

Pension Application for Thomas Barnum

W.5788 (Martha) Martha (Berry) was going to be 84 in 1851 when she swore a deposition. Thomas and Martha were married November 1797 in Manlius, Onondaga County, NY.

B.L.Wt.2358-160-55

State of New York

Onondaga County SS.

On this eleventh day of September in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before David Manley Esquire vice chancellor of the Seventh Circuit of the State of New York at a Court of Chancery for said state now sitting at the town of Onondaga in the County of Onondaga, Thomas Barnum, a resident of the town of Pompey in the County of Onondaga and state of New York aforesaid aged eighty three years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following names officers and served as herein stated.

And first that he was born in Danbury, Fairfield County & State of Connecticut the 25th day of August 1749, has no record of his age. His Bible in which his age was recorded was taken by the Indians and carried away at the time he was captured by the Indians as herein after stated.

That he moved from Danbury to Balstown in the County of Saratoga and State of New York in the County of Saratoga and State of New York in the winter of 1774 when he bought a new farm and built a log house. In the month of April 1775, he was ordered by Col. James Gordon of the Militia (then his near neighbor, to warn the militia to turn out to hunt Tories and he warned that day half of the company and the next day marched (in serving as a sergeant) about 50 men in the Company under command of Col. Gordon, scouted the woods about a fortnight (the captain of the company was Tyrannus Collins, after being out a fortnight was found by about 50 Continental Soldiers early in the morning and then pressed on and took 40 Tories near Scroon Lake where they were encamped in the woods after making them prisoners they were put in charge of the Regular troops who conducted them to Albany and the militia returned home some time in the month of May of the same year a few days after they got home this declararer with about half the company under Capt. Collins volunteered and pursuant to orders when to [Panum? Town a little distance from Glens Falls were [where] they staid one month past were out upon scouts every day, when home & staid only two days & were called out again and went to Cherry Valley under Captain Stephen White about 40 went from the company to which this declararer belonged, found a regiment of Continentals there don't recollect the names of the officers, staid there a month and [?] cleaning the woods away around the fort. Immediately or within three days after getting home the company were again called out and went to Fort Edward (this declarer went as Sergeant as in former service) under Captain Collins and was then some considerable time during the residue of that summer and was out the greater part of the time except in the winter seasons until the capture of Burgoine which was on the 9th October 1777, it being a new county and many Tories and Indians being near kept the county in a continual adjitation and the company was very frequently called out and uniformly required to furnish themselves with provisions for six days.

That this declarer always turned out and went at every such call as a sergeant and went to Fort Edward several times and to Johnstown, Fort Ann, Fort George, and about the woods up and down the Hudson & Mohawk Rivers and in various places so that he did not raise his provisions but from the length of time since and the frequency of the calls and his going so frequently to the same places he cannot now recollect so as to state the length of time he was out at the several calls, Captain Collins was his captain and usually went when he did.

In the summer of 1777 he went to Fort George & guarded the baggage waggons which conveyed the Military stores from Fort George to Fort Edward while the Northern Army commanded by General Schuyler were retreating from the British Army under Burgoine and assisted in taking up the

bridges and blockading the road and was present at the burning of the barracks at Fort Ann but after Burgoine got possession of Fort Edward, this declarer was permitted to return home, and his hay suffering to be cut began to mow and mowed one day when the country was declared to be with in British lines and he was ordered to move off & he immediately moved his family to Schenectady and then returned to the army and was present and stood under arms half a day with a reserve corps watching and to reinforce the American Army in the first engagement between General Gates and Burgoine but was not called into action. That it is impossible for him to state how long [???] previous to the capture of Burgoine with precision, but from his best recollection and judgment he believes it could not have been less than one year. That he cannot now recollect what became of his sergeant's warrant or whether he had any but it is sure that he served in the capacity of a Sergeant during all the services aforesaid and nor does he recollect of ever receiving a written discharge.

That after the capture of Burgoine's Army the country was comparatively tranquil but was subject tot frequent alarms and this declarant with the rest of the militia were frequently called out and took several tories who came down from the north about the first of October 1780 General Carlton with a number of British and Indians came up Lake Champlain & Lake George & made an attack upon the frontiers & took some persons in Vermont the alarm was given & this declarer volunteered & went with Captain Collins and a number of others from Ballstown and got between Fort Edward and Fort George when this declarer was taken sick with fever & ague and was permitted to to [sic] return & he made the best of his way back home Saturday night, about the same time Captain Collins & others that went out got Home and reported that they went in sight of the British vessels & some the men got aboard and go off & then returned.

