



# Samuel Ward Jr.

## Born

*November 17, 1756*

## Education

*Rhode Island College  
(Brown University)  
1771 @ age 15*

## Married

*1778  
Phebe Greene  
8 children*

## Military Service

*1775 - 1781  
promoted to  
Lieutenant-Colonel*

## Died

*August 6, 1832  
New York City*

Samuel Ward Jr.'s military career began when he was commissioned a captain in the King and Kent County Militia under Colonel Varnum in May, 1775, at the age of eighteen. Samuel participated in Benedict Arnold's attack on Quebec in December, 1775, but was taken prisoner by the British. He was released in August, 1776 during a prisoner exchange.

Ward was promoted to the rank of major in the First Rhode Island Infantry between 1776 and 1778, and served with his regiment at Morristown, New Jersey (1777); Peekskill, New York (1777); Red Bank (Fort Mercer) (1777); Valley Forge (1778); and the Battle of Rhode Island (1778).

Major Ward married Phebe Greene in 1778 while on leave from military duties at Valley Forge.

Ward returned to Rhode Island from Pennsylvania in the summer of 1778 to create a new Rhode Island regiment with Christopher Greene comprised of African-American troops. These troops played an instrumental role in the military action on Aquidneck in August 1778.

In May, 1779, Ward was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel of the First Rhode Island and was stationed at North Kingstown and Newport.

In early 1781, Congress ordered the First Rhode Island to merge with the Second Rhode Island and Ward, along with other officers, was forced to retire.

Ward went into business as a merchant in Warwick, where he remained until about 1787. During 1788 and 1789, Ward sailed to China for the Providence firm Brown & Francis as supercargo for the vessel General Washington, the first Rhode Island ship to engage in the China trade. He moved to New York in late 1790, doing business with his brothers Richard and John under the firm name Samuel Ward and Brothers. He was president of the New York Marine Insurance Company until 1808. He returned to Rhode Island in 1809 and stayed until about 1816, then made his permanent home in New York City where he died in 1832.



**Birthplace of Samuel Ward Jr is located  
on Shore Road in Westerly RI**