

FAKING THUNDER

ACCOUNTS LEDGER

1863

May 1863.

To	Amount
la	1 50
Flour	2 75
in	1 25
alt	3 10
lt	2 80
lt	1 30
lasses	4 00
lt	3 50
in	1 50
	1 80
	13 65
Flour	2 50
t	1 75
But	6 00
ult	3 25
eat	2 10
Sugar	1 40
maals	1 80
	18 80

Introduction

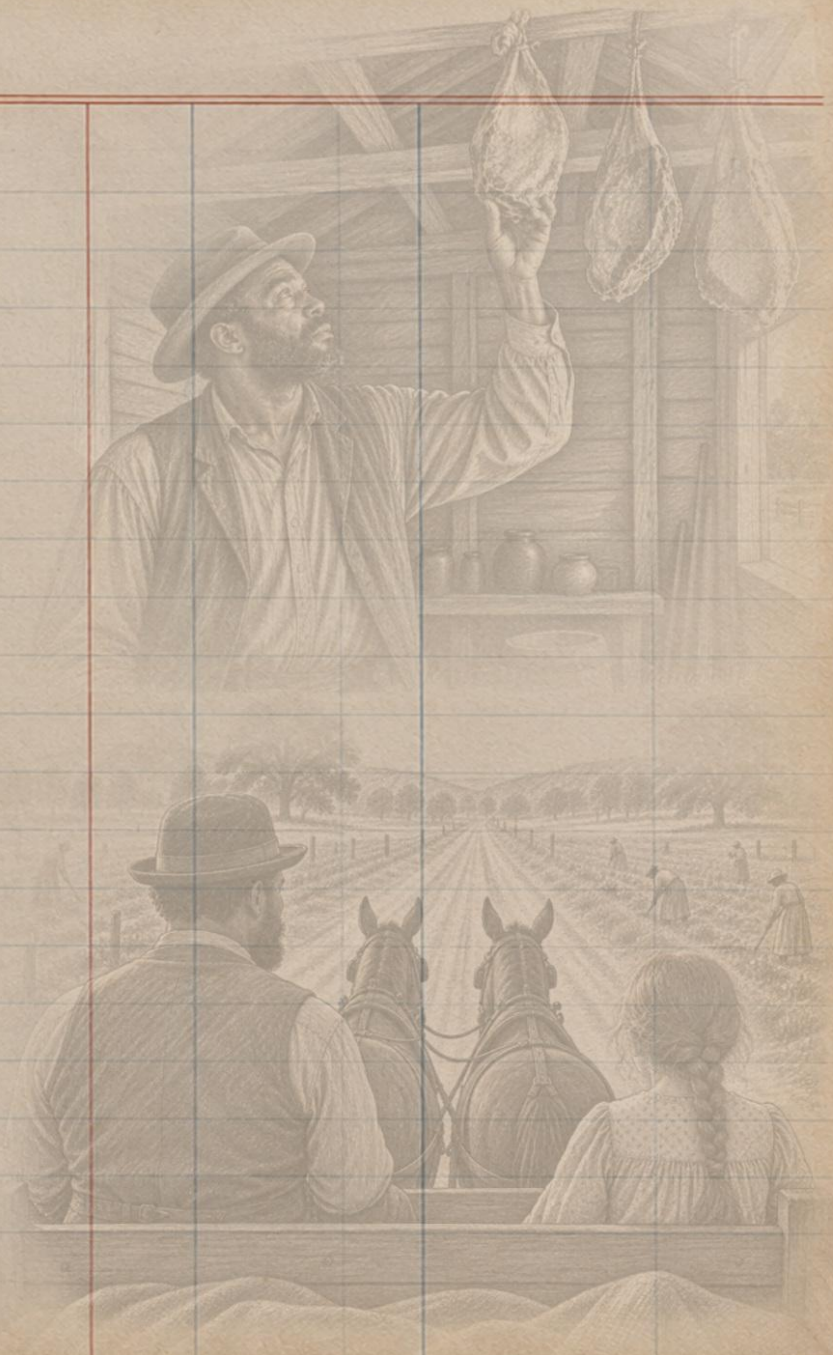
In 1863, salt meant survival. Without refrigeration, no salt meant no way to preserve meat.

