

Rules and Accounting for Massachusetts Indian Scalp Bounties 1694 - 1757

“Grim Commerce: Scalps, Bounties, and the Transformation of Trophy-Taking in the Early American Northeast, 1450-1770,”

2013 dissertation by Margaret Haig Roosevelt Sewall Ball). Chart from Appendix C.

Year	Day/Month	Bounty Information Summary Source
1694	12 September	<p>Volunteers who go in pursuit of “common enemy”: £50 for “every Indian, great or small, which they shall kill or take prisoner.”</p> <p>Defenders of house or garrison: £5 for every Indian slain in that defense</p> <p>Soldiers “detached or impressed and listed in their majesties’ service” £10 “over and above” regular pay for “every Indian” they kill or take prisoner while in service.</p> <p>Claimant to present scalp. Reward to be shared equally among members of the party.</p> <p>Fraud provision: if scalp produced is not an Indian scalp, or from Indian not “slain in service as aforesaid,” offender to “suffer three months’ imprisonment” and forfeit double the payable sum: one half paid to government and other half to whoever informed on fraud.</p> <p>Remains in force until May 1695.</p>
1695	17 June	<p>1694 act continued. Indians of Natick, Hassanamiscox, Kekamoochock to be protected. Reward “for any Indian woman, or person under fourteen years of age, that shall be killed or taken and brought in prisoner” £25. Adult male bounty remains at £50.</p>

1696	16 June	Volunteers who receive commission from Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief and raise a company may now receive provisions, ammunication and wages for duration of expedition. May also receive vessels or boats for transport, all paid out of public treasury. Scalp bounty: £50/scalp or prisoner ♂ ≥14years old; £25/scalp or prisoner of Indian woman or child under 14 years.
1703	16 November	Detached forces: £10 per scalp for every Indian over 10 years old killed in fight in next four months. Reward shared equally among officers and soldiers of party. Same penalty for fraud as provided for volunteers
1703	2 December	Volunteer parties under commissioned officer who go at own expense: £40 for scalp of Indian over 10 years old. All Indians under 10 years old can be sold as prisoners and party gets proceeds. New Hampshire volunteers receive 4/5 of the £40 reward or proceeds.
1703/1704	Winter	£200 paid to Capt Tyng and party for 5 scalps
1704	6 January	£40 for 1 scalp to Richard Billing and Samuel Feild
1704	20 Mar	Volunteer parties under commissioned officer: £100 per scalp for every Indian over 10 years old; provisions, ammunication deducted out of premium amount, transport service at public charge. Prisoners under 10 years old, £3 from government or may sell for proceeds. New Hampshire volunteers receive 4/5 of bounty.
1704	24 March	£4 .3s .4p paid to Capt Wm. Southworth for 4 scalps to be divided among the 40 men in his company.
1704	9 June	£60 paid to survivors of party including Jonathan Wells and Ebenezer Wright for 1 scalp. £5 paid to each widow of the 4 men in the party who died. £34 .17s paid for party's losses sustained in fight.
1704	27 October	£4 each to John Shepley and Samuel Butterfield for 1 scalp of Indian man

1704	1 November	<p>£21 paid to Caleb Lyman and party of 5 “friend Indians” who “slew seven of the Indian enemy and brought in six of their scalps.” At time, “no Law Provides Suitable Reward” for them, but Council agreed to pay £21.</p>
1704	18 November	<p>1703 act revived. Volunteer parties enlisted under an officer “appointed and commissioned by the captain-general or commander-in-chief” who go out against enemy at their own charge: for every Indian male or youth “capable of bearing armes” slain £100; for women or “others, male or female,” over 10 years £10 “per head, the scalp to be produced and oath made.” Provisions and ammunition advanced on account to these parties and deducted from the reward amount. Benefit of prisoners under 10 to be divided proportionally according to wages, but no reward to soldiers under pay for any Indian they kill under 10 years old.</p> <p>Remains in force until 30 November 1705.</p>
1706	March	<p>Premium for Indian scalps taken by volunteers without pay increased to £100/scalp</p>
1706	14 August	<p>For any male Indian “capable of bearing arms” or over 10 years old that is killed or captured: “Regular detached forces, under pay”:£10 Volunteers “actually in the service and under pay”: £20 Volunteers “without pay or subsistence”: £50 To those defending a town or garrison: £30 (regardless of military status), in addition to the “benefit of all Indian prisoners, being women or children under the age abovesaid.” Premiums and prisoners to be shared proportionate to wages but volunteer parties can make different arrangements. Scalps must be produced for rewards. Same fraud provisions as in 1703 act.</p>

