

CAPTURE

The Case of the Rice Boys

(presented to ERA 2016 annual meeting)

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Cast of Characters

- Thomas³ Rice (1654-1747) [Thomas²]
- Anna³ Rice (1661-1731) [Edward²] wife of above
- Ashur⁴ Rice (1694-1773) son of T&A
- Adonijah⁴ Rice (1696-?) son of T&A
- Edmund³ Rice (1663-c1726) [Samuel²]
- Ruth Parker (1672-c1720) wife of above
- Silas⁴ Rice (1695-1779) son of E&R
- Timothy⁴ Rice (1697-1777) son of E&R
- Nahor⁴ Rice (1699-1704) son of E&R

What happened?

- Flax harvest
- Surprise attack, avoiding settled areas
- No “battle”
- Fast retreat

Mourning Raids

- War and pestilence prevalent
- What's wrong with childbirth?
- Triage
- Ransom? not expected
- French intervention

Outcomes

- Ashur - redeemed
- Adonijah - settled among the French
- Silas - adopted by Kahnawake
- Timothy - adopted by Kahnawake
- Nahor - killed in the raid

Contrasting conversions

- “Praying Indians” – never really trusted
 - King Philip’s War ended cooperation
 - Westborough area was originally reserved
- Timothy (Oserokoton) – became a chief
 - Visited Massachusetts in 1740 as a free agent