Jep, a middle-aged slave, and Katie, a precocious eleven-year-old white girl, set out in a two-mule wagon to Rome, Georgia, on a mission to get the salt their county desperately needs.

But there's a war going on, and wartime Alabama is no safe place for a slave and a young girl to travel on their own.

A warm, wry road story about trust, survival and two unlikely companions trying to make it home with the salt.

This is their story.



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Flour	2 50
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ult	3 25
eat	2 10
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Jep and Katie

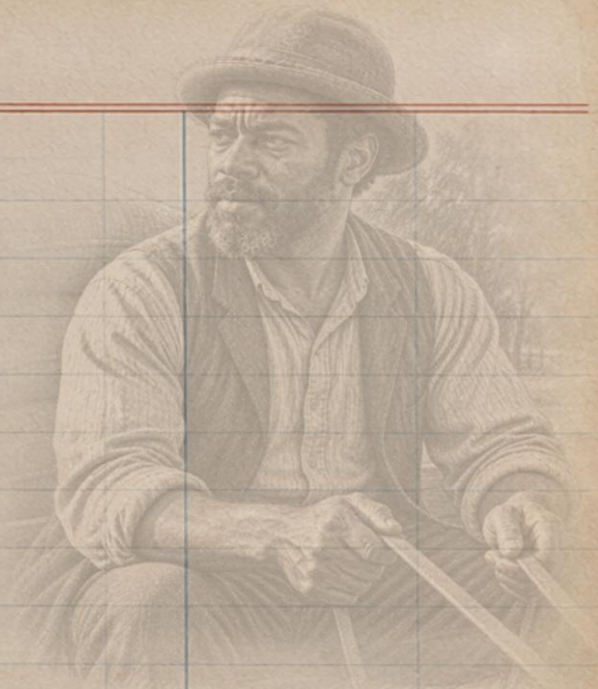
Jep is patient, practical and measured.
Katie is sharp, curious and hard to ignore.

They bicker. They needle each other.
Katie asks questions constantly, and
Jep answers with hard-earned wisdom
that Katie eventually takes to heart.

Beneath the banter is a genuine affection
and a growing trust. Each becomes fiercely
protective of the other, often in ways that
neither expects.

Though the world around them sees a
middle-aged slave and an eleven-year-old
white girl...

They simply see each other.



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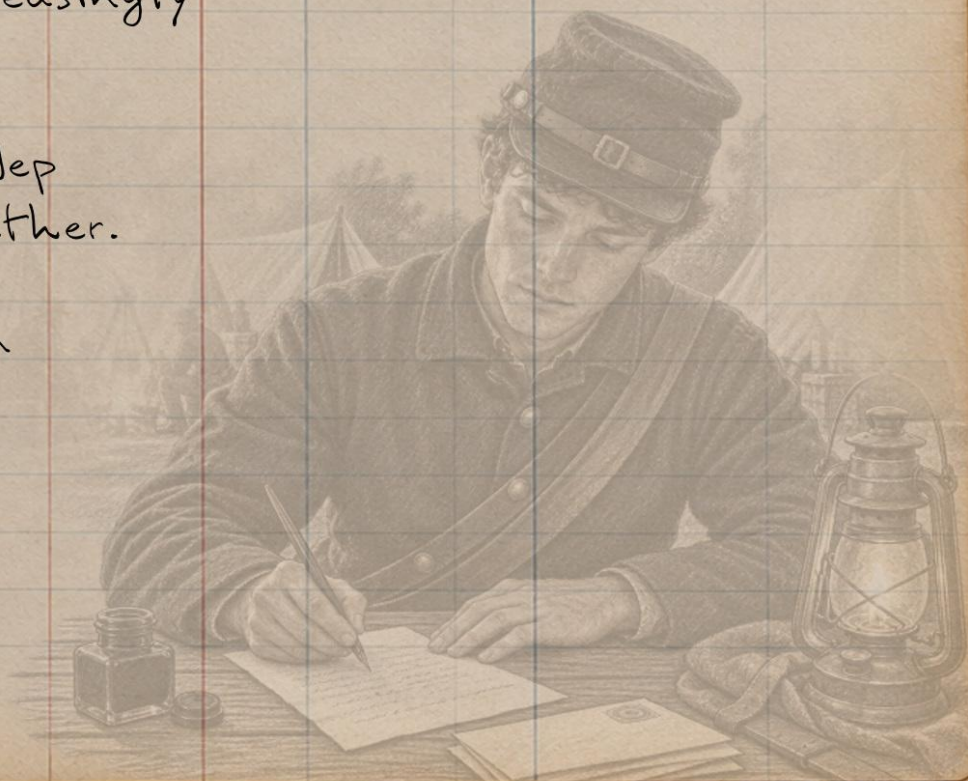
Ben

