

Meanwhile the captive was straining every nerve to reach the shore, but finding his strength leaving him, he lost heart when within a rod or two of the bank, and undoubtedly would have sunk to the bottom if one of the rangers had not run to his assistance with a sapling, which the drowning man managed to grasp, and was quickly drawn to the shore. He proved to be William Moody of Exeter.

While attention was thus drawn to the captive's struggles for life and liberty, one of the scouts who was looking on from the bank above heard the snapping of dry sticks behind him. He gave one hurried look in the direction of the noise, and instantly shouted the warning cry of 'Indians, Indians'. The cry was scarce uttered when the scout received a charge of buckshot in the face. Another shot dropped Lieutenant Wells, as he was scrambling up the bank after his gun, left there when he went to Moody's assistance.

In a few words Moody then told them that the canoe he had just escaped from was only one of five, two of which the rangers had missed by taking the cut-off, while two more were still above them. Upon hearing the guns the party below had instantly turned back, taking to the woods for a cover, and it was their fire which had just disabled two of the ranger's best men. Dropping shots from the opposite bank also told the rangers that the party from above had now come to the aid of their companions.

Upon finding themselves thus caught between two fires, the rangers scattered in a panic, every man for himself leaving poor Moody to his fate. Seven succeeded in reaching the rendezvous safely. The eight man John Burt of Northampton, was never heard from.

Moody's tragic end was subsequently learned from some fellow captives, on their return to the settlements. Upon being so suddenly abandoned by his rescuers he gave himself up for lost. Too feeble of body either to fly or resist, he was driven to choose between starvation or captivity, and nerved by the hope of saving his life he called out to the savages from his place of concealment to come and take him. The wretched man was quickly secured, taken across the river, tied to a stake and burned alive, in revenge for the losses these miscreants had sustained in their late conflict with the scouts."

From The Border Wars of New England
by S. A. Drake

It was May 6, 1709 that William Moody of Exeter was captured by the Indians, according to Pike's Journal