Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Peter Bernard (Barnard, Barnett) R19356 Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 15 Aug 2017.

[The federal pension file contains copies of the following from bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.]

I Almon Dunston [W731] of the county of Gloucester and State of Virginia, do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Peter Barnard, or Barnett, who resided in that part of this county which is now called Matthews [sic: Mathews]. The said Barnard commanded a company of infantry in the Revolutionary war, which company he recruited, himself, some time in the year seventeen hundred seventy seven. In the spring of the year 1778 he marched with his company, (attached to Col. [William] Brent's Regiment, or the 2nd Regiment of Virg'a State troops, on continental establishment [sic: state establishment],) to the northern Station near Philadelphia, where he remained in active service 'till late in the winter of 1780 & 1781, when he returned to virginia, and I have no recollection of seeing him afterwards. The said Barnard, though a very young man at the time, was highly esteemed as a brave and meritorious officer, and I have no hesitation in saying that he was in service, to my own knowledge, upwards of three years. I enlisted, myself, early in the spring of the year 1777, as a soldier in captain Machen Boswell's [R19364] company of Infantry, and marched with that company, in the spring of 1778, along with Captn. Peter Barnards company & many others, to the northern station, where I remained 'till the winter of 1780 or 1781, when I returned to Gloucester, and was discharged, having served out my term of three years, for which I had enlisted. The said Peter Barnard returned with his company from the north, at the same time that I did. A short time after my return from the north I reentered the service, as a soldier, and was at York Town, at the surrender of Lord con wallis [sic: Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781], very soon after which, I went out to the south, under the command of capt. Roy, and remained there 'till the end of the war, when I returned to Cumberland Court House and was there discharged. As Witness my hand & seal this 4th day of Nov'r A.D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty three. [signature illegible]

I Isaac Smith [S11427] of the county of Matthews and state of Virginia do hereby certify, that I was very well acquainted with Peter Barnard of this, the county of Mathews, formerly and in the life time of the said Barnard called Gloucester. The said Peter Barnard entered the service of his country in the Revolutionary war, as a captain, in the early part of the year seventeen hundred and seventy seven, and in the early part of the year seventeen hundred and seventy eight, after having gotten his quota of men having recruited his own company, he marched to the north here he remained in active service 'till the spring of the year seventeen hundred and eighty one when he returned to Virginia, but I do not recollect what Regiment he was attached to nor can I say whether he was on State of continental establishment. I well remember when the said Peter Barnard marched to the north and when he returned. In the course of the summer of the year seventeen hundred and eighty one after his return from the north he entered the militia service and was stationed with his company at Point comfort and from thence went to Hubbards old field near the dividing lines between Gloucester and King & Queen where he remained in service in that part of the country 'till the end of the war, after which he returned home. I [several illegible words] he returned home and I do not know of his being in service afterwards. I know that the said Peter Barnard went to the north in the early part of the year seventeen hundred and seventy eight and I also know that he returned but a few months before the seige of york. whilst the said Peter Barnard was in command of a company and stationed at Hubbards old Field I was myself a sergeant in Captain Dudley Cary's company of cavalry, and stationed in Gloucester, some times at Gloucester ct. House, sometimes at Seawell's ordinary, & sometimes at Hubbards old field. I remained in service the militia service 'till after the seige of york, when I returned home. The said Peter Barnard continued in service as I did, till after the seige, when he also returned home & I do not believe he ever went into the service again. The said Peter Barnard died three or

four years after the close of the war. I saw him the day he died, was at his house, & left there a few hours before he expired. as witness my hand and [seal] this twelfth day of November, AD. one thousand eight hundred and thirty three.

I John Christian [S15276] of the county of Mathews and State of Virginia, do hereby certify, that I was well & intimately acquainted with Peter Barnard of this, the county of Mathews, which in the life time of the said Barnard, was called Gloucester; The said Peter Barnard was a recruiting officer in the Revolutionary war, in the early part of the year seventeen hundred and seventy seven; and in the spring of the year seventeen hundred and seventy eight, after having gotten his company filled up, he marched to the north, where he remained in active service, 'till the spring of the year seventeen hundred and eighty one, when he returned to Virginia, but do not recollect what Regiment he was attached to, nor am I entirely certain whether he was a captain or Lieutenant when he marched away; I am certain he was a captain when he returned from the North, and was always called captain Barnard, afterwards; I well remember when the said Peter Barnard marched to the north and when he returned. In the course of the summer of the year seventeen hundred and eighty one, after his return from the north, he entered the militia service, and was stationed at Hubbards old field near the dividing line of the counties of Gloucester & King & Queen at which time, I was a soldier in his company; Just before the seige of york I was taken sick, obtained a furlough and came home – when I left the company, I left captain Barnard in command of it, & believe he continued to command it 'till after the seige, after which, he came home and I do not know that he ever went into the service again. I was in service in captain Barnards company at Point Comfort before we went to Hubbards old field. I think we removed from Point comfort to Hubbards old field about the month of August seventeen hundred and eighty one. The said Peter Barnard died three or four years after the close of the war: I have a perfect recollection of the circumstance of his death, for I lived with him at the time, assisted in carrying him to his grave and helped to bury him. as witness my hand & seal this 12th day of November A.D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty three.

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the Fifth [?] day of Sept'r 1783, in the name of Peter Bernard as a Capt of Infantry for €301.11.5, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to John [illegible] and was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1782. Towit − pay as Capt from 1st Jan'y 1777 to 1st Sept'r 1779. Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this third day of Decem'r 1833.

Jas E Heath AUDITOR.

NOTE: The bounty-land file also contains copies of accounts pertaining to Capt. Peter Bernard.