

The Red Road

A Romance of Braddock's Defeat

By HUGH PENDEXTER

Illustrations by IRWIN MYERS

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SYNOPSIS

Impoverished by the open-handed generosity of his father, Virginia gentleman, young Webster Brond is serving as a scout and spy for the army under General Braddock preparing for the advance on Fort Duquesne. He has just returned to Alexandria from a visit to a Frenchman, he has secured valuable information.

CHAPTER I—Continued

I worked my way into the taproom of the Royal George and made bold to put a question to a young subaltern. He eyed me haughtily, and then began to admire my leggings and fringed shirt, the nearest he had yet come to Indian life, and in a low voice, so as not to destroy his dignity, began to babble questions. Had I really seen wild Indians? Had I killed any? Was it true the savages cooked and ate at their prisoners? At last I satisfied his greediness and finally learned what I had desired.

Governor Dinwiddie had returned from the Maryland shore and was at the Carlyle house together with others of the council. They were holding the last conference before the army marched.

Quitting the Royal George I hastened to conclude my business. The lumbering coach had disappeared by the time I reached the Carlyle house, but the horses of the escort were tethered under the double row of Lombardy poplars and I knew the council was still in session.

I was acquainted with the house inside and out, and it had changed none during my absence. Mr. Carlyle, a most gracious, kindly man, had permitted us boys to explore it and make it figure prominently in some of our games. Once on a dare from Bushy I had climbed out of a dormer-window and crawled among the heavy-shouldered chimneys and was severely lectured by the owner.

I advanced toward the dark door and quickly found a bayonet disputing my approach, with the sentinel growling for me to halt. His side-long glance at my rifle was ill-favored. My fringed shirt and leggings did not meet with his approval.

"I have news for his excellency, Governor Dinwiddie," I told him.

"This is General Braddock's headquarters. Go back to the road, you woods-rat," he commanded.

"I have news for General Braddock," I persisted.

He advanced the bayonet and, red with anger, I leaped back to escape being pricked. He came on as I retreated; and in this humiliating manner I was being driven from the port-arch and its massive carved frame when a familiar voice asked an explanation. The sentinel stared over my shoulder sullenly but still kept his bayonet at my breast.

Without turning my head I explained:

"I am Webster Brond, Mr. Carlyle. I have news for the council if I am permitted to give it."

Mr. Carlyle stepped forward and said to the soldier:

"I know this young man. He is one of our citizens and he comes from the western country. The council will wish to hear what he has to say."

But the red-coat knew his orders—and therein was a good soldier—and he would not give in an inch until a superior had passed on my application. He bawled out, and a sergeant appeared on the scene, and Mr. Carlyle repeated his indorsement of me. The sergeant ordered the sentinel back to his post and told us we were at liberty to proceed.

Word was carried inside and after several minutes, during which I heard the clinking of glasses and the muffled giving of a toast, an officer opened the door and motioned for me to enter. I had expected Mr. Carlyle to accompany me, but he was not included in the invitation. He gave me a smile and a nod and passed down the hall and out into the garden.

My conductor motioned for me to halt just inside the door and await the pleasure of the august commander of all the king's soldiers in America, General Braddock—of Irish descent say many, but his name is Saxon "Broad-oak"—had Governor Dinwiddie on his right hand and Governor De Lancey of New York on his left. The others around the board were Governors Shirley of Massachusetts, Sharpe of Maryland, Dobbs of North Carolina, Morris of Pennsylvania. Near the foot of the table were Commodore Keppel, Sir John St. Clair, British quartermaster general, and a prominent citizen I had seen several times in Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin.

None paid any attention to me beyond a passing glance from those fac-

ing the door. It is very possible some of them took me to be an Indian, or a half-blood; for among the forest folk I was known as Black Brond, and wind and sun had burned and tanned my skin until, on first glance, I was as much of a red man as Round Paw of the Wolf clan, my Onondaga friend. Mr. Franklin was warning General Braddock against his long-drawn-out line being taken by surprise. General Braddock did not relish the admonition and haughtily replied:

"The savage may be a formidable enemy to your raw militia, sir, but on the king's regiments and disciplined troops it is impossible that they can make any impression."

