U.S. History
2020-2021
RTR

A Midwife's Tale Response

Please make notes on the following questions using bullets as we watch the film to check comprehension and prepare for your response.

1. What is the relationship between Martha Ballard and Laurel Thatcher Ulrich?

2. What was Martha Ballard's role in her community? What did she do during outbreaks of disease, for example?

3. What was family life like for people in the Early Republic?

4. How did the American Revolution influence life on the "frontier" of Maine?

Please answer the following question in a well-organized **response of 1-2 pages** to reflect on what you have seen.

The life of Martha Ballard is not something that historians would not have studied 50 years ago. Only after the rise of the "New Social History" which focused on the lives of ordinary people, did historians become interested in documents like Martha Ballard's diary. Yet, historians often continue to disagree as to whether people like Martha Ballard are truly important*. What can we learn by focusing on the life of someone like Martha Ballard? What* can't *we learn?*