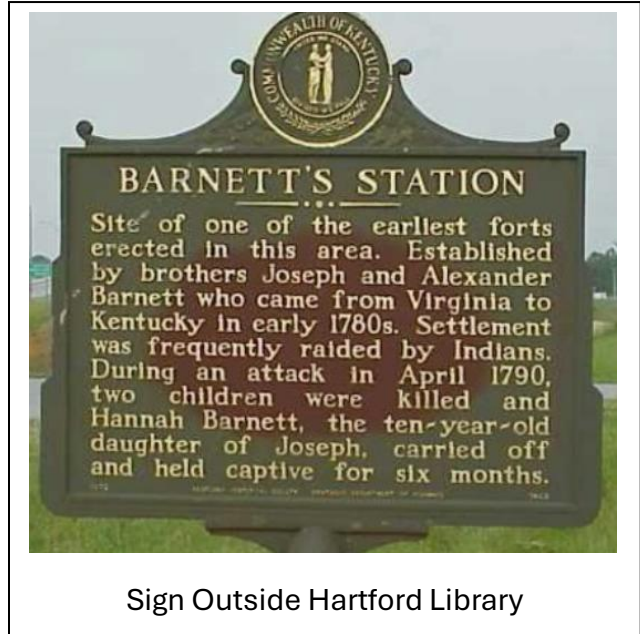


Before Barnett's Station

By Vic Barnett

Ohio County Kentucky families should be very proud of their part in building America. I remember this as we celebrate our 250th anniversary this year. Let me be clear that this paper is intended to be but one story to remember our history. I will provide the story that led the Barnett brothers to establish Barnett's Station in what is now Hartford, but in telling this story, I want to encourage others to bring forward the stories of their families, and how ancestors of residents of Ohio County have also played major roles. There are many rich stories of our county. Many of our ancestors are buried in Ohio County today. Let's not bury their stories.



Often people view the family tree as the ultimate in tracing one's genealogy, but to me it is just the "roadmap" from which to look for the stories. We can't talk to our ancestors, but we know the history through which they lived and thus we can imagine the rich stories they could tell. These stories are not isolated blips but scenes which when placed together provide a flow of history. This year the country celebrates 250 years. Let us start with the story of the Barnett brothers and what led to their adventure to Kentucky.

Tracing genealogy and history for us all involves asking questions of "why." Why did they leave and why did they come to a new location. This is often called the "push-pull" philosophy used in tracing family movements and the reasons behind their journeys.

Owning land played a very important part in the Barnett family like many others. Land requires labor, but with land comes opportunity, improvement, and hope for the future. In my Barnett family, the journey starts in Scotland, then Ulster (Northern) Ireland, then the colonies (Pennsylvania), then Virginia and eventually Kentucky. Ohio county Kentucky was the springboard to many other destinations. Behind it all was the motivation to own land.

In Europe most of the land was owned by royalty or the wealthy. The unique opportunity to own land was almost impossible and an unreachable dream. This story chronicles one family's journey to own land. It is a common story.

Like owning land, another theme that runs through this discussion is the network and dependency on "family". Most had special loyalty to family and stayed close. This was due to the uncertainty of the times and the vast unknowns confronting the world. Young people were taught a trade usually by the family. This was especially relevant in moving from one location to another. You could usually depend on getting assistance from your family when times were hard, you needed advice, you wanted help and you required the necessities of life.

Another major theme which flows through the following story is one of faith and dedication to their religion. This commitment to faith in God not only played a part in the family but in the individual family member's internal guideposts. Often a church leader led members of his congregation from Europe to America. Religious conviction also shows up as a commitment to a higher good, should it be a family member, a church, a country and others. We will encounter that later in slavery.

The Barnett family journey winds through Ulster like so many other Scotch Irish families. I do not have definitive records before Ulster. I do have church records with remarkable accuracy from Londonderry Ireland. This paper will describe the journey from this point in Ulster, to Pennsylvania, to Virginia and then Kentucky.

