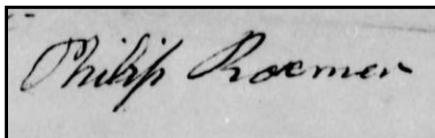


## **Philip Roemer (Abt. 1763-1831) of Franklin County, PA Soldier in the American Revolution**

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*Signature from a court document dated  
August 8, 1825*

Philip Roemer enlisted in the Continental Army in the spring of 1777 and served until January 28, 1781. In his application for a pension, dated June 8, 1824, Philip Roemer stated that “he enlisted in the company commanded by Samuel Kearsley of the infantry, that with said company he joined the sixteenth regiment commanded by Colonel Hendricks in the line of the state of Virginia in the Virginia Continental Establishment. That he continued with the same regiment until the fall of that year when he joined with said company Colonel Maclean’s regiment of New York’s Continental Troops, commanded chiefly by Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Burr- That afterward said company was commanded by Captain Jackson with which he was transferred to the eleventh regiment of the Pennsylvania line commanded by Colonel Adam Hubley and remained with Hubley’s regiment until the 28<sup>th</sup> day of January 1781, when he was discharged from said service at Trenton in the State of New Jersey- that he was constantly in service from the spring of seventeen hundred and seventy seven til the 28<sup>th</sup> January 1781- That he was in the Battle of Brandywine - of Monmouth - of Chemung with the Indians in Sullivan’s campaign – was with the baggage at the Battle of Germantown.” (Source: Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files. State of Pennsylvania. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Downloaded from Fold3 on January 8, 2014.)

According to several records, Philip Roemer served as a musician in the war. Philip’s occupation as a musician is noted on the Muster Roll of Captain Kearsley. He is listed as a musician playing the drums and fife on a card filed with Malcom’s regiment. Finally, there appears this note in the history of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania: “Peter Reymer came from Germany when a boy in 1766. He joined the continental army as a fifer, and served through the revolutionary war, being a member of



*Painting "Nation Makers" by Howard Pyle, currently at Brandywine River Museum, Chadds Ford, PA. Pub before 1911, PD*

the unhappy band that wintered at Valley Forge. When peace came he settled at Greencastle, Franklin county, PA, where he died.” (Source: History of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Chicago, ILL: A Warner and Co., 1889. Vol 2, p. 564.) It is believed that the name Peter is in error, that it should be Philip.

In the Revolutionary War as well as in the Civil War, bands played on the field of combat. Field musicians played the fife, drums, bugles and coronets. In battles, these instruments were used to transmit commands to the troops. Drummers were used to inspire and rally the men. Sometimes they were required to lay their instruments aside to act as couriers, to transport the wounded, or to assist the field surgeons. Off the battlefield, the musicians provided soothing distraction for the war-weary soldiers. (Source: Hyslop, Steve. *Eyewitness to the Civil War: The Complete History from Secession to Reconstruction*. Ed Neil Kagan. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2006. p. 320)

More about Philip Roemer is found under a biographical review of his grandson, Philip “Reymer” of Allegheny, PA: "His grandfather, Philip Reymer, first, went into the Revolutionary War when either nine or ten years old as a fifer, and served during the whole of the great struggle for independence. At Valley Forge, where he went one winter, he lost his coat. After the war he settled at Green Castle, Pa., and there married Mrs. Elizabeth Stotler, and reared quite a family of children, some of whom went to Ohio. His son Peter [ . . . ] became one of the earliest settlers of Pittsburg; and one of Peter's sisters also came here, Mrs. Bush, Of Plum township.” (Source: Biographical Review containing life sketches of leading citizens of Pittsburg and Vicinity, Pennsylvania. Boston: Biographical Review Pub. Co. Vol XXIV.1897. p. 395-396.) Note: Stotler was Elizabeth's maiden name, not a married name as stated above.

