

# The Doom Trail

— By —  
**Arthur D. Howden Smith**  
 Author of PORTO BELLO GOLD, Etc.  
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## THE STORY

CHAPTER I—Harry Ormerod, proscribed traitor to King George as a Stuart partisan, returning from France to London, rescues Alderman Robert Juggins from a band of assassins. Juggins proves to be the grandson of a former steward of Ormerod's father, to whom Juggins feels himself indebted. Ormerod tells Juggins he has abandoned the Stuart cause.

CHAPTER II—Juggins tells Ormerod of a Jacobite plot in the American colonies to weaken England by forwarding French interests. Their aim is the return of King James to the English throne. At its head is one Andrew Murray, a Scotsman, and a Frenchman, De Veulle, deadly enemy of Ormerod. The two are in London furthering their schemes. Ormerod sees them. Anticipating the plotters' early return to America, Juggins arranges for Ormerod to go there with letters to Governor Burnet, friend of Juggins, and work to foil Murray.

CHAPTER III—Disguised as Juggins' servant, Ormerod takes passage to America. He meets a Scottish girl, daughter of Murray, and ardent Jacobite. De Veulle recognizes him, and their enmity flames. The Frenchman denounces Ormerod to the girl as a traitor to the Stuart cause. Believing him, she repulses Ormerod's proffer of friendship. He is thrown into the sea by an unseen assailant.

CHAPTER IV—Ormerod, regaining the deck, has recognized his assailant as Murray's servant, Tom, giant negro. He accuses Murray of employing the negro to assassinate him, but a truce is arranged. At New York Ormerod saves an Indian from insult. The Indian, who speaks English, is Ta-wan-ne-ars, Seneca chief.

The governor bowed the council out, and shut the door upon the last of them. He beckoned me forward.

"Sit here beside us, Master Ormerod—for so I see you are rightly named, although you traveled under Master Juggins' name. Master Juggins vouches for you. That is sufficient for me. What say you, Colder?"

"Quite sufficient," agreed the surveyor general. "Do you wish me to remain, sir?"

"Certainly. Glad to have you. Now, Master Ormerod, do you tell us as fully as you may what you know of Murray. Master Juggins hath slated you for a prominent part. I respect his judgment, but more than our immediate fortune hinges upon the issue of what we do, and I must know all."

I recounted the circumstances of my meeting with Juggins, the hearing before the lords of trade and the incidents of the voyage, not forgetting Tom's assault upon me and the strange bargain I had made with Murray.

"Then are you safe from denunciation," broke in the governor. "We think little of Hanoverian or Jacobite in New York. Here, Master Ormerod, you will find only Englishmen laboring to wrest a living from the wilderness and to extend their country's power and richness. What you were matters little. 'Tis what you are we judge you by."

"The bargain was typical of Murray. He is no ordinary villain. Already he hath persuaded the discontented elements in the province that I would take the bread from their mouths by stopping his trade. But he knows well that I would leap upon the excuse to lay him by the heels, and he will see to it that no suspicion of your past escapes."

"He threatened me with the Red Death this morning," I said. "Can you tell me what he meant by it?"

"'Tis a saying of the frontier," explained the governor. "They call red-headed Bolting and Murray's negro, Tom, the Red and the Black Deaths, for Murray is charged with having used them to remove from his path those persons he considers dangerous or whom he honors with his dislike."

"In the crowd I also heard talk of the Doom Trail," I continued.

Governor Burnet smiled grimly.

"That is the popular name for the route by which Murray smuggles his trade goods to Canada. 'Tis said to be the sealing of a man's doom if he seeks the trail or any information concerning it."

"Has the traffic been suspended during Murray's absence?" I asked.

"No," replied the governor. "Bolting and Black Robe have kept it in motion."

"And who is Black Robe?"

The governor laughed outright.

"You are red-hot for dangerous information, Master Ormerod. Black Robe is the Indian's name for one Pere Hyacinthe, a Jesuit missionary, who, according to some of the tales our agents bring, shares with Murray the credit for conception of the conspiracy we are debating."

"But where Murray plots for the overthrow of English rule in America in order to bring back the Jacobites and enrich himself, Black Robe's ambition is to establish France as the supreme temporal power in the world and to extend the influence of the pope by making his religion universal on this continent as it is in South America."

"Where do Black Robe and Murray make their headquarters?" I inquired.

"Murray spends part of his time in

New York or in Albany, but most of the year he is absent. He says he is on trading expeditions—and we may not disprove it. But we think he stays at a station which is said to form a depot for the stores smuggled over the Doom Trail. Black Robe is reported to have a chapel there."

"'Tis called La Vierge du Bois," added Colder.

"And where is it?"

"If I knew, I should order a levy of the militia and burn it down at risk of my head," retorted the governor.