In Scotland and Ulster, the Barnett family were involved with wool manufacturing which means sheep farms and wool production. William Barnett is the first that I can prove in my line. I doubt that he was wealthy but probably had a place supporting the Ulster Plantation landlords. The Plantation was created by King James I of England (James VI of Scotland) when the Protestants took the land from the Catholic landowners in the early 1600s. They resided in the North of Ulster around the Londonderry area. My 6 great grandfather John Barnett was born in 1678 in this area. The Londonderry Minster in the center of



The Londonderry Minster

John Barnett – Registered birth here 1678

the old walled city has his birth records including the attendants and family members.

Londonderry or Derry, as the locals called the Walled City, was a major port for ships between England and Colonial America. I have visited the Ulster American Park in Ulster where they depict the life in those times in Ulster and the ship voyage to America. Typically, these ships brought tobacco, lumber, rice, indigo, dried fish, tobacco and iron back to England. These merchant sailing ships returned to America until the empty underdeck spaces were sold to people wanting to go to America. The price of these voyages was one year's earnings per person or one pound in the early 1700s. John Barnett brought his wife and family over to America. The family at this time would include: John (Sr) and his wife Jeanette Powers, John (Jr) and his wife Jane Johnson, Robert and his wife Rachael Montgomert, and several others. My 5th great grandfather Robert Barnett (1703) was newly married to Rachael Ann Montgomery in 1729. They departed in late 1729 or 1730 leaving family members to never see them again.



Derry Quay (Docks) in early 1700s

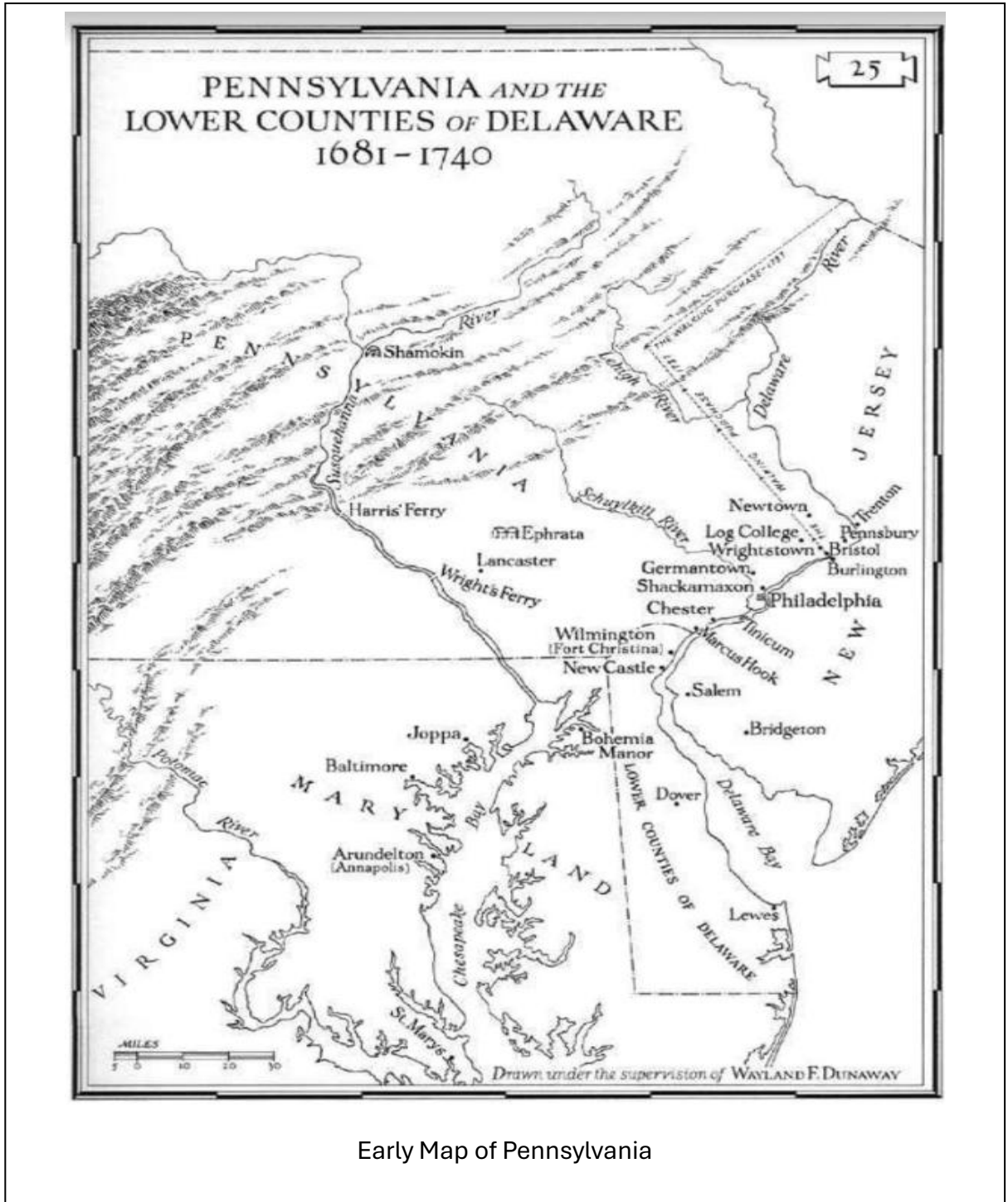
The voyage across the Atlantic depended on the season and winds. Generally, it took about a month but varied widely based on weather and maritime conditions. We do know that it

