

Map 23

Attack on Ayres Tavern, August 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 1675

Map 23 demonstrates the attack on Ayres Tavern, located on present Foster Hill in West Brookfield. Much is unknown about this attack. This attack on the tavern has been a mystery since 1675. Starting with the overlays raised you will see a series of stone walls, roads with measurements, and fields with slope measurements. At the top of the map you see a barn, fortified house, historical marker of Private Major Wilson "who was shot in the battle" a well, and the first meetinghouse. This is the location where the attack was thought to have occurred. But this location did not go along with the description from Captain Wheeler. If you flip down one of the overlays you will see different artifacts that were discovered by Robert Wilder and Robert Ackerman. These artifacts started plotting out the correct battlefield and follow Wheeler's descriptions. In the center of the map you will find nails, a house hinge pintle, and a hoe. Also found was a well, located within the boundaries of a wooden board fence. All of these artifacts are usually found within a house and a garden. Flip down the last overlay and you will see that this is the possible new location of the fortified house and the new location of the historical landmark for Major Wilson. This location for Major Wilson's death was more realistic. Captain Wheeler's description said that Indians shot Private Major Wilson from a rock. As you see, the only rock is at the bottom center of the map. Also found near the rock were musket balls and graphite, which was used by the Indians as war paint. Very importantly, the muskets at the time did not shoot very far. If the Indians were behind that rock, there was absolutely no way the muskets would have traveled as far as the original historical marker at the location of Major Wilson's death, where it was believed to be before

Sponsored by: Tina Peterson & Lenny Petrillo

Tyler Latour, Cameron Elliott
1/6/10

proved wrong. In the bottom left of the map there are descriptions of notes, which correspond to events in the battle.

In the top left of the map you will see the false location of the first meetinghouse. As labeled, at **Note A** are musket balls. These are English musket balls fired from the new location of the fortified house towards the Indians in the first meetinghouse. There were no musket balls found around the original location of the first meetinghouse where it was believed to be. At **Note A**, the new location of the first meetinghouse, an Indian amulet was also found. This is believed to have fallen off an Indian while he was in battle at the first meetinghouse. Near the bottom right corner you will see musket balls labeled **Note B**. **Note B** represents Indian musket balls fired from the new first meetinghouse at the new fortified house where the English were and shot over the house or traveled through the roof and into the slope beyond the new fortified house. **Note B** also proves the location of both the new first meetinghouse and the new fortified house because between the new meetinghouse, new fortified house and the musket balls is a straight line for the musket balls to travel. At **Note C** you find English fired musket balls fired at the Indians in Ayres's barn from the new Fortified House. This also proves the location of the new fortified house and the location of Ayers's barn, as well as artifacts found nearby such as a hoe, stubbing hoe, barn door pintle, and a well. After all this time and much hard work the mystery to find the real battlefield was solved.

Sponsored by: Tina Peterson & Lenny Petrillo

Tyler Latour, Cameron Elliott
1/6/10