

the struggle of the Colonists, with savage foes, was renewed. A party of Indians, from Canada, in October, 1705, entered the town of Lancaster.

Thomas Sawyer, with his son, Elias, were taken by surprise, and carried away captive to Montreal. His younger son, Thomas, then a lad of fourteen years of age, escaped through a back window of the house, and during his father's captivity, was the stay and support of the family. The Indian captors, hastening their journey, treated Mr. Sawyer with great cruelty on the way to Canada. Full of resources, it was not long, however, before he began to plan for an escape.

He reported to the French Governor, Vaudreuil, that there was on the river Chamblee, a fine site for mills, and that he would build a saw-mill for him, provided he would secure the release of his son, and himself, from their Indian captors. The Governor at once accepted the offer, as there was not at that time a saw-mill in all Canada, nor a millwright capable of building one. He accordingly applied to the Indians, for the release of the captives, and was successful in negotiating for the release of Elias, the son, but no sum he could name, could purchase the release of Thomas Sawyer.

In the quaint language of the annalist of the time, "Being distinguished for his bravery which had proved fatal to a number of their warriors, the Indians were determined him to immolate." They accordingly led forth their victim, and bound him to the stake, piled about with materials so arranged, as to effect a lingering death. Anticipating the fiendish pleasure, of seeing their captive writhing in tortures, amidst the rising flames, the savages rent the air with their demoniacal yells, when upon a sudden, a Friar appeared, and with great solemnity held