I thought of the red-coats, and the flintlocks discharged in blind volleys, and wondered.

Governor Dinwiddie leaned from his chair and scrutinized me closely, smiled slightly, and said:

"General Braddock, I believe I recognize an Alexandrian in the young

man waiting to report. Doubtless he brings fresh news."

Braddock turned his heavy gaze on me, frowning slightly at what to him was an untidy and rather atrocious apparel, and nodded for me to speak. I produced a written communication from George Croghan, given me by him the night I stopped at his place on Augwitz creek. It was addressed to Governor Morris and I placed it on the table.

His excellency opened it and read it aloud. It stated that ten thousand pounds given in presents to the Indians at Will's creek and in their villages would tie every savage in Pennsylvania to England, provided that the gifts were accompanied by a plausible explanation of England's designs on the Western country. Such liberality, declared Croghan, would "see the scalp of every Frenchman at the heads of the Ohio smoking in wigwams in Shamokin, or hanging on poles in Shenango."

"Ten thousand pounds to red savages!" rumbled General Braddock, and he smashed his fist on the table and set the glasses to dancing. "Good God! Does the fellow think his gracious majesty can dump endless gold into these colonies? The sooner the savages understand that his majesty sends bayonets, not pounds, to all who oppose his will on this continent, the faster we will proceed with our business. Ten thousand pounds! Pennsylvania has refused us wagons, horses, food and even a road to the back settlements!"

Mr. Franklin, who sat with his hands folded in his lap, his shrewd

eyes half closed, now spoke up and quietly said, "Pennsylvania will do her part, General. I will pledge that Virginia and Maryland were to furnish wagons and horses. Pennsylvania has not been informed that more was expected of her than has been given. The jealousies between the colonies are unfortunate. As for the road, our committee is surveying it. Pennsylvania firmly believes, General, that the old trading path, running due west from Philadelphia to Duquesne, is the road your army should take. It keeps to higher drier ground and crosses no streams of any size. The road Virginia insists on is a 'portage' road. We also believe the old trading path would accelerate the movement of supplies to your army, especially those from northern colonies. We believe it's an error not to have the expedition start from, and pass through, Pennsylvania, where every farmer has a wagon, but I promise you the necessary carts and stock by the time they are wanted, General."

Garbed in snuff-colored clothes and entirely lacking in those personal adornments which catch and please the eye, nevertheless Mr. Franklin impressed me as being a man of destiny, and by great odds the strongest man in the room. Nor did I exclude General Braddock in my comparisons.

Sir John St. Clair breathed hard and vowed he could obtain the wagons and horses from the German farmers in the back counties should Mr. Franklin fail. Sir John impressed me as being a man of much temper, and I believed he would have liked nothing better than to use Old-world methods in collecting whatever the army needed.

"If my appeal does not at once bring results, then you shall try your way, Sir John," said Mr. Franklin. "But let us see if the young man has anything new to report."

I rapidly stated: "Duquesne is temporarily under the command of Captain Beaujeu, of the marines. He has under him about one hundred and fifty Canadians and less than a hundred regulars. His Indians number between six hundred and a thousand, but they come and go in such a fashion that it's hard to give their number with any exactness. Beaujeu is heaping many gifts on the Iroquois in the hope of drawing the Long House into the war on the side of France. The Indians are nervous and afraid to fight. They have been told our army will number many thousands. If it were not for Pontiac, leader of the Ottawas and Ojibways, Captain Jacobs and Shings of the Delaware, many of the Indians would throw down the hatchet and return to their villages."

