

The image features a dirt road with wooden fences leading into a field. The top half of the image is overlaid with a historical map, showing various place names and geographical features. The title "RIDE TO ROME" is prominently displayed in a large, golden, serif font across the top.

RIDE TO ROME

History recorded the battles.
Between the lines were the people.



THE JOURNEY

A woman and a man are seen from behind, sitting in a wooden wagon. The woman is on the left, wearing a light-colored, patterned dress with a long braid. The man is on the right, wearing a dark vest over a light shirt and a dark hat. They are looking down a dirt road towards a sunset. In the background, several men are working in a field, and two horses are harnessed to the front of the wagon. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun.

In the spring of 1863, a salt shortage threatened communities across North Alabama. Determined to provide for her family and neighbors, widow Mert McDaniel entrusts Jep, her enslaved wagon master, and her eleven-year-old daughter Katie with a dangerous journey to Rome, Georgia.



As Union Colonel Abel Streight races across Alabama and Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest pursues him, Jep and Katie find themselves caught between two armies and swept into one of the Civil War's most remarkable campaigns.



Through their eyes, the raid becomes more than a military story—it becomes a story of ordinary people struggling to survive extraordinary times.

SALT WAS SURVIVAL

Cut off from Northern trade and with supplies dwindling, families across the South faced a growing salt shortage.



Without salt, meat could not be preserved for the months ahead.



As supplies dwindled and prices soared, a simple trip to purchase salt became vital.



For one North Alabama community, everything depended on a wagon reaching Rome, Georgia.



KATIE MCDANIEL

Smart, curious, and determined, Katie McDaniel is entrusted with a journey few children would ever make.

As she and Jep travel to Rome, Georgia to secure desperately needed salt, they find themselves caught between pursuing armies and events far larger than themselves.

Through Katie's eyes, an ordinary journey becomes an extraordinary chapter of history.



JEP

Enslaved but never defeated, Jep is the steady hand guiding the journey to Rome.

Entrusted with a community's money, its precious salt, and the safety of eleven-year-old Katie McDaniel, he carries responsibilities that few men could bear.

Calm under pressure and guided by an unwavering sense of duty, Jep becomes the moral center of the story.



MERT McDANIEL



Following the death of her husband, Mert McDaniel must manage a farm, provide for her family, and navigate the hardships of wartime Alabama.

Strong-willed and fiercely protective, she places her trust in Jep and Katie to undertake a journey that could determine her community's future.

In a world shaped by uncertainty, Mert becomes an anchor for those around her.

PVT. BEN MERCER

A young Union soldier from Ohio, Ben Mercer marches south carrying more than a rifle. Through letters home to his wife, Sarah, he records the people, hardships, and unexpected moments that rarely find their way into history books.

Thoughtful and observant, Ben serves as the audience's window into the campaign. His words reveal a war fought not only by armies, but by ordinary people struggling to endure it.

As the raid unfolds, Ben discovers that courage, sacrifice, and loss recognize no uniform.





EMMA SANSOM

A sixteen-year-old Alabama girl whose unexpected encounter with the raid would earn her a place in the history books.



JOHN WISDOM

A local ferryman whose determination and courage would carry him into the path of history.



