

King Philip's War:
The All-out Struggle
Pitting
the Puritans and Their Allies
Against
the Tribal Peoples of
Southern New England

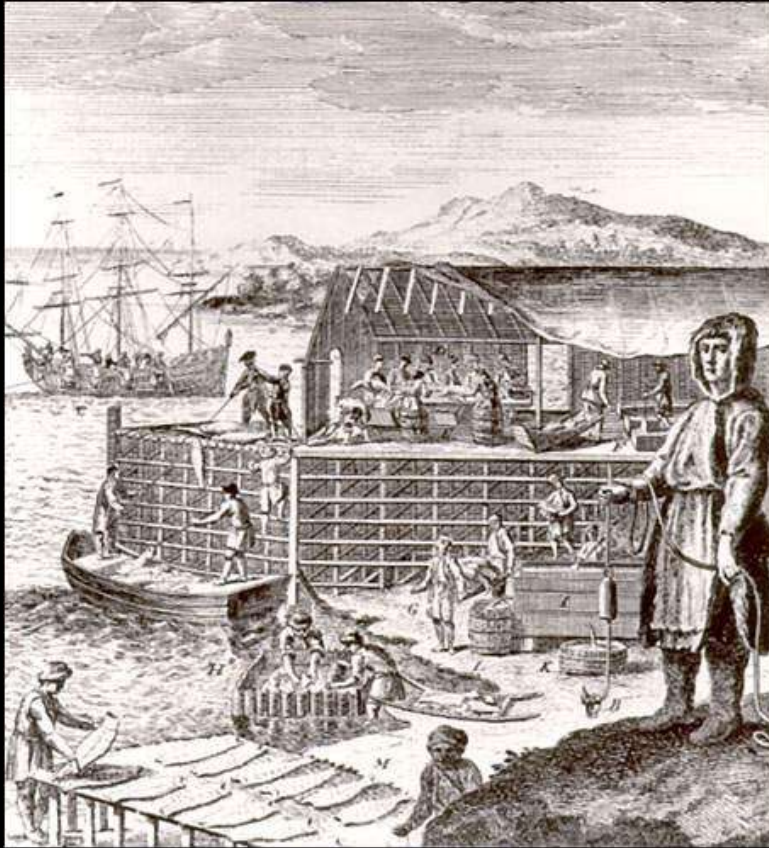
Population Comparison

Town / Region	Population	Households	People / Household	Surrogate
Brookfield	16,452	6,129	2.68	Connecticut
New Fairfield	13,881	4,802	2.89	Plymouth
Newtown	27,560	9,459	2.91	Massachusetts
Total	57,893	20,390	2.84	
Southern New England c1675	55,000	6,111	9	United Colonies

Pre-Pilgrim History

- Grand Banks Cod Fishing Begins ca 1505
- 16th Century: International Fishing Fleet
 - Rapidly Grows to 300 Vessels
 - 5,000 Fisherman Annually Cross Atlantic
- Cod Key Protein Source for European Diet
- Native Population – European Interaction
 - Capelin Harvesting & Cod Salting
- Minimal Governmental Supervision

Pre-Pilgrim History



1620 - 1622



- English-Speaking
- Squanto



Friendly Massasoit
Ousamequin

Squanto's Request

- "Here [Manamoick Bay] Squanto fell ill of **Indian fever**, bleeding much at the nose, which the Indians take as a symptom of death, and within a few days he died. He begged the Governor to pray for him, that he might go to the **Englishman's God in heaven**, and bequeathed several of his things to his English friends, as remembrances. His death was a **great loss**."

- Gov. William Bradford

King Philip's War

The Conflict

- Objective: Decide which Peoples, Puritan or Indian, would Control Southern New England.
- Timeframe: 1675 – 1676
- Battle Space:
 - Eastern & Central Massachusetts
 - Rhode Island

Adversaries

- United Colonies + Native Allies
 - Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth & Connecticut
 - Mohegan & Pequot Tribes
 - Christianized (Praying) Indians
- Native Peoples
 - Wampanoag, Nipmuc & Narragansett Tribes
- Neutrals
 - Rhode Island , New York & Many Indians
 - The English King and Parliament

Ninegret

Southern New England Indian



Points of Contention

- Land Ownership
- Animal Husbandry
- Laws & Jurisdiction
- Shifting Population Balance
- Economics & Money
- Governance
- Religious Differences
- Slavery & Alcohol Induced Bigotry

Land Ownership

- Pilgrims & Puritans
 - Individual Ownership of Land
 - Permanent & Total Sovereignty
- Tribal Indians
 - Communal Ownership of Land
 - Individual Property Practically Non-Existent
 - Temporary & Limited Sovereignty

Animal Husbandry

- Indians: No Domesticated Cows, Swine or Horses
- Roaming Cows & Swine Destroy Indian Corn Fields
- Changing Wild Animal Populations
 - Feral Swine Proliferate
 - Land Clearing Reduces Deer Population
 - Beaver Trapping Changes Woodlands

Laws & Jurisdiction

- How Will Colonist v. Indian Disputes Be Adjudicated?
- Colonial Legal Procedures
 - Familiar to Colonists
 - Foreign to Natives
- **Indians: Colonists Always Win**

Shifting Population Balance

Puritans

“The Great Migration” 1620 to 1640: ~20,000

- After 1640: ~50 per Annum
- Many Return to England; Participate in English Civil War

3% per Annum Population Growth

- Average Woman: 7+ Lifetime Pregnancies
- Low Childhood Mortality

Average Life Span: 70 Years

- Colonial Invention: Grandparents

1675 Colonial Population: ~55,000

Shifting Population Balance

Puritans

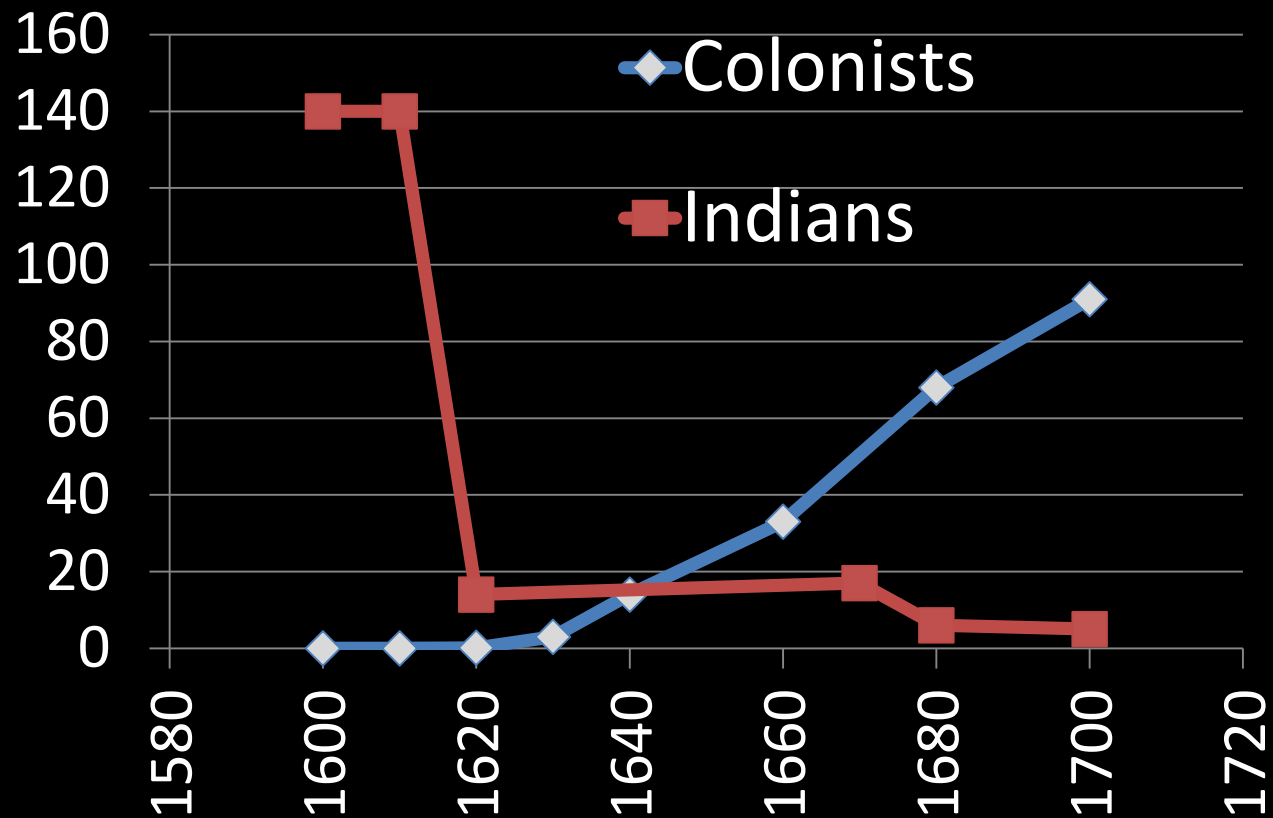


- Puritan Population Explosion

Shifting Population Balance Indian

- Southern New England Indian Population
 - 1600: 140,000
 - 1620: 14,000
- No Net Population Recovery for Tribal Indians
 - Epidemics: Smallpox (1633 & 1677), Measles (1657), Whooping Cough (1659) & Dysentery
 - Puritans Christianizing Indians

Shifting Population Balance 17th Century



Shifting Population Balance



The Great Dying 1617- 1619

Shifting Population Balance

- The “Great Dying” 1617-1619
 - Gov. Bradford: “... the people not many, being dead and abundantly wasted in the late great mortalitie which fell in all these parts about three years before the coming of the English, **wherin thousands of em dyed**; ... **ther sculs and bones were found in many places lying still above the ground, where their houses and dwellings had been**; a very sad spectackle to behould.”

Shifting Population Balance

“Indean Fever” Cause

- Gookin, 1674, “I have discoursed with old Indians, who were then youths, who say that the **bodies all over were exceedingly yellow**, describing it by a yellow garment they showed me, both before they died and afterwards.”
- **Weil's Disease** / Syndrome (**Leptospirosis**)

Shifting Population Balance

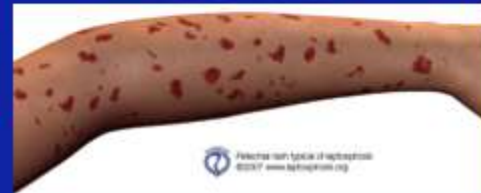
Weil's Disease Symptoms

Icterus (jaundice)

- Yellowing of the eye globes
- Yellow epidermis
- Dark urine

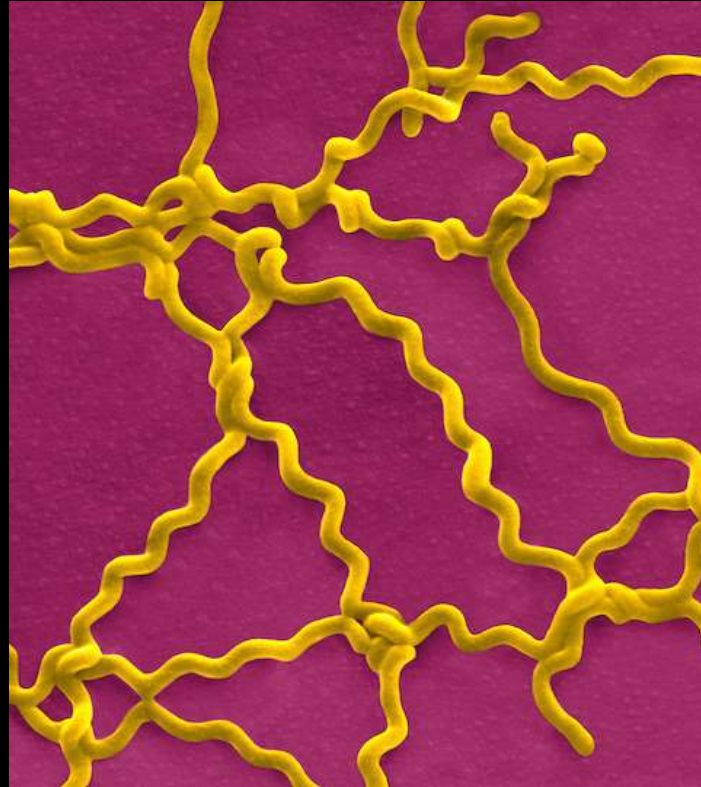


Weil's Disease



Shifting Population Balance

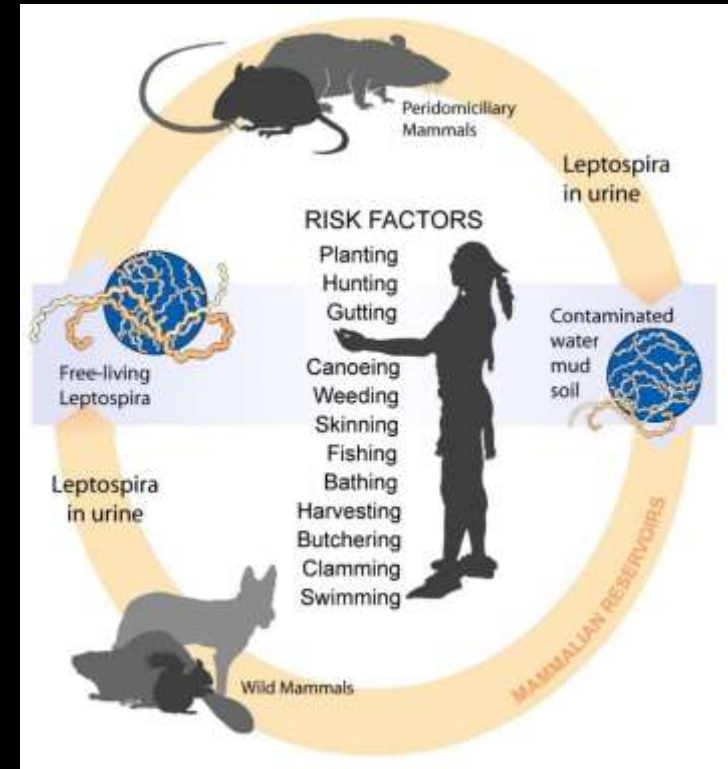
Weil's Disease Bacteria



- Leptospira

Shifting Population Balance

Weil's Disease Carrier



- Ratus Ratus aka **Ship Rat**

Economics & Money

Indian Prosperity



Beaver Pelt



The Laughing Cavalier
Frans Hals (1624)

