

History of Westmoreland County - George Dallas Albert, 1882, Pg 112

Of the captivity of Robert Campbell we have the account given by himself; and the fact of its being preserved is no doubt owing to the celebrity of the peculiar and fervent man, who, far and wide, was known as Elder Robert Campbell, a pious man, and in his day a main prop of the Fairfield Church.

On a day in July, 1776, while the father of this Robert Campbell was from home, a party of Indians came suddenly on this son and his brother William (brother of the son or Robert? - JWC) in the field; and while these were taken some others of the Indians ran to the house. The mother, with an infant in her arms, trying to escape, received the blow on her head, when she, falling down, killed the babe in her own arms. They were afterward found and buried in one grave. The rest of the children in the house, three girls and one boy, were made prisoners with the two boys taken in the field. The two youngest of the girls were placed on horses which the Indians had stolen from the farm, each of the girls behind an Indian. The younger of these, unable to steady herself on the horse was killed and left on the ground about a mile from their home. The Indians carried them off down out of the valley, crossing somewhere below Saltsburg, and passed on to New York State. The children were separated in Canada. Thomas, the youngest brother, was sold to an English officer and sent to England; the two sisters, after passing four years in captivity, were released and came back to the valley. William also returned about the close of the war. After sustaining a captivity of about six years, Robert, with another prisoner, succeeded in making his escape. He came back again to the old homestead, lived to a good old age on the farm his father had cleared, and where his mother was killed and buried.

JWC - copied directly from the book.