But a party of of [sic] 100 tories & 50 Indians had left the main body & came down through the woods by way of Schroon Lake and on Monday night after this declarer got home being the 17th October 1780 came upon them in a woods and took this declarer and 21 others prisoners and after burning houses & barns and killing cattle & hogs and destroying what ever property they could not carry with them, they took the prisoners and plunder and marched off this declarer although he had the fever & ague was found to march and carry his own looking glass naked in his hand and a pack on his back so many that when he sat upon a log he could not raise without help, he this way marched eight days through woods when they came to the lake where the Indians had tied their boats & after getting them into the water got aboard and went down the lake to St. Johns when the Indians got liquor and got drunk many of them, & were very troublesome and wanted to kill the prisoners, but those that kept sober prevented them, when about a mile from St. Johns & encamped, next morning the sober Indians started on with the prisoners leaving the drunken Indians asleep and they did not over take us until we got to [?] when we crossed the St. Lawrence and went to the Indian town staid there two days then they took the prisoners to Montreal and sold them to General Closs [Claus?] who paid for them in blankets and rum we were then held as prisoners of war and were put into the Royal [?] and kept there about a week & then were moved to a large store building in the suburbs of the town where were placed about 200 persons & when we suffered exceedingly for want of wood and provisions they not allowing us fire enough to cook our provisions we were kept in the store house about one year and were then moved to Prisoner Island 45 miles above Montreal where we were kept in Barrack's 12 in a room about another year, while here some of the prisoners among 18 or 20 men by digging under the barracks crawled out and escaped some of them were however taken & brought back.

Late in the fall of 1782 the British Comisary of prisoners Capt. Claws came and told us w were exchanged and told us to get aboard of the boats which we did very quick, and went down the river of Montreal & then got aboard a larger vessel and were taken to Boston were [where] we arrived the day before thanksgiving and were not allowed to land until the day after thanksgiving when we were landed at Dockester's parcel & this declarer was discharged without clothing except our shirt and what other clothing he had on when he was taken away from home and without money or provisions and made the

best of his way home, was supported by the charity of the people on the way; and got home to Danbury Connecticut where he arrived some time in December 1782 where he found part of his family—which had gone there after this declarer was taken prisoner.

That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no persons whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except John Cokely . That since the revolutionary War he has lived in Ballston aforesaid, Greenfield Saratoga County, German Flatts, Herkimer County Manlius and Pompey in Onondaga County in the State of New York in which later place he now lives.

That he never received any written discharge from the service that he is known to Reverend Daniel Marsh, Ephraim Salmon, John DePrey and others in his present neighborhood who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution and he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) Thomas Barnum

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid, the day and year aforesaid. D. Moseley, Circuit Judge.

Letter in file dated March 25, 1837, written in response to a letter of inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter relative to Thomas Barnum, a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

Thomas Barnum was born August 25, 1749 in Danbury, Fairfield County, Connecticut, the names of his parents are not shown. In the winter of 1774 he moved from Danbury, Connecticut, to Ballston, Saratoga County, New York.

While a resident of Ballston, New York, he enlisted in April 1775 and served one half month as sergeant in Captain Tyrannis Collins' Company, Colonels James Gordon's and Jacobus VanSchoonhoven's New York Regiment. He enlisted in May 1775 and served one month as sergeant in Captain Tyrannis Collins' New York Company. He enlisted in July 1775 and served one and one half months as sergeant under Captain Collins at Fort Edwards. He enlisted in the summer of 1776 and served on half month under Captain Steenbergh at Fort Edwards. He enlisted in June 1777 and served one month as sergeant under Captain Stephen White at Cherry Valley. He enlisted in July 1777 and served three weeks in Captain Collins' New York Company. He enlisted and served on half month as sergeant in Captain Collins' New York Company, date not stated. He enlisted about the first of October 1780 and served one half month as sergeant in Captain Collins' New York Company. While at his home in Ballston he was taken prisoner by Tories and Indians on October 17, 1780, carried to Montreal, Canada, and later to Prison Island, forty-five miles above Montreal, and after two years he was exchanged, conveyed by water to Boston and returned home December 6, 1782.

After the Revolutionary War he lived in Greenfield, Saratoga County, New York, German Flats, Herkimer County, New York, Manlius, and Pompey, New York.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 11, 1832, while a resident of Pompey, Onondaga County, New York, his post office address was Jamesville, Onondaga County, New York.

He died September 28, 1837 in Pompey, New York.

Soldier married in October or November 1797 in Manlius, Onondaga County, New York, Martha Berry, a widow, of Onondaga County, New York. The full name of her former husband not shown. She was born September 13, 1867, place and names of her parents not shown. Her maiden name was Nigus.

Soldier's first wife, Achsah or Axey, her maiden name not stated, died in June of the same year of soldier's second marriage.

Soldier's widow, Martha Barnum, was allowed pension on her application executed May 2, 1851 while a resident of Eaton Township, Lorain County, Ohio. In 1846 she was living in Medina, Medina County, Ohio, with David Allen, the husband of one of her daughters. No names of her daughters shown.

In 1832 soldier's son, Thomas Barnum, Jr., was living in Pompey, and aged fifty-nine years.

In 1845 soldier's daughter Achsah or Axey Weston or Western, was living in DeWitt, Onondaga County, New York. She was born in 1784 in Ballston, New York. She had a granddaughter living in 1846, her name not stated. There are no further family data.