at a young age.

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00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:58,000

He had childhood friends who were slaves. Really opened his eyes to the abuses of slavery.

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

For years, Fairfield has been leading slaves to freedom through the Underground Railroad's network of safe houses and secret routes.

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00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:17,000

Now, by using his position as a farmer for cover, Fairfield is about to recruit his latest group of fugitives.

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00:15:18,000 --> 00:15:22,000

When Fairfield comes to Boone County, he poses as a poultry dealer.

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00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:29,000

But he is secretly meeting with slaves about how he can help them get to Canada.

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00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:35,000

And he is able to convince 28 men, women and children to escape.

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00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:44,000

The plan is to transport the slaves to Canada, because according to U.S. law, even in the free states of the American North,

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00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:50,000

runaway slaves can be arrested and sent back south. The risk of capture is high.

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00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:57,000

If they are caught, everyone will be punished. Fairfield could face jail time.

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00:15:58,000 --> 00:16:04,000

The slaves will be sent back, beaten, whipped, or sold further south so they couldn't escape again.

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

The first step in the perilous 350-mile journey north will take the group across the Ohio River.

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00:16:14,000 --> 00:16:20,000

The key to success will be to sneak through the city of Cincinnati under cover of darkness.

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00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:25,000

They couldn't travel during the daylight. They would definitely be noticed as escaped slaves.

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00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:33,000

On the night of April 2nd, Fairfield and the 28 slaves set off on their harrowing journey.

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00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:40,000

They hurry to cross the river so they can pass through Cincinnati before dawn.

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00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:45,000

But once across the water, the muddy river bank slows them down.

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00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:53,000

Their journey towards Cincinnati ended up costing them more time than Fairfield had anticipated.

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00:16:55,000 --> 00:17:01,000

As day breaks, the group finds itself standing on the edge of town where they could easily be discovered.

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00:17:01,000 --> 00:17:08,000

The escaping slaves must somehow get through the city in broad daylight before their owners can track them down.

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00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:15,000

They now need to figure out how to get through the city without raising the alarm.

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00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:19,000

The lives of 28 people are on the line.

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00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:26,000

Since in 1853, abolitionist John Fairfield is faced with an almost impossible task.

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00:17:26,000 --> 00:17:32,000

He must somehow move a group of 28 fugitive slaves through the middle of the city in broad daylight.

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00:17:33,000 --> 00:17:37,000

If caught, the runaways face brutal retribution.

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00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:54,000

While the fugitives hide in a secluded ravine, Fairfield heads into town to seek help.

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00:17:55,000 --> 00:17:59,000

He contacts a local anti-slavery activist named Levi Coffin.

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00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:08,000

Levi Coffin was an abolitionist with a network of safe houses from Indiana, Michigan and into Canada.

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00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:13,000

But Coffin's safe houses lie on the other side of Cincinnati.

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00:18:14,000 --> 00:18:18,000

So Fairfield and Coffin come up with a daring idea.

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00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:23,000

They will hide all 28 fugitives in plain sight.

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00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:31,000

Their plan is to disguise the group as a funeral procession going to the Wesleyan cemetery.

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00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:37,000

The cemetery lies on the city's northern edge in close proximity to several safe houses.

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00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:41,000

And it is uniquely suited to receiving the party.

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00:18:42,000 --> 00:18:46,000

Wesleyan Cemetery was the first racially integrated cemetery.

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00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:52,000

It allowed the burials of both black and white people. And Levi Coffin knew this.

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00:18:54,000 --> 00:18:59,000

Later that day, Fairfield assembles the frightened group along the edge of town.

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00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:07,000

Disguised as an undertaker, he slowly leads them towards the cemetery.

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00:19:08,000 --> 00:19:16,000

As the procession enters the city, curious bystanders stop and stare at the strange mixed race group of mourners.

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00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:23,000

And the escaping slaves think they are caught.

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00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:29,000

But then the fugitives realize the plan is working.

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00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:34,000

As the procession passes through town, people bow their heads in respect.

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00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:37,000

And no one stopped them.

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00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:42,000

The escapees reach the cemetery later that day.

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00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:46,000

And find shelter at Coffin's network of safe houses.

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00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:50,000

The plan works perfectly.

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00:19:51,000 --> 00:19:57,000

A few weeks later, Fairfield leads the fugitives across the border into Canada and freedom.

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

This journey, which comes to be called the Escape of the 28,

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00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:07,000

is one of the largest and best documented in the history of the Underground Railroad.