Economics & Money



- Wampum: The magnet that drew the beaver out of the interior

Economics & Money

- 1650 Economic Dislocation
 - Indians:
 - Overharvesting of Beaver
 - Beaver Wars: Iroquois vs Algonquians
 - Colonists:
 - English Civil War Contracts Money Supply
 - “Triangle Trade”, Export Economy, Ship Building & Servicing of Pirates
 - Money Supply Inadequate

Economics & Money



-
- Pine Tree Dollar / Shilling

Economics & Money

- Massachusetts Bay Colony
 - 1650 -52 Begins Minting Specie
 - 1652 Declares Wampum Legal Tender
- 1661 Wampum No Longer Legal Tender
- Indians Without Convertible Currency
- Indians Increasingly Financially Dependent on Colonists

Governance

- Indians
 - Numerous Small Tribes, Loosely Associated
 - Sachem, Personal Rule
 - Informal Structure, No Formal Government
- Colonists
 - Representative Government (Church Membership)
 - Elected officials, Formal Appointments
 - Formal, Hierarchical, Law-Based Structure
 - United Colonies (MA, CT & Plymouth Colony)

Religious Differences

- Tribal Indians
 - Animism
 - Poly-Theistic (Kitchi Manitou / Wendigo)
 - Shaman-Mediated, **Oral Tradition**
- Colonists & Christianized Indians
 - Puritans
 - Low-Church Protestant
 - **Biblical Authority Demands Literacy**

Slavery & Alcohol Induced Bigotry



- Molasses / Rum /
- **Slave** Trade



Slavery & Alcohol Induced Bigotry

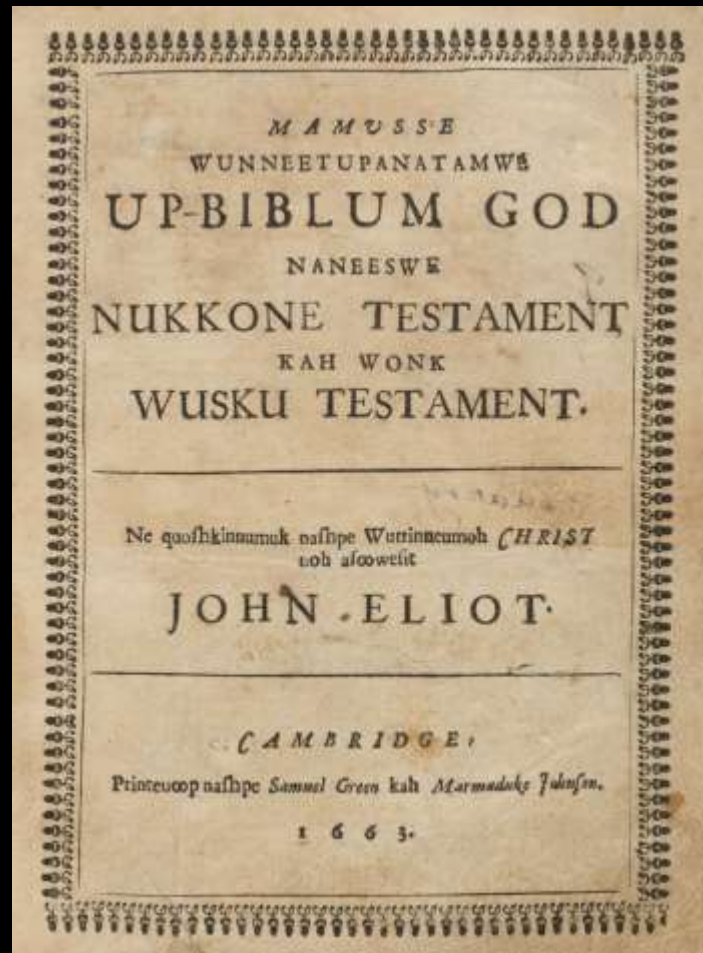


Alcohol-Facilitated

- Transaction

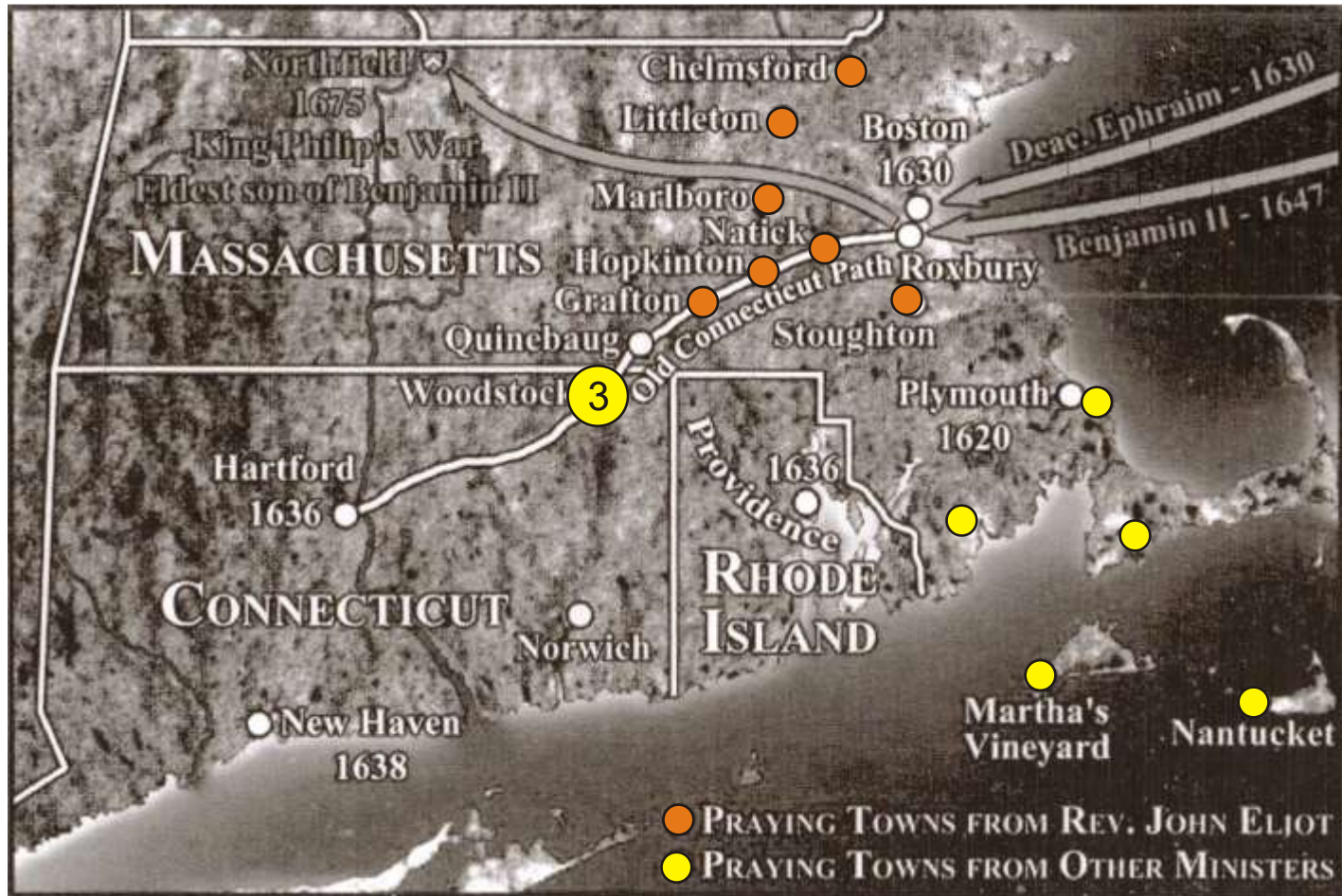
1912 Caricature of
Thanksgiving

Christian (Praying) Indians



John Eliot

Christian (Praying) Indian Towns



Precipitating Events

- 1661 Massasoit / Ousamequin Dies
 - Friend & Ally of the Pilgrims
- Wamsutta / Alexander (ca. 1634 – 1662)
 - CT Land Sale; Plymouth Jails & Releases
 - Alexander: Goes Home; Gets Sick; Soon Dies
 - Colonists: Untimely Illness Leads to Death
 - Many Indians: Murder by Poison
- Metacom / Philip Becomes Sachem
 - Born 1639

Metacom aka King Philip



- Revere Painting

Precipitating Events

- John Sassamon's Death
 - Harvard-Educated, Christianized Indian
 - Defacto Secretary to Metacom
 - Warns Pilgrim Colony Leaders of Metacom's Plot
 - Sassamon's Body Found Under Ice of Assawompset Pond (29 Jan. 1675)
 - Initial Conclusion: Accidental Drowning
 - Subsequent Investigation: Twisted, Broken Neck
 - 3 Wampanoag Indians Implicated & Arrested
 - Suspected Instigator, Metacom, Not Indicted

Precipitating Events

- Murder Trial
 - Held in a Pilgrim Colony Court (Early June 1675)
 - Two Juries: 12 Colonists & 6 Christian Indians
 - Witness Patuckson Testifies to Sassamon's Murder
 - Juries Convict; Guilty Indians Sentenced to Hang
 - First Two Indians Successfully Executed
 - Wampapaquan Confesses After a Failed Hanging
- Immediate Commencement of Hostilities

Combatants



Strategic Approach

Tribal Indians

- Destroy Colonist Way of Live
 - Attack Towns & Destroy Buildings
 - Kill Livestock
- Protect Non-Combatants
 - Superior Woodland Fighting Skills
 - 1675 Evacuate to Rhode Island (Narragansett)
 - 1676 Repeated “Removes” (Evacuations)
- Secure Additional Forces
 - Recruit Nipmuc, Narragansett & Mohawk

Strategic Approach

Colonists & Indian Allies

- Search & Destroy Missions Targeting
 - Warriors **AND Women, Children & Elderly**
 - Food Stores, Munitions & Weapons Repair
- Defensive Strong Points – **Garrison House**
- **Utilize Allied Indian** Woodland Capabilities
- Isolate Adversaries
 - Diplomacy: **Keep Neutral Tribes Neutral**
 - Offers of Clemency (Spring 1676)

