

MACMILLAN GUIDED READERS

BEGINNER LEVEL

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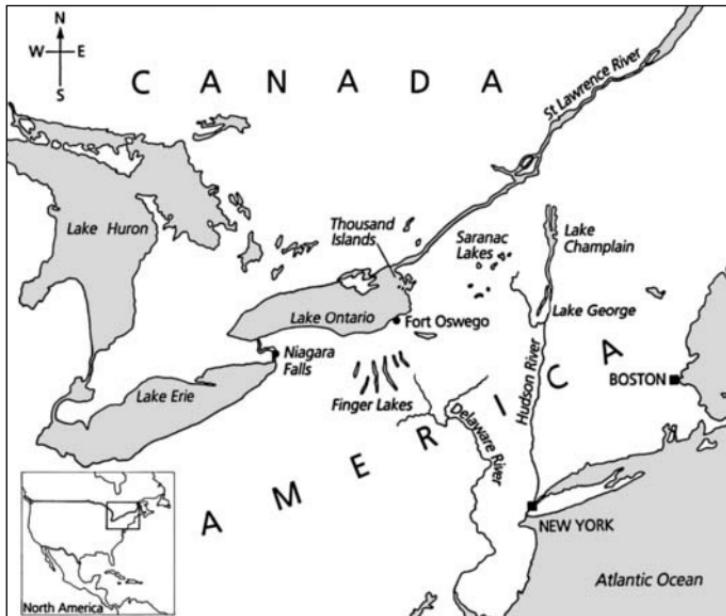
Hawk-eye, the Pathfinder

Retold by T.P.Yatt



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Travellers in the Forest



It was a cold day in September 1757. Four people were walking through a great forest, near Lake Ontario. Two of the travellers were white people – an old man and a young woman. The other two travellers were Tuscarora Indians – a strong, tall man and his young wife.

The white man's name was Charlie Cap. He was about sixty years old. Charlie Cap had been a sailor all his life. He had sailed on all the oceans of the world. The young white woman – Mabel Dunham – was Cap's niece. Charlie Cap's wife was the sister of Mabel's father. The Indian man's name was Arrowhead and his wife's name was Morning Dew.

The four people had been travelling together for a week. They were walking towards the north. They were walking towards Lake Ontario.

Suddenly, Arrowhead spoke quietly to his wife. Then he climbed quickly to the top of a tall tree. After a minute, he climbed down to the ground. He spoke to the white people.

'I see some smoke from a fire,' he said. 'I see it and I smell it. Stay here! Morning Dew will stay with you. I will go forward. There is danger in the forest!'

The Tuscarora walked away through the trees.



Mabel spoke to the Indian's wife.

'Morning Dew, is there danger here?' she asked.

'Arrowhead saw the smoke from a fire,' answered the woman. 'Somebody is near us in the forest. My husband will find them. There are many enemies in the forest – many Mingos. The Mingos are bad Indians. They are not our friends.'

'Don't be afraid, Mabel,' Charlie Cap said to his niece. 'We are near Fort Oswego now. Arrowhead is a clever guide. He will take us to the fort. We will arrive there tomorrow. And your father is waiting for us there.'



'Yes, I want to see my father,' said the young woman. 'I am nineteen years old and I haven't seen my father for fifteen years. Fifteen years ago, my mother died and

Father sent me to New York. But now I am going to live with him again. I am very happy.'

Mabel's father – Sergeant Dunham – was a soldier in the English Army. He was a soldier in the 55th Regiment.

Mabel Dunham had been born in America, and her father had been born in America too. Many soldiers in the English Army had been born in America. But most of the soldiers in the 55th Regiment had come from England.

The soldiers of the regiment lived at Fort Oswego, on the south shore of Lake Ontario. The Oswego River joined the lake near the fort.

Lake Ontario was very large. The east end of the lake was nearly two hundred miles from the west end. Many French boats sailed on the great lake. The lake was a dangerous place for the English soldiers.

The land near Lake Ontario was dangerous too. Many French people lived on the north shore. There were many French soldiers in forts near the west end of the lake. And there were many Mingo Indians in the forests near the lake. The Mingos were fighting for the French Army. They had killed many English soldiers and travellers.

Charlie Cap had told Mabel, 'Don't be afraid.' But the old sailor was worried. How far were they from Fort Oswego? Were there enemies near them in the forest? Were he and Mabel Dunham safe?