

# Barnett Pioneers of Kentucky

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1988

## Nicholas County

Brothers, John Perry Barnett (1764-1828) and Ambrose Barnett (1760-1832), in the fall of 1787 emigrated from Orange County, Virginia to Kentucky. Their company came down the Ohio River and landed at Limestone, now Maysville, Ky. They made their homes in the area of Millersburg, in what later became Nicholas County, Ky.

The two brothers were reportedly great-great-grandsons of Pocahontas. Mrs. Mary A. Bartlett, of Trafalgar, Ind., a granddaughter of John Perry Barnett, in 1923 compiled the booklet "Autobiography of Mary A. Barnett and History of the Barnett Family of Johnson County" [Indiana]. According to Mrs. Barnett's research the relationship was as follows: Pocahontas was the adopted white child of Chief Powhatan. Her parents, James Dare and Eleanor White Dare (daughter of Gov. White), early settlers of the Jamestown colony, had died of swamp fever. Their little daughter, Virginia, was given to an Indian squaw, who in turn gave her to the Chief Powhatan; and he named her Pocahontas. When she became grown she returned to her own race, was baptized and given the Christian name, Rebecca, and married, April 5, 1613, John Rolfe, an Englishman. On a trip to England with her husband, she died of small pox, March 13, 1617, and was buried at Gravesend. Their son, Thomas Smith Rolfe, born 1615, married Jane Poythress in 1638. Only three of their twelve children can be traced:

1. Jane Rolfe, who married Colonel Robert Balling (a descendant of theirs is Edith Balling Wilson, widow of Woodrow Wilson).
2. Anna Rolfe, who married a Frenchman, William Barnett, in 1664 (William Barnett came to America in 1662).
3. John Rolfe, according to Mrs. Mary A. Barnett his grandson visited in Johnson County, Ind. about 70 years ago (circa 1853). A son of William & Anna Rolfe Barnett was Henry J. Barnett, who was born about 1704 in Spotsylvania County (later Orange County), Va. He married twice, Jane Morron and Mary Grundy, and by his two marriages had 24 children. The two youngest sons of Henry J. Barnett & Mary Grundy were Ambrose, born in 1760, and John Perry, born 23 July 1764, in Orange County, Va. Henry J. Barnett died in 1798 on the road from Virginia to Nicholas County, Ky.

Ambrose Barnett enlisted in the Revolutionary Army, in Orange County, Va. On 1 March 1777 and served three years as a private under Capt. Moses Hawkins and Cal. Charles Lewis. He was in the battles at Newark, Stony Point and Germantown. On 30 Sept. 1818 he applied for a pension in Nicholas County, Ky., he was then aged 58. In his widow, Sally's, pension application, it was reported that he died 17 Dec. 1832 in Nicholas County, Ky. and that they

were married 31 Oct. 1781 in Orange County, Va. A record of the births of their children was included in their pension file, they were: \_\_\_?nn, born 12 Mar. 178?; Susanah, born 13 June 1787; Maryan, born 28 Oct. 1789; William, born 11 May 1793; Mariah, born 30 Sept. \_\_\_?; Robert, born 18 Feb. 1799; James, born 29 June 1801; and Sary, born 20 Aug. \_\_\_?

During the Revolution, in Jan. 1779, John Perry Barnett, at the age of 14, enlisted as a fifer in the Army of Virginia. He served two years and was not engaged in any battles. On 2 July 1819, while a resident of Nicholas County, Ky., he applied for and was granted a Revolutionary War pension. John P. Barnett married Elizabeth L. Self on 16 Feb. 1783 in Orange County, Va. An orphan, she was born 17 Aug. 1766 in Orange County, Va. She had a brother and a sister who accompanied them to Kentucky in 1787. Her sister, Sally Self, married John Forney, and they lived and died near Millersburg, Ky. Her brother, George W. Self, was supposedly killed by the Indians, after arriving in Kentucky, while going for a bucket of water outside of the fort.

John P. Barnett was a farmer and a Baptist minister. In 1822 at the age of 58 left Kentucky and moved to Johnson County, Ind. There he settled one mile north of Edinburg, where he entered several hundred acres of land in the fall of that year. He established the first Baptist Church in that county in 1823 (Kentucky Ancestors, Vol.VI, 1971, p.192). John P. Barnett died in Johnson County, Ind., 8 Sept. 1828, and his wife, Elizabeth, on 26 Sept. 1840. They were buried in the Freeman Cemetery in that county.

To John Perry Barnett & Elizabeth Self eleven children were born; the first two were born in Virginia and the others in Nicholas County, Ky. They were:

1. James Barnett, born 23 June 1784, married first Mary Batson 30 Jan. 1806.
2. William, born 27 Sept. 1786, married first Nancy Kerlin 29 Feb. 1808 and second Mary (Chapel) Leach 27 Dec. 1831. William Barnett drowned in a wreck of a steamboat on the Ohio River on 28 Sept. 1854; his first wife was buried in the middle of the county road near Sugar Creek in Johnson County, Ind., at the site a state historical marker was erected bearing the following inscription: "Nancy Kerlin Barnett, Born May 14, 1793 - Died Dec. 1, 1831, married to William Barnett, Feb. 29, 1808. He was born Sept. 27, 1786, drowned in Ohio River Sept. 24, 1854. William was the great-great-great-grandson of Pocahontas and John Rolfe. Daniel G. Duty, 1846-1934, protected his grandmother's grave by staying here with his gun, while the county relocated this cemetery in order to build the road. A concrete slab was placed over the grave, to protect the marker, Aug. 8, 1912."
3. Spencer Barnett, born 28 March 1789, married Sally Henderson, & died in 1869 in Ky.
4. George Barnett, born 28 March 1791, married Lyda Peoples 1 March 1812, and died 27 July 1856 in Missouri.
5. Sarah Barnett, born and died in 1793.
6. Lucy Barnett, born 4 May 1796, married Joseph M. Townsend 1818 in Nicholas County, Ky.
7. Thomas Barnett, born 23 March 1798, married Sally Jackson 1819 in Nicholas County, Ky., and died 10 July 1880 (lived Johnson County, Ind.).
8. John Barnett, born 25 June 1800, married Margaret Jackson, & died 1844 Mason County, Ky.
9. Vinson Barnett, born and died in 1803.

