

On October 7, 1695, Colonel Daniel Pierce of Newbury's western precinct [sent out this military dispatch](#): "Sir, this afternoon there came the enemy [Indians] to a house in our town [belonging to John and Ruth Huse Brown on the west side of Turkey Hill] and went in and took and carried away nine persons and plundered the house, and as near as we can gather, they went southwestwardly between Boxford and Bradford [now Groveland]. We can not gather that there were above five of the enemy, but night came on so that we could not pursue them, but we have lined Merrimac river with about fourscore men to watch lest they should carry the captives over the river, and do design in the morning to pursue them and range the woods with all the force we can make, and think it advisable that you range the woods towards Andover, and that Rowley towards Bradford, for if they escape us it will be an encouragement to them. Sir, I do think the case requires our utmost industry . . . ."

[Joshua Coffin](#) related the Brown family's version of events: "The Indians had secreted themselves for some time near the house, waiting for the absence of the male members of the family, who, about three o'clock, departed with a load of turnips. The Indians then rushed from their concealment, tomahawked a girl, who was standing at the front door. Another girl, who had concealed herself as long as the Indians remained, immediately after their departure gave the alarm. . . ."

Those captured were found and freed, supposedly [at the Indian River near Pipe-stave Hill](#)—which is near neither Boxford nor Groveland, the alleged escape route. The Indians got away in canoes and on

foot through the woods. [Contemporary accounts diverged](#) on the fate of the kidnapped women and children. One boy may have been killed at the time and others who were hit on the head and/or beaten by the Indians [died not long thereafter](#). One of the Turkey Hill nine, fifteen-year-old [Mary Parker, died of wounds associated with this raid four months later](#). In settling her father's estate, her mother "mentions in her account the expense of five journeys to visit her daughter while ill, and the expense of constant attendance of a nurse for 13 weeks, and the funeral expenses."

All this occurred during the Indian war variously called [King William's, Second Indian, Father Baudoin's, or Castine's](#) war from the Baron de saint Castine, who had married a daughter of Madochawando, the Penobscot chief. This one of the Indian wars ran from 1688 to 1697. Many causes, not least settler incursion onto Indian lands and European proxy wars can be blamed. But the spark that ignited this particular conflagration was the fact that Castine's house/trading post in Acadia had, in his absence, been plundered by the English Governor of New England, [Edmond Andros](#).

And so what went around in Maine came around on Turkey Hill. Having earned the enmity of the Indians and the French—as well as the colonists—Governor Andros proved an exception to the rule that the enemy of my enemy is my friend. His attempt to establish the [Dominion of New England](#), featuring such affronts as high taxes, Anglicanisms, plus seizure of control from towns and local governments, led the colonists to fire him. He was [jailed and shipped off to England](#) in 1689. It was a sign of things to come.

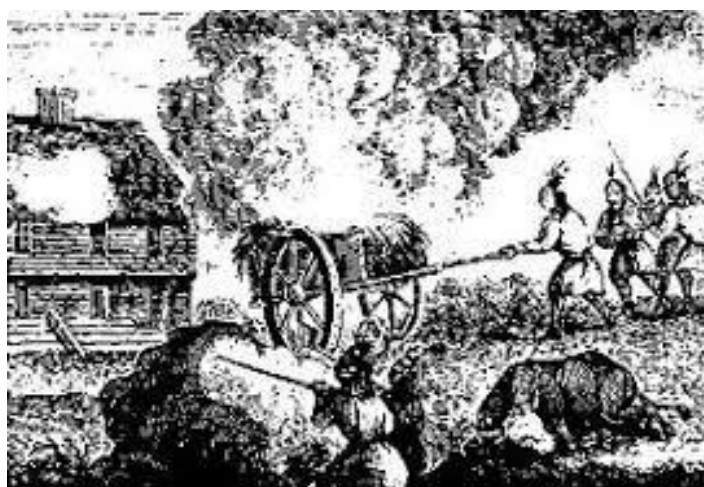


## *The Indian Raid At Turkey Hill During Castine's War*



*Image of Indian raid from Wikipedia:*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King\\_Philip%27s\\_War#/media/File:Indians\\_Attacking\\_a\\_Garrison\\_House.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Philip%27s_War#/media/File:Indians_Attacking_a_Garrison_House.jpg)



Marker Location: 127-33 Turkey Hill St.,  
West Newbury, MA Latitude: 42.79347  
Longitude: - 70.92637