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00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:20,000

And in 2014, the National Park Service formally recognizes Wesleyan Cemetery's role in the audacious flight,

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00:20:20,000 --> 00:20:23,000

by naming it a Network to Freedom Landmark.

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00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:38,000

Stretching over 54,000 square miles of mountain ranges and valleys is the vast empty wilderness of the Mojave Desert.

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00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:48,000

But on the western reaches of this barren landscape is a man-made landmark built to protect the nation.

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00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:51,000

It's over 480 square miles.

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00:20:51,000 --> 00:20:57,000

It has over 60 miles of runways and has over 10,000 personnel employed there.

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00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:01,000

This is Edwards Air Force Base.

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00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:09,000

The complex network of hangers and airstrips has been a key to virtually every stride made in American aeronautics,

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00:21:09,000 --> 00:21:14,000

from breaking the sound barrier to welcoming the first space shuttle back to Earth.

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00:21:15,000 --> 00:21:24,000

But according to historian Al Blankenship, the base also gave rise to a top secret operation that changed the face of the Cold War.

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00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:30,000

This was one of the most ambitious military projects in history.

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00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:37,000

1957, Washington, D.C.

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00:21:37,000 --> 00:21:43,000

Military officials fear the country's nuclear capabilities are lagging behind the Soviets.

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00:21:44,000 --> 00:21:52,000

But with aerial reconnaissance deemed too risky, government authorities are stymied on how to gauge the Soviet arsenal.

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00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:59,000

So they turn to a 48-year-old CIA officer for help. His name is Richard Bissell.

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00:21:59,000 --> 00:22:06,000

Richard Bissell was extremely intelligent. He had always been considered a real leader, relatively ineffective.

214

00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:13,000

Bissell heads up an effort to develop what could be the game-changing U.S. spy technology.

215

00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:17,000

The first satellite that can take photographs from space.

216

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:21,000

The project is codenamed Corona.

217

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

There was a lot of pressure for Corona to be a very, very successful program. There was really no room for failure.

218

00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:36,000

The good news is that Bissell and his team have already designed a spy satellite equipped with a powerful camera,

219

00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:44,000

as well as a heat-resistant capsule in which to transport the film from its orbit 100 miles above the Earth.

220

00:22:44,000 --> 00:22:48,000

All that's left is to find a way to recover the capsule.

221

00:22:50,000 --> 00:22:52,000

Catch it with airplanes.

222

00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:58,000

The solution was to pluck the film capsule out of mid-air with an aircraft.

223

00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:03,000

To accomplish this, Bissell puts together an ambitious plan.

224

00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:10,000

The film capsule, attached to a parachute, will enter the atmosphere over a carefully targeted zone.

225

00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:22,000

Circling in that section of sky will be nine C-119 cargo planes known as flying boxcars that are specially rigged to snare the capsule's parachute while the plane is in flight.

226

00:23:23,000 --> 00:23:31,000

Placed in the very rear of the ramp on the cargo plane, you have two 43-foot-long poles.

227

00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:37,000

Attached to the two poles is a kind of steel net made of cable and hooks.

228

00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:48,000

But in order to snag the capsule's parachute, the pilots must accurately judge the speed of its descent and intercept it at the correct angle.

229

00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:54,000

The challenges are horrendous. How do you find a needle in a haystack?

230

00:23:54,000 --> 00:24:07,000

In 1958, the seemingly mad cat plan is approved and an elite squadron of pilots begins training at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

231

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:16,000

The team is nicknamed the Star Catchers and on August 18, 1960, the delicate operation is put to the test.

232

00:24:17,000 --> 00:24:22,000

A satellite is launched into orbit carrying the state-of-the-art spy camera and film.

233

00:24:22,000 --> 00:24:28,000

As it circles the Earth from space, the device snaps surveillance photos of the Soviet Union.

234

00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:40,000

27 hours later, the film capsule begins the harrowing process of re-entering the atmosphere and the flying boxcars take off.

235

00:24:41,000 --> 00:24:44,000

Nobody else in the Air Force anywhere had ever done this before.

236

00:24:44,000 --> 00:25:05,000

It's 1960 and the Cold War is at its height. A team of CIA spies are trying to retrieve a capsule containing a priceless roll of film by catching it in midair before it smashes into the ocean.

237

00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:10,000

It's like catching a pop fly from outer space.