was not pleasant for the travelers who had to bring their own food and beverage which was often beer since water was usually polluted. The environment was not pleasant, and it was common for women to travel while pregnant. Usually they moved together as families, providing protection and assistance for family members. Often, families followed their pastor to areas where they could escape religious issues. Families also followed other family members who sent back information on new land in Colonial America.



Traveler's Sailing Ship Accommodations

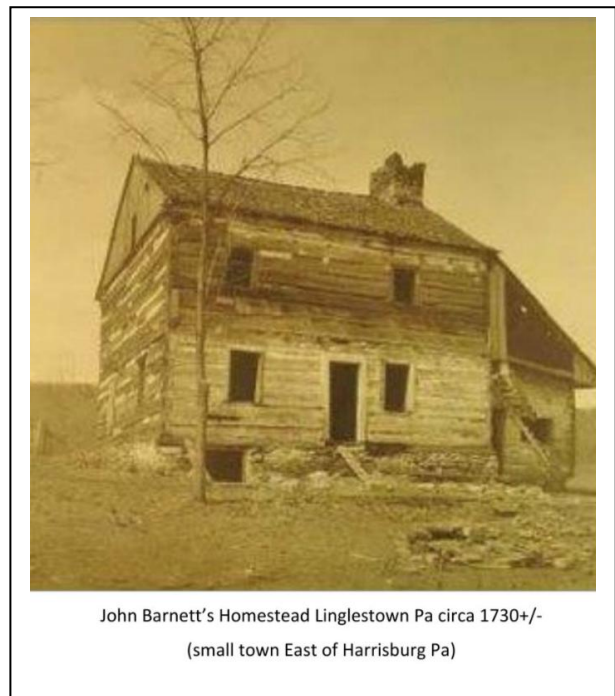
The ship landed at the North end of Delaware Bay near Wilmington then Ft. Cristiana, along the river to Philadelphia. Reference the old map below.



Early Map of Pennsylvania

There they disembarked and moved inland to the southeast corner of what is now Pennsylvania in the rich farmland around Harris' Ferry, now Harrisburg. The Southeast Pennsylvania area is very fertile, the oldest part of the state and populated with German Quaker and Amish farmers. William Penn needed some immigrants to protect the farmers from the Indians to the West. He encouraged Ulster Scot settlers to come, occupy the land and pay minimum rates for the land to preclude Indian disruptions from the West. This was especially important in the area south of the Blue Mountains which surround the Southeast part of this area near Linglestown.

Linglestown was a small rural town just East of Harris' Ferry. John Barnett was one of the early settlers of the town which was named after a landowner named Thomas Lingle. We don't know much about the Barnett family except they built their home and started farming about 1730. They stayed together for several years in this location. This is a family picture of John Barnett's home in Linglestown, Pa. John Barnett Sr.'s son John Barnett (Jr.) was about 30 years old and was the logical recipient of the land after his father John (b 1678) passed away. This was in accordance with the English practice of primogeniture to ensure that the land was not divided into smaller plots of land. Because of this tradition, younger offspring had to take different occupations.

