



Discover Portage Road Lesson Plan

La Belle Famille

Subject Area: Social Studies

Grades 5-8

New York State Social Studies Learning Standards

Standard 1

History of the United States and New York

Students will:

- Use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in the history of the United States and New York
- Distinguish between near and distant past and interpret simple timelines.
- Investigate key turning points in New York State and United States history and explain why these events or developments are significant.
- Gather and organize information about the important achievements and contributions of individuals and groups living in New York State and the United States,
- Prepare essays and oral reports about the important social, political, economic, scientific, technological, and cultural developments, issues, and events from New York State and United States history.

Overview




During the French and Indian War , the Battle of La Belle-Famille occurred on July 24, 1759, along the Niagara River portage trail. It was a crucial incident in the Battle of Fort Niagara.

François-Marie Le Marchand de Lignery sent a French force to relieve the besieged French garrison at Fort Niagara. This relief force was ambushed by Eyre Massey's British and Iroquois forces because the British had advance notice of the French approach. They constructed a breastwork across the road about two miles south of Fort Niagara. The French forces included 800 regular soldiers and militia in addition to 500 Indians. They faced 350 regular British troops, 100 New York militia and 450 Indians. When the French were ambushed, their force was overwhelmed. There were many French casualties. At least 334 French troops were killed and approximately 96 captured. Captain Le Marchand de Lignery was fatally wounded in the battle. When French began a panicked retreat, the British gave chase for as much as 5 miles. The French surrendered

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Fort Niagara on July 26, 1759. The surrender of Fort Niagara contributed to the ultimate victory of the British in the French and Indian War.

Because the British were victorious in the French and Indian War, France lost almost all of her New World possessions including all of Canada. It only retained a few small islands off the coast of Canada and in the Caribbean. Because France agreed to a stay out of India, Great Britain became the most important military power in southeast as compensation for Spain's loss of Florida to England; Spain was awarded the Louisiana territory. As a result of the French and Indian War, the entire map of North America changed. To placate the Native Americans, England issued the Proclamation of 1763, which restricted settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. Despite the restrictions on westward settlement, settlers moved into Indian land.

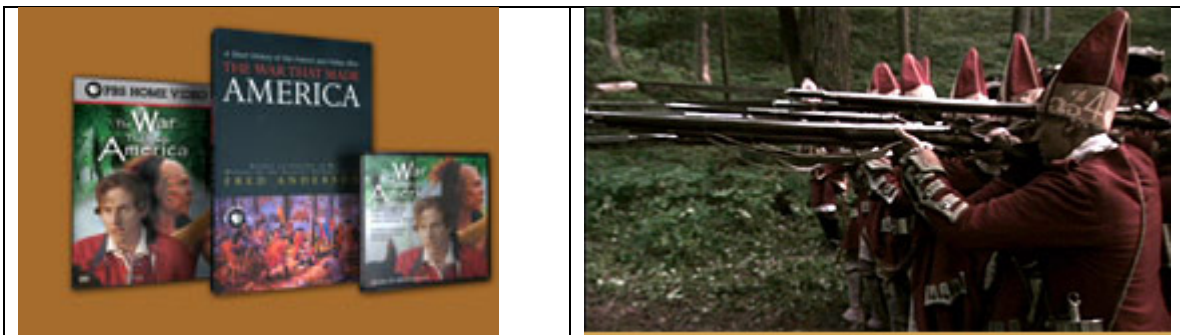
	<p>Erected 1936 by State Education Department, this is the LaBelle Famille marker.</p>
	<p>This is the view of the La Belle Famille Marker, looking north along River Road, Youngstown New York.</p>
	<p>This is a view of the ravine that ran diagonally across the front and south of the residential property that is the site of the opening engagement of the Battle of La Belle Famille.</p>
<p>Source: http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=67344</p>	<p>By Dale K. Benington, July 24, 2013</p>

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Activities

Students will:

- View the PBS video series entitled *The War that Made America* was produced by WQED Multimedia,
- View *The War that Made America* the related site, www.thewarthatmadeamerica.org also produced by WQED Multimedia
- Discuss the implications of Great Britain winning the French and Indian Wars in terms of the development of American History,



Source: <http://www.pbs.org/thewarthatmadeamerica/>

References

Battle of La Belle-Famille at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_La_Belle-Famille

Brumwell, Stephen. *Redcoats: The British Soldier and War in the Americas, 1755-1763*. NY: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Dunnigan, Brian Leigh, Siege - 1759, The Campaign against Niagara, 1996.

The Historical Marker Database: Youngstown in Niagara County, New York — The American Northeast (Mid-Atlantic): La Belle Famille at <http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=67344>