

Simon Riegel (1738 - 1829) P-279147
Private, Lieutenant Jacob Rherer's Company,
2nd Battalion Berks County Militia

Simon Riegel was born November 5, 1738 in Tulpehocken Township, Lancaster County, later Berks County, Pennsylvania. He was the first son of Johannes Riegle, born June 8, 1709 in Gabswiller, Rhinland-Pfalz, the Holy Roman Empire and Catharina Elisabetha Shirman, born about 1719, Landau, Rhinland-Pfalz, the Holy Roman Empire. They were married January 9, 1738 in Little Tulpehocken Church, Lancaster County, later Berks County, Pennsylvania.

Simon Riegel married Anna Gertrude Kirshner in 1764 at Host Church, Berks County, Pennsylvania. She was born September 1744, Bern Township, Berks County Pennsylvania. Their children include Anna Maria, Philippine Adam, Catherine Elizabeth, Johannes, Johann Jacob, Johann Daniel, Maria Elizabeth, Johann Adam, Susannah, Absalom, Maria Magdalena, Johann Georg, and Jonathan.

Simon Riegel was a private in Lt. Jacob Rherer's Detachment of the 2nd Battalion of Berks County, Militia on Duty, Guarding Prisoners of War near Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania. He served for 62 days. Simon Riegel's cousins, Andreas, Johannes B., Nicholas, Philip A., and Benjamin, also served with the Berks County Militia.

Simon and his wife resided in Berks County, Pennsylvania their entire lives. His occupation is unknown. Simon Riegel died January 12, 1829 in Bethel Township. He is buried in a private cemetery, one mile west of St. Michael's Church, Berks County, Pennsylvania. There is not an SAR marker at that location. His will was filed with the court on February 2, 1829.

“At the outbreak of hostilities between the Crown and the colonies in 1775 the Pennsylvania Assembly opposed any form of mandatory military service. During this period, activist elements among Pennsylvania's population organized local volunteer "associations" that were eventually formed into fifty-three battalions.”

“By the end of 1776, Pennsylvania had adopted a new more radical constitution that wrested control from the older conservative Assembly and in early 1777 the new Assembly passed Pennsylvania's first militia law requiring compulsory military service.”

“The Act to Regulate the Militia of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed 17 March 1777, and the subsequent Militia Act passed March 20, 1780, together with their amendments, required all white men between the ages of 18 and 53 capable of bearing arms to serve two months of militia duty on a rotating basis.”

“Large numbers of Pennsylvania militia employed in the summer and autumn of 1777 to oppose the British invasion at Brandywine and on the flanks at the battle of Germantown. The militia did provide a significant defensive force patrolling the south side of the Schuylkill River and engaged in occasional

clashes with British outposts and scouting parties including heavy skirmishes at Whitemarsh on December 7. It is known that no Pennsylvania militia served at Valley Forge, Monmouth, or Yorktown.”

“...militia duty also included providing guards for supply depots located in Lancaster, Lebanon and Reading and at various prisoner of war camps.”

Submitted for Joseph Philip Rhein
NSSAR# 188198
Saramana Chapter SAR