"But you must have some idea where it is?" I pressed incredulously.

Governor Burnet put down his pipe and unrolled a large scroll map which lay amongst the papers on the table.

"This is New York, Master Ormerod. Our settlements are confined to the coast districts, the Island of Nassau (Long Island)—he motioned toward the window—and the valley of Hudson's river. We have barely begun the task of colonization. There is room here for every soul in England—and to spare."

With his pipe-stem he pointed to the upper left corner.

"All this country is virgin forest. On the north and northwest 'tis bounded by the inland sea which we call Lake Cadaraquil (Lake Ontario); to the southeast stretch the Adirondack mountains. Somewhere between those boundaries runs the Doom Trail. There are thousands of square miles of wilderness to search for it."

"And the Keepers of the Trail to guard its mystery," put in Colder.

"Who are they?" I questioned, as anxious as a small boy for further details.

"The Ho-nun-ne-gwen-ne-yuh," he repeated. The Indians are a superstitious people, and they have come to believe that there is some supernatural agency behind the Keepers of the Trail. In plain English, they fear the Trail is haunted, they tell us, by the False Faces, a race of demons from the underworld, to whom Murray has sold his soul, and that the demons have rallied to his aid."

"At every turn we run against the shrewdness and wit of this fellow Murray," exploded the governor. "'Tis at once a tribute to his ability, and perhaps an index to our inferiority, that we have never been able to secure certain information of his operations."

"'Tis evident, your excellency," I ventured, "that the lords of trade will accept only positive evidence that he hath evaded the law."

"That means legal proof of smuggling," reflected the governor.

"And now that the lords of trade have suspended our law, his operations are no longer illegal, strictly speaking," said Colder. "But I make no doubt he will continue to handle the bulk of his goods over the Doom Trail, for he will not care to have his dupes in the province realize the enormous tribute they pay France through him."

Governor Burnet brought his fist down upon the table with a thud.

"Gadslife!" he swore. "There is naught for it but war! We must be after the dog! We must run him down! But we must move unofficially. What say you, Colder?"

"We can do nothing with official support," rejoined the surveyor general, "and 'tis probable we shall receive the instructions of the lords of trade to suspend the law by the next Bristol packet."

"There can be no question of that," agreed the governor. "Well, the law shall be suspended. I will have the suspension publicly proclaimed. Then under cover we must concert the measures to be taken. That will be for Master Ormerod. Do you still crave the opportunity, knowing now the full measure of its perils, sir?"

"I am more anxious, if possible, sir," I answered. "I speak French sufficiently well to pass on the frontier for a Frenchman. As for danger—why, your excellency, the man who has ruined his life can have no fear for it. He has all to gain and nothing to lose."

"True," assented the governor. "But you know nothing of woodcraft or the life amongst the savages."

"Master Juggins gave me a letter to one Peter Corlaer, a—"

Colder sat suddenly erect.

"Peter came this morning with the Seneca chief, if your excellency will remember."

"So he did. We will have him in."

Colder went out, and returned at once with two companions. One I recognized, to my amazement, as the Indian I had befriended an hour or two earlier. He greeted me with a faint smile. To the governor he rendered the splendid arm-high salute, and his deep voice boomed out—

"Qua, Ga-en-gwa-ra-go!" ("Hail, Great Swift Arrow"—the Indians name for the governor of New York, who ever he might be.)

The other man was more like a tavern keeper than a woodsman. At first glance he seemed all panache, but when you studied him closely you saw that his fat was firm and hard and formed a sheathing for the most powerful set of muscles any man ever had. His face was tremendous, with little, insignificant features; but his eyes, behind the rolls of fat which almost masked them, twinkled with constant interest and animation, belying the air of stolid stupidity he affected.

"This is Corlaer, Master Ormerod," said the governor. "And with him is come a friend of ours, one of the two war-chiefs of the Six Nations. Peter, Master Ormerod hath a letter for you from Master Juggins in London."

"Ja," he said vacantly.

I handed him the letter. He turned it over and over in his hand and picked at the seal. Then he handed it to the Indian.

"You read it," he said.

I looked from one to the other with astonishment; but 'twas the governor who intervened.

(Continued Next Week.)

## LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

W. W. Mosley.

Mrs. Bertha Johnson is confined at home seriously ill with pneumonia.

Mr. Jack Johnson has been removed to the hospital for treatment.

W. L. Johnson was over from the Bluffs and spent Thanksgiving with his family.

Union services were held at the Newman M. E. church Thanksgiving morning. Rev. M. C. Knight of Quinn Chapel preached the sermon, which was greatly enjoyed by the good crowd in attendance.

Thanksgiving dinner was served all the afternoon at Mt. Zion Baptist church last Thursday, which proved a success financially. The choir, assisted by friends, rendered a musicale at night.