Private Benjamin Mercer is a young Union soldier far from home in a war that keeps taking him farther away.

His letters offer a different view of the conflict — hopeful at first, but increasingly weary as the campaign wears on.

Eventually, he crosses paths with Jep and Katie, bringing both stories together.

Ben becomes the quiet bridge between their journey and the larger history unfolding around them.



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Mert

Mert McDaniel is a widowed, plain-spoken, no-nonsense woman.

When salt grows scarce across Cherokee County, she sends her own daughter with Jep on a journey to Rome, Georgia.

Her faith in Jep runs deep enough that when circumstances force her hand, there is no one she trusts more with Katie.



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Caught up in the war...

Emma Sansom

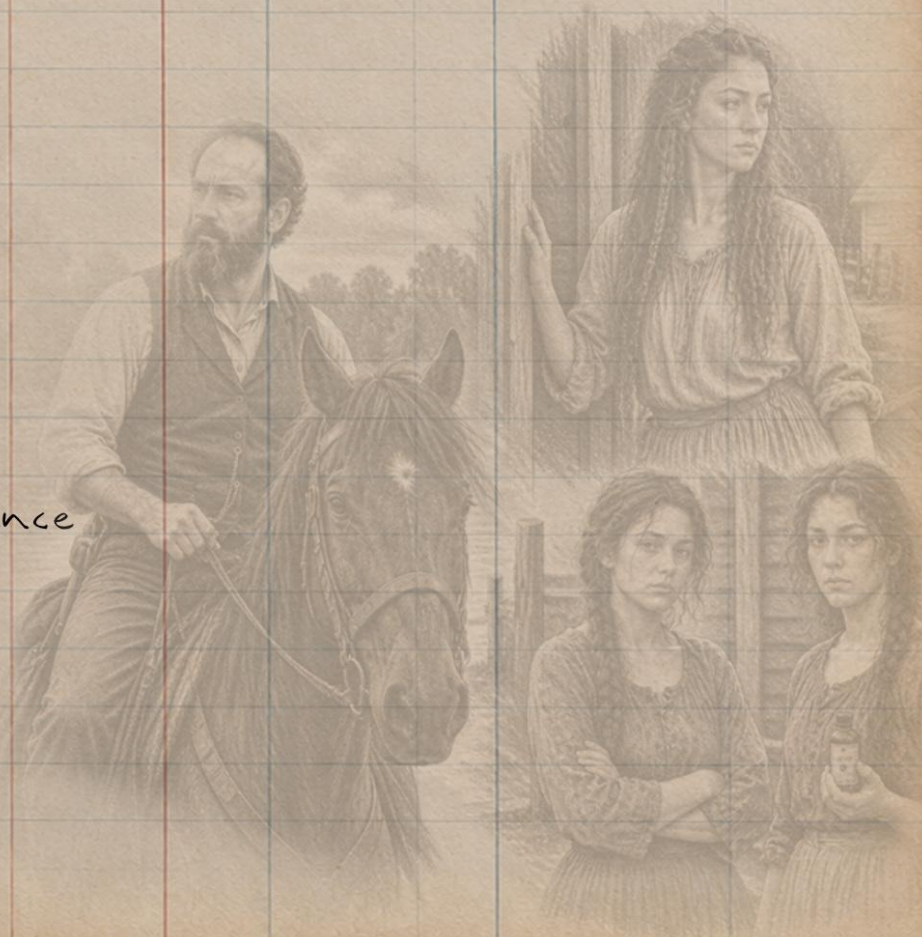
A teenage girl whose courage at Black Creek becomes legendary.