"The fort cannot stand a siege and will not attempt it. Captain Beaujeu fears that William Johnson will succeed in holding the New York Iroquois neutral even if he is not able to enlist them for active service in the Crown Point and Niagara expeditions."

"How is it that you know what this Beaujeu thinks, sirrah?" harshly interrupted General Braddock.

I explained how I had passed myself off at the fort as a Canadian forest-runner and how my Onondaga friend had been accepted as a French Indian. The general stared at me suspiciously and demanded:

"Who vouches for this man, who talks French and fools an officer of the marines?"

Governor Dinwiddie promptly indorsed me.

The general dropped his head and stared at his empty glass. As they seemed to be waiting for me to continue, I said:

"It is commonly believed in Pennsylvania that Carlisle would be vastly better as a frontier station than Will's creek, as it is more accessible to Philadelphia and other centers of supplies. It is also believed that had his majesty's troops landed at Philadelphia the march to the heads of the Ohio would be shortened by six weeks and would have saved at least forty thousand pounds."

Governor Morris nodded in affirmation of this, but the general testily broke in:

"Enough of provincial fault-finding. It's very plain the people of Pennsylvania do not care to bear any of the burdens of this campaign. Maryland and Virginia have promised two hundred and fifty wagons and eleven hundred beavers, and thus far have delivered twenty wagons and two hundred poor horses. The provisions received from Maryland are worthless—broken-down horses and spoiled rations!"

"I have vouches for horses and wagons," quietly reminded Mr. Franklin.

POULTRY

SEPARATE SEXES WHILE YET YOUNG

When the cockerels in a poultry flock reach a live weight of from one and one-fourth to two pounds each they should be separated from the pullets and put on a different range or in another enclosure. This will aid in the growth of both the pullets and cockerels, according to the poultrymen at the New York State College of Agriculture at Ithaca. They explain that the pullets will be less crowded and will thus have a better chance to eat and grow.

The cockerels fight less and grow faster when they, too, have less competition in their range area and roosting quarters. They should have a shelter house, preferably among trees, to insure shade and open air roosting places. To raise vigorous males for breeding purposes the cockerels should be grouped together by size and vigor; all should have large range areas, with feed hoppers and water troughs in at least three separate parts of the range so that there will be less chance for intimidation and consequent undernourishment for the smaller birds.

In choosing cockerels for breeding or for market, begin the selective process as soon as the birds begin to show marked sexual characteristics. The time may vary according to breed and feed, but for leghorns they may be selected first at from six to eight weeks of age, and from ten to twelve weeks in the heavier varieties. The earlier the market cockerels can be separated from the rest for crate fattening, the better, because the price by weight for broilers decreases with the season faster than the birds can put on weight.

Broilers Bring Profits Now Only When in Prime

New Jersey poultrymen having surplus cockerels to dispose of as broilers are finding that there is little or no profit in them unless they are in prime condition.

Because farmers in all parts of the country are getting rid of their excess young male birds during May, June, July and August, the market offers only moderate prices. Birds in poor or only fair condition are sold at a loss.

"Observation has shown," says C. S. Platt, assistant poultry husbandman at the New Jersey experiment station, "that the poultrymen who have their broilers always in prime condition and ready to sell at a moment's notice, make the greatest profits through their ability to take advantage of favorable turns in the market. These men start with young chicks and by proper feeding and management endeavor to get rapid, uniform growth. No finishing is necessary. From the time the birds are first large enough to sell as broilers, until they are finally sold, they are in prime condition."

To cause this favorable growth poultrymen keep the birds confined and feed them a special ration.

Laying Mash Suggested by New York Station

An egg is a pretty complicated thing, and the hen that makes it needs a lot of material of different kinds, especially if she is going to do herself proud and make you a profit by a big year's output.

The ingredients commonly used in egg-laying mashes, says the New York agricultural experiment station, are wheat bran, wheat middlings, linseed oil meal, corn gluten feed, corn meal, ground oats, alfalfa meal, meat scrap, fish meal and dried buttermilk feed.