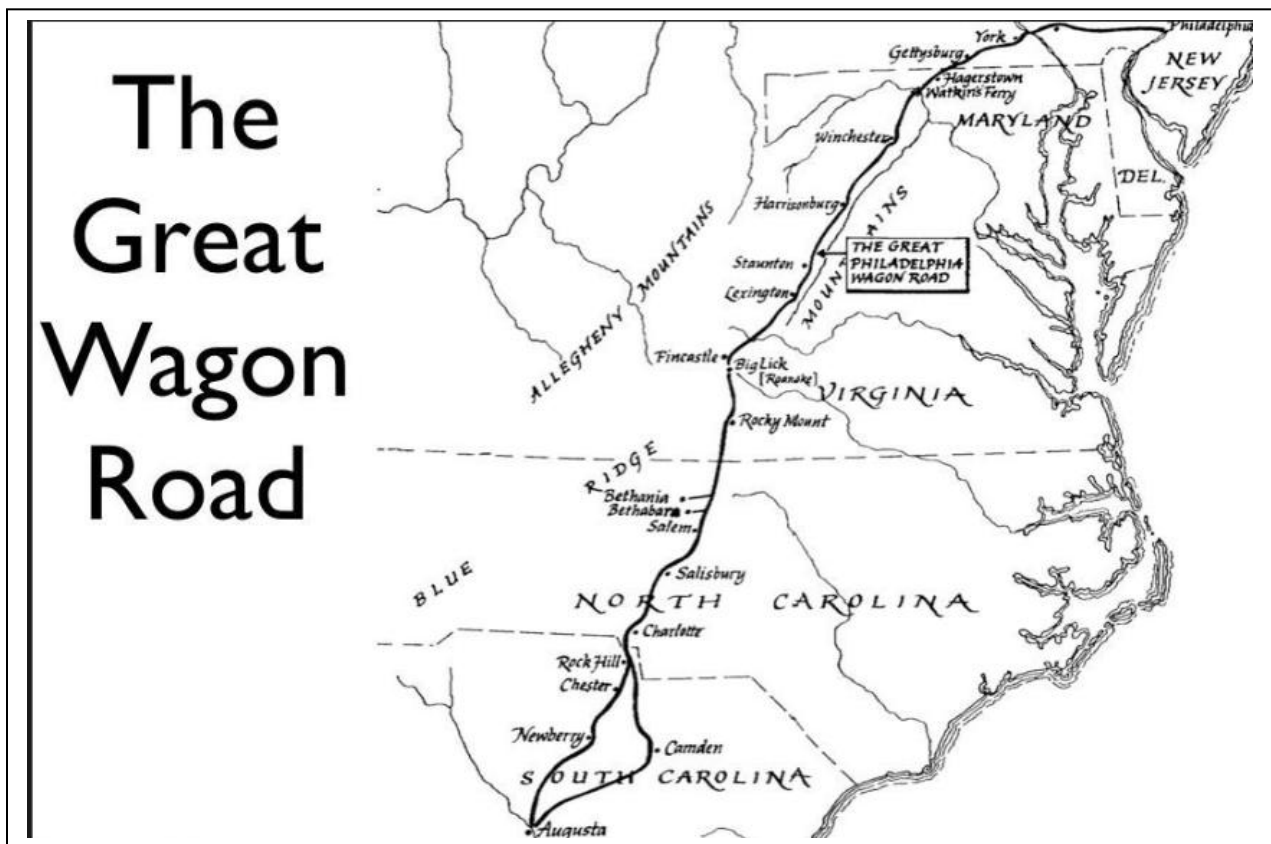


As far as the branch of the Barnett line which remained in Pennsylvania, we don't know much, however, we know that there were many Barnett's serving in the Revolution loyal to the colonies.

My line extends from John Barnett's (Sr) second son Robert Barnett, and the question has been ... why he and his wife moved from this rich farmland in Pennsylvania to the poorer Virginia hill country south of Charlottesville. I suspect that Robert was heavily influenced by his wife who was a Montgomery and her Montgomery family, also Ulster Scot, was heavily ensconced in the Virginia hill area.

Families were deeply dependent on each other and word of locations where land was available was important. Robert Barnett's family included a baby son, Joseph all moved to Virginia land and settled in the rolling hill country near the Montgomery familis.

