



Drummer Boy for Montcalm

Wilma Pitchford Hays

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The story of Peter who sails to Quebec with the French army in 1759 to try to keep this new country from the English. Peter served diligently and bravely all during the battle on the Plains of Abraham, and survived. But this is not only a story of war; it is much more than that. Here is love of the land itself, beauty of many kinds of friendships, and hope that comes even in defeat at the hands of a merciful conqueror.

Drummer Boy for Montcalm Details

Date : Published 1959 by Macmillan of Canada

ISBN :

Author : Wilma Pitchford Hays

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From Reader Review Drummer Boy for Montcalm for online ebook

Dawn says

This is a surprisingly well done story of the Plains of Abraham. Well worth hunting down. It clearly explains the battles as well as the bombardment of Quebec City told from the perspective of a drummer boy. It also touches on the politics of the time and underlying causes for the fall of Quebec. The author, who is the main character's great-great-great granddaughter, based this book on her family's stories and memories combined with research. It is a product of its time however and does use the term "savage" and "Indian" in reference to First Nations people.

Lee says

I don't usually read books written for young readers, but when I found a passel of family trees predicated on one I had to see for myself. Drummer Boy for Montcalm was published in 1959 after author Wilma Pitchford Hays had done research on a relative and found the ancestor's story worth writing about. It is a fictionalized account of Peter, an orphan boy from France who arrived at Quebec, Canada just in time for the Battle of Quebec in 1759. The storyline, according to Hays, follows the general string of events that resulted in the defeat of the French army, commanded by Montcalm, and the winning of Canada for the British Empire.

Peter is in the thick of things and has numerous adventures and near disasters as he tries to find his way a new place. He makes friends with a local Indian boy, has a tense moment as a spy, and teaches himself to be a drummer. The book reads quickly and has interesting characters, but the settings are not well described and I found myself referring to the sketch map in the book to figure out where Peter's adventures occurred.

I guess it is an ok read for young people, but I sure couldn't figure out why so many genealogies propped themselves up on Peter's story. Maybe it was easier than trying to decipher hand-written records in French!