Philip Roemer is also listed in Virginia Shannon Fendrick’s "American Revolutionary Soldiers of Franklin County, PA." In addition to his war record as stated above, she notes that in his pension application executed June 8, 1824, he was living in Antrim Township, Franklin County, PA and stated he was aged "Sixty-one years and upwards." This article goes on to say that Philip married Elizabeth (maiden name not given) in December of 1792 and that he died on May 26, 1831. Philip Raymer is listed among Pennsylvania Pensioners on May 21, 1819, aged 76. Further on in this article, it states that Philip died in 1831, aged 75. (Note that the ages given in various records included in this article don't match.) Philip Raymer, along with Michael Tice, were County Commissioners in 1804. On November 9, 1838, Philip’s wife Elizabeth applied for and was granted a widow’s pension. She was still living in Antrim Twp., Franklin County, PA. In 1842 she stated she was sixty-nine years of age and in 1848, she stated she was seventy-three years of age, still a resident of Antrim Township, Franklin County, PA. Also according to this article, Philip Roemer stated in 1824, that he had five daughters and 2 sons living with him. The youngest child was six years old and the others were 11, 15, 17, 22, 25, and 25. Their names were not given. The German Evangelical Reformed Zion's Church, Greencastle, Pa records the following confirmations and communicants: Philip Roemer (Raymer), 1818; Elizabeth Roemer (Raymer), 1818; Peter Roemer, conf, 1818; Maria Roemer, conf., 1819; Magdalena Roemer, 1819; Martha Roemer, 1821; Elizabeth Reomer, 1824; Eleanor Roemer, conf., 1827; George Roemer, conf., 1832; Susan Roemer, conf., 1832; Charlotte Roemer, 1850. This article notes that Elizabeth Raymer died on May 15, 1849 at the age of 71 years, 2 months, and 21 days. (Source: Fendrick, Virginia Shannon. American Revolutionary Soldiers of Franklin County, PA.

Chambersburg, PA: Franklin Co. Chapter of the DAR, pub., 1969. p. 257; Virginia Fendrick cites War Pension Claim W. 3301 and PA Archives 3rd Series, Vol 23)

Philip Roemer is listed as a private on the Franklin County, PA Pension Roll of 1835. His service was described thus "Pennsylvania Continental Line." His pension began on September 27, 1825 and his annual allowance was \$96. There is a note on the register that he died on May 27, 1831. (Source: Franklin County Pension Roll of 1835, Vol II; downloaded from Ancestry.com in April 2010)

Philip's daughters Elizabeth and Julian married brothers John and Samuel Kuhn, also from Antrim Township, PA. A few years after marrying, these two families wanted to establish their own homesteads. Land was expensive in Pennsylvania, so in April of 1833 both families decided to move to Ohio, where eventually five Kuhn siblings would settle in Plymouth, Richland County. (Source: Venable, Clara M, Ed, Peter Kuhn Family History and Records, (Harrisburg, PA, 1953; Second Printing 1985 by the Ohio Kuhn Asst.), p. 30-31.)

The surname has been spelled variously as Roemer, Romer, Raymer, Remer, Reymer in public documents.

On the following page is a document found in Philip Roemer's Pension Application File, NARA. In this statement, Philip's wife is applying for a widow's pension.

State of Pennsylvania  
Franklin County

On this Nineteenth day of June  
in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and forty two  
Personally appeared before me the Subscriber a Justice  
Of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County  
and state aforesaid Elizabeth Roemer a Resident of  
Franklin County and state of Pennsylvania aged  
Sixty nine years who being first duly sworn  
According to law, doth on her oath make the  
following declaration in order to obtain the  
Benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress  
passed July 7th 1838 Entitled an act Granting half  
pay and pensions to certain widows, that she is  
the widow of Philip Roemer Deceased who was a  
Pensioner of Franklin County and State of Pennsylv  
that he was placed on the pension Roll of the  
United States September 27th 1825 by reference ther  
to as to his service will more fully and at large  
appear. She further declares that she was  
married to the said Philip Roemer about three  
weeks before Christmas in the year seventeen  
hundred and Ninety two that her husband the  
aforesaid Philip Roemer died on the 26th day  
of May 1831, that she was not married to him  
prior to his leaving the service but the marriage  
took place previous to the first of January seven  
teen hundred and Ninety four Or at the time  
above stated. She further states that there  
is no Church nor family record of her marriage  
nor of the Births of her Children to the best of  
her Knowledge and belief that she has remain  
ed a widow ever since the death of her said  
husband that she draws a pension from the  
State of Virginia By Reference to the proof  
herewith transmitted will more fully appear  
Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year  
above written

before me: Matthew J. Wilkes  
Elizabeth Roemer  
mark

I do hereby Certify that the foregoing deposition of  
Elizabeth Roemer was taken at her dwelling in Antwerp  
Township Franklin County Penna and that from bodily  
infirmity she is unable to attend in open Court  
Matthew J. Wilkes  
J. J. 1842