238

00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:17,000

Bissell and his team hold their breath while the planes patrol the target zone.

239

00:25:18,000 --> 00:25:22,000

The parachute carrying the film capsule is finally spotted.

240

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:29,000

With everything on the line, a flying boxcar homes in on the hurtling object.

241

00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:37,000

The recovery aircraft zoomed towards the descending capsule but completely missed.

242

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:49,000

So it turned around and tried a second time, again missing the capsule.

243

00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:56,000

Failure seems imminent. The team's years of work could all be for nothing.

244

00:25:58,000 --> 00:26:01,000

It looks like they are not going to make this work.

245

00:26:01,000 --> 00:26:15,000

But then on the third try, they made a successful recovery.

246

00:26:16,000 --> 00:26:20,000

The priceless capsule is safe.

247

00:26:21,000 --> 00:26:30,000

In total, the photographs recovered by the pilots capture over 1.6 million square miles of Soviet territory in stunning detail.

248

00:26:31,000 --> 00:26:38,000

More than all the previous aerial reconnaissance put together. It also marks another impressive breakthrough.

249

00:26:39,000 --> 00:26:43,000

This was the first time that mankind had taken pictures of the Earth from space.

250

00:26:44,000 --> 00:26:51,000

And when President Eisenhower and his military advisors view the photographs, they receive a welcome surprise.

251

00:26:52,000 --> 00:27:03,000

The film revealed that the Soviet Union only had a fraction of missile, silos and aircraft bombers that they claimed to have.

252

00:27:04,000 --> 00:27:14,000

On realizing that the Soviet Union has greatly exaggerated their capabilities, the balance of power

sways in America's favor, transforming the landscape of the Cold War.

253

00:27:14,000 --> 00:27:30,000

And today, Edwards Air Force Base sprawls across the Mojave Desert beneath the endless sky, still poised to catch a falling star.

254

00:27:32,000 --> 00:27:40,000

New York, New York. The city that never sleeps is home to countless communications and publishing firms.

255

00:27:41,000 --> 00:27:48,000

And standing in Lower Manhattan is one of the media industry's most iconic structures.

256

00:27:49,000 --> 00:27:57,000

It's on Fifth Avenue in Greenwich Village. It's native limestone. It has columns, cast iron entrance. It's a beautiful building.

257

00:27:58,000 --> 00:28:00,000

This is the Macmillan Building.

258

00:28:01,000 --> 00:28:09,000

Since 1962, this historic landmark has served as the headquarters for the venerable magazine Forbes.

259

00:28:10,000 --> 00:28:21,000

And as journalist Adam Pennenberg knows firsthand, this company once uncovered an astonishing scandal that brought down one of the industry's shining stars.

260

00:28:22,000 --> 00:28:30,000

This rocked the journalism profession. When this story came out, it was shocking. We had never come across anything like this.

261

00:28:36,000 --> 00:28:47,000

1998, Manhattan. Online journalism is in its infancy. Among those hoping to establish a presence on the net is Forbes Magazine.

262

00:28:48,000 --> 00:28:58,000

The company has launched a new venture called Forbes Digital Tool and has hired veteran print journalist Adam Pennenberg as one of its writers.

263

00:28:59,000 --> 00:29:10,000

Online news was not held in much esteem by our print brethren. There was this view that it could not possibly be as accurate or as fact-based as print journalism at the time.

264

00:29:11,000 --> 00:29:19,000

Pennenberg covers the world of cyber crime for the fledgling operation and prides himself on his encyclopedic knowledge.

265

00:29:22,000 --> 00:29:26,000

But one day in early May, the seasoned reporter is caught off guard.

266

00:29:27,000 --> 00:29:28,000

Why didn't you have this?

267

00:29:28,000 --> 00:29:34,000

His editor angrily opens up the latest issue of a rival publication, The New Republic.

268

00:29:35,000 --> 00:29:38,000

I don't know. I've never heard of any of this.

269

00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:45,000

The New Republic was available on Air Force One. It was a very venerable print publication.

270

00:29:46,000 --> 00:29:56,000

His boss points at an article describing the exploits of a teenage computer hacker who reportedly extorted thousands of dollars from a California software firm.

271

00:29:57,000 --> 00:30:03,000

My editor asked me, why didn't you have this? I was kicking myself because it was a story I should have had.

272

00:30:04,000 --> 00:30:13,000

Pennenberg is astonished to see the rival journalist who scooped him is only 25 years old. His name is Stephen Glass.