Murphree Sisters

Cunning sisters who prove that wit and nerve can be just as useful as any weapon.

John Wisdom

A ferry operator whose relentless ride covered more than five times the distance of Paul Revere's.



May 1863.

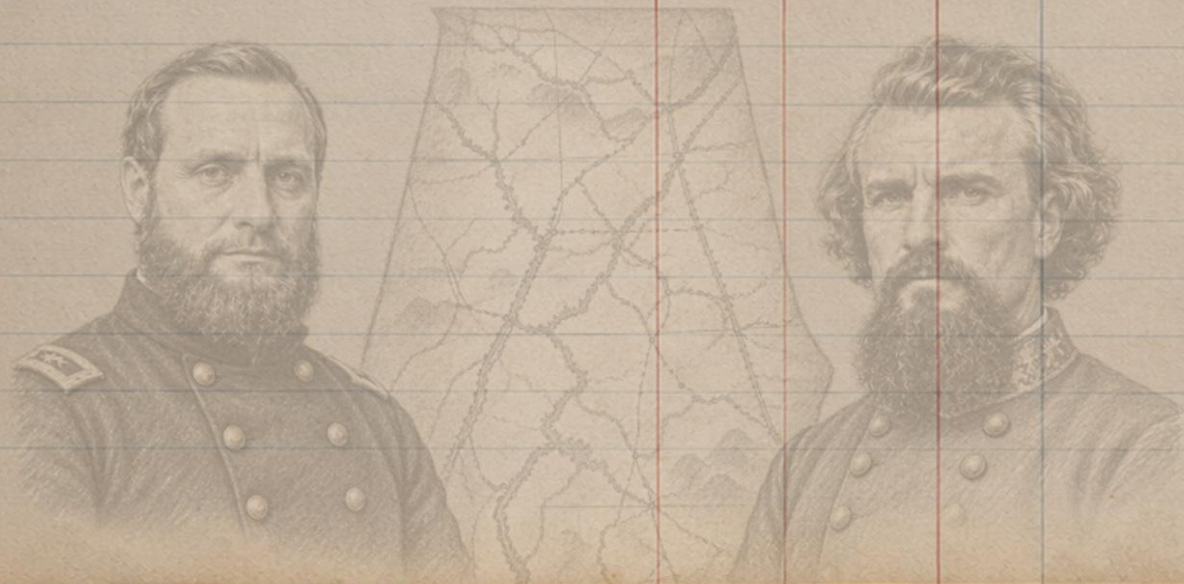
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The Raid

It's the spring of 1863, Union Colonel Abel Streight rides across Alabama toward Rome, Georgia.

Slowed by stubborn, ill-suited mules, he's relentlessly pursued by Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Their paths will soon cross Jep and Katie's.