Garrison House

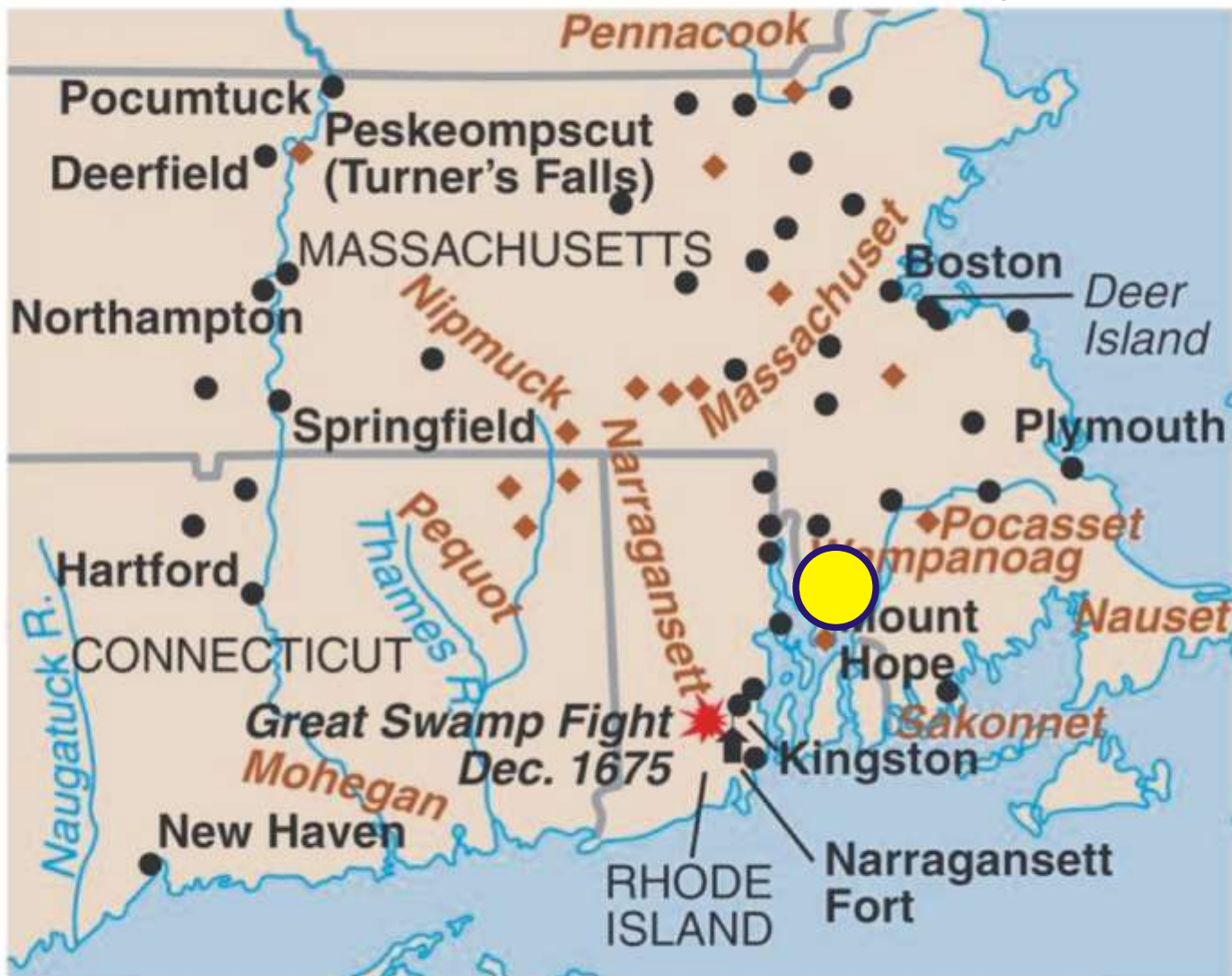


Weapons Technology

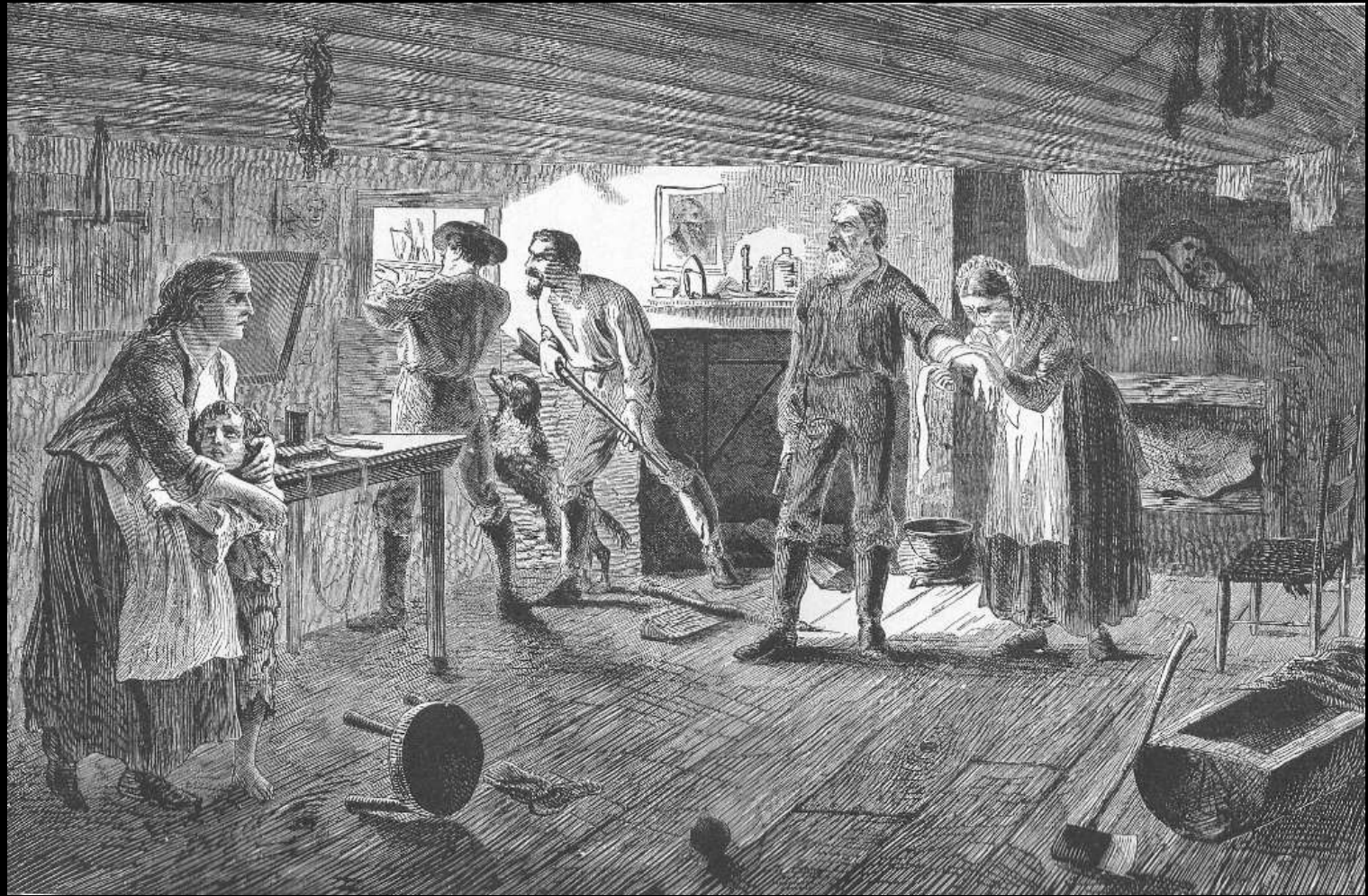


- Flintlock

Swansea / Mount Hope July 1675



Defense of a Garrison House



Swansea & Metacom's Escape

Wampanoag

vs Puritans

Peninsula

Plymouth Strategy

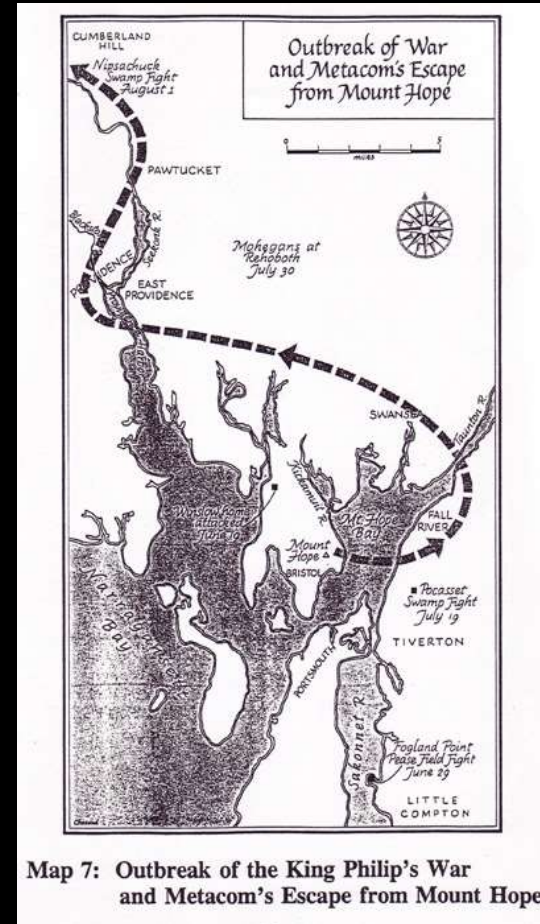
Containment

Taunton Relief Effort

Disastrous Error