273

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:18,000

Stephen Glass was viewed as the hottest young reporter to come out of Washington in years.

274

00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:24,000

And he was known for coming up with stories that had amazing quotes and amazing scenes.

275

00:30:25,000 --> 00:30:34,000

Pennenberg sets out to redeem himself by writing a follow-up profile on the California company that was hacked.

276

00:30:35,000 --> 00:30:40,000

But the journalist soon finds the task is more difficult than he had expected.

277

00:30:41,000 --> 00:30:47,000

I started looking for the company online and there was no website for it. There was no company by that name.

278

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:53,000

Something didn't seem right to me. Perplexed, Pennerberg digs a little deeper.

279

00:30:54,000 --> 00:31:00,000

I call governmental agencies, find out whether this corporation had ever registered or paid taxes.

280

00:31:01,000 --> 00:31:03,000

And I couldn't find anything.

281

00:31:04,000 --> 00:31:10,000

Then the writer checks the other details in the piece. And I couldn't confirm one fact in the story.

282

00:31:14,000 --> 00:31:15,000

None of this is true.

283

00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:23,000

It seems that Glass has committed the cardinal sin of reporting, that he has concocted the entire story.

284

00:31:24,000 --> 00:31:28,000

This could be the big scoop that Forbes and its fledgling website have been seeking.

285

00:31:29,000 --> 00:31:34,000

There's the potential for a really big story here. This is an amazing opportunity for us.

286

00:31:36,000 --> 00:31:43,000

But to run an expose about Glass and his apparently fabricated story, Penningberg will need absolute proof.

287

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:46,000

So the reporter comes up with a plan.

288

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

Interview Stephen Glass, under the guise of writing a follow-up piece and catch him in his lies.

289

00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:55,000

This is Adam at Forbes magazine.

290

00:31:56,000 --> 00:32:00,000

So I called the New Republic and, much to my amazement, he agreed.

291

00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:07,000

The next day, Penningberg and his editor sit down to a conference call with Stephen Glass.

292

00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:09,000

I've got my editor here with me.

293

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:11,000

Hello Stephen.

294

00:32:11,000 --> 00:32:15,000

Will they prove the young reporter's breaking story is a sham?

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00:32:20,000 --> 00:32:22,000

Manhattan, 1998.

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00:32:23,000 --> 00:32:33,000

Online journalist Adam Pennerberg is convinced that a celebrated young writer named Stephen Glass has fabricated a story in the venerable print magazine, The New Republic.

297

00:32:34,000 --> 00:32:39,000

To prove it, he set up an interview with Glass in hopes that he can trip him up.

298

00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:43,000

So can the online hack expose the prints of print?

299

00:32:46,000 --> 00:32:47,000

May 8th.

300

00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:51,000

Hey Stephen, it's Adam from Forbes.

301

00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:56,000

On the call, Pennerberg and his editor casually quiz Stephen Glass.

302

00:32:57,000 --> 00:32:58,000

We just have some questions.

303

00:32:59,000 --> 00:33:04,000

And I said, I couldn't find the website for the company, so I asked if he would share some of his sources with me.

304

00:33:05,000 --> 00:33:10,000

To Pennenberg's amazement, Glass insists a website does exist.

305

00:33:11,000 --> 00:33:12,000

I'm looking at it right now. It's right there.

306

00:33:13,000 --> 00:33:15,000

I thought, how is that possible?

307

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:21,000

Because I had to spend two days trying to find this company I couldn't find it.

308

00:33:22,000 --> 00:33:28,000

When Pennerberg plugs in the address that Glass provides, a website does appear on the screen.

309

00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:32,000

But it's unlike any other company website he has ever seen.

310

00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:38,000

We pulled it up and it started to unfurl on our screen, and the site itself was incredibly amateurish.

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00:33:40,000 --> 00:33:43,000

It looked like a high school kid had created it in 20 minutes.

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

We all looked at each other and my editor said, it looks like a site that's been created to fool someone.

313

00:33:51,000 --> 00:33:52,000

No, I do not appreciate that.

314

00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:57,000

It's clear to Pennerberg that the suspicious website was set up just before the call.

315

00:33:58,000 --> 00:34:00,000

He was trying to cover his tracks.

316

00:34:01,000 --> 00:34:08,000

As the interview continues, Glass attempts to stand by his article, but he's unable to back up any of it.

317

00:34:09,000 --> 00:34:10,000

And so they knew ahead of it.

