

Pension Application for Moses Barnett

S.15303 Moses died January 4, 1838, in Compton, Province of Canada East. He left no widow but left the following children: Moses, Roswell, Patty, Nancy, William, Nabby, Sally, and Esther.

State of Vermont

Chittenden County

On the 19th day of April in AD 1832 personally appeared before me John VanSuklen Junior one of the Judges of the County Court in and for the County of Chittenden of the State of Vermont being a Court of Record Moses Barnet a resident of the town of Essex in the County of Chittenden aforesaid who first being duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of congress passed July 4 AD 1832.

In the month of March in the year AD 1776 I went to work with a company in the town of Plainfield at the Saltpeter business for the benefit of the Army worked until Sept of the same year, I then volunteered under the command of Major Andrew Beccus to go to New York at the time the British had possession of that place we marched from Plainfield in Connecticut to Westchester where we lay encamped for about twenty days & think doing but very little from Westchester we marched towards a place called the White Plains where we were followed by the Brittes [British] from New York & think. We had not been encamped at this place more than two or three days under the command of General Washington before we were attacked by the Brittish. [sic] General Washington I think had there the main American Army with considerable Stores of Provisions had some entrenchments and breastwork for his defence.

When the Brittish first came in site we were ordered to move some barrels of Provisions as it was supposed the attack would be in the immediate neighborhood of it but they passed by and made their first attack on our picket guard or our site, there was several skirmishes during the day and several killed on both sides. It seemed to me it was General Washington's intention they should attack him in his fortifications if at attall [at all] and the main armies did not meet as I think on that day we remained encamped at this place on or in the woods keeping up scouting parties for the purpose of engaging the enemy and guarding the Inhabitants until some time about the middle of December when we were dismissed or discharged and went home to Plainfield. I was out during this tour three months and a half.

The Brittish had then got possession of Rhode Island and my brother James Barnet was then on duty at a place called point Inay in Rhodeisland [sic] under Capt. Daniel Clark, his affairs at home required his being there I went and took his place and remained in the service this tour about one month and was then relieved by another taking our place the object of this guard was to keep the Brittish from landing and plundering the inhabitants.

When General Sulivan made an attempt to [dis?] the Brittish from Rhodeisland I think in the year AD 1778, I enlisted in to a company of [horse?] then commanded by Ebenezer Eaton and went on to the Island but we soon found General Sulivan had ordered a retreat from the Island. His rear guard was attacked by the Brittish this guard was commanded by Col. Livingston immediately on hearing the firing General Sulivan ordered myself and one other soldier by the name of Gordon to dispatch a message to Col. Livingston ordering him to hold hold [sic] his post on the hill and he should have immediate aid. When we came in site of Col. Livingston's Regiment we found them on the retreat [???] and would have gone each I pushed on told him to follow he did [?] Col. Livingston gave him the order he told me to return as fast as possible to Sulivan tell him he was coming of the hill his force could not stand there a moment without certain destruction.

I was glad to hear orders for me to get out of the way for I found both musket and cannon that constantly flying around me whilst in conversation with him and as I [?] on to side of a cannon that struck the ground under my horse which so flung the dirt and caused him to come near leaving me asking with the call the wounded was then flung on or being [?] of before our men whilst they were

constantly firing upon the enemy as they advanced. We returned with all speed to Sullivan from him proposing to secure both his friends and enemies he had got his cannon placed on a small hill and for want of batteries he had proposed some planks for his cannon to [?] on when fired. In a very short time a part of the Brittish was seen coming from the woods on our left they were only about one hundred and fifty rods distant when they were first discovered our artillery was soon set to work they advanced a short time and turned down to the site of our cannon and made their first attack on our Infantry who was then stationed on the site in a hallow after a severe engagement and for some time they were forced to retreat and under a fire from our cannon, they soon received a reinforcement I think in a cannon for a [?] attack they were again so [?] answered by all [?] that they were soon obliged again to retreat for the woods – or near them they after made a [?] sally but found an artillery better possessed for making them and they were forced to again retreat before they came in reach of our Infantry in the hollow. We encamped on the ground that nite and the next day without seeing any of the enemy and the next nite we escaped off the Island to a place called Levistown and were sent from there to [?] in Rhodeisland at the place we were dismissed being out from two months to two & a half the exact time I cannot tell.

My next tour of service was performed in the fall of the year 1779 the time New [?] and G[?] was burnt. The alarm was sent to Plainfield and we volunteered and took each man his horse and went to spot as soon as he could four the place in ruins and still smoking the enemy had gone and we returned home was out this term but few days. During this four years of the war the Militia of Plainfield was frequently called out and I had many a harassing job which to be sure was short and which I cannot now with any accuracy details the particulars of being in a section of the Country much frequented by the enemy—In the month of March in the year AD 1780 I removed to a town in the state of New York then called Mapletown near Bennington in Vermont.

I have found two parties (a thing scarcely known in Plainfield of about equal number Whig & Tory I was soon found a volunteer in Capt. Joel Abbots Company of New York Militia marching to meet Sir John Johnson at a place called a Split Rock on Lake Champlain who we heard had landed at that place and gone with a company of men to Johnstown in the Mohawk River but unfortunately [?] of home marched from Mapletown to Fort Edward from there to Fort George on Lake George from there down the Lake to Fort Ticonderoga from there to [?] point where we found he had escaped and got [???] again we were then dismissed and I went home to Mapletown was out on duty I think this tour about six weeks the same summer I was again called out under Capt. Joel Abbot and marched to Whitehall fort An and fort Miller as a scout for what particular purpose I do not now recollect no[r] do I know the time we came out but think it must have been six weeks—for this service I claim a pension of six months—I was born in the town of Preston in the State Connecticut in the year 1752.

I have no record of my age in my family bible which I took from my Father's bible I lived in the town of Plainfield in Connecticut at the commencement of the war and my first service was as I have stated under Major Andrew Beccus.

At the close of the war I was residing at Mapletown in the State of New York where I remained about seven years I then removed to [?] in Vermont from thence to Woodstock in said state from thence to Essex in Chittenden County where I now reside. I never had any commission nor any other than a verbal discharge and I know of no person living by whom I can show these services.

And the said Moses Barnet hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declares that his name if not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.
(Signed) Moses Barnett.

State of Vermont
Chittenden County SS.

Burlington April 19th AD 1833, when the above name a Moses Barnet subscribed was sworn to the above and foregoing declaration before me. John VanSicklin, Judge of Chittenden Cty Ct.