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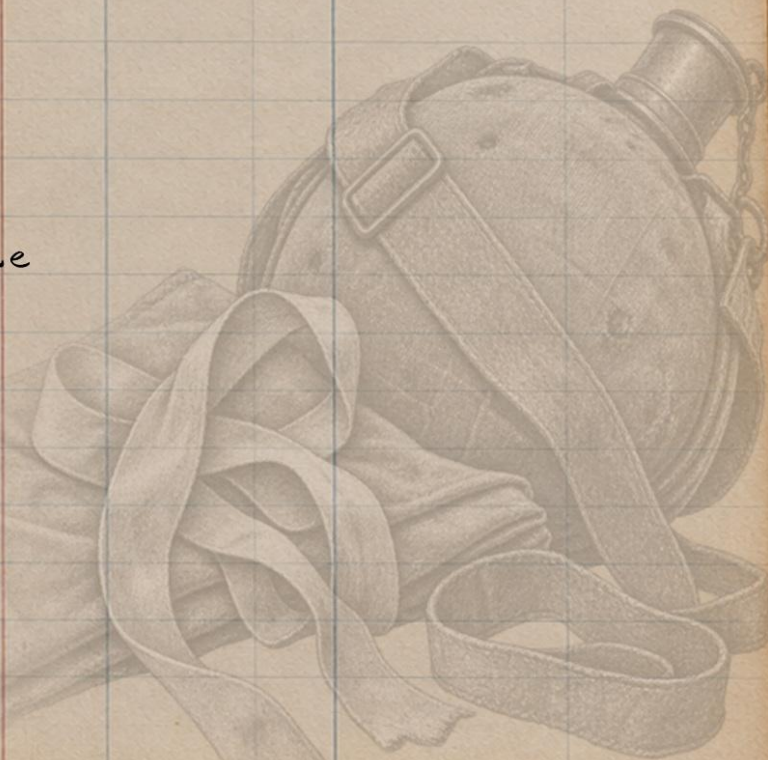
Tone & Style

Warm, wry and lived-in — Faking Thunder is an intimate Southern road story set against the danger of the Civil War.

The humor is character-driven. The tension mounts. The danger is real. The tenderness is earned. Moments of heartbreak sit beside irritation, affection and hard-won trust.

Visually and tonally, the film draws from the sweeping journey and lived-in character work of Lonesome Dove, the young-girl/older-man dynamic of True Grit, and the interracial Southern relationship of Driving Miss Daisy.

The result is a Civil War-era Southern Western that feels familiar in all the right ways — but distinctly its own.



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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 history.

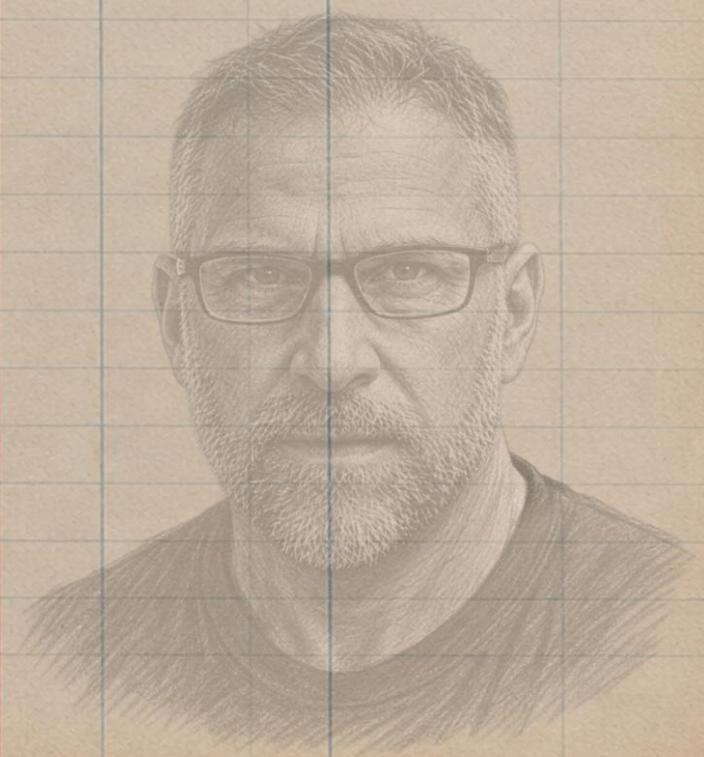
The person I shared that journey with was my stepfather, Jim. We often talked about writing the story together. We never found the time.

Jim passed away in 2012.

The idea never left me...

Jim, this one's for you.

M. Smith



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FAKING THUNDER

— STORMS AREN'T ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM —



By Jason Abraham
jason@fakingthunder.com