318

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:18,000

On May 11th, Pennerberg posts an expose on Forbes' website.

319

00:34:19,000 --> 00:34:23,000

The piece declares Glass's blockbuster article was pure fiction.

320

00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:26,000

It's a major scoop for online journalism.

321

00:34:27,000 --> 00:34:32,000

Stephen Glass created a whole story out of nothing for an respectable print publication.

322

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

When the story came out, the public and my fellow journalists were shocked.

323

00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:47,000

An internal investigation at the New Republic later reveals that Glass fabricated more than half the stories he wrote for the magazine.

324

00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:53,000

He made up fake business cards, fake websites, fake voicemail.

325

00:34:54,000 --> 00:34:58,000

To create a story out of whole cloth is just unfathomable.

326

00:35:00,000 --> 00:35:02,000

Stephen Glass is immediately fired.

327

00:35:04,000 --> 00:35:08,000

He never works in journalism again and is currently pursuing a career in law.

328

00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:14,000

You have the right to your own opinions, but not your own facts.

329

00:35:18,000 --> 00:35:26,000

Today, the Macmillan building is on the National Registry of Historic Places and continues to serve as the headquarters for Forbes,

330

00:35:27,000 --> 00:35:33,000

a company that exposed one of the most notorious examples of journalistic misconduct in media history.

331

00:35:37,000 --> 00:35:41,000

Colchester, England has a history that dates back 2000 years.

332

00:35:42,000 --> 00:35:46,000

The ancient city is home to the oldest Roman gateway in the country.

333

00:35:47,000 --> 00:35:49,000

And the largest Norman keep in Europe.

334

00:35:51,000 --> 00:35:57,000

But just a stone's throw from these ruins stands a lesser known structure that has its own surprising tale.

335

00:35:58,000 --> 00:36:05,000

This monument dates from the 15th century and it's got a very, very tall tower which is 60, 70 feet high.

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00:36:06,000 --> 00:36:10,000

The bottom two-thirds is medieval stone and the top part has been rebuilt in brick.

337

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:12,000

All in all, it's quite an impressive building.

338

00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:19,000

This is St. Mary at the Walls, a Victorian church constructed around a medieval tower.

339

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:24,000

Its fortified chapel was the scene of one of the region's bloodiest battles.

340

00:36:25,000 --> 00:36:32,000

But as historian Patrick Denney reveals, the deadly clash is also said to have inspired a classic children's verse.

341

00:36:33,000 --> 00:36:41,000

It's believed that from that encounter came a nursery rhyme which is still sung and spoken by children all over the English-speaking world.

342

00:36:42,000 --> 00:36:44,000

It's a very interesting story to watch today.

343

00:36:47,000 --> 00:36:50,000

June 1648, Colchester, England.

344

00:36:51,000 --> 00:36:53,000

The country is ravaged by civil war.

345

00:36:54,000 --> 00:36:58,000

The royalists on one side support the monarch King Charles I.

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00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:04,000

While the parliamentarians believe the citizens should elect their own leaders.

347

00:37:05,000 --> 00:37:07,000

King Charles believed that God had chosen him to rule.

348

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:11,000

But people in parliament wanted to say what was going on.

349

00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:18,000

The commander-in-chief of the parliamentary forces is 36-year-old Thomas Lord Fairfax.

350

00:37:19,000 --> 00:37:22,000

Thomas Lord Fairfax had a long successful career.

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00:37:23,000 --> 00:37:27,000

The reporters say that he was quite fierce and people respected him and even feared him.

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00:37:28,000 --> 00:37:34,000

A brilliant strategist, Fairfax has defeated the King's forces at almost every turn.

353

00:37:35,000 --> 00:37:41,000

But in the fortified city of Colchester, his rebel army faces its biggest challenge yet.

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00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:44,000

Colchester still had its Roman wall intact.

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00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:48,000

It was very difficult for an attacker to gain advantage.

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00:37:49,000 --> 00:37:55,000

So Fairfax then decided to blockade the town and to besiege it and to slowly starve them out.

357

00:37:58,000 --> 00:38:02,000

Fairfax orders his men to build forts and ditches around the city.

358

00:38:03,000 --> 00:38:10,000

But as the construction begins, there is a deafening explosion.

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00:38:13,000 --> 00:38:18,000

Through the smoke, Fairfax sees something unusual atop St. Mary's church tower.