1707	7 March	£160 to Col Winthrop Hilton and company, to be divided proportionate to their wages, for 8 Indian scalps
1707	17 April	£10 paid to Capt John Pierson, his company at garrison, and town inhabitants who helped, for 1 Indian scalp
1707	3 May	£40 to Col Winthrop Hilton and company, to be divided proportionate to their wages for two Indian scalps
1708	26 June	1706 act remains in force until 29 June 1709 Same as 1706

1709	10 June	£66 to Capt Benjamin Wright and company for “seven or eight” Indian scalps. £12 to Capt Wright, £6 each to men in company, in addition to their wages.
1709	4 November	£20 to Capt Andrew Robinson and company (£12 to Capt Robinson, remaining £8 to divide among company) for 2 Indian men’s scalps

1722	16 August	<p>Volunteers without pay or subsistence: £100 for scalp of male Indian over 12; £50 for scalps of “all others” and any prisoners taken as well as the benefit (of sale) of prisoners.</p> <p>Volunteers without pay but who receive subsistence and ammunition: £60 for scalp of males Indians over 12; £30 for scalps of others and for prisoners, and money from prisoner sales.</p> <p>Those who respond to alarm: £30 per scalp of any killed; £10 for any prisoners and benefit of their sale.</p> <p>Regular detached forces in pay: £15 per scalp; £5 for prisoners.</p> <p>All to be shared by company proportionate to wages. Volunteers get equal shares unless they agree otherwise.</p> <p>Fraud penalty: 3 months imprisonment; 2 times reward amount, to be split equally between government and informer.</p> <p>To be in force for the present Indian war.</p>
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1723	12 January	<p>Offer to be made to the 5 Nations: For scalps of Indian men 12 years old or older: £100. For scalps of “all others killed in Fight, & prisoners”:£50 and “benefit of prisoners” To be paid to parties of Iroquois 5 Nations under 2 English men “at least” Parties of 5 Nations Indians to be supplied with ammunicions or provisions they need and the cost deducted out of scalp money. Any scalp money to be divided equally among the party and the English men with the party.</p>
1723	17 January	English men that accompany Iroquois 5 Nations parties are to attest to accuracy of oath regarding scalps and that the age/sex of scalps taken
1724	20 September	Mohawks (Maquas) to receive provisions and ammunition from Timothy Dwight without deducting from scalp bounty. If Mohawks want to be paid in money that Dwight can draw on Treasurer for claims. £500 worth of goods advanced to Dwight for these payments.
1724	14 November	£100 paid to Noah Ashley for an Indian scalp.
1724	17 November	<p>Response to petition by John Lovewell, Josiah Farewll, & Jonathan Robbins: Volunteers under commissioned officers: .2s .6p/day £100 per male scalp and “other premiums established by Law to Volunteers without pay or subsistence.”</p>
1724	20 November	£15 to Jacob Ames for scalp taken while defending garrison
1739	19 December	200 acres unappropriated land granted to Joseph Neff, son of Mary Neff who helped Hannah Dustan scalp Indians, but never received reward for those scalps.
1744	25 October	Volunteers at own cost who kill a St. John’s or Cape Sables male Indian 12 years or older and produce scalp: £100 New Tenor (Lawful Money); £105 for male prisoners of any age; £50 for scalp of woman or child; £55 for female or child prisoners. To be extended to any other Indian peoples who go to war against colony. In force until end of June 1745. Act on same page sets captain’s pay a 20s per month.