Accessibility was important and trails and early roads between locations were critical. The Great Wagon Road was well known and provided a known, natural path through mountains and across rivers North and South. This route began in the Harris' Ferry (Harrisburg) area and led through the Shenandoah Valley to North Carolina. Today I-81 follows the old trail between the mountains.



The settlement of colonial America, especially Virginia, is important to mention at this point.

The Colonial period before the revolution was spurred on by King George as an investment. England needed timber for its ships, indigo, cotton and tobacco. America was a good source for England to get these items. To achieve this, it needed settlers with the mettle to not only work but to resist Indians and other world powers. It was not until many years later that colonialists started resisting England's demands and wanted independence.

We know that the settlers loyal to England tended to settle along the coasts hence the name “loyalists.” Ulster Scots were very independent, didn’t trust the King or any government, and just wanted to be left alone. They tended to settle further inland. The rolling hills area of middle Virginia where Robert Barnett settled his family provided this independence.

The land was purchased as patents through agents of King George. Like in Pennsylvania, the Ulster Scots provided a buffer between the loyalist to the east and the Indians to the west. The purchase of land patents carried a requirement that 2 acres had to be cleared per year. These records in what is now Nelson County, south of Charlottesville, Virginia have been thoroughly researched, documented and published. Each of the patents is defined as to who bought it, how many acres were involved and the year it was purchased. Robert Barnett had two patents and other Barnetts did as well.

I have a detailed map of all the patents, locations and owners dated from 1730. The map shows Robert Barnett and his family had several plots of land. These records also reflect land patents owned by Peter Jefferson and his son Thomas. Other neighbors include the Cabell, Monroe, Merriweather and Clark families. The Barnett family likely knew these other families as well as the other settlers in this area starting in the 1750s.

In colonial times the coast typically had organized military units which were paid. The hill country and mountainous areas had militia which responded to independent emergencies.

During this mid 1700 period, many in Colonial America were loyal to the King and even supported and fought for England. George Washington, for example, was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Colonial army. He served in 1755, for example, as Braddock’s deputy on the mission to Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh). This fort was built by Virginians the previous year and was occupied by settlers. The French and Indians contested the English fort. Gen Braddock landed in Alexandria Virginia to put a small force of Virginia men to respond to the French. Joseph Barnett would have been 25 years old in 1755 and enlisted in the militia. Gen Braddock was killed on this first expedition.

Three years later another expedition went out to contend with what the first expedition failed to do. Joseph was on both expeditions. This expedition had about 2100 soldiers including about 700 militia. Governor Dinwiddie issued an appeal to Shenandoah settlers to support an expedition to retake the fort. Washington commanded these militiamen from Virginia. A James Barnett was killed on the campaign, but I am unable to locate the precise relationship with his family. The Barnett story was likely influenced by other people participating in this campaign. Daniel Morgan and Daniel Boone were both teamsters who drove supply wagons in support of the expedition. Daniel Morgan went on to become one

of the most successful generals in the Revolution in the South, and Daniel Boone as the explorer westward into Kentucky.

Joseph returned to the Fort on the second expedition and stayed there where he met Abigail Mills and married her. He remained separated from his Virginia family. We know that Joseph served in the Northern Wing of the Colonial army. We know that he was separated from his family and unexpectedly met his brother Alexander at the British surrender at Yorktown October 19, 1781.

Certainly, the Barnett brothers had some knowledge of Daniel Boone as well as other leaders such as Washington. Joseph Barnett returned to his family in the hill country of Virginia with tales of the land west of the mountains. Boone and prospect for land of their own influenced the move of Joseph and Alexander to Kentucky.

George Washington made many comments about the Ulster Scots that served under him. Certainly, the Braddock Campaign influenced him. I found this mural in Londonderry on a trip to Ulster Ireland. I don't doubt the influence that these people had on colonial America and the activities leading to the Revolution. They did not start with strong emotions about forming a new country, but they certainly did not trust a King or a foreign government. They just wanted freedom and to be left alone. Since the family's arrival in 1730 and as the revolutionary fever rose in the colonies, the family plans evolved based on the changing situation, new opportunities and unknown risks. The Book Albion's Seed provides insight into the settlers of America. The book defines four groups: the Pilgrims, the Midlanders, the Borders and the Cavalier's. The latter group were the sons who were not the oldest English families. America was for working people who were looking for opportunities.

