

# The story of Hannah Dustin



What is happening in this painting?



# The life of Hannah Dustin

- Born in 1657
- Married Thomas Dustin, from Mass.

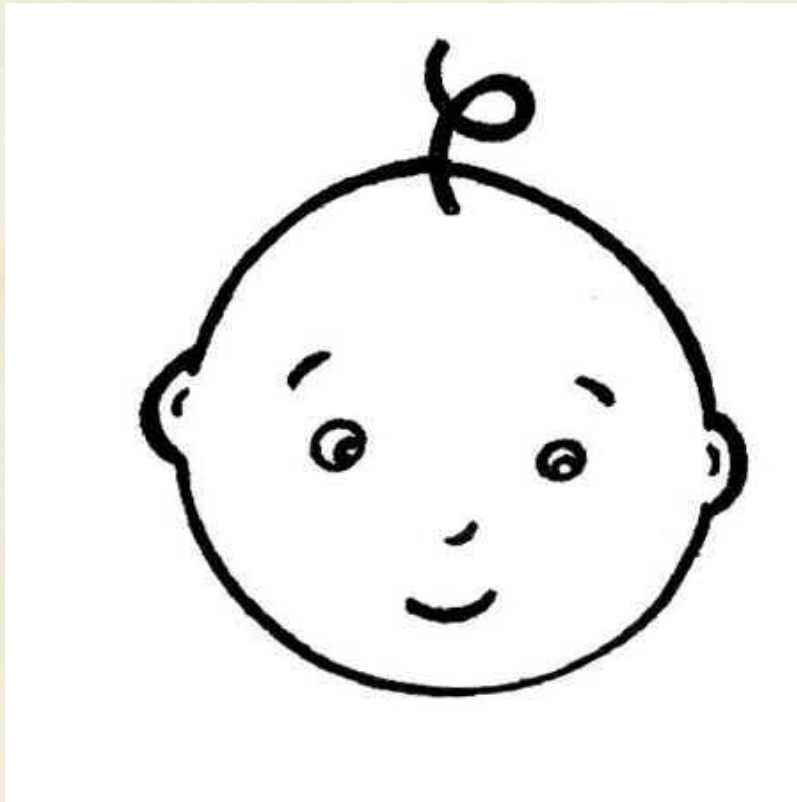


# The Attack



- Native Americans attacked the town of Haverhill.
- Hannah's husband fled to save their 7 young children.

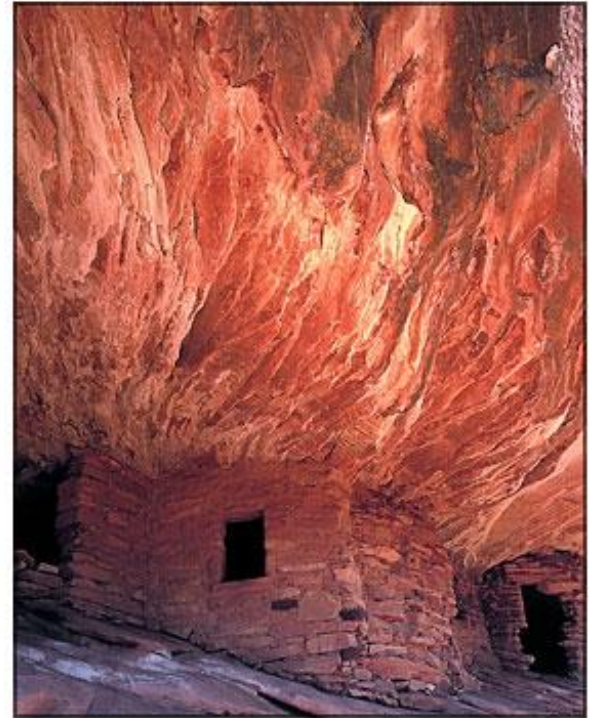
# Why didn't Hannah leave?



- Hannah had been in bed for a week because she had just given birth.

# Capture

- Hannah and her nurse, Mary Neff, were captured by the Native Americans.
- Her newborn was killed, and her home set on fire.





Excerpt from *Magnalia Christi Americana* (1702)

- “The nurse trying to escape with the infant, fell into the hands of the formidable salvages; and those furious tawnies coming into the house bid poor Dustan to rise immediately. ... She saw the raging dragons rifle all that they could carry away, and set the house on fire ... but ere they had gone many steps, they dash’d out the brains of the infant against a tree.”



# Captivity

- Became enslaved by the chief
- Many enslaved captives were subject to torture and injuries.
- She resolved to escape.





# Excerpt from *Magnalia Christi Americana*

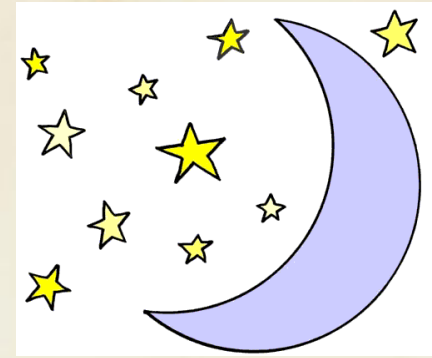
- “This Indian family was now travelling with these two captive women, (and an English youth taken from Worcester, a year and a half before,) unto a rendezvous of salvages, which they call a town, some where beyond Penacook; and they still told these poor women that when they came to this town, they must be stript, and scourg'd, and run the gantlet through the whole army of Indians. They said this was the fashion when the captives first came to a town...”



# Help in Escaping

- Hannah had help in plotting her escape.
  - The nurse - Mary Neff, who was captured with her
  - A young boy from Worcester, who had been prisoner for over a year.

# The Great Escape



- At night while the captors were asleep...
  - Hannah stole a tomahawk.
  - She killed nine Native Americans.
  - The boy killed a leader.
  - A young Native American woman was wounded but escaped.



## Excerpt from *Magnalia Christi Americana*

- “She heartened the nurse and the youth to assist her in this enterprize; and all furnishing themselves with hatchets for the purpose, they struck such home blows upon the heads of their sleeping oppressors, that ere they could any of them struggle into any effectual resistance, ‘at the feet of these poor prisoners, they bow’d, they fell, they lay down; at their feet they bow’d, they fell; where they bow’d, there they fell down dead.’ ... But cutting off the scalps of the ten wretches, they came off...”

# The Getaway!

- They sunk their captors' boats and prepared one for their escape.
- Hannah then went back and scalped all of the slain American Indians.
- They then escaped down the river to Hudson, New Hampshire.



# Reward

- Hannah and the young boy each received \$250 for the scalps.



# Primary Document?

- Her account was first written by Cotton Mather.
  - He heard the story from her.
  - He was first to record it.
  - He ended with his own questions.





# Cotton's Questions

- In *Magnalia Christi Americana* (1702) he questions-
  - Is killing Indian captives justified?
  - Is killing Indian captors justified?
  - Is killing children ever justified?



# Statue Commemorating Hannah Dustin