10. Elizabeth Ann Barnett, born 15 Aug. 1806, married Labon Records 24 Feb. 1825, and died 16 July 1859.
11. Ambrose Dudley Barnett, born 24 July 1809, married first Mary Lympus 9 April 1829, died 20 May 1885 Johnson County, Ind.

## **Barnett Pioneers of Kentucky: Lincoln County**

Brothers, Robert (died 1834) and John Barnett (died 1815), were early pioneers of Lincoln County, Ky. Born prior to 1750, they were previously residents of Amherst County, Va. No doubt they were related to the early Barnett pioneers of Ohio and Madison Counties, Ky., who also hailed from the same Virginia county and whose ancestry has been traced to Ireland and the year 1609. Robert, John and John's son, James P., all served in the Revolutionary War.

Robert Barnett first came to Kentucky in 1778. He returned to Virginia and brought his family to Kentucky. He first settled at Bell's Station, in what is now Madison County. When this fort was disbanded he moved to Lincoln County and founded the settlement "Barnett's Station". Robert Barnett during the Revolution was a captain of a company of Lincoln County (Va. later Ky.) militia and was involved in several of the Indian campaigns commanded by Generals George Rogers Clark and Benjamin Logan. A roster of Capt. Robert Barnett's company, dated November 1782, was published in George Rogers Clark and His Men, Military Records 1778-1784 (Harding, The Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Ky., 1951, p.183); in the same list appeared the name of his nephew, James Barnett (son of John). In the 1790 tax list of Lincoln County (Ky.) four Bernetts were listed, they were: (Capt.) Robert, his brother, John, and John's sons, John, Jr. and James. Robert Barnett died on 31 May 1834 and was buried at Barnett's Station in Lincoln County, Ky. On 27 Sept. 1834 his children submitted an application for a Revolutionary War pension, by virtue of their father's service. The application recorded in Lincoln County, Ky. listed the only children and heirs of Capt. Robert Barnett as: Ann Barnett, Hannah Barnett, William P. Barnett and Robert Barnett, Jr., all of Lincoln County, Ky., and Betsy May wife of Benjamin May of Indiana.

John Barnett, brother of Capt. Robert Barnett, between 1762-1780 left Amherst County, Va. and moved to Guilford County, North Carolina. During the Revolution he served in the Virginia Continental Line. His son, James P., in 1780 served as his substitute in the Virginia militia. James P. Barnett in his Revolutionary War pension application, recorded in 1832 in Lincoln County, Ky., stated that he enlisted in March 1781 and was at the Battle of Guilford Court House (occurred on 15 March 1781), after three months service he was discharged and a short time afterwards in the same year left North Carolina and moved to Kentucky. John Barnett, father of James P., and his other children most likely came at the same time. John Barnett and his family settled in Lincoln County, Ky., in 1781 he was granted land on Silver Creek in Lincoln County.

John Barnett continued to reside in Lincoln County until about 1810-14, when he removed with several of his children to Harrison County, Indiana. On 19 Oct. 1814 his son, Alexander Barnett, was issued land there. John Barnett, his son, Alexander, and son-in-laws, Elisha Moore and Elisha Tadlock, were listed on the 1815 tax list of Harrison County, Ind. On 22 March 1815 John Barnett wrote his will and it was recorded in Harrison County, Ind. on 25 Oct. 1816 (will book A, pp.43-44). In it he referred to his wife (not named); sons Alexander & James Barnett; son-in-laws, Elisha Moore & Joseph Hall; grandchildren, Rachael & Samuel Lawrence, their father William Lawrence. John Barnett settled in the part of Harrison County, Ind. which in 1818 became Crawford County, Ind.

John Barnett was married twice and had ten known children:

1. James P., born 1762 Amherst County, Va., died 1834 Lincoln County, Ky., widow named Rebecca.
2. John, Jr., will recorded Lincoln County Ky. in 1805 (will book B, p.272), names:, "my little child Green Barnett", half-sister Polly wife of Elisha Moore, sister Anna wife of Joseph Hall, brother James Barnett, and Anna daughter of Robert Barnett (this was his uncle).
3. Ann married Joseph Hall 31 Dec. 1785 Lincoln County Ky., living in 1832 when she testified on her brother, James P. Barnett's, pension application in Lincoln County Ky.
4. Jesse.
5. Nancy.
6. Mary married Elisha Moore 9 June 1794 Lincoln County Ky., living Harrison (Crawford) County, Ind. in 1815.
7. Rachel married Samuel Lawrence 7 July 1799 Lincoln County Ky.
8. Jane married William Lawrence 3 Nov. 1800 Lincoln County, Ky.
9. Alexander married Mary Faith 8 July 1797 Hardin County, Ky., moved from Lincoln County Ky. to Crawford County, Ind. about 1814, died 1821-1822 Crawford County Ind.
10. Lucinda married Elisha Tadlock 23 Aug. 1812 Harrison County, Ind., lived Crawford County, Ind.