360

00:38:19,000 --> 00:38:26,000

The King's men have somehow hoisted a cannon to the top of the structure to attack the parliamentarian army.

361

00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:33,000

It was a row-ton brass cannon about nine feet in length and it could certainly fire well over a mile from the top of the tower.

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00:38:34,000 --> 00:38:36,000

That was a massive advantage point.

363

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:41,000

Just as terrifying is the sight of the man gunning the cannon.

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00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:44,000

The infamous One-Eyed Thompson.

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00:38:45,000 --> 00:38:49,000

Thompson was referred to as the best gunner in England.

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00:38:50,000 --> 00:38:56,000

He could actually shoot a cannonball a mile or more and make that ball land exactly where he wanted with great accuracy.

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00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:04,000

One-Eyed Thompson and his elevated cannon are ready to wreak havoc on Fairfax and his men.

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00:39:05,000 --> 00:39:09,000

Fairfax is looking at that gunner on top of the tower and he's thinking,

369

00:39:09,000 --> 00:39:12,000

I've just got to get rid of this man.

370

00:39:20,000 --> 00:39:22,000

It's 1648 in Colchester, England.

371

00:39:23,000 --> 00:39:31,000

Lord Fairfax, commander of the parliamentarian army, has successfully cornered King Charles' royalist forces inside the city.

372

00:39:32,000 --> 00:39:37,000

But the royalists have a secret weapon, a giant cannon positioned atop the city walls.

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00:39:37,000 --> 00:39:41,000

So can Fairfax take down this formidable weaponry?

374

00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:51,000

To bring down Thompson and his powerful weapon, Fairfax will need large, mountain guns of his own.

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00:39:52,000 --> 00:39:54,000

And he managed to get some heavy cannon brought down to London.

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00:39:55,000 --> 00:40:05,000

On July 14th, under the cover of night, the parliamentarians inch closer to St. Mary's Church with their newly acquired weapons.

377

00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:08,000

At daybreak, they attack.

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00:40:09,000 --> 00:40:13,000

He orders his men to fire on that church repeatedly throughout the day.

379

00:40:15,000 --> 00:40:20,000

Suddenly, Fairfax hears the deafening thunder of rubble crashing to the ground.

380

00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:30,000

Fairfax and his troops could see this church crumbling before their eyes.

381

00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:33,000

The tower was badly, badly damaged.

382

00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:41,000

Fairfax and his men have sent one-eyed Thompson and his cannon falling to the earth.

383

00:40:42,000 --> 00:40:46,000

The gunner is believed to have been killed. The cannon came crashing to the ground.

384

00:40:49,000 --> 00:40:53,000

Following the siege, the royalists finally surrender.

385

00:40:54,000 --> 00:40:58,000

The parliamentarians arrest and execute the leaders of the opposing army.

386

00:40:59,000 --> 00:41:03,000

And in the country's capital, the defeated King Charles meets a violent end.

387

00:41:04,000 --> 00:41:08,000

He was executed in London in January 1649.

388

00:41:10,000 --> 00:41:13,000

But the siege of Colchester has become famous for another reason.

389

00:41:14,000 --> 00:41:20,000

According to legend, the round cannon used to defend the tower was nicknamed Humpty Dumpty.

390

00:41:23,000 --> 00:41:29,000

And it's believed that the cannon Humpty Dumpty became the inspiration for the nursery rhyme.

391

00:41:30,000 --> 00:41:35,000

When Humpty Dumpty came down and broke to pieces, all the King's horses and all the King's men,

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00:41:36,000 --> 00:41:40,000

supporters of Charles I, the royalists, couldn't put Humpty together again.

393

00:41:44,000 --> 00:41:50,000

But it wasn't until 1872 that Louis Carroll, in the story of Alice through the Looking Glass,

394

00:41:51,000 --> 00:41:54,000

featured a Humpty Dumpty as an egg-shaped character sitting on a wall.

395

00:41:59,000 --> 00:42:05,000

Today, St. Mary's at the Wall Church, rebuilt after the siege, and its partially surviving tower,

396

00:42:06,000 --> 00:42:12,000

endure as a reminder of a legendary cannon and the beloved nursery rhyme it's said to have

inspired.

397

00:42:14,000 --> 00:42:23,000

From a female fighter to an egg-shaped icon, a crooked correspondent to a pig named Pete.

398

00:42:24,000 --> 00:42:28,000

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

399

00:42:29,000 --> 00:42:30,000

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