This is a very brief discussion of a very important period, but certainly one that emersed our branch of the Barnett family into Colonial America and the new country. Now we must investigate Joseph's much younger brother Alexander my 3Greatgrandfather.



Me in Front of Londonderry Mural

Alexander Barnett was born in 1745 and thus was 15 years younger than Joseph. He was too young to participate in the Braddock Campaign, but his brother's service must have influenced the younger Alexander. When the Revolutionary War broadened and moved to the South, he wanted to join the militia like his brothers.

The war was won in the South under General Nathaniel Greene. The key battles included Cowpens, Guildford Courthouse and Kings Mountain. The Virginia militia played a large part in these battles, especially Kings Mountain. Alexander was a private serving in the Virginia Militia under William Campbell. Campbell commanded about 900 soldiers against Major Patrick Ferguson's Loyalists forces. I inject at this point that Alexander Barnett is known as a Colonel in Ohio County; however, I have zero evidence of this rank and am convinced that he was a private in the militia. I assume he was a Kentucky Colonel.

The eventual surrender at Yorktown in 1781 included Virginia Militia units. Surprisingly, Joseph and his younger brother Alexander met up as joining elements of the Virginia forces. The militia brigade was under General Benjamin Lincoln on the right wing of the Colonial Army. Joseph and Alexander were in the Albemarle County unit.

After the surrender, the brothers discussed moving West to new land allotted to soldiers for their service. We must remember that the soldiers were often paid in land or patents for their service. The land west was made into the state of Kentucky on June 1, 1792. Patents of land were allotted to soldiers based on their rank.

Since Virginia lacked the cash to pay its Revolutionary War soldiers, it used its most abundant resource: the "vast western lands." The distribution of land in Kentucky (which remained the "District of Kentucky" under Virginia's jurisdiction until 1792) was a massive bureaucratic undertaking designed to pay off the state's debts to its veterans. But there were many hurdles and problems. The process was governed by the Land Act of 1779 and was complex, often leading to decades of overlapping claims and litigation.

There was a difference between Virginia State Line (VSL) and Virginia Continental Line (VCL) soldiers. State Line soldiers were primarily given land in Kentucky while Continental Line soldiers (those who served under Washington in the federal army) were often funneled toward the Virginia Military District in Ohio (between the Scioto and Little Miami Rivers and north of Ohio) if the Kentucky lands proved insufficient. I believe both Joseph and Alexander were in the State Line category but in different units North and South.

Virginia specifically set aside a massive tract of land in south-central and western Kentucky for its veterans. This area was south of the Green River, stretching from the Cumberland River to the Tennessee River. No one was allowed to settle in this "Military District" except those holding military warrants until the state's debt to its soldiers was satisfied. To

actually own the land, a soldier had to navigate a four-step legal gauntlet. Failure at any stage often meant losing the land to a "land shark" or a more diligent settler. The process included the soldier (or his heirs) applying to the Virginia Land Office and proving three years of continuous service or a discharge for injury). A Military Land Warrant was issued based on their rank. A private might get 100–200 acres, while a Major General could receive over 10,000 acres. Many soldiers, needing cash immediately, sold their warrants to speculators for pennies on the dollar.

