

THE STORY OF THE FAMILIES

By Joseph Vernelle Phillips

PART 1: THE AMERICANS

Chapter 5: The Boy James Taylor's Gripping Odyssey from Virginia to Tennessee, Over Hill, Over Dale, Over Creek, Over River, Sickness And Broken Wagon Wheels

The American Revolution was in full swing when an unnamed British troopship sailed into the port of Norfolk at an unknown date after a horrendous voyage from England. It had been a trip over stormy seas under crowded conditions with all the Redcoats aboard. Sailors were not treated well on British ships in those days. They were overworked, frequently flogged, and their grub was often tough and rancid.

Lord Dunmore's fleet had bombarded Norfolk around that time, burning much of the city's industrial and mercantile center to the ground. A cannonball can still be seen imbedded on the walls of St. Paul's church downtown that survived the onslaught. Its all-important docks and its navy yard were in ruins. The busy streets were now silent. Many homes were burned. It was a major blow to the rebels as Norfolk then was larger than New York City and a strategic military hub. The rebel navy depended on the city for its naval stores, timber, turpentine, tar and other commodities to keep it afloat. It was also a center for shipbuilding and ship repair.

In this hellish pit, George Taylor chose to jump ship, as so many wretched sailors did in those days, and to join the revolutionaries.

Note: This chapter was never finished.