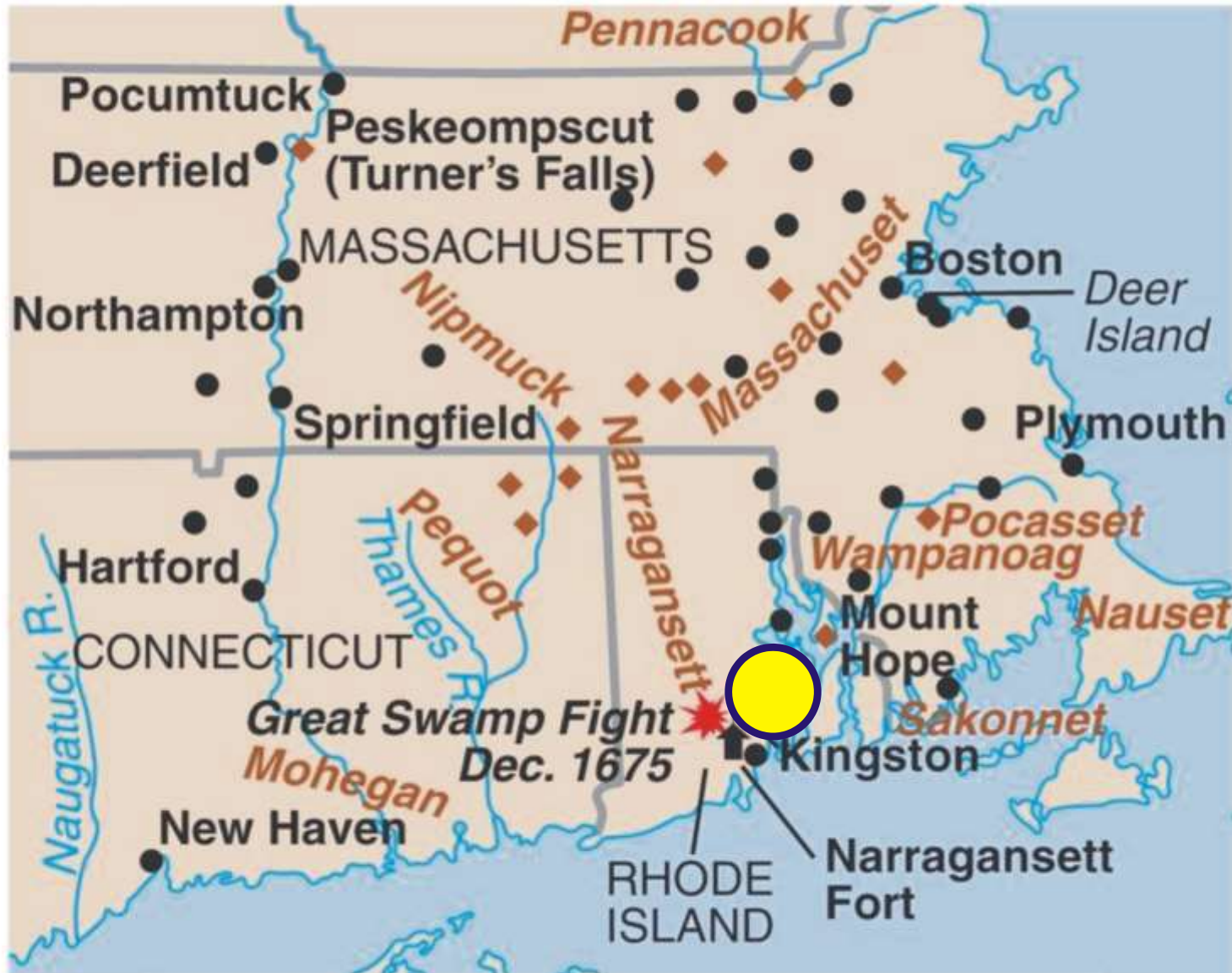


Swansea & Metacom's Escape



Map 7: Outbreak of the King Philip's War and Metacom's Escape from Mount Hope

Pease Field Fight 8 July 1675



Pease Field Fight 8 July 1675



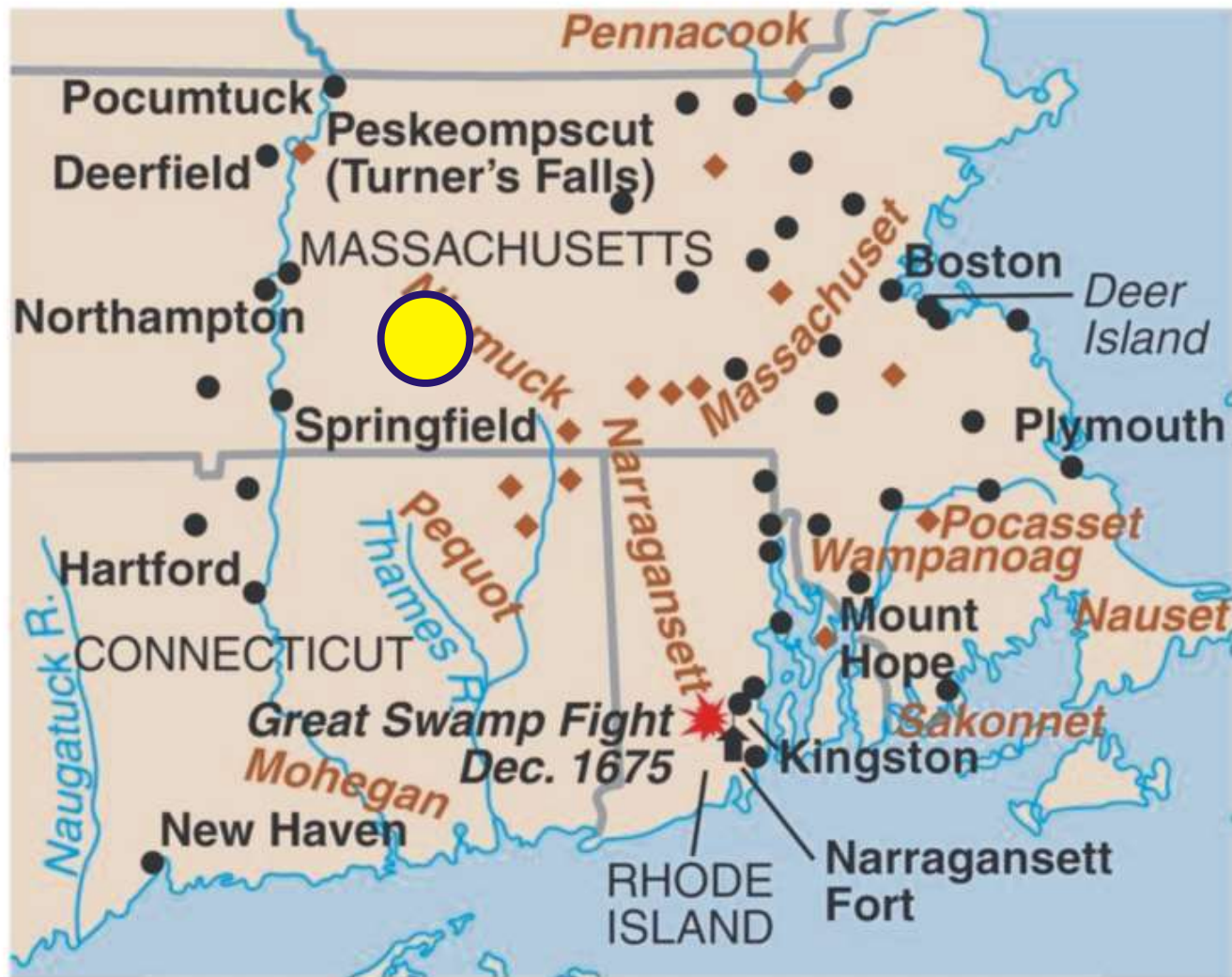
- Benjamin Church

Pease Field Fight 8 July 1675



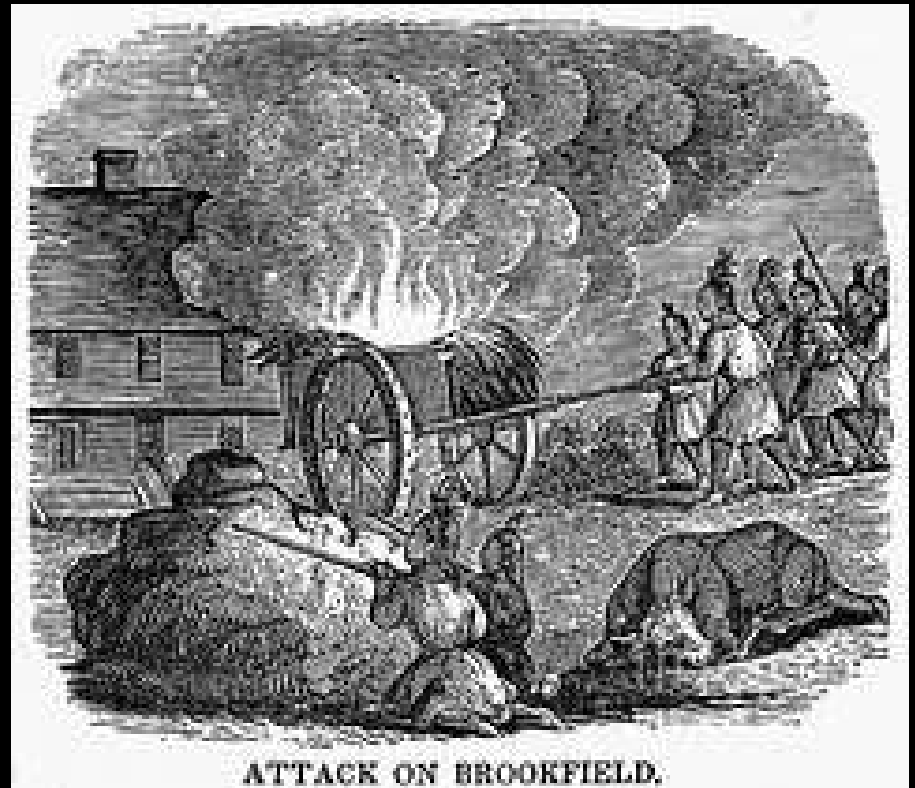
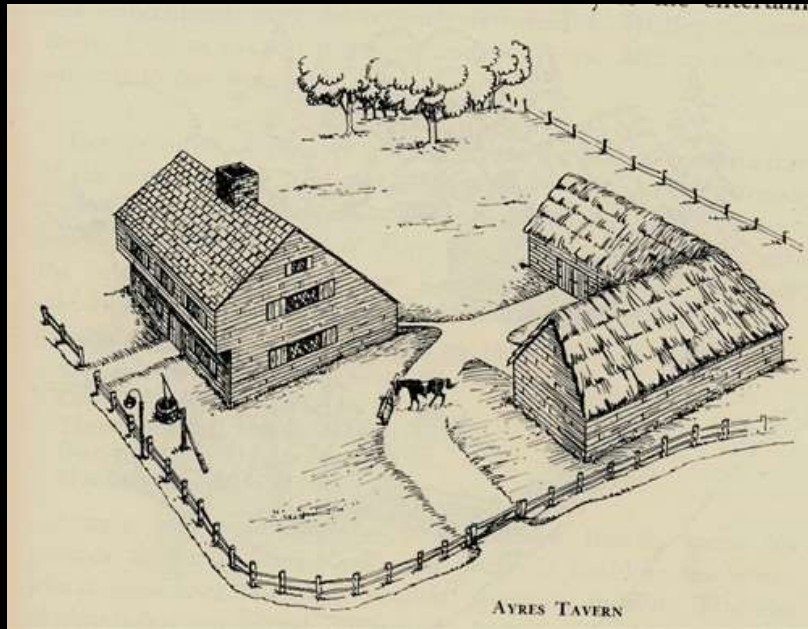
- Evacuation

