

October 4-5, 1675 Springfield, MA

The following are accounts concerning the story of Toto and the impact he had on the events of Springfield, Ma on October 4 & 5, 1675.

On Long Hill in the south part of the town, overlooking the valley, a fort had been constructed for the protection of the friendly Indians, who were dwelling in peace in the neighborhood. Into this a large number of hostile Indians, including some who had previously been on terms of intimate friendship with the whites, had secreted themselves. Toto, a friendly Indian, who was living with a white family in Windsor, revealed the plot, and that night a messenger rode swiftly to Springfield, who roused the inhabitants and warned them of the threatened danger. Every one was noti-

Burt, Henry M. *The First Century of the History of Springfield; the Official Records from 1636 to 1736, with an Historical Review and Biographical Mention of the Founders*. Springfield, MA: Henry Burt, 1898. Pg 129.

it about three hundred of Philip's warriors. The same evening, one Toto, a Windsor Indian, discovered the plot, and despatches were immediately sent off from Windsor to Springfield, and to Major Treat, who lay at Westfield with the Connecticut troops, to apprise them of their danger. But the people of Springfield were so strongly persuaded of the friendship of the Indians, that they would not credit the report. One Lieut. Cooper, who

White, Henry, Rev. "Ambuscades, Assaults, Massacres, and the Depredations of the Indians." *Indian Battles: With Incidents in the Early History of New England*. NYC: DW Evans &, 1859. Pg 65.

some nights, or runners may have brought the news before, for some Agawams had been down to Hartford and effected the escape of the hostages held there. Upon their way back the word was passed among the Indians that Springfield was doomed. Toto, an Indian living with a Windsor family, became agitated on the night of the 4th, and the family succeeded in extracting from him the terrible secret. It was long after dark when Toto made the confession, and in post-haste a man was sent to carry the news to Springfield. He rode into town at the dead of night, and roused the inhabitants, who were doubly terrified, the soldiers having gone off on the Hadley campaign. The alarm was sounded at every door in the village. What

Green, Mason Arnold. *Springfield, 1636-1886: History of Town and City : Including an Account of the Quarter-millennial Celebration at Springfield, Mass., May 25 and 26, 1886.* Springfield, Ma: C.A. Nichols, 1888. Pg. 164.

What do these source materials tell about Toto?

Why is it important to have a figure like Toto in the stories that recount the events on October 4 & 5, 1675 Springfield?

Why has the story of Toto been lost over time?