Of course you don't use all of these materials at the same time, but you need several. The Cornell mash, for instance, which has become so standardized that dealers are putting it on the market already mixed, consists of "equal parts by weight of wheat bran, wheat middlings, corn meal, ground oats and meat scraps."

The above mixture makes a pretty good growing mash, too, except that rolled oats or oatmeal may be used in place of the ground oats. Bone meal or lime is also usually added.

Size of House

Most authorities recommend a poultry house 16 to 20 feet wide facing the south with single slope shed roof, or one 20 to 25 feet wide with low double roof. Half-monitor poultry houses are not very popular because of the large amount of waste space at top. From three to five square feet of floor space per fowl is recommended, depending on type, with four square feet as a good working rule. For a house 16 feet wide, this would mean four fowls per foot length.

Poultry House Floors

Poultry authorities differ as to best floor for poultry houses. Important things are freedom from dampness, cold, drafts and dust. Double wood floors with heavy paper between are much used and very good, except that they are short-lived and do not keep out rats. Dirt, gravel or sand-clay floors are dusty and harbor rats and are hard to keep clean. Cement floors are satisfactory when properly made. Foundation walls should extend 12 to 15 inches into the ground.

The DAIRY

FEED FOR DAIRY COW ON PASTURE

With blue grass pasture the main spring and summer feed, the problem of getting the most profit out of a herd of good dairy cows calls for additional feeding, according to E. C. Eiting of the University of Missouri.

With cows producing 4½ per cent butterfat, such as Jerseys and Guernseys on fresh pasture, grain supplements per daily milk production should be 3 pounds grain for 20 pounds milk, 4 pounds grain for 25 pounds milk, 5 to 5½ pounds grain for 30 pounds milk, 7 pounds grain for 35 pounds milk, and 8.2 pounds grain for 40 pounds milk. For cows producing less than 4½ per cent milk, such as Holsteins, Brown Swiss or Ayrshire, from 3 pounds of grain for 25 pounds of milk to 9 or 10 pounds of grain for 50 pounds of milk should be fed.

Blue grass or legume pasture will supply enough protein so that home-grown energy-producing feeds such as corn, oats and barley can be used to supplement the grass. Later in the season or where the pasture is short, more protein feed should be supplied.

A recommended grain ration with summer pasture is 300 pounds of ground corn or barley; 200 pounds of ground oats or wheat bran; and 50 pounds of cottonseed meal or an abundance of legume feeds. Later in the season, the amount of corn should be reduced to 200 pounds and the cottonseed meal or other protein supplement increased up to 100 pounds.

A small field of sudan grass will provide good pasture that will help to tide over the August-September pasture shortage. A limited field with 25 pounds of sudan seed drilled per acre will provide a good crop and will pasture up to two head per acre. This will help to keep the cows in better condition and will lessen the fall slump resulting from the pasture shortage.

Roots for Dairy Cattle Supply Succulent Feed

The chief function of roots in cattle feeding is to supply a succulent feed. Under general farm conditions the quantity of nutrients grown per acre in root crops is small in comparison to the cost of production. These root crops, however, can be preserved during the winter equally well whether large or small quantities are fed each day, and therefore have special application when only a few cows are to be fed. Of the different root crops, mangel-wurzels furnish the greatest yield per acre. Other kinds of beets and turnips and carrots may be used. Turnips, however, should be fed after milking rather than before, as they cause a bad flavor in the products if fed immediately before milking. Carrots impart a desirable color to the milk.

Three Chief Essentials to Successful Dairying

There are three essentials to successful dairy farming. These are good cows that have the ability to convert the feed grown on the farm into milk and butterfat economically. After you have the efficient cows it will be necessary for you to supply these cows with the right kind of feed and care so that it will be possible for your cows to produce milk economically, and then you must have a market for your dairy products. Where these three essentials are provided you are almost sure to succeed, but if any one of these essentials is lacking you are almost sure to fail.