The dance given in the hall at 1133 M street by the Elks lodge was largely attended on Thanksgiving night.

Miss Helen Colley spent Thanksgiving with her parents, returning to Kansas City, Kan., Sunday, where she has a position in Western University.

Services were well attended at Mt. Zion Baptist church Sunday. The pastor preached two far-reaching sermons during the day. Sunday School and young people's meeting had interesting lessons.

Sunday was quarterly meeting at Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church. Elder John Adams was present and conducted services. He preached morning and night. Sacrament was taken at morning hour. The Sunday School and two auxiliaries were conducted as usual.

Dr. B. R. Booker, District Superintendent of the Rocky Mountain District, was present, and preached morning and night. Rev. H. W. Botts of Mt. Zion Baptist church preached the sacrament sermon at 3 p. m., followed by the Lord's Supper.

Mr. and Mrs. Rolling Young of Omaha spent Thanksgiving with parents here.

The Mary Magdalene Mission was entertained by Mrs. P. J. Abner last Tuesday night at her home. A fine meeting was held.

Mrs. Margaret Glenn left for her home in Chicago this week, and Mr. Ted Officer returned to Beulah, Wyo., after burying their father, Wm. Burr Officer, here.

## "SPEED GIRLS OF 1926"

Once more the word has gone forth that real honest-to-goodness burlesque has won out and achieved so emphatic a success that return engagements are sought everywhere; this has been most conspicuously evidenced with the "Speed Girls of 1926" which is scheduled back here at the Gayety theatre, commencing Sunday matinee, December 5th.

Here is said to be an offering that is replete with all the constituents that go to make up what might be truthfully said to be genuine burlesque show; without any vulgarity or salacious innuendos to mar the wholesome and clean intent of the management. The production is said to be well constructed and tastefully costumed; the cast is composed of people who understand their professional capacities, and to that extent give the best that is in them; the chorus is said to be youthful, ambitious and consistent performers, and the various specialties introduced are said to be commensurate with the principles already established.

Nellie Nice and Helen Manning, two very clever women that were especially successful last season, and who are said to be even better this season. Toots Bradford, Ray Reed, Charles Fagan, Vernon Gilmore and Floyd DeForrest are newcomers who are said to come with excellent reputations of artistry. An added feature the original "Black Bottom" dance.

## HILLSIDE PRESBYTERIAN TO PRESENT SOPRANO

Miss Cora E. Alexander, a talented soprano singer was born, educated and received her musical training in Colorado Springs, Colo., where she studied piano under Dean Hale of Colorado College and voice training with Professor Samuel Jesop, also under the tutorage of Madam Kingsley Ballon. She spent last winter teaching music in the State School of Baton Rouge, La. While there she made an intensive study of Negro spirituals. She is attracting nationwide attention with her marvelous voice.

Miss Alexander will render a musicale program at the Hillside Presbyterian Church, Thursday evening, December 9th. Admission, fifty cents.—Adv.

## W. B. Bryant, Attorney NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL In the County Court of Douglas County, Nebraska.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ALONZO, JACKSON, DECEASED.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in said Court, praying for the probate of a certain instrument now on file in said Court, purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased, and that a hearing will be had on said petition before said Court on the 3rd day of January, 1927, and that if they fail to appear at said Court on the said 3rd day of January, 1927, at 9 o'clock, A. M., to contest the probate of said will, the Court may allow and probate said will and grant administration of said estate to Grace Jackson or some other suitable person, enter a decree of heirship, and proceed to a settlement thereof.

BRYCE CRAWFORD, County Judge.

3T—12-3-26.

## DANCE TO PROVIDE CHRISTMAS BASKETS

The Roosevelt Post of the American Legion does a vast deal of helpful work among ex-service men. Every Christmas, in addition to what is done at other times, they see to it that generous and well-filled baskets are sent to the fami-

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**HOUSE FOR RENT**—969 North Twenty-fifth avenue. Rent reasonable. Call At. 9344. 1t—10-1-26.

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lies of ex-service men. It takes money to do this. To raise funds for this worthy purpose a ball will be given next Thursday night, November 9th, at the Sunset Gardens, at Twenty-fourth and Blondo street. The Post is asking for the liberal patronage of the public. The cause is undoubtedly a worthy one.

W. B. Bryant, Attorney

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Sheriff-elect Charles B. McDonald has named as one of his deputies, C. C. McDonald.

Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Cowan have purchased a cosy and attractive home at 3108 Ohio street.

6T—12-3-26.

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W. G. MORGAN—Phones Atlantic 9344 and Jackson 0210.

H. J. PINKETT, Attorney and Counselor-at-Law. Twenty years' experience. Practices in all courts. Suite 19, Patterson Block, 17th and Farnam Sts. AT. 9344 or WE. 3180.

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