[Also recorded in the early marriages of Lincoln County, Ky. were: William Barnett to Mary Bell 4 Apr. 1785 & Matthew Adams to Esther Barnett 8 Mar. 1788].

## **Barnett Pioneers of Kentucky: Madison County**

Between 1787-1789 members of the family of Robert Barnett, deceased, and Mary Montgomery, journeyed to Kentucky and settled in Madison County. Robert Barnett died in 1787; his will was recorded on 4 June 1787 in Amherst County, Va. Born 1725-1730 in County Derry, Ireland, he was the son of James Barnett & Jane Johnson. His grandparents, John Barnett & Jeanette Power, immigrated from the Emerald Isle 1725-1730 and settled in Lancaster County, Pa. After his grandfather's death, 1 Sept. 1734, his father, James, and his uncle, Robert, and their families, removed to Amherst County, Va. About 1745 Robert Barnett (died 1787) married Mary

Montgomery. The daughter of Alexander & Mary Montgomery, she was born in 1726. Following Robert's death, Mary, moved to Madison County, Ky., where she died 20 Jan. 1808. Her will, written 14 Nov. 1807, was recorded in Feb. 1808 Madison County (will book A, p. 429). She probably went to Madison County about 1788 when several of her children 'moved there. Her son, James Barnett, appears in the 1789 tax list of Madison County. In Madison County on 7 Oct. 1789 two of her daughters were married; Elizabeth married John C. Moran and Rachel married Joseph Barnett. One source indicates that another daughter, Jane, and her husband Alexander Barnett, came to Kentucky from Amherst County, Va. in 1788 (bible record of their grandson Joseph C. Barnett, History of No Creek, Ohio County, Kentucky, Harry D. Tinsley, Robert Printing Co., Frankfort, Ky., 1953, p.41); their family settled in Ohio County, Ky. Another daughter of Robert & Mary Montgomery Barnett was in Kentucky prior to 1788; Mary married her second husband, William Barnett, in Lincoln County, Ky. on 4 April 1785. The early Barnett pioneers of Madison, Ohio and Lincoln Counties, Ky. were related, all coming from Amherst County, Va.

Robert Barnett & Mary Montgomery had nine known children:

1. Jane Barnett was born 5 May 1748. On 26 Jan. 1769 she married Alexander Barnett, a first cousin of her father. In 1788 they came from Virginia and settled at Barnett's Station in Ohio County, Ky. She died 14 July 1825 and was buried in the Alexander Cemetery in Ohio County, Ky.
2. James Barnett was born 16 Jan. 1750. He served in the Revolution, in 1776 he was an Ensign in Amherst County, Va. and he was a lieutenant in the 6th Va. Reg. of Mordica Buckner. By 1789 he was living in Madison County, Ky., where he married Marcy Hawkins on 4 March 1790. In Madison County, Ky. on 31 May 1808 he applied for a Revolutionary War pension, which was granted. In Madison County he died on 27 Aug. 1835. His wife, Marcy, was the daughter of Nathan Hawkins, and she was living in 1843.
3. John Barnett was born in 1752. He was one of six Barnetts listed in the 1800 tax list of Madison County, Ky.; the others being, his brother, James, and George, Joseph, William & William. He married twice; his first wife was Rebecca Morrison. In Madison County, Ky. on 25 May 1806 he married second Susannah Standley.
4. Rebecca Barnett was born in 1755 and married Joseph Moore on 15 Jan. 1782. The Joseph Moore who was listed in the 1800 Madison County, Ky. tax list may be her husband.
5. Ann Barnett.
6. Alexander Barnett.
7. Elizabeth Barnett was born in the 1760's. In Madison County, Ky. she married John Cleveland Moran on 7 Oct. 1789. John Moran is listed in the 1800 Madison County tax list. In the 1830 Madison County census John Moran and his wife were listed as being aged 70 to 80.
8. Mary Barnett was born in 1761. On 10 Oct. 1781 she married Samuel Bell. She married second William Barnett on 4 April 1785 in Lincoln County, Ky. Her husband is probably one of the two William Barnetts who were listed on the 1800 Madison County tax list.
9. Rachel Barnett was born in 1763. In Madison County, Ky. she married Joseph Barnett on 7 Oct. 1789. A Joseph Barnett was listed on the 1800 Madison County tax list. She died in 1813.

## **Barnett Pioneers of Kentucky: Ohio County**

The following are three accounts of an Indian attack upon Barnett's Station near Hartford, Ohio County, Ky., in April 1790.

History of Kentucky, Lewis Collins, 1847, & Richard H. Collins, 1877:

"Early Settlement" - The immediate vicinity of Hartford was settled at a very early period, and was often the scene of bloody strife and acts of noble daring. Hartford and Barnett's stations were about two miles apart, and although never regularly besieged, were frequently harassed by straggling parties of Indians, and a number of persons who imprudently ventured out of sight of the stations [were] killed or captured. The following facts were derived in 1846 from Stephen Statler, a pioneer, and a venerable and esteemed citizen of Ohio County.

In April, 1790, the Indians waylaid Barnett's Station, and killed two of the children of John Anderson. One of the party assaulted Mrs. Anderson with a sword, inflicted several severe wounds upon her person, and while [the Indian was] in the act of taking off her scalp, John Miller ran up within about twenty steps, and snapped his rifle at him. The Indian fled, leaving his sword, but succeeded in carrying off the scalp of Mrs. Anderson. She, however, recovered and lived some ten or twelve years afterwards. The same party captured and carried off Hannah Barnett, a daughter of Colonel Joseph Barnett, then a girl of about ten years of age. They retained her as a captive until October of the same year, when, through the instrumentality of her brother-in-law, Robert Baird, she was recovered and restored to her friends.

