

Tuesday Evening, July 10, 1945



Here — There

THE HISTORIAN, Jeremy Belknap, D.D., notes that the first Indian attack in New Hampshire was at Dover, where they killed one Joseph Ham and took three of his children.

Their next onset, he recorded, was at Lamprey river, where they killed Aaron Rawlings, one of his children, and took his wife and three other children captive.

An account of this incident, described by survivors in the attack and other witnesses, was collected by a Newmarket man, Wentworth Cheswell, Esq., as follows:

"This Aaron Rawlings (whose wife was a daughter of Edward Taylor, who was killed by the Indians 1704) lived upon the plantation left by Taylor, about half a mile west from Lamprey river landing, at the lower falls on Piscasick river. The people there at that time, commonly retired, at night, to the garrisoned houses, and returned home in the day time; but that night they neglected to retire as usual.

"His brother Samuel also lived about half a mile distant on the same river. It seems the Indian scouts consisted of 18, who probably had been reconnoitering some time, and intended to have destroyed both the families, and for that purpose divided, and nine went to each house; but the party that went to Samuel Rawlings', hearing in the windows, and finding the family gone, immediately joined their companions, who were engaged at Aaron's. His wife went out at the door, perhaps sooner than they would otherwise have assaulted the house, and was immediately seized, and one or two of her children who followed her. Her husband, being alarmed, secured the door before they could enter, and with his eldest daughter, about 12 years old, stood upon his de-

fence, repeatedly firing wherever they attempted to enter, and at the same time calling earnestly to his neighbors for help: but the people in the several garrisoned houses near, apprehending from the noise and incessant firing, the number of the enemy to be greater than they were and expecting every moment to be attacked themselves, did not venture to come to his assistance.

"Having for some time bravely withstood such unequal force, he was at last killed by their random shots through the house, which they then broke open and killed his daughter. They scalped him, and cut off his daughter's head, either through haste, or probably being enraged against her, on account of the assistance she had afforded her father in their defence, which evidently appeared by her hands being soiled with powder.

"His wife and two children, a son and a daughter, they carried to Canada. The woman was redeemed in a few years. The son was adopted by the Indians, and lived with them all his days.

"He came into Penacook with the Indians after the peace, and expressed to some people with whom he conversed, much resentment against his uncle Samuel Rawlins, on supposing he had detained from his mother some property left by his father, but manifested no desire of returning to Newmarket again.

"The daughter married with a Frenchman, and when she was near 60 year old, returned with her husband to her native place, in expectation of recovering the patrimony she conceived was left at the death of her father.

"But the estate having been sold by her grandfather Taylor's administrators, they were disappointed, and after a year or two went back to Canada."