Attack on Brookfield 2-4 Aug. 1675

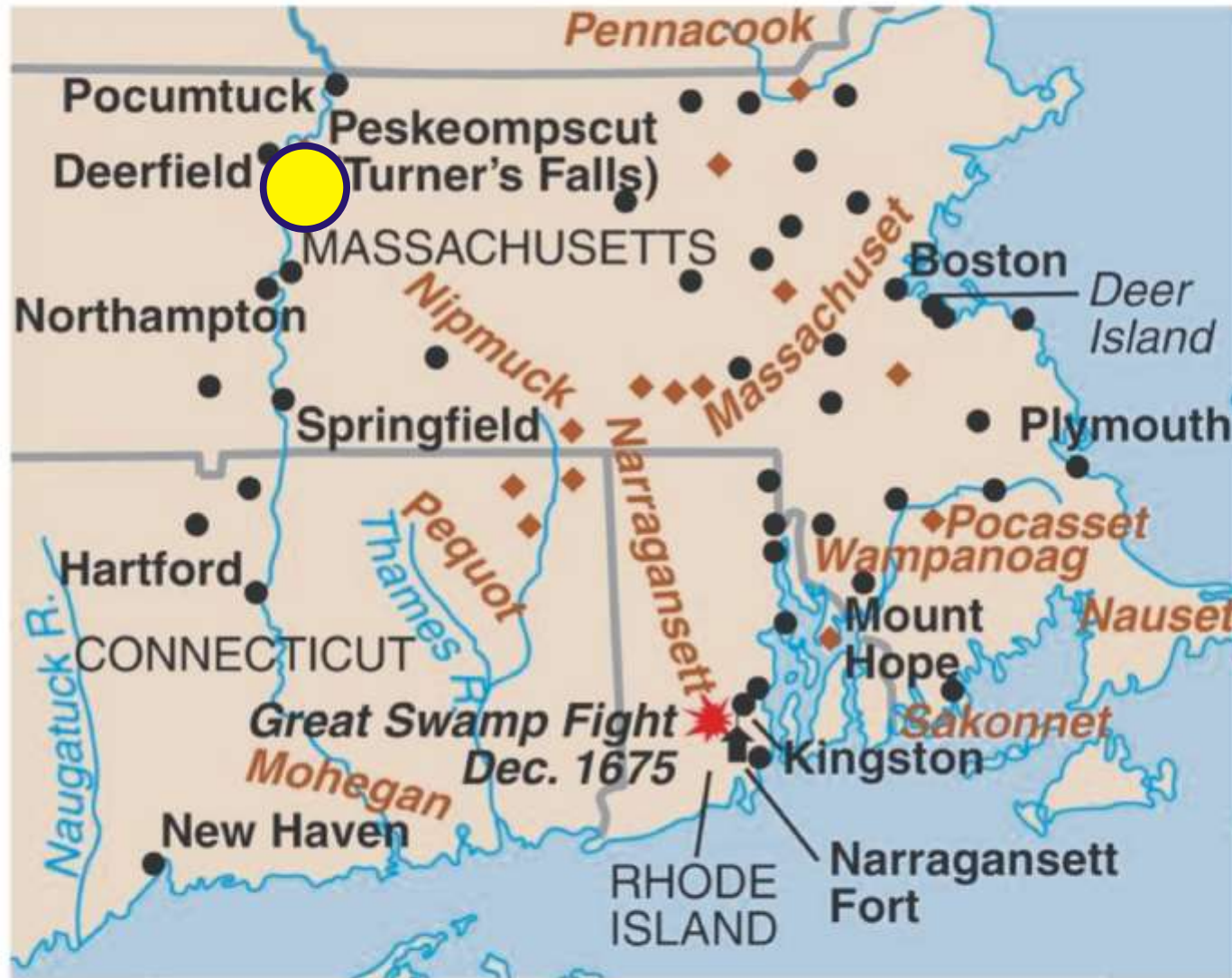


Wheeler's Surprise / Ayres' Tavern

Attack on Brookfield 2-4 Aug. 1675



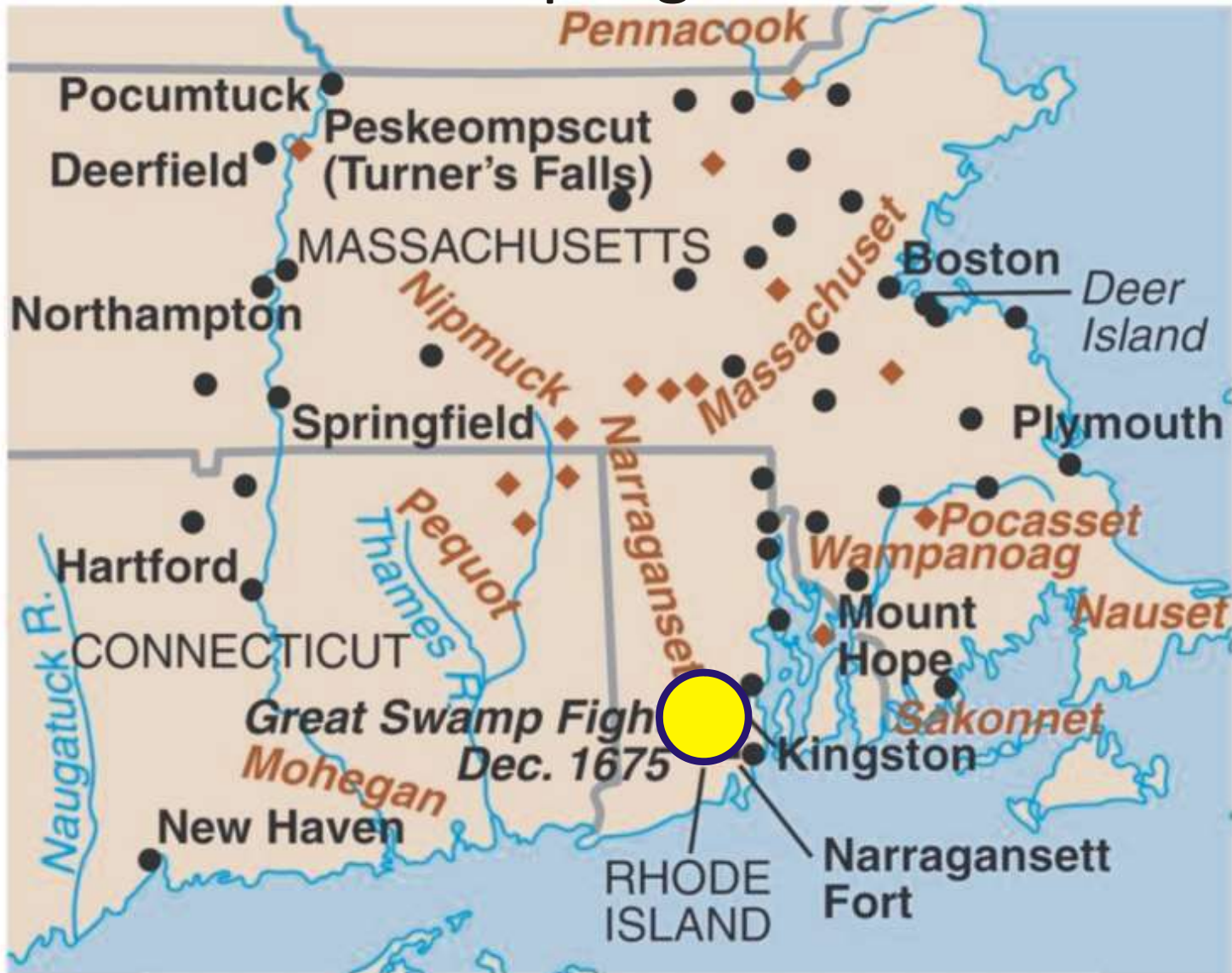
Battle of Bloody Brook 12 Sep 1675



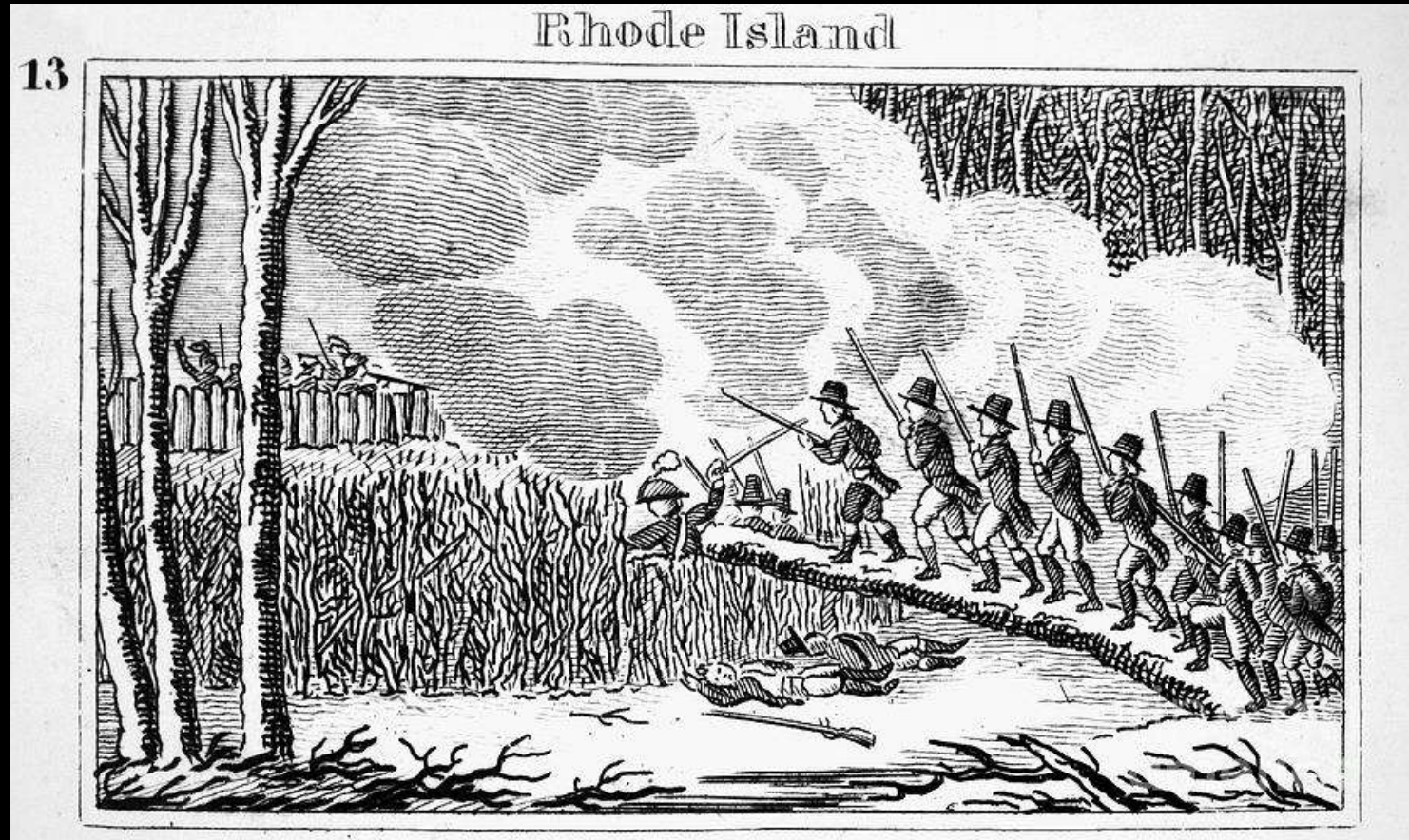
Battle of Bloody Brook 12 Sep 1675



The Great Swamp Fight 19 Dec. 1675



The Great Swamp Fight 19 Dec. 1675

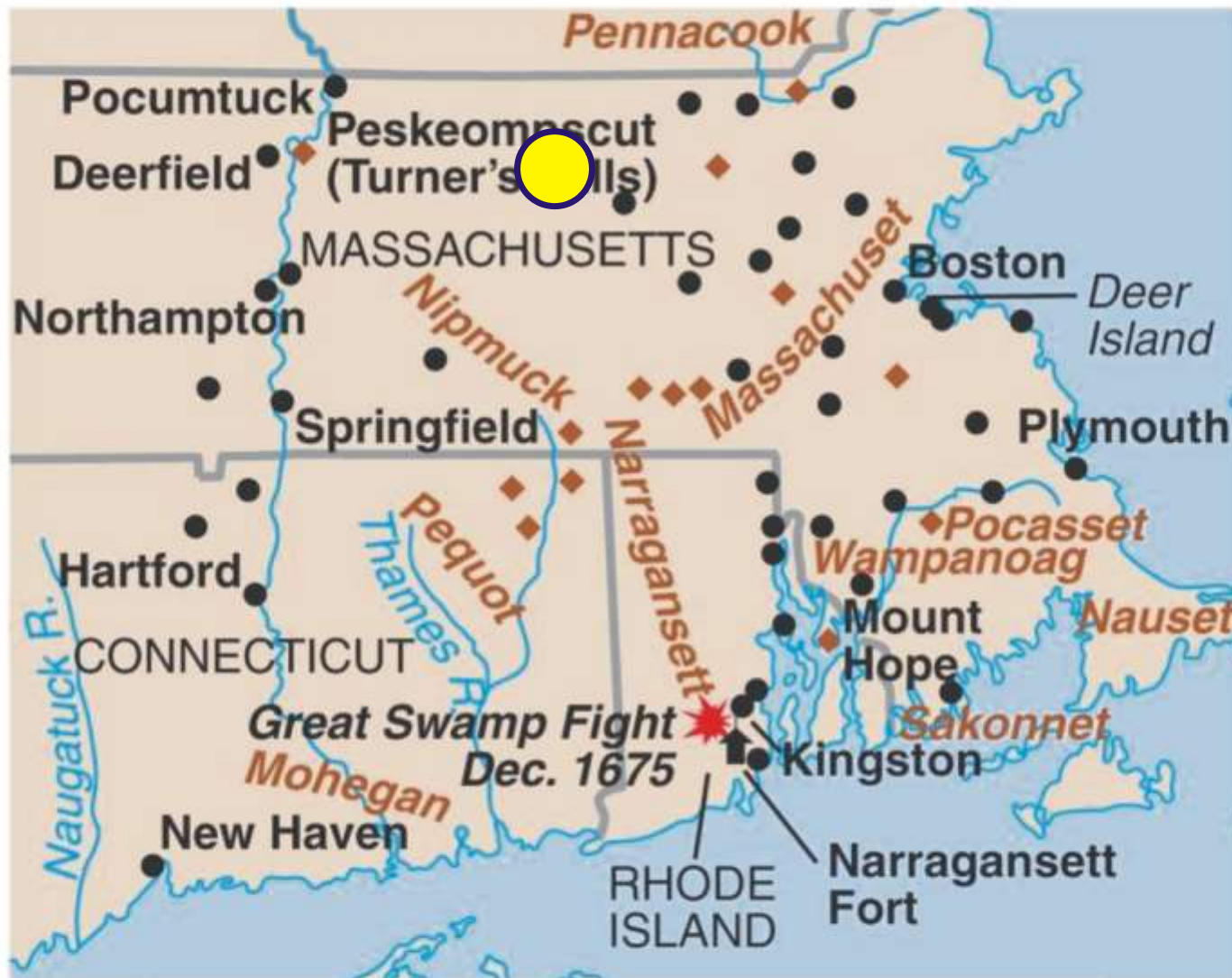


- Initial Attack Across Fallen Tree

The Great Swamp Fight 19 Dec. 1675

- Hamburger Hill 72 KIA / 372 WIA / 1,800
- Brookfield High 346 Male Students
- Connecticut Force Maj. Robert Treat
- Authorized 315
- Casualties ≈200
- Killed 71 23.5 %
- Company Captains 4 of 6 Killed