It is profitable to raise hogs and poultry on a dairy farm especially when only butterfat is sold and skim milk available to feed to hogs and poultry.

Dairy Facts

Soy beans offer the dairyman an excellent opportunity to increase his profits.

Cows should be dry from four to six weeks. If they are good heavy milkers then six weeks would be better than four.

Feeding enough does not mean over-feeding. What constitutes enough feed for a cow can be determined accurately only by her feeder.

Feed a cow all the roughage she will eat. Alfalfa hay and corn silage together supply ideal roughage. A cow ordinarily eats from 30 to 40 pounds of silage a day and from 10 to 20 pounds of hay.

One way to get large producing cows is to give the growing heifers the best chance. A stunted heifer will too often be a poorer producer.

More than 4,000 Ohio cows received diplomas from the National Dairy association because they produced more than 300 pounds of butterfat last year.

Sterility in dairy animals, both partial and complete, causes losses to dairymen that are probably as great as caused by the more dreaded contagious diseases.

Don't Make a Toy Out of Baby—Babies Have Nerves

By RUTH BRITAIN



Much of the nervousness in older children can be traced to the over-stimulation during infancy, caused by regarding baby as a sort of animated toy for the amusement of parents, relatives and friends. Baby may be played with, but not for more than a quarter of an hour to an hour daily. Beyond that, being handled, tickled, caused to laugh or even scream, will sometimes result in vomiting, and invariably causes irritability, crying or sleeplessness.

Fretfulness, crying and sleeplessness from this cause can easily be avoided by treating baby with more consideration, but when you just can't see what is making baby restless or upset, better give him a few drops of pure, harmless Castoria. It's amazing to see how quickly it calms baby's nerves and soothes him to sleep; yet it contains no drugs or opiates. It is purely vegetable—the recipe is on the wrapper. Leading physicians prescribe it for colic, cholera, diarrhea, constipation, gas on stomach and bowels, feverishness, loss of sleep and all other "upsets" of babyhood. Over 25 million bottles used a year shows its overwhelming popularity.

With each bottle of Castoria, you get a book on Motherhood, worth its weight in gold. Look for Chas. H. Fletcher's signature on the package so you'll get genuine Castoria. There are many imitations.

Memorial of Schiller

A hitherto unknown letter of Friedrich von Schiller was found at the town of Aesch, Czechoslovakia, by the college professor, L. Hueller. The letter, not dated, is addressed to Amalie von Imhoff, a niece of Frau von Stein, whose epic poem, "The Sisters of Lesbos," was included in Schiller's Almanac of the Muses in 1800. It is assumed that it was written during the last years of the great German author's life.

Archbishop and Reporters

We should enjoy knowing the archbishop of Canterbury. He makes public declaration that he is a slow thinker and speaker and that he sometimes stumbles through an address, only to find that the newspaper reporters have caught his meaning and presented it in perfect form. So many people—not archbishops—are continually complaining that the reporters "never get anything right."—Worcester Telegram.

Reporting Progress

We casually inquired of our ten-year-old today how he was getting along at school, and he replied: "Just fine. We pulled a fake pass and went through 'em for a touchdown, and they didn't even know who had the ball."—Smith County (Kan.) Pioneer

On the Carpet

"Your standing in studies is satisfactory but your deportment is not." "Will that keep me from graduating, professor?" "Well, if you keep on we may have to give you a black sheepskin."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Necessary Preparations

"I hear that your wife has taken up golf."

"Well, she intended to, but the tailor was two weeks late with her knickers and I couldn't get delivery on a sports roadster for her. She expects to start in about two weeks."

Part Owner

Landlord (in court)—I want an ejectment order against my tenant, who has paid no rent for a year and ten months.

Magistrate (smiling)—He is not your tenant. He is your guest.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Wrinkles indicate character—not always good.



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