Ohio County, Kentucky In The Olden Days, Harrison D. Taylor, Regional Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1969 (originally published 1926), pp.10-11:

There are some facts in relation to the killing of the Anderson children that were omitted in the narrative published by Collins. The omissions are embraced in the following version: Several women and children had left Barnett's Station to attend preaching in Hartford. The Indians had no doubt seen their tracks and waylaid them on their return. The road crossed a deep ravine less than a fourth of a mile from the fort. The Indians had concealed themselves in this ravine, covered with cane, and rushed upon the party as they passed, killing Mrs. Anderson's two children by dashing their heads against the root of a tree, and tomahawking and scalping Mrs. Anderson, who, however, survived and lived some years afterwards. They carried off Miss Barnett, quite a small but handsome girl. The appearance of John Miller - usually called Tick-eyed John - who happened to be near the place, and armed as usual, no doubt saved the lives of the others of the party. Harrison Taylor, Jr., had just arrived at the fort and was sitting with his gun across his lap when the screams of the women and children were heard. Springing to his feet he ran to the gate and saw an Indian running at his utmost speed through a small field that adjoined the fort. He gave chase and was gaining on the Indian, but as they were approaching the

fence on the outside of which was thick undergrowth, he saw at a glance that his only chance was to fire before the Indian crossed the fence. He fired, but with a loud "Ugh!" the Indian disappeared. A few drops of blood was all that was found afterwards.

Joseph Barnett and Alexander Barnett, Pioneers of Ohio County, Kentucky, Their Antecedents and Descendants, manuscript written about 1934 by Miss Mary Barnett (of Owensboro, Ky.), 37 pages, copy at the Kentucky Library, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky.:

The story of this capture of Hannah Barnett by Indians as given me by Mrs. Hannah Virginia Cahill, granddaughter of Hannah, is as follows [ed. note – Virginia Myers Cahill was the daughter of Elijah Myers, Jr., granddaughter of Elijah Myers & Hannah Barnett and great-granddaughter of Joseph Barnett & Abigail Mills]:

When Hannah was a little girl, four or five years old (she was born in 1779), one day her father found an Indian boy in the woods with a broken leg. He took him home, set the leg, nursed him until he was able to travel, and either gave him a pony and sack of food, or loaned him the pony to go back to his tribe, by whom he had been given up for dead. I believe the pony was given the boy. His tribe was passing through the country and the boy was out hunting, climbed a tree, fell, and broke his leg. He was made a pallet of skins before the fire, so it must have been cold weather, and Hannah usually took him his water to drink, etc.

In April of 1790, when Hannah was about ten years of age, a camp meeting was in progress at Hartford, and some relative of the family was either conducting it or assisting. One day the women and children from the Station, about forty in number, gathered for morning services. There had been peace with the Indians and the settlers were off their guard. As these worshipers were returning to the Station, at a point not far from the gate they were set upon by the Indians. Some were killed and some scalped. Hannah ran into a clump of bushes to hide. Two Indians discovered her, and as they raised their tomahawks to kill her a young chief sprang between her and them. He claimed her as his trophy. The other Indians were very angry and wanted to kill her anyway since they were on the warpath and didn't want to be burdened with prisoners. But being a chieftain he had the right to take his captive. This was the most influential chief of his tribe, son of their medicine woman, and the boy whose leg Hannah's father had set. He had recognized her. He took her on his pony and carried her back to their camp and gave her into his mother's care. He left pieces of her dress in the bushes, and removed her shoe and made some sign in it to let her people know she was alive.

She said the medicine woman kept her with her all the time, they slept side by side at night, and when the Indians were drunk she hid her in hollow trees or in bunches of moss, and also hid her when white traders came about. Finally, the next fall, one came whom Hannah was permitted to see by stealth, the other Indians being always on the watch. The trader carried the glad news to her family that she was alive, and when he went back for his next lot of skins her brothers and a large number of men, about 300, went with him. They were to wait at a certain

point down the river. The trader thought he would be able to get Hannah away at a certain time, and tried to get all the Indians drunk so that he could get her away while they were asleep, but they were suspicious and watched Hannah and the young thief and their medicine woman, so the trader was considerably longer in getting away from the Indian camp than he expected, and the men, becoming uneasy, moved much nearer the Indian camp.

The trader finally succeeded in getting his load in the canoe - Hannah was rolled inside a lot of skins, and this roll either the chief or the trader carried on his shoulder and tossed it into the canoe and started down the river. He hadn't been gone long when the Indians found that Hannah was missing, rushed to their canoes, and gave chase down the river, the chief making as much to do as any of them. The trader reached the opposite bank where the rescuers were, just as the Indians were about to catch him.

The chief called a parley, and they went ashore, and the pipe of peace was smoked between that family of white men and that tribe of Indians - the white man had saved the chief's life, and the chief had saved the white man's child. They gave them some symbol by which this was to be known, and father said that they were not troubled any more.

Hannah said the medicine woman and her son did everything they could to make her comfortable.

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In 1934 a large bronze plate was placed at the site of Barnett's Station, on it was the following inscription:

Barnett's Station - Established by the Brothers Joseph Barnett and Alexander Barnett February 1783 or prior thereto - One of the first three Forts erected in Western Kentucky - It was the scene of an Indian raid in April 1 790 - This tablet was placed by descendants of the brothers, Ohio County Historical Society, Fort Hartford Chapter D.A.R., Ohio County Post 44 American Legion - Dedicated May 27, 1934.

