

Samuel Ransom

Birth: April 10, 1738 Ipswich, England, or Connecticut

Death: July 3, 1778 Forty-Fort, PA (then it was in Connecticut)

Samuel was the son of Robert and Sarah Childs Ransom. He married Esther Lawrence May 6, 1756 in Canaan, Litchfield, Connecticut and they had 9 children: Sarah, Samuel, George Palmer, Sybil, Esther, Louisa, William, Mary and Lois.

Samuel Ransom bought land Nov. 5, 1773 land in the south part of the present town of Plymouth, Pennsylvania. March 2, 1774, he was chosen a Selectman of Westmoreland, and Surveyor of Highways. Aug. 26, 1776, Congress commissioned Samuel Ransom to be Captain of a company raised for the defense of Westmoreland. This was known as the Second Independent Company for the Revolutionary service, and was attached to the Connecticut line. They joined the Continental army at Morristown, N. J. in January, 1777, and were engaged in the battles of Millstone, Brandywine, Germantown, Bound Brook, and Mud Fort. In June, 1778, Captain Ransom resigned to go to his home and defend it against the British and Indians under Col. John Butler. He reached Forty Fort on the morning of the massacre, July 3, 1778, and reported to Col. Zebulon Butler, the American commander, as a volunteer aide. He fully sustained his reputation as a cool and fearless soldier, and was killed in the heat of the fight.

His house was burned, and his family fled down the valley with the other refugees. After the advance of Sullivan's army, the family returned and occupied their land, only to become involved in the troubles growing out of the struggle for the ownership of the valley between the Connecticut and Pennsylvania authorities. In November 1783, Mrs. Ransom and her daughters were, in the most inhuman manner, turned out of their house in a cold and bitter storm to seek shelter as best they might, by the Pennsylvanians. Mrs. Esther Ransom later married Captain James Bidlack, who moved from Windham County to Wyoming in 1777. They returned to Norfolk, Conn., where she died in Aug., 1794.