

Samuel Snipes, 99, Dies; Lawyer for First Black Family in Levittown, Pa.

By The Associated Press

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Samuel Snipes, a white lawyer who held off a mob of protesters while representing the first black family to move into the all-white development of Levittown, Pa., died on Dec. 31 at his family farm in Morrisville, Pa. He was 99.

His family confirmed his death.

Mr. Snipes represented Daisy and Bill Myers when they and their three young children moved into Levittown in 1957. He handled the closing on the home purchase and informed the police that an African-American family would be moving into the development, knowing that controversy would follow, said David Kushner, the author of the 2009 book “Levittown,” which explored the family’s ordeal.

“He felt they had every right to live there,” Mr. Kushner said.

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