In 1973 the Kentucky Highway Department Marker program and the Kentucky Historical Society placed a marker commemorating. Barnett's Station on Highway 69 at the junction of Barnett' s Station road, near the Green River Parkway. The marker has this on it:

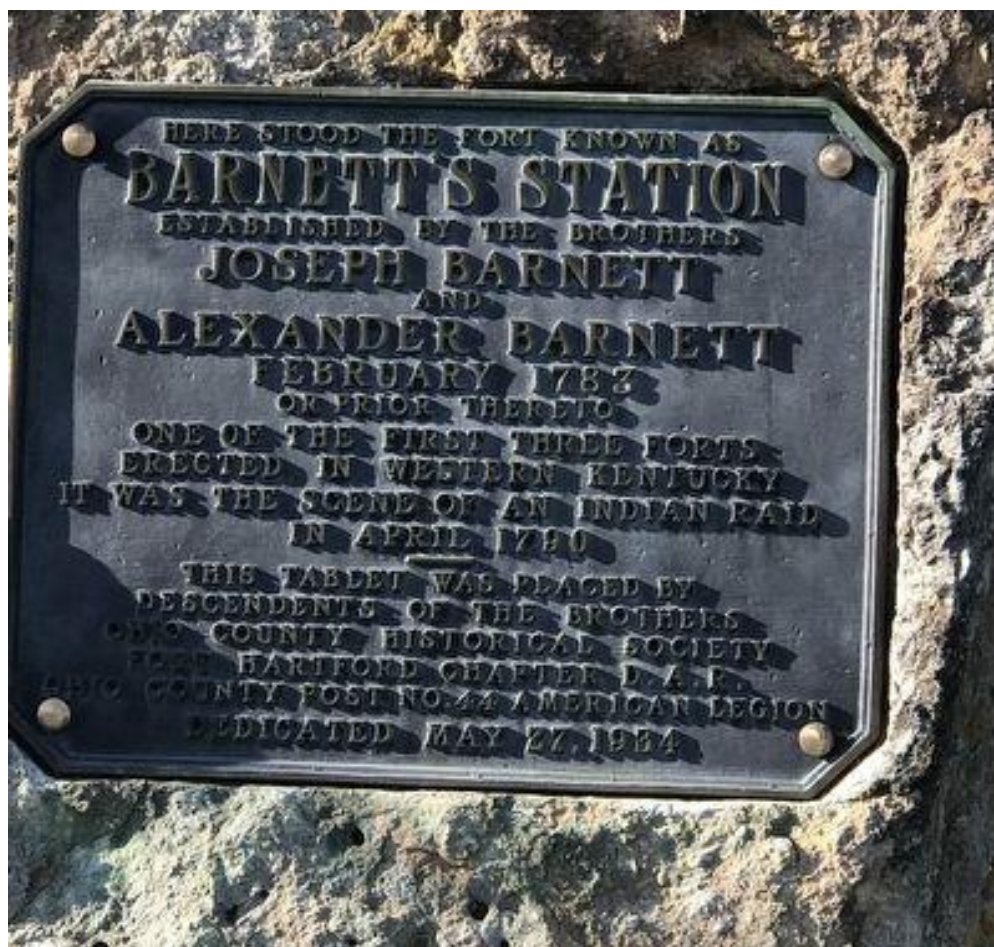
#### BARNETT'S STATION

Site of one of the earliest forts erected in this area. Established by brothers Joseph and Alexander Barnett who came from Virginia to Kentucky in early 1780's. Settlement was frequently raided by Indians. During an attack in April 1790, two children were killed and Hannah Barnett, the ten-year-old daughter of Joseph, carried off and held captive for six months.





May, 1934: Unveiling Barnett's Fort Marker near Hartford, May 1934. You may purchase a large copy of this old photo for 50¢ at the Times-News office.





### **Additional information by Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky.**

Joseph Barnett was born on 4 Oct. 1731 and his brother, Alexander, on 3 Aug. 1745. Joseph is believed to have been born in Lancaster County, Pa., while Alexander was born in Virginia (probably in what was subsequently Amherst County). They were the sons of Robert Barnett & Rachel Ann Montgomery and grandsons of John Barnett & Jeanette Power and John Montgomery & Mary Rankins. Robert Barnett & his wife were both natives of Londonberry, Ireland; he having been born on 10 March 1701 and his wife in 1703. Between 1717-1730 Robert Barnett, with his parents and others of his family, emigrated from Ireland and settled in Lancaster County, Pa. Robert Barnett and his brother, James (born 23 May 1703) removed to Virginia between 1734-1750; they resided in what was later Amherst County and what is now Nelson County, Va. Robert's son, Alexander Barnett, later married James' granddaughter, Jane Barnett. Robert Barnett died in Amherst County, Va. in 1773-1774.

Joseph Barnett and his younger brother, Robert, were in Braddock's campaign against Fort Duquesne in 1755, the latter being killed. Joseph was also in the successful campaign against the fort some two years later. Joseph remained at the fort, then called Ft. Pitt (later Pittsburgh, Pa.), as a member of the garrison; therefore becoming separated from his parents and

brothers and sisters in Virginia. At Ft. Pitt he was married to Abigail Mills about 1764. In 1771 Joseph Barnett received a certificate for land on the Cheat River, in Union Precinct, Monongalia district, Old West Augusta County, Va. On 19 March 1773 he was licensed a minister from the Great Bethel Baptist Church in Beesontown (now Uniontown) in the same district. In 1777 Joseph was preaching at Georges Creek Church and in the same year was a messenger to the Virginia Association. The following year he was moderator of Pattersons Creek Church, located probably in what is now Mineral County, West Va.

