

Martha,

I was out looking for this letter John Kingsley wrote and I found this new book at the Boarder's Book Store. You might want to go have a look at it. King Philip's War by Schults and Tougias. On pages 284-285 it talks about Old Rehoboth:

Old Rehoboth was parceled out in 6,8,ABD 12 acre lots, according to the wealth of the owner. Most were long narrow lots all facing 200 acres of town common called Ring of the green. Exactly the shape is unknown. But it coincided with present day Greenwood ave, Elm St., Bourne, Hoyt, Pawtucket and Bishop Ave and Pleasant St.

The Great Swamp fight is on pages 244-45. The single bloodiest day was Sunday Dec 19, 1677.

Mar 28, 1676/ 1500 natives attacked Rehoboth, burning barns and almost 40 dwellings.

JOHN KINGSLEY, elderly resident wrote: "They burnt our mills, brake the stones, ye, our grinding stones; and what was hid in the earth they found, corn & fowles, killed catel & took the hind quarters & left the rest.... We are shut up in our garrisons & dare not go abroad far to our outlands, without some strength. Some of our souldieres are removed, nobody comes to say, how doe ye."

Today no trace of any structure from the original settlement can be found. By 1675, 6-8 families occupied homes along Palmer River, from present day Summer St to current Swansea line.

1833/ Local historian Ebenzer Pierce (then eleven years old) passed over the Seekonk Plain en route from Freetown to Pawtucket to see President Andrew Jackson and Vice president Martin Van Buren. In 1878 wrote: "The writer of this book has a very distinct recollection of when his eyes first beheld the Great Seekonk Plain and the wonder astonishment with which he regarded the level unclosed and barren looking waste land I have seen nothing like it since, save in some location in the south where armies had long been quartered during the war. Tradition says that a hot fire which consumed much of the wood and timbers that formerly stood on Seakonk Plain also burned the vegetable mould in the soil thus rendering it

unproductive large portions of this plain have within a few years been fenced in so taht its former novelty in appearence has in great measure ceased.

Cool stuff. Uncle RANDY