

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Barnett W391

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

For the purposes of obtaining the benefit of an act, entitled, "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers & soldiers of the army of the revolution," approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 1828 – I James Barnett of Madison County & State of Kentucky do hereby declare that I was an officer in the continental line of the army of the Revolution & served as such to the end of the war. That I was commissioned an ensign in 1776 in Amherst County in Virginia, & on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 1776 marched under Capt. Samuel Cabell to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] & was attached to the 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment commanded by Colo. Mordecai Buckner. The fall of that year the Regiment marched to the north & joined or met Gen'l. Washington at Elizabethtown [Elizabeth NJ]. In the year 1777 I was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. & was commissioned as such on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 1778 as appears by my commission of that date herewith forwarded [not found in file]. I served as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. in Capt. Peter Dunn's Company, same Reg't. till Capt. Dunn's death [26 Dec 1777], when I commanded said Company and the reduction of the Regiments, which I think took place at the White plains [14 Sep 1778] when the 2<sup>d</sup>. & 6<sup>th</sup>. Virginia Regiments were united; Dunns Company & Capt. Hopson's [sic: Nicholas Hobson's] Companies were united & the command was given to me & I was then attached to the Second Virginia Reg't. I commanded this company till the last of the year 1778, when I left the army as a Supernumerary & returned to Virginia. I performed the duties & took rank as a Capt. but have no recollection of having had in my possession a Capt's. Commission. In 1779 I was called upon as a Capt. in the Service of the United States & took command of a Company. I was called upon by Colo. Hugh Rose as [Amherst] County Lieut. In 1780 & 1781 & up to the close of the war I was called upon & performed the duties of Capt. in the Regular Service. At the close of the war I was attached to the Regiment of Colo [Alexander] Dick & reported myself to him by order of Gen'l. LaFayette. Colo Dick commanded at that time mounted infantry

Whether I ever received certificates, commonly called commutation certificates I am unable to say, but am inclined to think I never did – Witness my hand this 12<sup>th</sup> July 1828.

[signed] Jas. Barnett

Danville 8 Aug't. 1828 I do hereby Certify that I became acquainted with the then Lieut. James Barnett in the year 1776 at the taking the Hessians at Trenton New Jersey [26 Dec 1776] and that he served in one of the advance guards under the Command of Capt. William Washington and I at that time acted as a Sargeant in Capt. Richard Taylors Company of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Virginia Regiment after which time I frequently saw him but had no personal acquaintance with him till I remoooved to Kentucky in the year 1786 since which I have frequently seen him and have allwas known him as Colo. James Barnett and that he is the same person whom I saw as Lieut. Barnett at the taking of the Hessians at Trenton in 1776 who is now a resident of Madison County Kentucky

Given under my hand the day & date above written

Daniel Barbee [pension application S12951]  
P M at Danville Ky.

Lincoln County Sct. August the 8th 1828

this day Col. William Montgomery [pension application S16981] appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid & State of Kentucky and deposed that he is well acquainted with Col. James Barnett of Madison County Kentucky & has been intimate with him from his youth that he the s'd. Montgomery & Barnett was raised in Amherst County V.a &c, and this deponant says he Inlisted under s'd. Barnett on the 14th day of Feb'y. 1776 in Capt'n. Cabals [sic: Samuel Jordan Cabell's] Company Barnett being Ensign in s'd company we marched shortly after to williamsburgh and from that to gwins

Island [sic: Gwynn Island] & drove off Dunmore [11 Jul 1776] Barnett Commanding as Ensign in s'd. Company and after performing various duty near to Williams Burgh and as well as this deponent recollects they were ordered to the North in September of the same year and Regimented in the 6th Virginia Regiment Commanded by Col. Mordicaih Buckner from that we marched to Trenton in the State of Jersey (& Bartnett still commanding as Ensign in said Company) from Trenton we marched to Elizabeth Town & met Gen'l. Washington retreating with Putman [sic: Gen. Israel Putnam] & others and joining them retreated before the British untill we crossed the deleware [sic: Delaware River] at Trenton from that we march up s'd. River to place called the Cold Camp and crossing the River about Christmas day we to took the Hessians at Trenton after killing many and taking others prisoners from that we crossed the Deleware with the prisoners and after remaining about a weak in camp and sending away the prisoners we recrossed the Deleware and marched to Trenton & from thence to Maidenhead a small Town in the Jersey [in present Lawrenceville] and was under arms two days & two nights successively and the following day the British came on and we retreated to Trenton. Barnett still commaned as an Ensign in s'd. Company and there had a hard scrimmedge & crossed a creek & lay on the East bank untill about 10 oclock at night then Washington with his small army took a circuitous rout & fell on the Brittish at Prinston about sun rise [sic: Princeton, 3 Jan 1777] and after killing some 60 or 70 & taking some prisoners say three Hundred we marched on to Morris Town [Morristown] Barnett still acted as Ensign in s'd. Company I think shortly after this Barnett was promoted to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenancy in the Spring I was attached to Morgans [Daniel Morgan's] Regiment of Riflemen I was Inoculated at whipeny [sic: Whippany] Town in Jersey & Barnett was to the best of my recollection Inoculated at wilmingtown [sic: Wilmington DE] below Philadelphia, Early in the spring we met in Jersey again and I saw no more of Barnett untill after we had taken Burgoin at Sarratoga [sic: Burgoyne at Saratoga NY, 17 Oct 1777] and had returned to the State of Pensylvania at White Mash [Whitemarsh]. I am not possitive whether at this time he was not Lieutanant or Captain but we continued in the same neighbourhood & had a scrape with the British at Chesnut Ridge [Battle of Whitemarsh near Chestnut Hill PA, 5 Dec 1777] & Hattonfield [Hatfield?]. I thing in March our Times of Enlistment having Expired Capt'n. Barnett & Captain Rose marched us back to Amherst C.t.y in V.a in a few weeks after we arrive at home Barnett returned to the army in Jersey and continued there a considerable time the precise time I do not now recollect but returned home as a Captain and a Supernumerary officer of the Continental army. after my return to virginia I was appointed 1st Lieutanant in the Militia. I recollect well after this that Cap Barnett acted as Captain & myself as 1st Lieutanant in the same regiment [two or three illegible words] I acted as a volunteer and Barnett as a Supernumery Captain and believe Barnett acted as a Supernumary Officer under the Government untill after the Capture of Cornwallis at Little york [19 Oct 1781] and this deponent is free in saying that he from his own intimate acquaintance with s'd Barnett and others that knew well about s'd Barnett & his sevices that he was a supernumery in the army untill the taking of Cornwallace or untill the End of the war & that he was active & usefull in this his duties & this deponent further states that at the Battle of the Point in 1774[Point Pleasant, 10 Oct 1774] s'd Barnett was wounded this deponent being about 14 year of age at that time

NOTE: On 15 Jan 1839 Marcey Barnett, 71, applied for a pension stating that her maiden name was Marcey Hawkins, and that on 4 Mar 1790 in Madison County at the home of her father, Nathan Hawkins, she married James Barnett, who died 27 Aug 1835. Mrs. Ann Hawkins, 72, deposed that she was present at the wedding. The file contains a copy of a bond signed on 28 Oct 1788 by James Barnett and Nicholas Hawkins for the marriage of James Barnett, bachelor, to Massy Hawkins, spinster. On an application made under a later pension act on 29 Apr 1843 Marcey Barnett's age is given as 78.