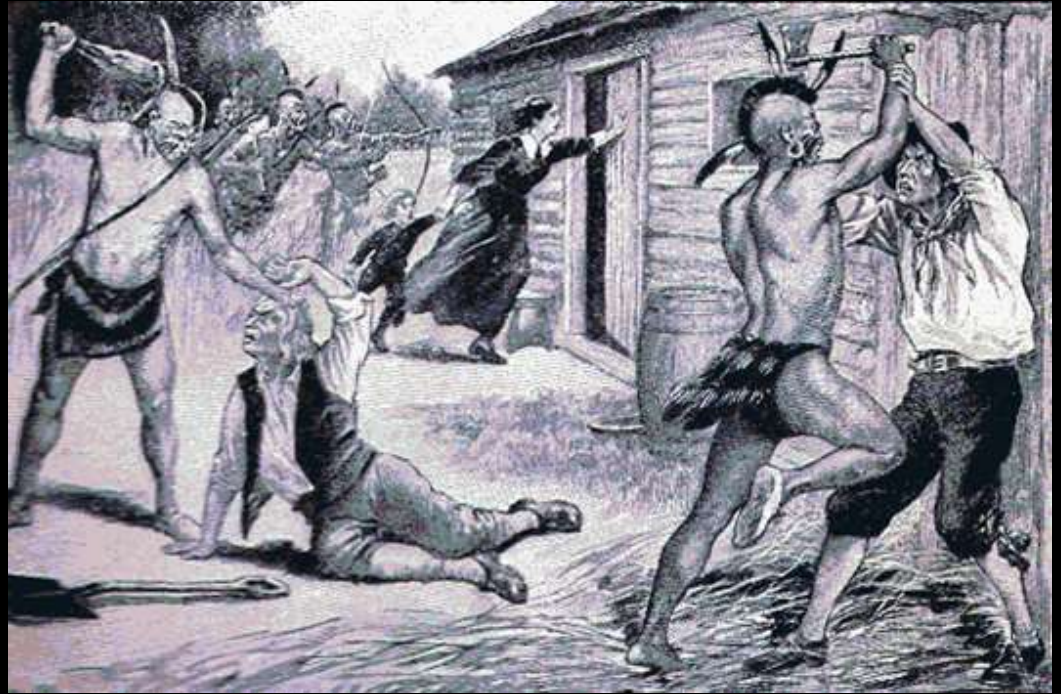
Attack on Lancaster 10 Feb 1676



Attack on Lancaster 10 Feb 1676

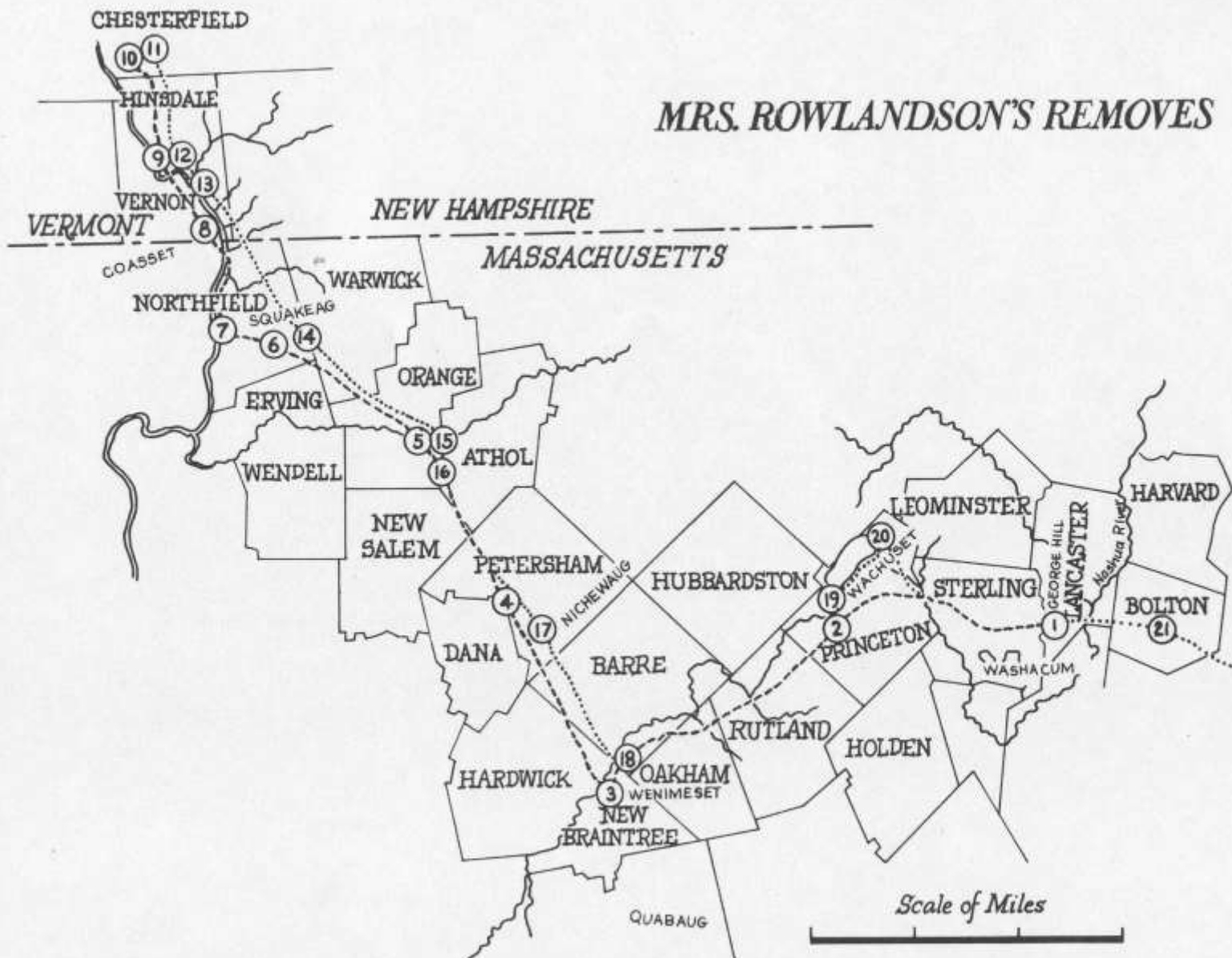


- Lancaster Raid

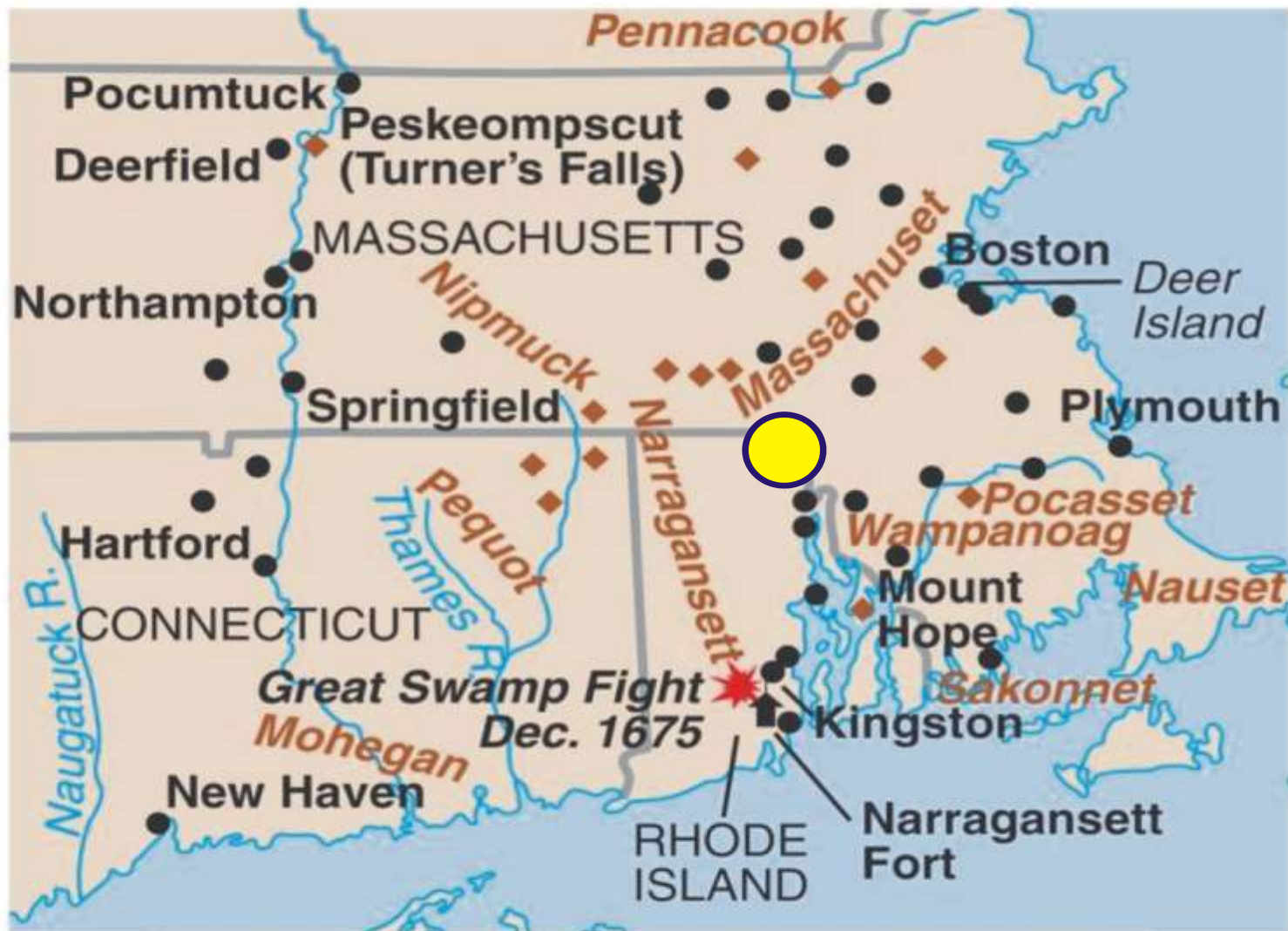


Mary Rowlandson Capture

MRS. ROWLANDSON'S REMOVES



Pierce's Fight 26 March 1676

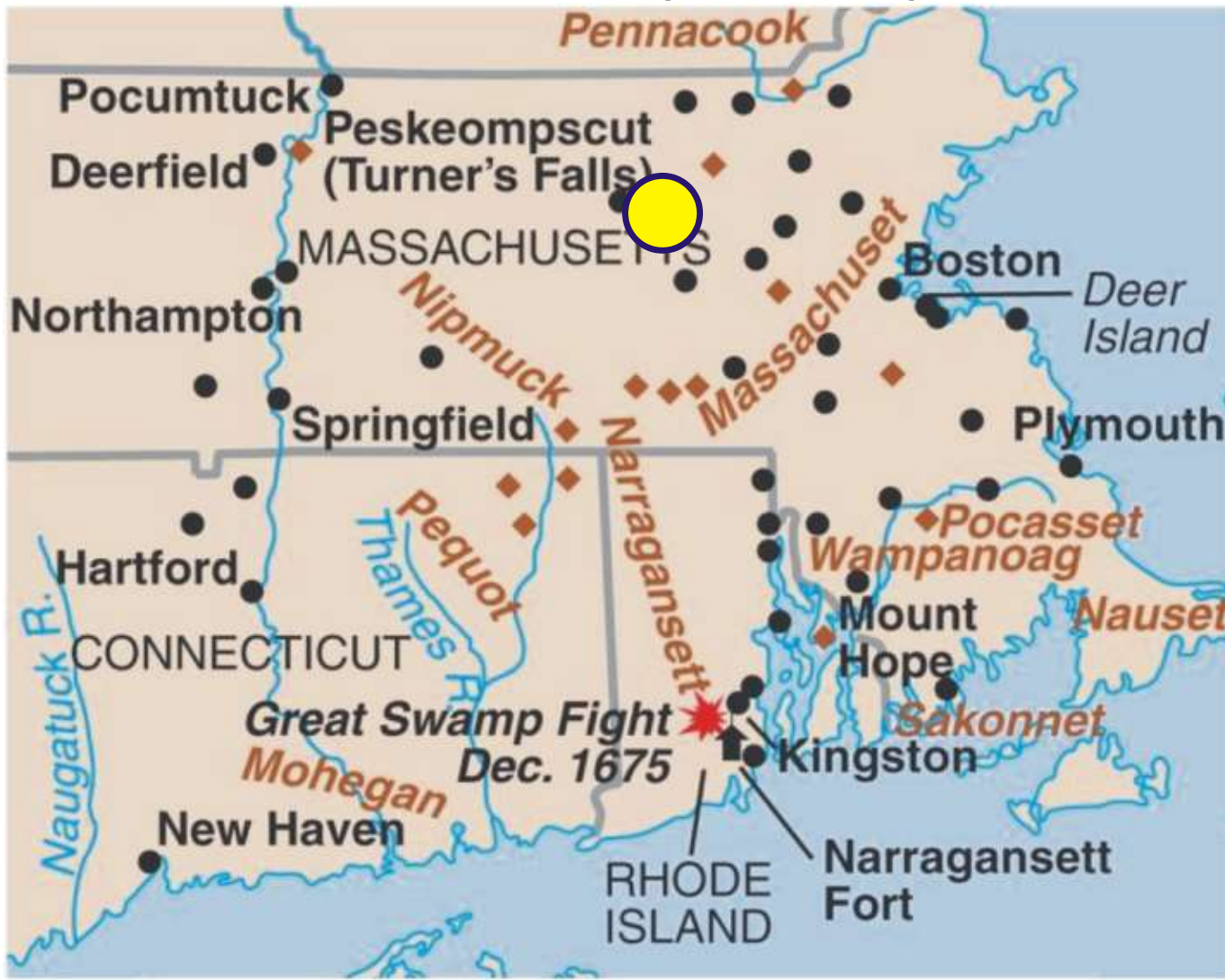


Nine Men's Misery 26 March 1676



- On this spot, where they were **slain by the Indians**, were buried the **nine soldiers captured** in Pierce's Fight, March 26, 1676.

