

On the July 18, 1692, a party of the Indians attacked the house near Lancaster, Mass., of Peter Joslin and murdered his wife, three children, and a widow by the name of Whitcomb, who resided in the family. Joslin himself, at the time, was at work in the field, and knew nothing of the terrible calamity that had befallen him, till his return home. Elizabeth Howe, his wife's sister, was taken captive, but was afterwards returned. Another child, Peter, was savagely put to death by the Indians in the wilderness.

One of the little boys in the morning requested leave to go into the field with his father, assigning as a reason that he had seen some red men in the hemp; but the father heeded him not. It was baking day with Mrs. Joslin, and she defended herself against the Indians with the bread-shovel, till she received a death blow from a tomahawk. Joslin returned home to find his wife and children barbarously murdered with tomahawks and weltering in their blood.

Elizabeth Howe was spinning on the little wheel; and probably was spared on account of the sweet melody she was making with her voice. The Indians used to make her sing to them in her captivity.