

“Excerpt from book “Rowley, Massachusetts, Mr. Ezechi Rogers Plantation 1639-1850” by Amos Everett and Emily Mabel Adams Jewett; The Jewett Family of America, Rowley, Massachusetts, 1946.

“The only Indian raid which occurred in Rowley was on the 23rd of October, 1692, in Byfield Parish, in what is now Georgetown. Benjamin Goodrich, his wife and two daughters were killed by the Indians and a third daughter, named Deborah, aged seven, was taken captive but redeemed at the expense of the province the next year. Mr. Goodrich was shot while praying with his family on Sabbath evening. Those killed were buried in an unmarked grave a few rods easterly of the house. ... There is a mystery connected with the Goodrich affair. So far as known no other family was molested at the time. Tradition says that an older daughter was also carried into captivity, not entirely against her will; and more than half a century later, after having spent her adult life among the Indians, returned to the scenes of her childhood, wandering over to the site of her old home and as she stood there remarked to a boy who had accompanied her “Everything is changed.” A few days later she was found dead near the spot, after refusing shelter by the neighbors. The story is that she was interested in a young Indian who lived near “The Falls” and used to visit at her home. This did not meet with the approval of her parents which offended him and he instituted a move for her capture. Whether he accompanied the party of St. Francis Indians (for such tradition says they were) is not stated. While it may have been the original intention to procure the girl only, it was too great a temptation and too good an opportunity to obtain a few scalps which commanded a high price from the French Government in Canada. However this seems, legendary. During the Tercentenary of Massachusetts a marker was erected at the entrance of the lane leading to the site of the house.

Featured In: http://www.newburyportnews.com/news/local_news/massacre-site-sign-restored/article_c39cd6e7-d2fe-57b3-8a69-1afa018d32fe.html