

[PDF] Dark Enough To See The Stars In A Jamestown Sky

Connie Lapallo - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: Dark Enough to See the Stars
Author: Connie Lapallo
Released: 2012-01-26
Language:
Pages: 334
ISBN: 0983398216
ISBN13: 978-0983398219
ASIN: 0983398216

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Description:

Review Is there a soul in Virginia who is not aware that the four hundredth anniversary of the founding of the colony, and thus the state, will take place in 2007? We all have been gearing up for the celebration to one degree or another. Connie Lapallo is one Virginian who has done much more than displaying a license plate.

Mrs. Lapallo is a descendent of one of the very few colonists who survived the "starving time" which

almost annihilated the colony in 1610. With this personal interest in the early history of Virginia she has written a well-researched novel in which her ancestor, Joan Phippen Peirce, Joan's five-year-old daughter, Jane, and their friend Temperance Yeardley, are the central characters. *Dark Enough to See the Stars in a Jamestown Sky* is "based on the true story of the women and children at Jamestown" in the years 1609 and 1610. Also populating the tale are the well-known and lesser-known leaders of the colony, their Native American antagonists, and a few fictitious characters representing generically the soldiers, mariners and colonists whose names are lost to history. Chief among these are Maggie Deale and Elizabeth Mayhew who "are fictitious but represent all those women whose names and stories are lost to time."

Macro-history is often written by men; micro-history is always lived by women. While kings and captains issued orders, some wise, many foolish, and "made history" a few women of the colony survived despite the blunders. This story of the colony is told through the first person narrative of Joan and so it told through a woman's perspective with a woman's sensibilities, and a feminine attention to detail.

As a girl, Joan was taught by her mother the use and value of herbs, a knowledge that stands her in good stead during the long sea voyage (with its week-long wild hurricane), as well as during the ravages of the "starving time." Her determination to survive is born of her love for her daughter, empowered by her knowledge of things botanical, strengthened by her sisterly solidarity with her three friends and most fundamentally, anchored to her faith in Divine Providence. To her the acorns falling from the oaks were truly manna from above to be gathered, hoarded, ground and made into cakes when the common supply of food was exhausted. The frozen chickadee which fell at her doorstep was as welcome as the plumpest goose would have been. Yet not all the saving food fell from above. The women grubbed for edible roots and tubers with frozen and cracked hands while other less resourceful colonists gave in to despair and starvation, some losing their sanity before losing their lives.

This book is a labor of love, in honor of the author's thirteenth and twelfth great grandmothers. As such it adds a granddaughter's tenderness to the narrative. But it has the rigorousness of history, well documented in several appendices. Original documents are quoted and brief biographies of the historical figures are included.

Dark Enough to See the Stars in a Jamestown Sky: Based on the True Story of the Women and Children at Jamestown by Connie Lapallo deserves an honored place in Virginia's grand four hundredth birthday celebration. --- Reviewed by Gerald Brunning, Catholic Home-schoolers Bookshelf. -- *Catholic Home-Schoolers Bookshelf*

Narratives about the women living in Jamestown are rare. Joan Phippen Peirce, an ancestor of the author, came to America in 1609, and short, diarylike chapters tell her story. While Plymouth Colony's religious roots are often contrasted with Jamestown's economically based conception, this title acknowledges the important religious convictions held by many of the Jamestown colonists. - Reviewed by Lucinda Snyder Whitehurst, St. Christopher's School, Richmond, VA. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. -- *School Library Journal*

Occasionally, I read a book that makes me want to e-mail all my friends and say, "You've got to read this book!" It's not quite as often that I encounter a book that makes me want to buttonhole complete strangers, saying "You have to read this book!"

Connie Lapallo's debut novel is the second kind of book. I was riveted from the first chapter by the fascinating story of Joan Peirce, Lapallo's 13th great grandmother, one of the few women in early Jamestown who survived the Starving Time. Most of the characters, events, and places in the novel

are historically accurate, and Lapallo, a writer and home educator, includes extensive information in the end notes to help the reader sort the fiction from the fact.

Lapallo's meticulous research reveals a time in history when the lives of ordinary women were routinely turned upside down by hurricane, plague, starvation, and other circumstances beyond their control. The character of Joan is warmly and realistically portrayed, and her joys and sorrows captured my heart. As I put down the book, I felt as if I'd walked beside her in the wilderness of primitive Jamestown.

The 400th anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown will be celebrated in 2007. *Dark Enough to See the Stars* would be a wonderful, family-appropriate book to share in honor of the event. If you plan a trip to Jamestown, I highly recommend that you read the book first and look through the photos and resources at Lapallo's website. When you arrive at Jamestown, and walk through the palisade, explore the ship, and sit in the little church, you just might feel a sense of déjà vu as you look over the land that became Joan's home. -- *The Everyday Educator*

Truly step back in time and follow the journey of Joan Phippen Peirce from her home in Dorset to the New World, in the Jamestown settlement in Virginia. The description of the tempest "huracan" that the fleet of ships encounters off Bermuda is itself alone worth the read. With meticulous research and historical accuracy, Richmond author Connie Lapallo brings her ancestor's story vividly to life, poignantly telling the story of the survival of the women and children at Jamestown in the harrowing first years. - Reviewed by Nancy Halstead, Copyright © 2007 Pleasant Living magazine. All rights reserved. -- *Pleasant Living Magazine* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

From the Back Cover Prosperity in Virginia sounded promising. Then Joan learned she would have to leave a daughter behind in England. Even that she could bear. But a hurricane at sea, the Starving Time, Indian wars...

The Queen's head was tilted upward, her eyes to the afternoon sun. For a moment--just a moment--she dropped her eyes toward me. I stood transfixed. I remembered seeing hatred in a brave's eyes, but how much more poignant were these eyes filled with grief.

She does not mourn her own death, but that of her children, I thought. In that brief melding of gazes, we were neither white nor red, English nor Paspahegh. We were but two mothers.

Would that I knew a native word for grief or sorrow, but, alas, I did not. Yet I understood a mother's heart. As Annie Laydon said, the men folk fight and the women folk bear the brunt. This woman had borne the burden of war between her people and my own and had paid the highest price any mother can pay--her children. My eyes filled with tears for her loss, and for the loss of all the children and all the mothers from these wars.

No, I had no word for sorrow, but I lifted my fist to my heart and let the tear run down my cheek. Your sorrow, my sorrow. We are both women, and we are both mothers.

In return, she gave the barest of nods, an acknowledgement. Yes, it said, thank you.

She had allowed me to share her concealed grief. She then turned her eyes upward to the sun once more--lest any soldier think her afraid or that she was any less warrior than they themselves were. I knew she would not cry out upon her death--natives never did. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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