Family narratives state that when the Revolutionary War came Joseph Barnett joined the northern wing of the army, while his brother, Alexander, who was still in Virginia, joined the southern branch. The brothers reportedly met for the first time in 20 years at the Battle of Yorktown (October 1781) and here decided to meet in Kentucky during the following year. This claim seems to be at variance with the fact that Joseph Barnett was supposed to be the same Joseph Barnett who was a minister in the area of what is now Hardin and Nelson Counties, Ky., at close to the same time.

Both Joseph and Alexander Barnett are believed to have been in Kentucky prior to 1781. Alexander is thought to be the Alexander Barnett, who is recorded as having been a member of Daniel Boone's party of 17 men who embarked on a campaign against the Indians, known as the Paint Creek Expedition, about 1 Aug. 1778. Among the descendants of Alexander Barnett of Ohio County, Ky. it was related that he had been with Boone. In an article on Joseph Barnett published in the Kentucky Register, Vol.5, 1953, pp.81-83, it was stated that the land records of Jefferson County [Ky.] show that Joseph Barnett was in, what is today Ohio County, by August 1779. In file 32 of the Ohio County Circuit Court Office is a copy of an old deed which shows entry of land in Ohio County in the name of Joseph Barnett, one of the lines of the tract was marked by a beech tree standing near a lick and on the tree was carved "J. Barnett his lick 1779" [source Mary Barnett]. If Joseph Barnett did visit Ohio County in 1779 and marked off land there, he was one of the earliest, if not the first white man, to have been in its territory. After coming to Kentucky Joseph Barnett and his family stayed for short periods at the fort at Elizabethtown, now in Hardin County, and at Rogers Station, in what is now Nelson County. In Jillion's Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds, under Jefferson entries, the first land listed as being registered in the name of Joseph Barnett, was on 7 April 1781, when he entered 100 acres at James Rogers Preemption (probably at Rogers Station).

On 17 June 1781 Joseph Barnett was one of the preachers who constituted Severn's Valley Baptist Church, in what is now Hardin County, Ky. On 4 July 1781 the Cedar Creek Baptist Church, five miles southwest of Bardstown (Nelson County) Ky. was founded and Joseph Barnett was installed as its first pastor. About this same time period he also served as pastor of the Streight Creek Baptist Church for four years.

In the winter of 1782 Joseph Barnett, and possibly his brother, Alexander, journeyed to what is now Ohio County, Ky. and began the construction of a fort about December of that year.



In February 1783, upon the completion of the Barnett's Station fort, Joseph Barnett moved his family there. During the period of its construction his family was at Rogers Station (Nelson County); the tombstone of Joseph's son, Alexander, indicates that he was born at Rogers Station on 1 Oct. 1782. In Jillson's Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds, the first land entered by Joseph Barnett on Rough Creek, near which Barnett's Station was located, was on 8 Jan. 1783, when he entered 643 3/4 acres. On 20 June of the same year he entered a survey of 37,000 acres on Rough Creek; during his first year of residence at Barnett's Station he surveyed and entered in his name about 47,000 acres.

Upon the completion of Barnett's Station circa Feb. 1783 Alexander Barnett's family was not in Kentucky. Several sources indicate he did not bring his family from Amherst County, Va. to Ohio County, Ky. until 1788. The tombstone of Alexander's son, Robert, shows that he was born in Amherst County, Va. on 24 March 1784 and the bible of Alexander's grandson, Joseph. C. Barnett (son of Robert), shows that his father, Robert, came to Kentucky with his father's family in 1788. It is, however, believed that Alexander Barnett was in Kentucky, with his brother Joseph, during the construction of Barnett's Station, five years earlier.

The first available tax list for the territory that is now Ohio County, Ky. is the 1785 tax list of Nelson County (Ky.) Nelson County was formed on 1 Jan. 1785 from Jefferson County. In June of 1785 a list of the new county's tithables was ordered and for that purpose the county was divided into seven districts. The seven lists were, returned in July 1785 and a total of 920 tithables were listed in all. One of the lists was compiled by Joseph Barnett, his district included the southern waters of Rolling and Beach Forks westwardly of the waters of Hardin's Creek, it would have included part if not all of what is now Ohio County. In Joseph Barnett's 5 list are the names of other early pioneers of Ohio County, including John Anderson, Aaron, Sr. & Jr., Benjamin & Peter Atherton, William Downs, Abraham Hornback, Thomas Smith and Phillip Taylor. In the list there are two Barnetts, Joseph & William; Alexander Barnett was not listed in the 1785 Nelson County tax list, suggesting that he was not then a resident of the area. The William Barnett may be the brother of Joseph & Alexander; they had a brother, William, who was born about 1740, married Sally Graves and who died in 1806, according to the family record of Miss Mary Barnett, but the place of his residence was not indicated. According to the book, History of No Creek, Ohio County, Kentucky, by Harry D. Tinsley (c.1953, p.47), William Baird, a brother of Robert Baird who married a daughter of Joseph Barnett and who had operated a tanyard in Hartford (Ohio County), in 1794 in the company of William Barnett left and went to Fort Washington, now Cincinnati, to join "Mad" Anthony Wayne's Army of the Northwest.

