

Myles Garrison Site



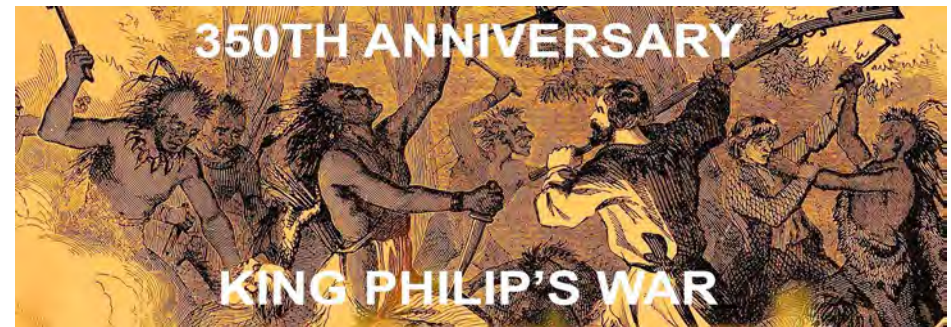
The site of the original garrison house that was used at the opening of the King Philip's War in 1675 to house Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth Colony troops from Boston is marked by a large stone marker and bronze plaque. The house was the home of Rev. John Myles who had come to the area from Swansea, Wales, to serve a gathering of Baptists who broke away from the Newman Congregational Church in nearby Rehoboth.

The plaque lists the names of those slain in the King Philip War in Swansea, including that of William Cahoone who had come from Scotland in 1673 to start a brickworks nearby. He was one of the first killed in the War when he left the Garrison to seek medical attention for another settler.

The abandoned 1812 Mason Barney Estate (bottom photo, left) sits across the street from a house where the Garrison House once stood prior to a fire in the early 20th century. The home was constructed by shipwrights for Mason Barney (1782-1868), who had taken ownership of the shipyard following his father's death in the early 1800s. Under his ownership, Barney had established a large enterprise with over 200 men working to build boats at the shipyard. His estate included the shipyard, a general store, and housing for some crew members, among other proprietary establishments. The Mason Barney Shipyard in North Swansea (later known as Barneyville) had an international reputation and he built an estimated 137 ships, until it ceased operations in 1860 with the advent of steam-powered ships and the Civil War on the rise.



For more information, go to SowamsEarlyHistory.org and KPW350.org.



Bourne Garrison Site



"A stone house, upon the farm of Gov. Renton, at Matapoiset, occupied by Jared Bourne, was used as a garrison, which the Bridgewater company was ordered to re-enforce. This company reached the garrison Monday night and found there seventy persons, all but sixteen, women and children." Six were later killed when attempting to

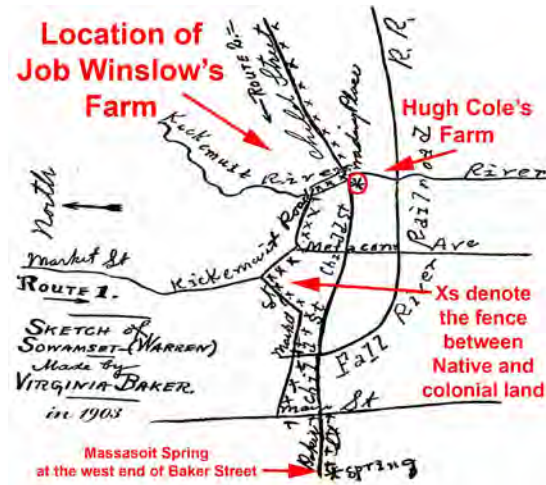
retrieve food at nearby farms.

"It probably stood eighty, ninety, possibly a hundred years. It must have been a peculiar structure, judging from some of the statements we have heard respecting it. Mr. Leonard G. Sherman, an old resident of the town, son of Sanders Sherman, told me that it had nine outside double doors. I replied that in that case I should not think there would be much of the outside left. He said he did not know anything about that, but it had nine double doors and no mistake, for when he was a boy he worked for Capt. Henry Gardner topping onions.

