



The photo above was taken at Mount Hope Miery Swamp, in what is now the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, at Brown University in Rhode Island. This was the actual site of Metacom "King Philip's" murder. This place was called Mount Hope, as it was a place of hope for the English colonists due to the death of King Philip. The site of King Philip's death is considered to be a sacred site by local Native Americans.

King Philip was chief of the Wampanoag Indians and son of Massasoit, who lived peacefully with the settlers since the arrival of the Pilgrims. King Philip, however, saw that whites were expanding into Indian territory, and made plans to resist. The near annihilation of the Narragansett Indians in 1676 ended hostilities, leaving six hundred colonists and even more Indians, including King Philip dead.

King Philip's War 1675-1676

By Karen Girouard

Two thousand years they lived and thrived
Algonquins of the east
The Nipmuc, Pequot, Wampanoag
Fish, trapped, hunted wild beasts

Explorers came, spread sicknesses
Nine people of ten died
Two times more than the "Black Plague" lost
Few Indians survived

Wamsutta, Metacom remained
Two brothers left to lead
Pocanokets both strong and brave
Unwilling to concede

Whites called one Alexander
Questioned him, let him go
Mysteriously dying soon
His death, painful and slow

Metacom was known to whites
King Philip he was named
Determined for one last, great stand
Catapulted to fame

A Christian Indian Sassamon
Attended English school
Found murdered underneath the ice
Three natives were accused

They butchered nine whites the next day
The war had now begun
The line was drawn, neither would stop
Until the war was won

Philip met with the Nipmuc
To join in his great fight
Surprising Captain Wheeler
Just escaping with his life

The Indians had lost their land
They used for their supplies
Although initial battles won
They lost hope deep inside

The culture and the way of life
That they had come to know
Was fading quickly, time would tell
New fears took seed to grow

The tides would turn
The English would recruit Mohegan aid
The "Great Swamp Fight" a massacre
A neutral tribe betrayed

Soon Canochet, first leader killed
Was followed by surrender
The natives hung or sold as slaves
Regarded thieves, offenders

On Mount Hope King Philip was killed
By Indian, Alderman
Decapitated, dismembered
For trying to defend

His people and the world he loved
His head put on a post
The English proud, barbaric fools
Would brag, deny and boast

Eighteen months of blood and death
Of fighting for control
King Philip's War ravaged the land
Fighting would take its toll

The last standoff, a lifestyle lost
Would change forever more
The way we live, regard natives
After King Philip's War