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The Moulton Tavern, York, Maine 1688-1691/2

Joseph Moulton, son of Thomas and Martha Moulton, was born 1648 at Hampton, N.H. The family removed to York, Maine, in 1655, where he married Hannah Littlefield, daughter of Francis and Rebecca (Rust) Littlefield. Hannah was born 5 January 1652. Joseph and Hannah died in the Indian massacre of 25 January 1691/2.

Joseph Moulton took the oath of allegiance on 22 March 1678/79. He received a grant of land at York in 1685 and was made Constable in 1686. In 1688 he built a large house in which he conducted a tavern on Scituate Men's Row in York. In 1691 he served on the jury and the same year on the grand jury, whose members he entertained at his tavern.

There was a party of guests from Portsmouth staying at the tavern on 25 January 1691/2, which with other visitors and employees, filled the house to the extent that scouts of the Indians mistook the place for a garrison and sent half of their band of a hundred and fifty to concentrate an attack on that place alone.

Joseph Moulton and his wife were killed and scalped while their youngest son, Jeremiah, looked on at the shocking spectacle. The Indians later herded him with those selected for captivity. The frightened and resentful boy showed his feelings by resisting to the limit of his childish strength, exhibiting so much youthful indignation at his detention that it amused the Indians greatly. They took this cue to tease him and encourage his struggles for liberation from his tormentors. Finally, he took advantage of a relaxation of their watchfulness and ran as fast as he could through the snows towards his burning home.

Jeremiah Moulton was born in the tavern his folks conducted and the terror of that day's experience remained with him.

- Doris Mae Hosley Cambridge  
77-45

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