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DRUMS ALONG THE MOHAWK

1939 Claudette Colbert, Henry Fonda 103Min. NR

This film is a somewhat dated but is an effective treatment of early American frontier life in central New York and western Massachusetts at the time of the American Revolution. It is very useful to generate discussion about the role of women in early American History and to show the impact of both war and the frontier on the changing role of women.

<p>Albany, 1776. Wedding scene.</p> <p>4:00 Trek into the wilderness.</p> <p>5:00 Tavern scene foreshadows the impending conflict.</p> <p>11:00 First encounter with Native Americans.</p> <p>15:30 Clearing a new</p> <p>17:30 Fort at German Flats.</p> <p>20:00 Training Militia.</p> <p>23:45 Clearing land.</p> <p>26:00 Iroquois on the warpath.</p> <p>33:00 Family tragedies.</p> <p>35:00 Return to the burned homestead.</p> <p>38:00 At the McCleannar homestead.</p> <p>42:00 Call for militia.</p>	<p>Segment: 00:00 - 42:00</p> <p>Seminar Questioning Sequence: Why do you think Lana was so frightened when the old Indian suddenly appeared? (11:00) What were her perceptions? What had been her life experiences? How did the frontier experience effect her attitudes, values, and roles? How did her war experience effect her attitudes, values, and roles? Compare Lana to the widow McCleannar (38:00) Can you form an hypothesis to explain the impact of the frontier and of war on the roles of women? Use the widow as an example.</p> <p>Segment: 42:00 – End The second segment of the film shows the changing nature of the war from one limited to trade and commercial interests to one for territory and ideas. The relationship between politics and the pulpit can be explored as well as the life and death nature of the struggle. A brief lecture about the nature of the dynastic wars of the 18th Century can precede the following seminar.</p>	<p>Reports about the Native American peoples of the Northeast, particularly the Iroquois Confederation and its relationship to the British, can provide useful background.</p> <p>Mohawks Seneca Chippawa Oneida Algonquins Hurons</p> <p>Reports on various aspects of frontier life can also enhance a student's understanding of the period and appreciation of the film.</p> <p>Building techniques Farming techniques 18th Century Military Tactics Medical Science Colonial Militia</p>
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<p>47:00 Marching off to war.</p> <p>51:00 Wounded returning.</p> <p>1:03:00 Death of the General.</p> <p>1:06:30 Birth of a son.</p> <p>1:10:00 Harvest wedding.</p> <p>1:14:00 Attack of the Mohawks.</p> <p>1:20:00 Defense of the Fort.</p>	<p>Seminar Questioning Sequence: How is this war different from the dynastic wars of the 18th Century? Which institutions of society (political, economic, religious, family, educational) were involved directly in the dynastic wars? What new institutions of society became involved in this war? What impact did this have on the way this war was fought? What have wars been like since WWII? Have any been like dynastic wars? How so?</p>	<p>Reports on events of the war in the Hudson Valley and Western Massachusetts can bring the film to life.</p>
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