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## **THE HOWARDS OF VIRGINIA**

**1940 Cary Grant, Martha Scott 117 Min. NR**

This standard, somewhat humorous, reenactment of events in Virginia leading to the American Revolution is useful for its chronological rundown of key events, presentation of important personalities, and a presentation of the clash between the eastern establishment society and the frontier spirit. The film also includes a useful reenactment of the democratic process in the House of Burgesses including Patrick Henry's famous speech.

### **Introduction:**

**Albemarle County, Va. during the French and Indian War.**

**9:30**

**Williamsburg (1766), Matt Howard is given a job surveying in the Tidewater region of Virginia.**

**20:00**

**Tensions emerge between the Tidewater lifestyle and the Piedmont/frontier lifestyle.**

**28:00**

**Matt asks for Jane Peyton's hand in marriage.**

**36:00**

**The Howards build a plantation in the Shenandoah valley.**

**52:00**

**Peyton Howard is born.**

**56:00**

**Thomas Jefferson convinces Matt to run for the House of Burgesses.**

**1:04:00**

**The Howard family returns to Williamsburg; tension develops between Matt's democratic ideals and Peyton's tory ideals.**

**1:07:00**

**House of Burgesses debates the**

**Segment: 0:00 – 1:04:00**

The seminar sequence attempts to uncover some key themes in the development of sectionalism in colonial America.

### **Seminar Questioning Sequence:**

Why did a conflict exist between the interests of the Tidewater establishment and the Piedmont frontier?

How did the existence of unlimited western land impact conditions in the East? How did it effect the labor market? What solutions were found for this?

How did the existence of unlimited western land impact the movement toward unification of the colonies?

How did the existence of unlimited western land affect the availability of capital? What natural financial conflict existed between the eastern establishment and the western farmers?

**Segment: 1:04:00 – End**

This segment presents a worthwhile look at the genesis of American democracy, including effective portrayals of important founding Americans.

**Northwest Territory  
Northwest Ordinance  
(1787)**

**Indentured Servitude  
Slave Trade  
House of Burgesses  
The First Families of  
Virginia**

**Tidewater Economy  
Piedmont Economy  
Committee of  
Correspondence**

<p>ramifications of the Stamp Act.</p> <p><b>1:15:00</b> The House of Burgesses is dissolved.</p> <p><b>1:23:00</b> Matt and Jane discuss becoming involved in the Revolutionary War.</p> <p><b>1:29:00</b> Discussion of what a free America will mean.</p> <p><b>1:32:00</b> Peyton Howard and Thomas Jefferson meet and discuss the value of freedom; Matt spends the winter at Valley Forge.</p> <p><b>1:47:00</b> The end of the War; Peyton Howard becomes a military hero.</p>		
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## Notes