

# THE VIGILANT GAZE

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## DEAD WALK IN MORGAN'S FERRY

*By Bartholomew Paige*

It was a perfect sunny morning as Gijbert Hardman, Andre Elznick, Alan Silverfingers, and Asa Barber prepared to set out for the beleaguered township of Morgan's Ferry. Newcomers to Fort Vigilance, they were conscripted by Oliver Pennypacker to retrieve his nephew from the Bigsby Hotel in his most recent venture, opening a new bar and canteen right here at the fort.

Accompanying them was Wachiwi, a regular of the fort since these dark times have started, and a particularly vigorous dog of the spitz variety. A muted crowd watched as they boarded old Charon and began the arduous row across the Whiskey River, unaware of what would await them on the opposite shore. Sunny skies soon gave way to the baleful gaze of the roiling miasma that has loomed over Morgan's Ferry for the past several months.

They found the docks in a terrible disarray, ransacked in the rioting brought on as the dead tore through the city. A brief search gave them further concern as they found the body of Sergeant Whitaker, not seen since he took a company across the river to regain order in Morgan's Ferry, having apparently succumbed to the malady that has stricken so many "surviving" residents of the town. The editorial board of *The Fort Vigilant Gaze* would like to extend their deepest sympathies and condolences to Mrs. Sergeant Whitaker and any of his kin who may be reading this article.

Further investigation resulted in the locating of the fort's boat, the Whiskey Runner, along with a survivor of the hardships of Morgan's Ferry. While securing their area, the party came across one of the blighted townfolk, and due to the ingenuity of the trapper, Andre Elznick, they were able to capture and incapacitate their adversary in quick fashion.

After ascertaining the workings of the Whiskey Runner, Gijbert led the group along the shoreline to the east side of the town, circling around to the rear of the Bigsby where it was suspected that Pennypacker's nephew had entrenched himself. It was there that tragedy struck, as Alan Silverfinger ran afoul of a bear

trap, set by Buford, to stave off the dead.

With valiant effort, Alan singlehandedly pried the trap open. The real damage was done not to his limb, but to the security of the whole venture, as they were beset by a pair of townfolk. A pitched battle occurred on the snows near the ferrier. The venturing company fought off and incapacitated the two townfolk, with only the spitz dog taking further injury. With their ward in tow, they retraced their steps back to the Whiskey Runner and brought Buford and Tom safely to Fort Vigilance.



*The Whiskey Runner. Photo courtesy of Andre Elznick.*

## \$100 REWARD FOR LEGENDARY MOOSE

*By Bartholomew Paige*

The moose of Goose Island strikes again! While picking snowberries near Burke's Hollow, the widow Abigail DuPont and her dog were assaulted by the murderous moose known as Bullwinkle. Her trusty canine, Mr. Bickerson, did not survive.

When asked why the fort wasn't handling the problem, Corporal Murphy replied, "Our job is to secure this fort, not the whole damned island. We're not in the revenge business."

The widow offers \$100 to anyone who brings back proof of this terror's demise. Mr. Bickerson's funeral is this Sunday.