THE MURPHREE SISTERS

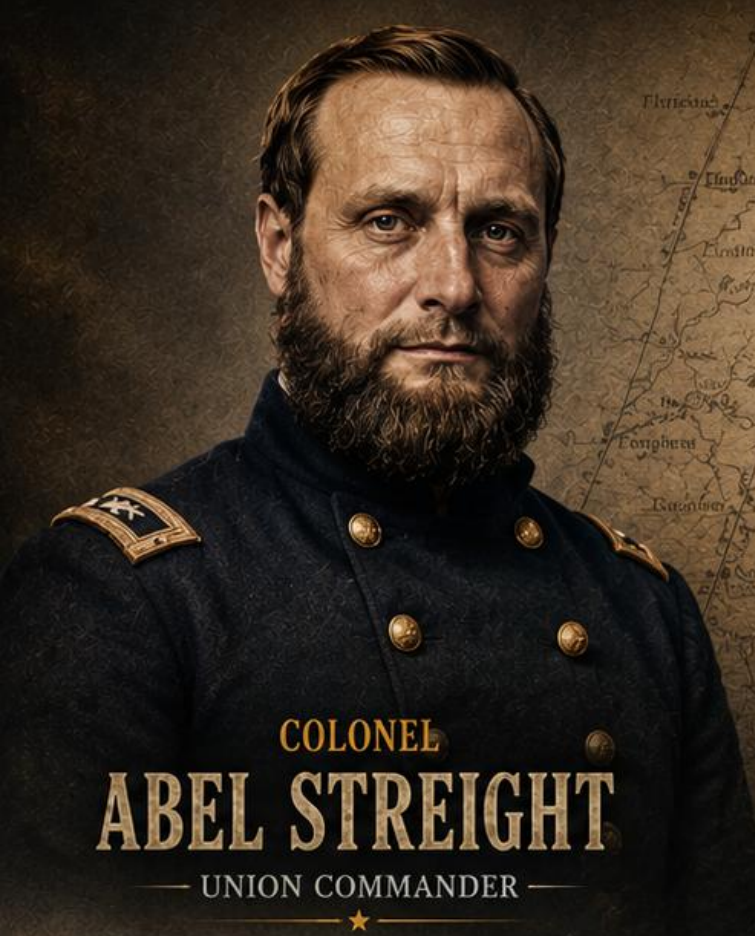
Cunning, resourceful, and not to be trifled with, the Murphree sisters would carve their own place in history.

THE RAID TOUCHES EVERYONE

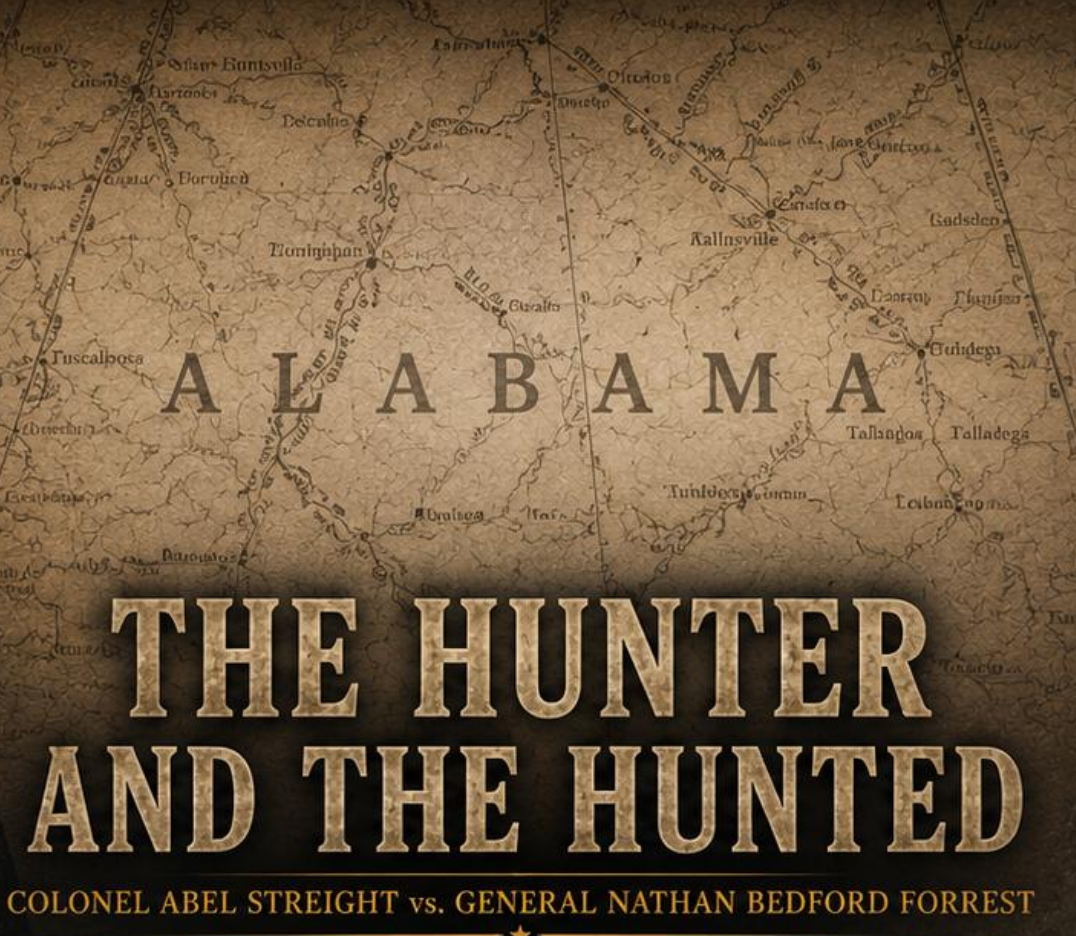
As Streight's Raid swept across North Alabama, ordinary people found themselves drawn into extraordinary events.

