

# Theophilus Snidow

Theophilus was one of the sons of John Jacob and Elizabeth Helm Snidow.

He was b. ca. 1761, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and d. ca. 1786/1787 Montgomery County, VA (now Giles).

He was captured by Indians on August 7, 1774 when a small band of Shawnees made their way along New River toward the homes of John Lybrook and John McGriff on the East side of the river near the mouth of Sinking Creek. There the Indians brutally attacked a group of children who were playing near the bank of the river. Three of Lybrook's children, plus a young woman named Miss Scott, and two little girls of their neighbor Elizabeth Snidow, were killed. Three boys, Theophilus Snidow and Jacob Snidow and Thomas McGriff, were captured and taken away by the Indians. On the following Wednesday night, while camping on Pipestem Knob on Blue Lake in present-day Summers County, West VA, two of the boys, Jacob Snidow and Thomas McGriff, made a daring and successful escape by hiding in a hollow tree until the Indians got tired of looking for them and left with their remaining prisoner, Theophilus Snidow. As the boys were making their way back home, they were met by a band of militia sent to try to rescue them and who then safely returned them home to their families. Theophilus Snidow returned home many years later.



"Theophilus was carried by the Indians to their towns north of the Ohio River. There he was closely watched for years. When he grew up, however, he was looked on as a trusted member of the Chief's family. But it wasn't until he fully reached manhood that his long awaited chance to escape came. It was too late by the time he finally reached his own people, for he was broken in health and spirit, and died from pulmonary trouble soon after he reached home." *Source: Snidow ms.* However, he lived long enough to serve as a Revolutionary soldier, in Capt. John Lucas' company, in 1779. *Source: Virginia Historical Magazine, Vol. XLVII, 2, p. 156*

Theophilus apparently had died by 1787 as he does not appear in that year as a tithable. *Source: Ancestors and Descendants of Judge John Alexander Kelly and Martha Matilda Peck Kelly and Related Families 1515-1959.*

To the best of our knowledge, he never married and therefore had no progeny. We do not know for sure where Theophilus is buried but he may be up at Lilly Hill Cemetery in Pembroke.

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See John Lybrook's full account of the **Indian Attack** on the Site Map at [snidow.org](http://snidow.org).