

SEARCHING FOR ÉTIENNE BRÛLÉ

Documentary

(1 x 49min.) HD

According to Franco-Ontarians, history began in 1610 with the arrival of the Frenchman, Étienne Brûlé, to Ontario and his discovery of the city of Toronto. He is considered to be one of the heroes in the province, despite the fact that we know little of his existence. Alternatively, some historians see his stature of importance as nothing more than a myth that has over time, come to be known as fact.

Who really was this contested hero?

Searching for Étienne Brûlé is an examination of the life this adventurer through two viewpoints. The first is by the students of the Étienne Brûlé secondary school in Toronto via an animation project they create which commemorates the life of this newcomer. In parallel, we follow Christian Bode, from the French Historical Society of Toronto, as he researches for a conference he is preparing about this fascinating personality.



Étienne Brûlé was tortured and eventually killed in Huron-Wendat territory. The reasons remain a mystery. Should we admire this intrepid explorer for his adventurous and entrepreneurial spirit? Or was he in fact a traitor to the Hurons-Wendats? **Searching for Étienne Brûlé** invites you to take a walk in the shoes of a fascinating historical figure, the ancestor of Franco-Ontarians. (Available in French)

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