A YOUNG WOMAN. A FERRYMAN. DETERMINED SISTERS.

Some became local legends. Others were nearly forgotten. Together, their stories reveal how deeply the raid changed the lives of those caught in its path.

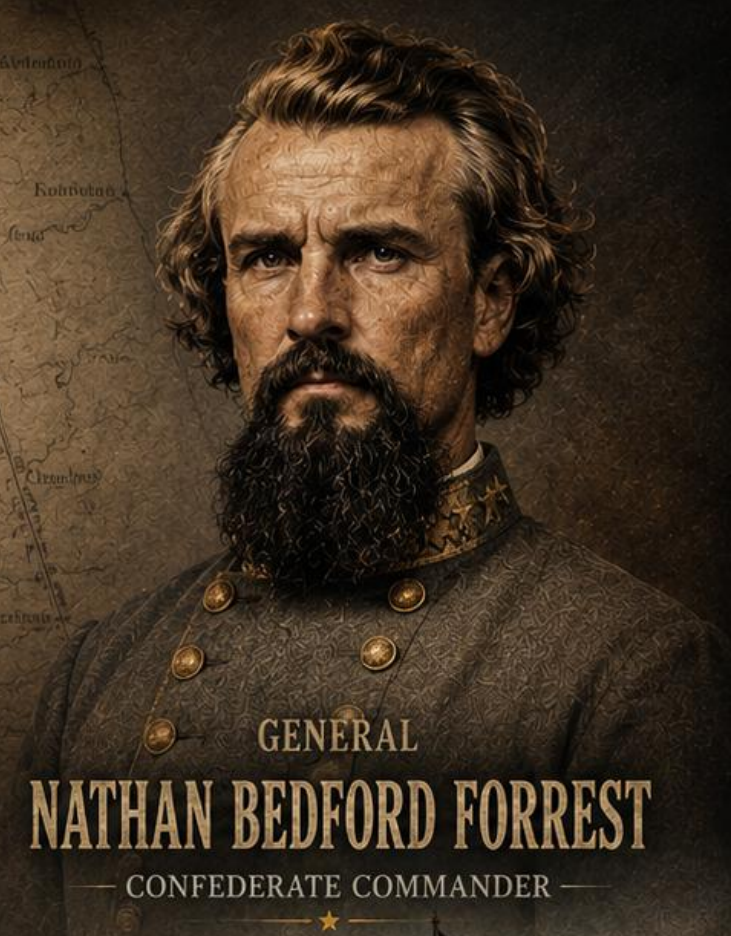


COLONEL
ABEL STREIGHT
— UNION COMMANDER —



THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED

COLONEL ABEL STREIGHT vs. GENERAL NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST



GENERAL
NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST
— CONFEDERATE COMMANDER —



In the spring of 1863, Union Colonel Abel Streight led nearly 2,000 mounted infantry deep into Alabama on a mission to destroy a vital Confederate railroad.

Through fierce fighting, exhausting marches, and a contest of wits, Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest pursued him more than 300 miles across Alabama.

What followed would become one of the Civil War's most remarkable chapters.



WHY THIS STORY?

Growing up in Etowah County, Alabama, I was surrounded by stories of Streight's Raid.

As historical records became easier to access, I found myself drawn deeper into the people, places, and events behind the legend.

The person I shared that journey with most was my stepfather, Jim. We often talked about writing this story together. We never found the time.

Jim passed away in 2012.

The idea never left me.

This screenplay is the fulfillment of a promise made many years ago.

Jim, this one's for you.

— JASON ABRAHAM





RIDE TO ROME

WRITTEN BY JASON ABRAHAM

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