

## **DANIEL GOBLE: MURDER AND EXECUTION**

A story told about Daniel Goble, born July 18, 1640 and hanged on September 26, 1676

Daniel Goble was the only New England colonist to be executed for murdering friendly Indians during King Phillip's War.

Indian brothers Metacomet and Wamsutta co-led the peaceful Wampanoag Indians and were renamed King Philip and Alexander by the English. Tensions between the colonists and Indians started small but soon turned to all-out war. By 1675 the Concord Council decreed that if any Indians were found more than a mile from the center of their villages, except in the company of English, the colonists were at liberty shoot them or arrest them.

In a year's time, twelve of the region's towns were destroyed and great losses were experienced by both the English and the Indians. King Philip was killed on 12 Aug 1676 bringing about the end of the war. The war saw the loss of 600 Colonist and 3000 Indian lives.

On August 7, 1676, three Christian Indian women and three children were picking berries at Hurtleberry Hill, in the woods near Concord. They encountered a group of English soldiers who "called to them, exchanged bread and cheese for fruit then moved off." Four soldiers remained behind: Daniel Goble, his nephew Stephen Goble, Daniel Hoar, and Nathaniel Wilder. Probably Daniel Goble, perhaps aided by his nephew Stephen, murdered the Indians, and "leaving the bodies where they fell—after first stealing their coats—the men rode home."

Daniel Goble, Stephen Goble, Daniel Hoare and Nathaniel Wilde were tried for the murders of the three Indian women and three Indian children on 8/7/1676 - five days before the end of King Philip's war. Colonists feared these killings could push them back into war with the local Indians. All four men were found guilty of the charges.

Daniel Hoare and Nathaniel Wilde were from wealthy families and after petitioning the court for pardons, they were granted.

Daniel Goble pleaded not guilty to the charge, but he and Stephen were farmers from less affluent families and both men were hanged on 26 Sep 1676.

The gallows were said to be "on the Boston and Roxbury Neck." Daniel Goble's nephew, Stephen Goble, was executed earlier in September. Daniel was supposed to be executed the same day, but was sick. Samuel Sewall wrote in his diary: "1676 Sept. 26. Tuesday Sagamore Sam & Daniel Goble is drawn in a cart upon bed cloaths to execution.

The execution was also recorded in the diary of Increase Mather: "This day Sagamore Sam was hanged at Boston. And the sick Englishman that should have been executed the

last Week (whose name was Goble) was hanged with him. It seems a mad woman got away the rope which should have hanged the English Man, wherefore he was hanged with the very same rope wh hanged the Indian just before.”

Hanna Brewer Goble, remarried Ephriam Roper on 20 Nov 1677. Ephriam had lost his first wife, young daughter and brother during an Indian attack on 22 Aug 1675 in Lancaster, Winchester County, Massachusetts.

There was was a second Indian uprising and massacre on 28 Jul 1692. On 11 Sep 1697 there was a third Indian massacre in Lancaster, Massachusetts. Hannah Brewer Goble Roper, her 14-year-old daughter, Elizabeth Roper, and husband, Ephriam Roper, were killed.