Attack on Sudbury 21 April 1676



Sudbury Sunday 21 April 1676

- Battle
 - Residents Attending Services
 - Minister Alerts Congregation
 - Attack Commences / Cannon Fired
 - Relief Summoned / Ambushed
- Fatalities
 - Colonists: 74 Indian Body Count
 - > 100
 - Indians ≤ 10 Rowlandson

Sudbury Sunday 21 April 1676



- Haynes Garrison House

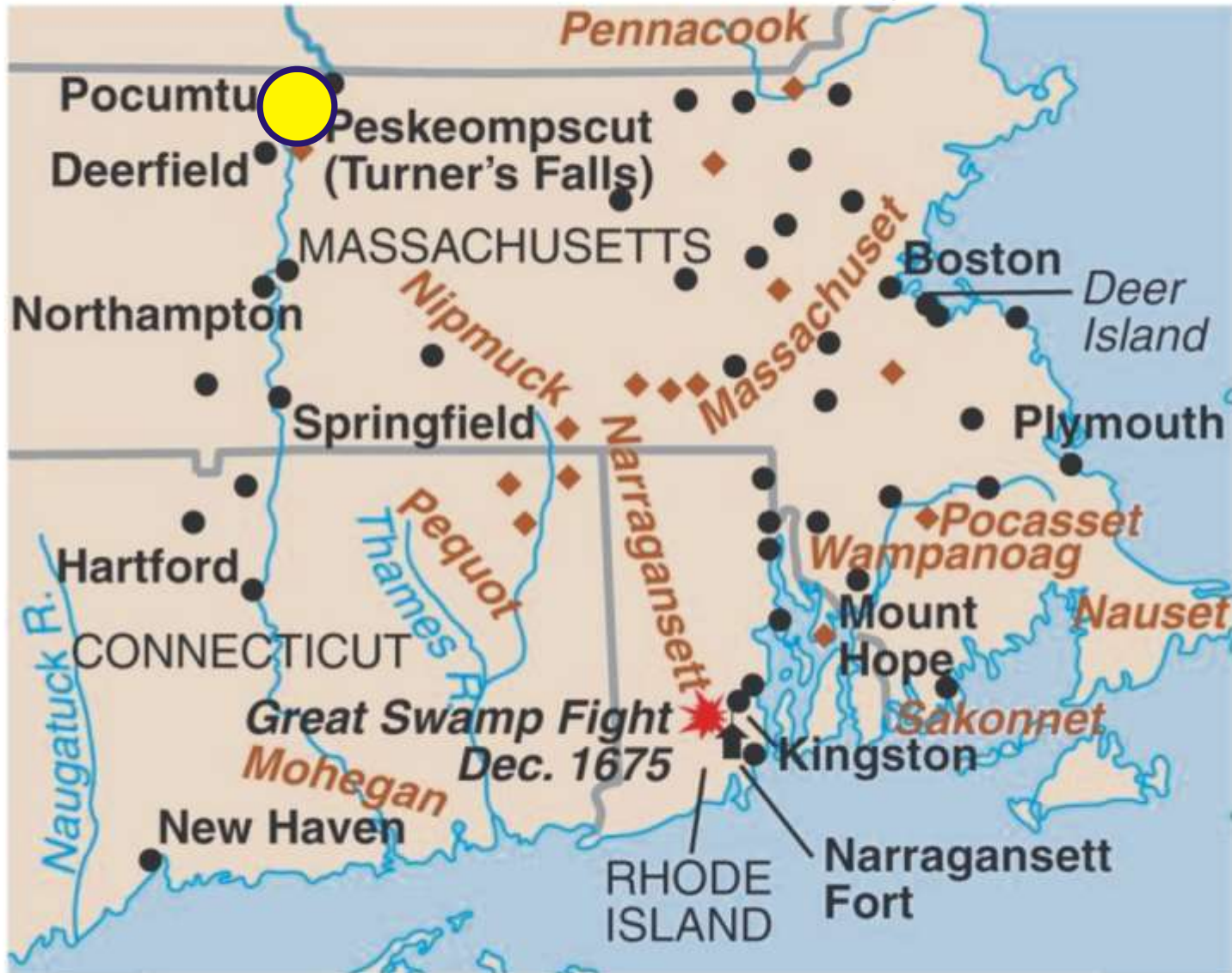


Monument

Sudbury Sunday 21 April 1676

- War's Turning Point
- Rowlandson's Observation
 - [The Indians] came home without that rejoicing and triumphing over their victory which they were wont to show at other times, but rather like dogs (as they say) which have lost their ears.
- Tribal Indian Morale Collapses
- Mystery of King Philip's War

Turner's Falls 21 May 1676

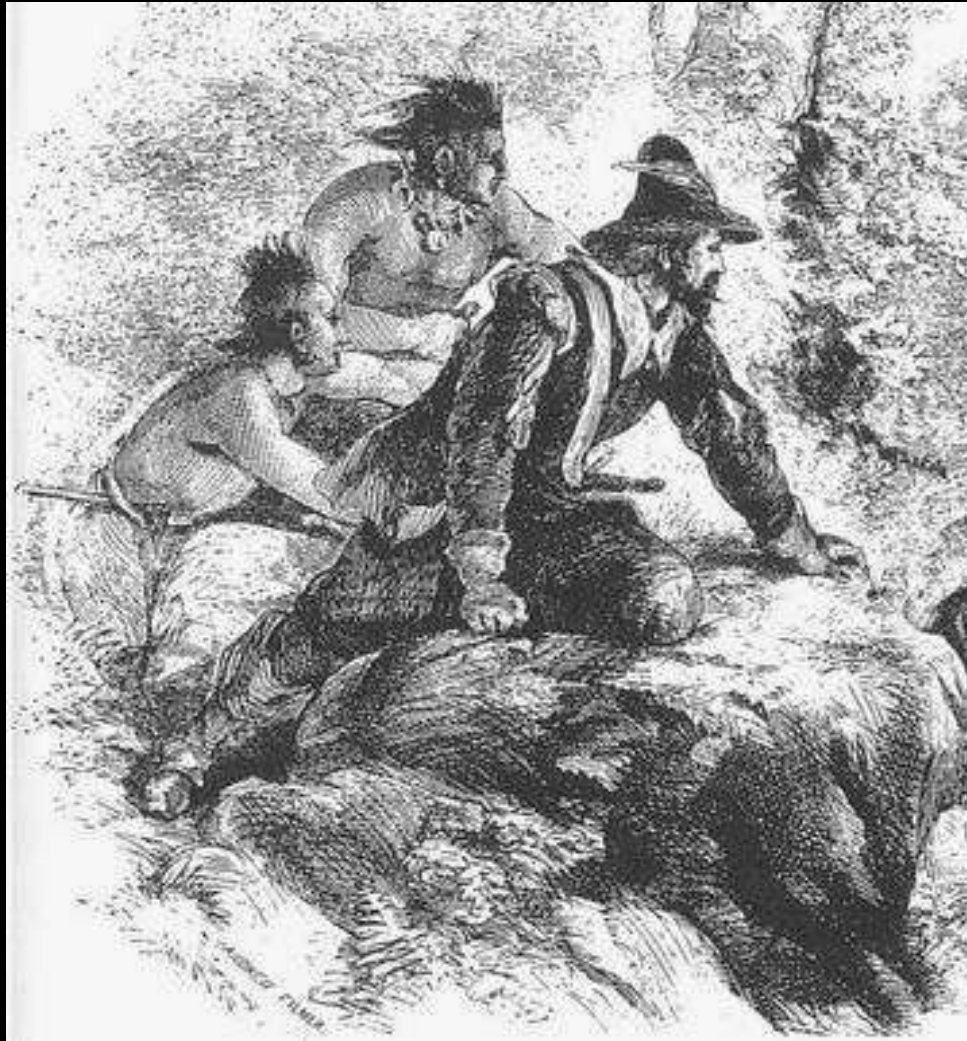


Turner's Falls 21 May 1676



- Raid on Indian Camp

Colonists Come to Rely on Indians 1676

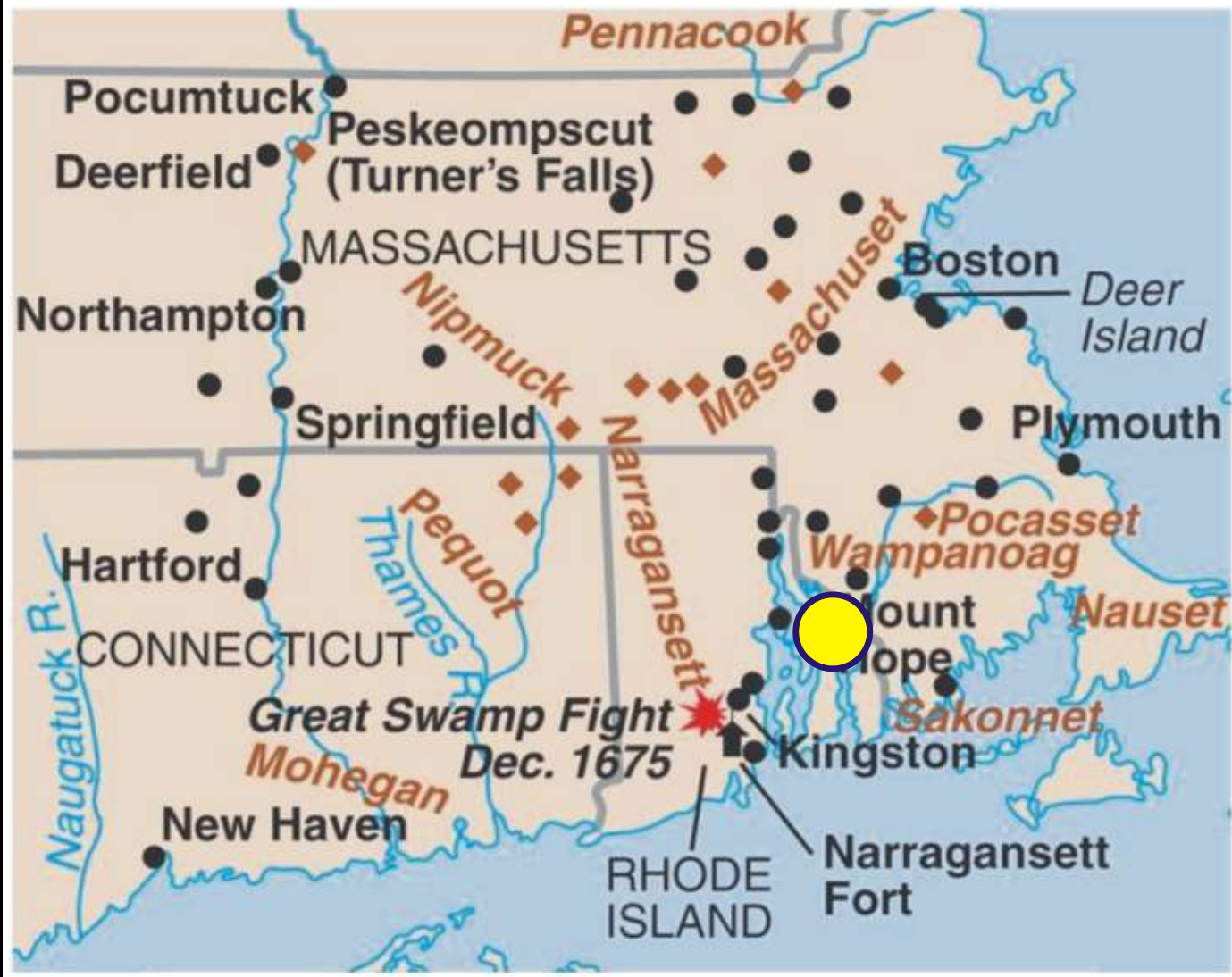


Mystery of King Philip's War

Summer 1676 Collapse

- Non-Combatant Casualties → Impact Morale
- Questioning of Metacom's Leadership
 - No Answer to Colonial Attacks on Non-Combatants
 - Shortages of Munitions & Food
 - War Objective Not Achievable
- Sudbury Attack Failure → Internal Dissension
 - Inter-Tribal Split
 - Intra-Tribal Splits → Treachery
- Colonial Offers of Clemency

Site of Metacom's Death Aug 1676



Metacom's Death 12 August 1676



John Alderman Firing



Head on a Pike

Puritan Reprisals

Connecticut Militia Maj. Talcott

Place	Condition	1676 Date	Killed Men	Others	Captured	Total
Nachek, RI	Largely Non-Combatants	2 July	34	137	45	216
Warwick, RI	Negotiating Surrender	3 July		67		67
Western Mass.	Fleeing NE	15 Aug		35	20	55
	Total All			273	65	338