"After supper Mrs. Gardner used to tell him stories about old times on the Neck, used to tell him particularly about the old house, that it had nine outside double doors, that it was the custom to draw back logs in with the horse going out the opposite door. Deacon Mason Gardner, who lived in the house in which we are tonight many years, often told of seeing, when a boy, the back logs drawn in by horses and rolled into the fire. This house, which was often called the old stone fort, must have been a study in architecture, and I think if photographs of it were obtainable, every family in this section of the town would desire one."

From Otis Olney Wright, *The History of Swansea, 1667 to 1917*

Job Winslow Farm Site



In the 15 years after the Massasoit Ousamequin's death, his son, Metacomb (later called King Philip), grew more distrustful of the English and eventually led an alliance of tribes into one of the deadliest wars between the native people and the English settlers. The war, known as King

Philip's War, spread well beyond the Pokanoket territory into Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine and lasted from June of 1675 to August of 1676. Angered by the loss of land, liberty and lives, the Pokanoket warriors first attacked just east of the Kickemuit River on the farm of Job Winslow on Sunday, June 20, 1675. While the settlers were in church, they looted several homes, setting two on fire and sending residents to the Bourne and Myles Garrison Houses. Within days, all forty or so of the colonists' houses were burned, bringing troops from Taunton and setting off a war that quickly spread. The War spread as far as Northampton, MA, took thousands of English and Native lives and forever changed the relationship between the two groups. Most of the defeated tribal people were either enslaved, killed or forced to leave their homeland and find new places to live as far away as New York and Maine.

Because of his friendship with King Philip, Swansea settler Hugh Cole and his family, living near the Bourne Garrison, were warned about the impending attack and managed to escape by rowing to Portsmouth before the fighting began. They returned after the War and settled on a farm just south of Winslow's along the Kickemuit River. The well that he dug after the War next to his house can be found today (right) along the Bike Path behind the Kickemuit Middle School on the east side of the Kickemuit River.



Nockum Hill Site



Before colonial settlement, the Pokanoket people occupied and utilized Nockum Hill for thousands of years as part of their ancestral lands, called Sowams. The first shots of King Philip's War (1675-1676) were fired near Nockum Hill on June 20, 1675 when settlers were worshipping at the meeting house at this location. This

conflict, one of the deadliest per capita in American history, was sparked by rising tensions between the Pokanoket and English colonists, intensified by the hanging of three Tribe members following the death of Praying Indian John Sassamon.

The First Baptist Church in Massachusetts, founded in 1663, is the oldest Baptist congregation in Massachusetts and one of the oldest in the United States. The congregation was founded in 1663 by John Myles, who brought the *Iiston Book* with him, the earliest record of a Baptist church in Wales, from Swansea in Wales. A bronze plaque marks the approximate location of the early church building which was then moved to Tyler Point in Barrington and then taken across the Palmer River to the Church's current location.

The monument was erected in 1906 on George Street, Barrington, through the efforts of historian Thomas W. Bicknell. It names Parson Myles with Nicholas Tanneer, James Brown, Joseph Carpenter, John Butterworth, Eldred Kingsley and Benjamin Alby, who built the meeting. The National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) is actively involved in preserving the site. With an ABPP Planning Grant, the Town of Barrington conducted an archaeological survey to learn more about the Swansea settlement and the early phases of King Philip's War at Nockum Hill.

The first meeting house was built next to a cluster of houses, probably on the field around the above stone marker. The current Greek Revival meeting house (right), constructed in 1848, is located on Baptist Street in Swansea off of Route 6. It is the fourth meeting house built since 1663.



The maps below illustrate the locations of the four sites where King Philip's War broke out in June, 1675:

1. Kickemuit River location of Job Winslow's farm where Pokanoket Warriors looted several houses
2. Bourne Garrison at 770 Gardner's Neck Road where seventy colonists gathered
3. Nockum Hill site of the 1663 Baptist Church where colonists gathered for prayer following the burning of houses
4. Myles Garrison Site where troops gathered from Bridgewater, Taunton and Boston

