



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Rebels on Lake Erie” Tells Story of Civil War Pirates

*University of Akron professor’s documentary to premiere
on April 23 on Western Reserve PBS*

NORTHEAST OHIO — Friday, April 20, 2012 — In September 1864, a college-educated pirate from Virginia sailed out onto Lake Erie. He was intent on liberating the Confederate officers imprisoned on Johnson’s Island, near Sandusky, Ohio. That’s just part of the story of intrigue, conspiracy and adventure about the Civil War in **Rebels on Lake Erie**, which will premiere on Monday, April 23, at 10 p.m. on Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1). Additional air dates and times can be found at <http://www.westernreservepublicmedia.org/schedule.htm>.

Rebels on Lake Erie tells the story of young John Yates Beall and his abortive attempt to liberate the Confederate prisoner-of-war depot on Johnson’s Island. That prison was unique in the Civil War. It was built specifically to hold all captured Confederate soldiers. But as the war dragged on and more Confederate prisoners were captured, the prison was converted to one that held officers only — and a few political prisoners and spies. During the Civil War, more than 10,000 Confederate officers at one time called Johnson’s Island home.

Pirate John Yates Beall was unique as well. The wealthy Virginia plantation owner served under the legendary Confederate General Stonewall Jackson. But Beall is best known for his exploits on the Chesapeake Bay and Lake Erie.

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Three years in the making, the documentary was written, directed and produced by Kathleen Endres of the School of Communication of The University of Akron under a grant from the Ohio Humanities Council. **Rebels on Lake Erie** was filmed at the Johnson's Island prisoner-of-war-depot archaeological dig; in Sandusky, Ohio; and on Governor's Island in New York City harbor. It features photographs, maps and illustrations from libraries and archives from across the nation and Canada.

For more information about the production, visit rebelsonlakeerie.com.

About Western Reserve Public Media

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. It serves the largest population (4.9 million people) of Ohio's eight PBS member stations.

Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 1.8 million households and 4.9 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average month, more than 1 million people tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels, Fusion (WNEO45.2/WEAO 49.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO 45.3/WEAO 49.3) and V-me (WNEO 45.4/WEAO 49.4).

Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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