Rev. Joseph Barnett, on 29 Oct. 1785 at the formation of the Salem Baptist Association at a meeting held on Cox's Creek in Nelson County, delivered the introductory sermon and he served as the first Moderator. In 1785 he returned to the pastorate of Cedar Creek Church for a short time. Joseph Barnett does not appear to have been a pastor of any organized church following 1785 and was probably no longer active as a minister. In the period from the formation of Nelson County until 20 Feb. 1793, the date of the formation of Hardin County, the parent

county of Ohio County (formed in 1798) only two marriages were recorded as having been performed by Joseph Barnett: on 28 April 1789 he married, Benjamin Huff & Polly Hardin, and during 1785-1793 he officiated at the marriage of James Hendricks & Polly Mills (actual date missing). The latter may possibly be related to Joseph's wife, Abigail Mills; at the time of the 1810 Ohio County census a Harrison Hendricks, born 1784-1794, was listed immediately after Jacob Barnett, a son of Joseph.

Following 1785 Joseph Barnett's time was no doubt occupied by his duties as deputy surveyor and justice of the peace of Nelson County, as well as conducting his own personal business, dealing with his extensive land speculation. By the date of 26 Aug. 1786 he was serving in the office of justice of the peace, then the most influential position in the operation of the county government. In February 1793, upon the formation of Hardin County, he was sworn in as one of the three judges of that county's Quarter Sessions Court. To attend the sessions of the court at Elizabethtown, he had to travel a distance of about 75 miles, a journey of about three days on horseback. While attending court at Elizabethtown Joseph Barnett died and he was buried in the Elizabethtown Cemetery. An old law suit records that he died, in November 1795 (source - Mary Barnett). This date is supported by the fact that he is not listed in the 1796 tax book of Hardin County, Ky. On 14 Dec. 1796 the Kentucky legislature passed an act vesting the administration of his vast estate in commissioners, which was required by the fact he had died leaving no will and the quantity of his land dealings. Most of his land was subsequently lost in litigations of the court and his family never received title to the thousands of acres he had claimed. Joseph Barnett's widow, Abigail, is believed to have died following 1795. Miss Mary Barnett in her history of the family speculates that she later married Samuel McGrady. At the time of the 1810 Ohio County census living in the home of Jacob Barnett, the youngest son of Joseph & Abigail, and who was then still single and aged about 25, was a woman over the age of 45.

The children of Joseph Barnett & Abigail Mills were:

1. Robert Barnett, born 1765-1775, married Rachel Barnett 3 Jan. 1796 Hardin County, Ky. She was his cousin, a daughter of Alexander & Jane (Barnett) Barnett. He died in 1799 and was probably buried in an unmarked grave in a family cemetery near Narrows, Ohio County, Ky. on what in recent years was the Joseph Shultz farm, his wife Rachel's is the only grave now marked by a tombstone. They had one son, Joseph.
2. Nancy Ann Barnett, born 24 July 1767, married Robert Baird 15 Sept. 1785. She died 22 June 1835 Ohio County, Ky.; was buried at the Alexander Cemetery, Ohio County, Ky.
3. Joseph Barnett, born about 1771, married Jane Barnett 20 July 1799 Ohio County, Ky. She was his cousin, a daughter of Alexander & Jane (Barnett) Barnett. He died 20 Sept. 1823 and was buried in the Alexander Cemetery, Ohio County, Ky. Their children were: Felix married Sally A. Campbell, Thomas Alexander married Rachel Elizabeth Baird, Elizabeth died single, Abigail married William Cooper Rowan, and Joseph died infancy.
4. Hannah, born 1779, in April 1790 she was captured by the Indians at Barnett's Station and remained in captivity until October 1790. In Ohio County, Ky. on 20 June 1802 she

married Elijah Myers. Between 1810-1819 they moved to St. Charles County, Missouri Territory, where they were residents on 22 Jan. 1819 when they recorded a land deed involving her father's lands, recorded Kentucky Court of Appeals Deed Book T, page 3. They had a son, Elijah, Jr. and probably others. Another son may have been Barnett Myers, born ca 1800 Ky., who in 1850 was living Lincoln County, Mo.

5. Alexander Barnett., born 1 Oct. 1782 Rogers Station, Nelson County, Ky. Never married. Died 21 Sept. 1844 and was buried at the Alexander Cemetery, Ohio County, Ky.
6. Jacob Mills Barnett, born about 1785 probably Barnett's Station, Ohio County, Ky. Married Martha Lewellen 27 Aug. 1812 Ohio County, Ky. Left Ohio County following 1820.

Alexander Barnett, brother of Joseph, on 26 Jan. 1769 married Jane Barnett. Her father was a first cousin to Alexander; her grandfather, James Barnett, and Alexander's father, Robert, being brothers. The daughter of Robert Barnett & Mary Montgomery, she was born on 5 May 1748. Several members of her family settled in Madison County, Ky. about the same time they removed to Ohio County, Ky. A letter, written by her brother, James Barnett of Madison County, to Mrs. Jane Barnett of Ohio County, dated October 1819, is preserved in the family. This James Barnett is mentioned in Collin's History of Kentucky, Vol.II, p.524. He was a captain in the Revolutionary War, serving under Washington, and was with him in the crossing of the Delaware. He was also Colonel of one of three regiments in General George Rogers Clark's last expedition against the Indians, and was later a member of the Kentucky Legislature.

