

Maps 17-21

Wheeler's Surprise and Described Locations of Occurrence

Maps 17-21 show clearer views of the hypothesized locations of Wheeler's Surprise. The Nipmuck Indians who ambushed the English settled town of Brookfield ignited Wheeler's Surprise. The English were under command of Captain Hutchinson as negotiator. After the attack the plan was to meet the Indians in New Braintree using a militia of twenty mounted men and three Indians as guides. Captain Wheeler led the militia. At the time the settlement of Brookfield was the most distant settlement from any other settlement in New England. Maps 17-19 show where people thought Wheeler's surprise took place. Map 17 was proposed by Josiah H. Temple in 1887. Labeled with a circle is the hypothesized location. Dr. Louis E. Roy proposed map 18 and this location labeled on the map is where he thought Wheeler's Surprise occurred. Map 19 shows where General Rufus Putnam thought Wheeler's Surprise occurred and also show other features such as roads and houses. Map 20 shows where a farmer modified the land to make two racetracks, so some artifacts that were once visible have now vanished. Map 21 shows the location of all three proposed locations of Wheeler's Surprise. On the top overlay it shows the path the English militia traveled on, with their destination, where Wheeler's Surprise really happened. This map labels artifacts found with descriptions on the back of the map, the locations of Indian camps, and other important features.

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