Virtually No Resistance / Minimal Casualties

Maj. Talcott's Policy: No Adult Prisoners

Supply Shortage Curtails August Operation

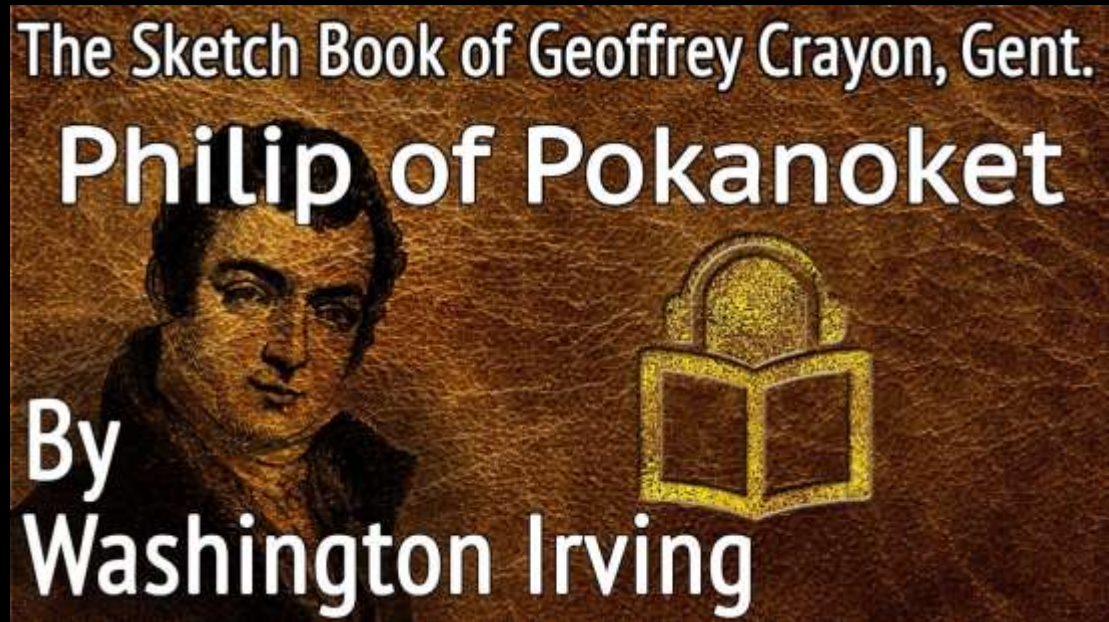
Deer Island

- 13 Oct. 1675:
Internment Order
- Dec. 1675:
500 Christianized Indians Interned.
- May 1676:
167 Survivors Moved to Cambridge.

Metacom Celebrated on Stage and in Print

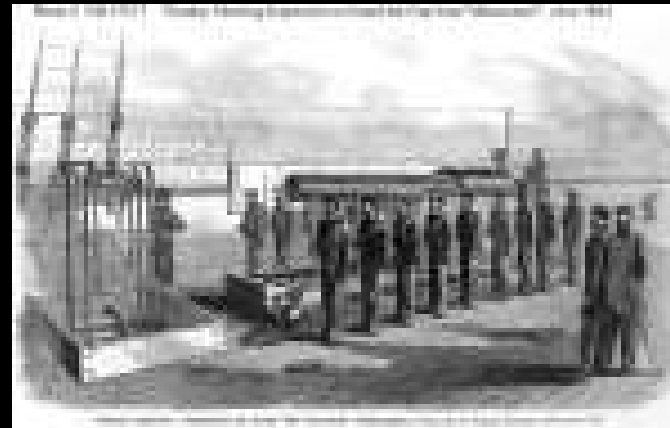
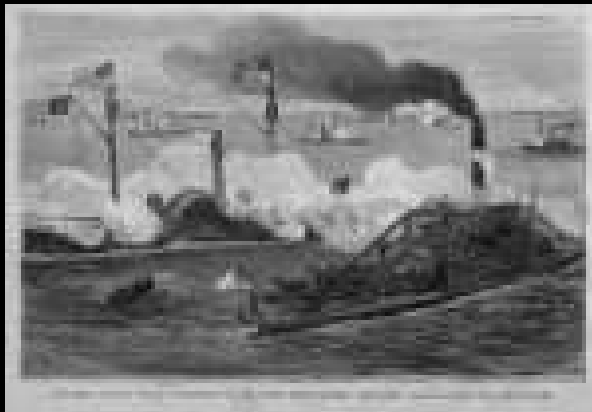
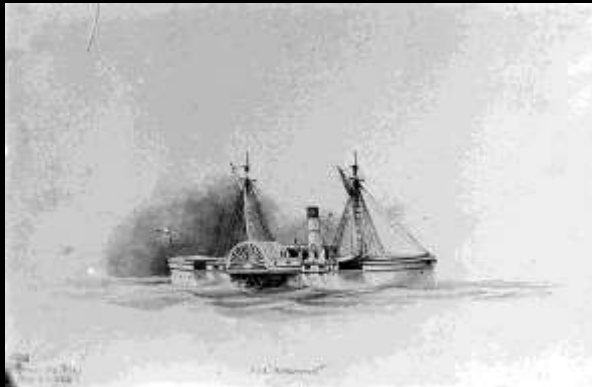


Edwin Forest
1890



First Published 1820

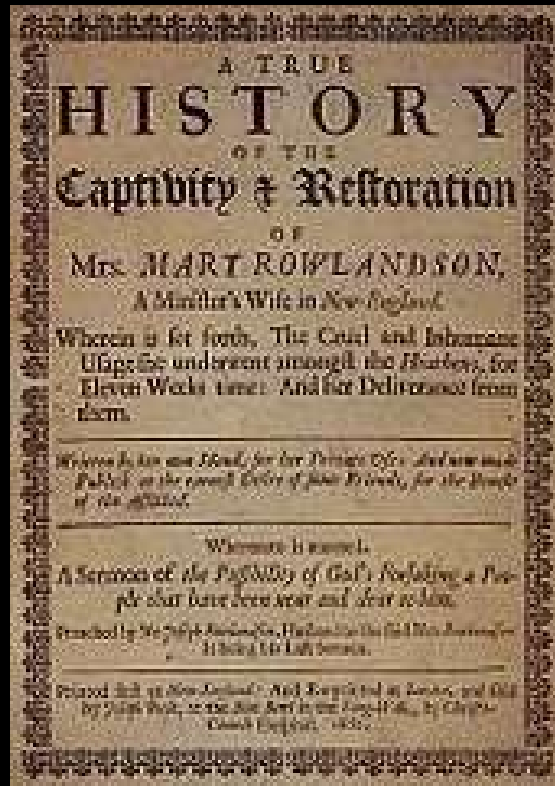
USS *Metacombet*



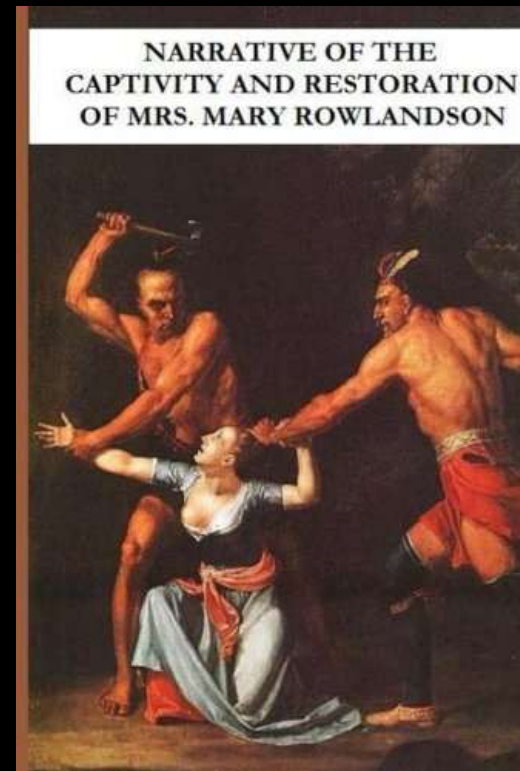
6 Medal of Honor Recipients

Mary Rowlandson (1637-1711)

Author



• 1682



2013

Mary Rowlandson Controversy

Merciless
heathen
Hell-hounds
Inhumane
creatures
Ravenous beasts
Ravenous wolves
Murderous
wretches



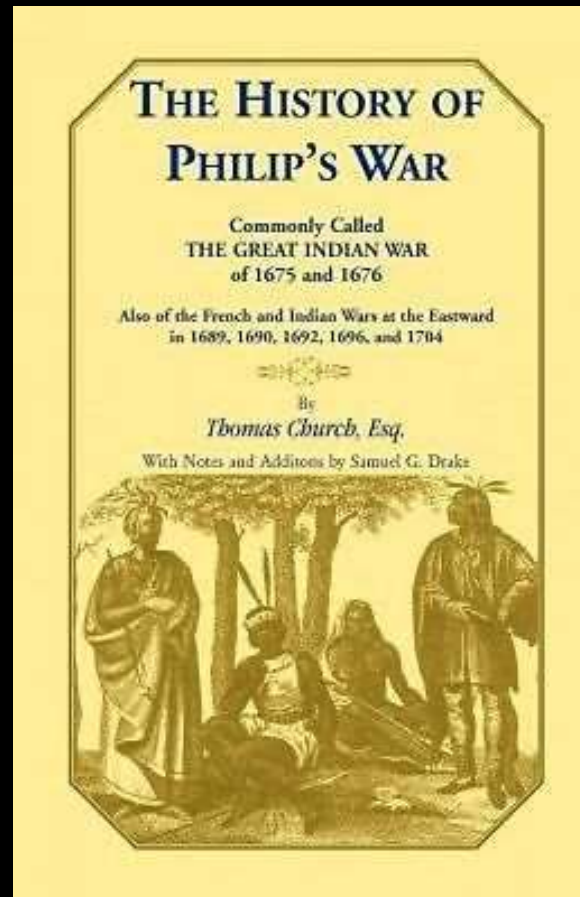
Mary Rowlandson Controversy

- Absence of Abuse
 - ... yet not one of them ever offered me the least abuse of unchastity to me, in word or action.
- Negotiating Mary's Ransom
 - I told him [Metacom] I could not tell what to give him. I would [give him] anything I had, and asked him what he would have? He said two coats and twenty shillings in money, and half a bushel of seed corn, and some tobacco. I thanked him for his love; but I knew the good news as well as the crafty fox.

Benjamin Church (1639 - 1718)

- Age 36: Church Begins Military Career
- Captain, King Philip's War, 1675-76
- Major, King William's War, 1689-96
- Colonel, after Queen Anne's War, 1704
- Thomas Church (Son) Publishes Memoir, 1716
- 1992 Inducted U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame

Benjamin Church (1639 - 1718)



Impact of King Philip's War

Tribal Indians Allied with Metacom

- 3,000 War Fatalities
- Captured Leaders Tried and Executed
- 1,000 Significant Participants Sold into Slavery
- 2,000 Flee Southern New England
- Remainder → ≈ Indentured Servants
- Orphaned Children → “Good Families”
- Canadian Abenaki Fight in Afghanistan & Iraq

Impact of King Philip's War

Tribal Indians Allied with Colonists

- Primarily Lived in Colony of Connecticut
- 1681 Uncas Transfers Lands to John Mason
- Lt. Gov. Mason Transfers Land to Connecticut
- When Colony Grants Land to Towns & Developers **Mason Family** Contests Policy
- Ignites Three Centuries of Legal Wrangling
- Settled with Building of *Mohegan Sun* Casino

Impact of King Philip's War

Christianized Indians

- Indian Towns
 - Reduced: 14 → 4
 - Not Economically Viable
 - Disbanded ca 1785
- “Great Awakening” 1730 - 1743
- Assimilation Economic / Cultural / Physical

Impact of King Philip's War United Colonies

- Fatalities
 - Soldiers: 600 - 800
 - Total: 600 – 6,000 5% of Population \approx 2,750
- Real Property Losses
 - Towns = 90 / Destroyed = 12 / Attacked = 52
 - Homes / Structures Destroyed \approx 2,000
 - Cattle Slaughtered \approx 8,000

Impact of King Philip's War United Colonies

- Must Manage Huge Reconstruction Effort
 - No “Marshall Plan”
- Must Manage 2.8% Population Growth Rate
 - CT 1679 : **14K**
 - CT 1774: **197K 14X Population Explosion**
- 1800 – 1825 Per Capita Income Finally Recovers to 1675 Levels

Impact of King Philip's War United States

- War Fighting
 - The Start of American Ranging
 - Reliance on Citizen Soldier
 - Policy: Attack Enemy Economy / Civilian Population
 - Reliance on Regional Government
- Established Key Elements of Indian Policy
- Began an American Identity

Impact of King Philip's War United Colonies

- English Crown & Parliament Clamp Down
- **Goal: Eliminate of Colonial Self-Government**
 - Revoke Colonial Charters
 - No Colonial Minting of Currency
 - Tax via Townshend Duties
- **Goal: Eliminate Puritan Political Power**
 - Establish Anglican Church in New England
- Implement Mercantilism via Navigation Acts
- **Seeds of Revolution**

Thoughts

- Citizen Soldier vs Military Bureaucracy
- Strategic Choice: Our Victory or Their Defeat
- Tools of Societal Commitment
 - Government Structure / Taxes / Levee
- Importance of Cultivating Capable Allies
- Strategic and Tactical Flexibility
- A War has an Aftermath