In Jillson's Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds, Jefferson entries, the first land registered in the name of Alexander Barnett was a tract of 1000 acres on the Green River. Alexander Barnett and his family after moving to Ohio County, Ky. in 1788 lived first at Barnett's Station and later in Hartford. At the first court of Hardin County in February 1793 he was appointed one of the justices of the Hardin County Court. In Sept. 1797 he received a grant of 2000 acres on Rough Creek, a short time afterwards he moved to this tract from Hartford. This farm was located about 2 & ½ miles north of Hartford, just east of the Hartford-Owensboro Road (Highway 231). In Ohio County's first tax list, in 1799, he was shown as owning this tract of 2000 acres as well as two other tracts in Ohio County, 400 acres on Green River and 27 acres on Rough Creek, and a tract of 600 acres in Green County, Ky. By a deed dated 14 Oct. 1809 he set aside a 6 acre lot for the purpose of a cemetery on his 2000 acre farm. He and his wife, seven of their nine children, as well as three of his brother, Joseph Barnett's children and many descendants of both brothers are buried in the "Alexander Cemetery" on the old farm of Alexander Barnett. The farm adjoining the cemetery, part of Alexander Barnett's 2000 acre grant, was passed from him to his daughter, Rebecca Baird (w/o James), to her daughter, Jane M. wife of John Bennett Stevens, to her daughter, Mary E. wife of Alexander C. Ellis and to her son, Sam Ellis. Upon the death of Sam Ellis's widow, Tiny, in 1963 the farm was sold, after having been in the family for 166 years.

Alexander Barnett died at the age of 73 on 16 Feb. 1819 in Ohio County, Ky. His wife, Jane, died on 14 July 1825 at the age of 77. To them nine children were born:

1. Mary Barnett, born in 1770 Va., never married. She died 12 Jan. 1814 and was buried at the Alexander Cemetery, Ohio County, Ky.
2. Jane Barnett, born in 1772 Va., married Joseph Barnett, son of Joseph Barnett & Abigail Mills. They were married on 20 July 1799 and their marriage license was the first to be recorded in Ohio County, Ky. after its formation. She died 23 May 1828 and was buried at the Alexander Cemetery, Ohio County, Ky.
3. Rachel Barnett, born 8 May 1774 Va., married Robert Barnett 3 Jan. 1796 Hardin County, Ky. He was a son of Joseph Barnett & Abigail Mills. Her husband died in 1799 and she remarried on 20 Jan. 1803 to Thomas Sprigg in Ohio County, Ky. Six months later she died on 13 Aug. 1803. She was buried in a Barnett family cemetery near Narrows, Ohio County, Ky. Hers is the only grave in the cemetery now marked by a monument. Her husband, Robert Barnett, was probably also buried here and possibly his mother, Abigail Mills wife of Joseph Barnett, also lies here in an unmarked grave. Rachel Barnett Sprigg's monument, has the following inscription: "In Memory of Rachel Sprigg who departed this life on the 13th of August, 1803, at 1 o'clock p.m., aged 29 years three months and five days. Done by Joseph Barnett, son of the deceased." The latter was their only child, born 28 Nov. 1798, he was orphaned at the age of 4. He was raised by his grandparents, Alexander & Jane Barnett. He married Mary Skillern Midkiff and Charlotte Stevens and died in Ohio County, Ky. on 19 Nov. 1860.
4. Rebecca Barnett, born 31 Oct. 1777 Va., married James Baird 24 Oct. 1803 Ohio County, Ky. Her husband served as sheriff of Ohio County. She died on 15 Sept. 1858 and was buried at the Alexander Cemetery, Ohio County, Ky. Their children were: Rachel Elizabeth married Thomas Alexander Barnett, Jane H. married John Bennett Stevens, William Lynn married Nancy Wallace, Mary married William M. Stevens, James Perry drowned at the age of 13, Sally Ann married David Lowery Barnett and Alexander Barnett married Sally Mary Barnett.
5. Sarah Barnett, born 10 Feb. 1782 Va., never married. She died 6 Jan. 1862 and was buried at the Alexander Cemetery, Ohio County, Ky.
6. Elizabeth Barnett, born in 1779 Va., died single in 1798.
7. Robert Barnett, born 24 March 1784 Amherst County, Va. He was an officer in the Indian wars, serving as a Captain in Hopkins' campaign against the Indians in the War of 1812. He afterward served as county surveyor of Ohio County for 20 years. He married Elizabeth Condict 26 March 1816 Ohio County, Ky. His wife dying in 1830 he married second Mrs. Elizabeth (Allen) Bennett 28 Oct. 1834 Ohio County, Ky. The daughter of John Allen and widow of Reuben Bennett, she was both in Penns. on 8 Oct. 1796; her grandfather was the famous Col. Ethan Allen, hero of the Battle of Fort Ticonderoga in 1775, she died after 1870. Robert Barnett died 23 Au.1865 and was buried at the Alexander Cemetery, Ohio County, Ky. His children, all by his first wife, were: Alexander Montgomery (m. Martha Timmons), Joseph Condict (m. Frances D. Bennett & Mildred A. Tinsley Bennett), Elvira Theodocia (m. Allen Benton), Lucinda Jane (m. John L. Woodward), Robert Emmitt (m. Amanda Phipps), Elizabeth Caroline (m. Stephen Woodward) & Morris Harper (m. Ellen Stevens).
8. Lucretia Barnett, born 20 Aug. 1786 Va., married Samuel Bennett 31 May 1810 Ohio County, Ky. died 15 Nov. 1854 buried Alexander Cemetery, Ohio County, Ky. They had: Charles Nelson (m. Martha Lindley), Mary Jane (m. Nathaniel Stevens), Amanda (m. John Douglas), Alexander Barnett (m. Frances Ann Benton) & Robert P.

9. Joseph Barnett, born 1790 & died 1795.

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