1745	25 July	<p>Revives premium for scalps and captives of St. Johns and Cape Sables Indians (and Penobscot and Norridgewocks if they refuse treaty). Volunteers at own cost: £100/scalp of male over 12; £105 for male captives; £50 for scalps of women or those under 12 years, £55 for female or child captives. Paid in new tenor bills of credit (lawful money).</p> <p>Volunteers who receive ammunition and provisions: £75 for scalps of males over 12; £78 for male captive over 12; £39 for women and any under 12 (doesn't specify scalp versus captive).</p> <p>Soldiers: £30 for scalps of men over 12, £33 for captive; £15 for scalps of women and children, £16 for captives.</p>
1746	7 January	<p>For volunteers who enlist under officers: £80 male captive 12 or older, £40 male captive under 12; £40 for "Females of any age." £75 for scalp of male 12 and over, £37 .10s for scalp of male under 12 and same amount for women's scalps. Anyone who joins these companies also to be paid .25s/month wages.</p>
1746	25 April	<p>For enlisted volunteers: £75 for scalps of males over 12; £37 .10s .6p for scalps of males under 12 or females any age; £80 for male captives over 12; £40 for male captives under 12 and for females of any age in addition to .25s/month, 1 pound powder, 2 pounds bullets, & six good flints</p>
1747	5 February	<p>To Indian allies: £35 for scalps of male over 12, £10 for scalps of males under 12 or females any age; £40 male prisoner over 12; £25 for male prisoners under 12 or female prisoners. English who accompany Indian parties entitled to share in bounty.</p>
1747	23 April	<p>To encourage volunteers, bounty raised for next six months to: £250 for Indian killed and scalp produced or Indian captives.</p> <p>For soldiers or those who defend self or another person: £100 for scalp or captive.</p>

1747	23 April	<p>Since previous encouragement for scouting the woods for Indians has proved ineffectual: £250 pounds for each Indian killed and the scalp produced and for every Indian prisoner taken by a scouting party with permission to go as volunteers. Money to be equally divided among party regardless of pay or rank.</p> <p>Volunteer parties also provided 1 pound powder, 3 pounds bullets, and 6 flint per person. Soldiers in pay: £100 for every Indian scalp or prisoner. Same amount for those who kill Indian in own defense or in defense of other colonists.</p>
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1747	22 August	£30 to John Beamen for 1 Indian scalp
1748	23 February	Volunteer enlistees to receive pay and subsistence to serve at forts Number 4 and Massachusetts as well as: £100 per scalp.

1748	9 March	As an encouragement to Capt Melvin and 25 others: “in equal parts the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds for each prisoner or scalp of said Indian enemy by them taken.” Wages and subsistence to be deducted from reward.
1748- 49	18 November	Capt Melvin’s party paid £25 for losses and £60 for bravery although no scalps returned.
1755	25 April	To men who go against Indians of the St. Francis tribe or “any other, that in a hostile manner shall oppose them in such their undertaking,” £75 per captive, £70 per scalp, plus provisions.
1755	10 June	To voluntary enlistees who go out against the Arasaguntacook Indians and all other tribes east of the Piscataqua River except the Penobscot tribe: £50 for captive male above 12, £40 per scalp of male over 12; £25 for female prisoners or male prisoners under 12, £20 for scalp of female or male under 12
1755	14 June	Same bounties for capture or scalp on the Western Frontier as on the Eastern, and bounty permitted to volunteers who are not under pay.

1755	16 June	For voluntary enlistees: 30 days provision and £220 for every captive brought to Boston; £200 for every scalp. To those who defend or respond to emergency: £110 per captive, £100 per scalp.
1755	1 November	Bounties extended to include Penobscot Indians - Phips Proclamation
1756	10 March	To soldiers in service: £50 for Indian prisoners over age 12 brought to Boston, £40 per scalp of Indian over 12; £25 for Indian prisoner under 12, £20 for scalp of Indian under 12.
1756	10 June	For volunteers who go in quest of the Indian enemy and who signify so in writing to the chief military officer in the area from which they depart: £300 for Indian scalp, £320 for Indian captive
1756	22 October	For scouting companies given pay and subsistence: £100 for a scalp, £110 for a captive
1757	8 April	Bounty to soldiers: £50 per Indian captive above age 12, £40 per scalp of Indian above age 12; £25 per Indian captive under age 12, £20 per scalp of Indian under age 12
1757	1 June	For private citizens who state in writing they are in quest of the Indian enemy: £300 for a scalp, £320 for a prisoner. For soldiers: £50 for a captive, £40 for a scalp.