

**EZRA JORDAN'S ESCAPE
FROM THE MASSACRE
AT FORT LOYALL**

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Ezra Jordan's Escape from the Massacre at Fort Loyall by James Otis

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JAMES OTIS

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FROM THE
MASSACRE AT FORT LOYALL

BY

JAMES OTIS

AUTHOR OF "TOBY TYLER," "THE BOYS' REVOLT," "JENNY WREN'S
BOARDING-HOUSE," "JERRY'S FAMILY," ETC.



Illustrated

BOSTON
ESTES AND LAURIAT

1895

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PREFACE	7
CHAPTER I. THE ATTACK	11
CHAPTER II. THE AMBUSH.	26
CHAPTER III. THE FORT	42
CHAPTER IV. THE MINE	60
CHAPTER V. THE CAVE	78
CHAPTER VI. THE ESCAPE	92

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	<i>Frontispiece</i>
	PAGE
"EVER PRESSING ON TOWARD THAT UNKNOWN GOAL WHERE SHE WOULD BE IN SAFETY"	13
THE OLD HOUSE WITH THE INDIANS	21
EZRA FINDS THE CAVE	25
THE LAWRENCE GARRISON HOUSE	31
"WHO COMES THERE?"	37
"FROM THE THICKEST BEHIND THE FENCE CAME A SOLID SHEET OF FLAME"	43
"YOU ARE ALL I'VE GOT"	51
"MANY WILLING MOTHERS WERE READY TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE ORPHAN BABY"	57
"WE SHALL DEFEND OURSELVES TO THE DEATH"	63
"MARY WAS A DIFFIDENT CHILD"	71
EZRA DISCOVERS THE TUNNEL	75
"I SWEAR IT"	84
"A CLOUD OF SMOKE ENTERED THE TUNNEL"	89
"THEN THE FULL GLARE OF THE MORNING"	97
THE RUTH AND ELLEN	101
PLAN OF FALMOUTH NECK, 1690	109
"MURDEROUS ROGUES"	

PREFACE.

IN telling this story a few words of explanation seem necessary for a better understanding of the events narrated, that tedious detail may be avoided where it would seem to be out of place.

Fort Loyall was situated in the then town of Falmouth, settled in 1633, on the site now occupied by the city of Portland, in the State of Maine.

Regarding this settlement, in the year 1690, Mr. John T. Hull says :

“It was but a small village, a collection of scattered houses near the foot of what is now India Street, and along the street that led by the seaside. But little inroad had been made upon the primeval forests, except in the immediate vicinity of the rude habitations which our forefathers had built as homes for themselves and families. The ferry and town-landing was near the foot of what is now Hancock Street, whence the adventurous traveller commenced his perilous journey which took him to Spurwink, Black Point, and the scattered settlements farther on.

“Opposite the town landing was the store and dwelling-house of Sylvanus Davis, the principal trader in the town. Near the corner of Fore and India Streets was the only public house, kept by Richard Seacomb, who

was duly licensed for that purpose. At the foot of Broad, now India Street, was the principal defence of the settlement, Fort Loyall.

“It was situated on a mound, or rocky bluff, overlooking the harbour, the base of which was washed by the waters of Casco Bay. It comprised a number of buildings, built of logs, and surrounded by an outer barrier of fence in a palisade form, on which, at intervals, were wooden towers for defence and observation. Loop-holes cut in them, and its outer walls, gave its defenders an opportunity to use musketry to advantage upon assailants. The area of the fort was about half an acre. It mounted eight cannon.

“In other parts of the town were four garrison-houses, which were intended as places of refuge when was heard the savage war-whoop of the approaching foe. One of these garrison-houses was located on Munjoy Hill, near the present Observatory, one was near the foot of present Exchange Street, and one was on the rocky bluff, the site of the present Anderson houses on Free Street. The location of the other is unknown. That one on Munjoy Hill was built of stone, and commanded by Lieutenant Robert Lawrence, who married George Munjoy's widow. The others were probably constructed of logs.

“In 1680 Thomas Danforth, who had been appointed by the Massachusetts Council President of the Province of Maine, believed that the town could be more easily defended by having a compact settlement