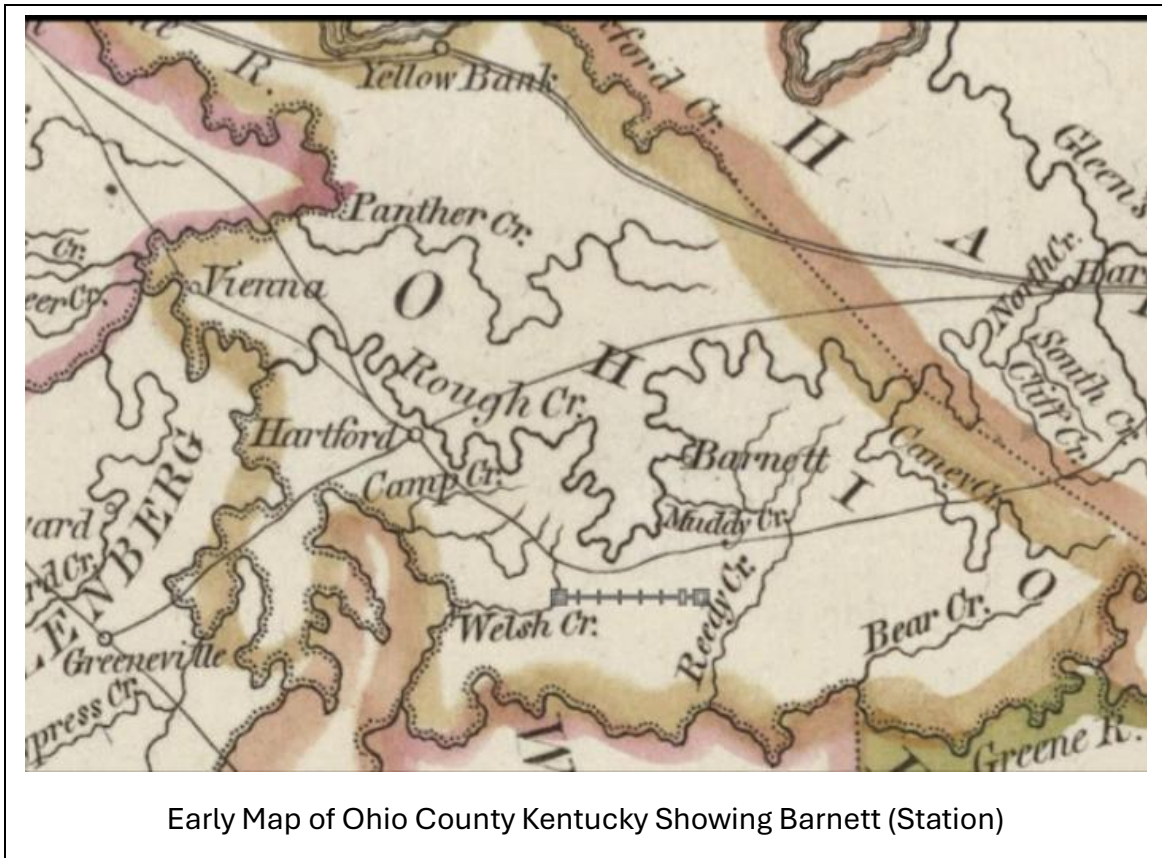
Once the soldier had the warrant, they had to "enter" the claim. This involved going to the office of the Surveyor of the Military District and describing the land they wanted. Descriptions were often vague, referencing "a large oak tree with a notch" or "a bend in the creek." This led to the "shingling" of claims, where multiple people claimed the same piece of earth.

A deputy surveyor would go into the field to physically measure the boundaries. The soldier had to pay the surveyor's fees and provide "chain carriers" and "markers" (helpers). If the soldier couldn't afford this, they often gave the surveyor a portion of the land (frequently one-third) as payment. After the survey was recorded and sent back to the capital (Richmond, then later Frankfort), the Governor would issue a Grant or Patent. This was the final deed that transferred ownership from the government to the individual.

Because Kentucky used a "metes and bounds" system rather than a neat grid, the state became a legal battleground. Many veterans eventually lost their land because their original "entry" was deemed too vague by a court.

Both Barnett brothers were surveyors but Joseph was the one who was strong in the skills necessary to navigate this detailed bureaucratic system. The brothers headed west in 1782 and stopped in the area where Elizabethtown, Kentucky stands today. They stayed long enough to plant and harvest a crop before pushing further into the western frontier. Then they moved to the area now Hartford in February 1783 and built a small fort called Barnett's Station. The station was about two miles northeast of present-day Hartford.

Once the defensive walls were secure, they traveled back to bring their families out to the station. Alexander's family had been waiting in Nelson County, Virginia, while Joseph's family was coming from Fort Pitt (modern-day Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania).



Early Map of Ohio County Kentucky Showing Barnett (Station)

The Barnett brothers used the land grant process for getting patents for their land. They primarily used the Virginia Military Warrants process. Today the Kentucky Secretary of State's Land Office records for the Barnett brothers reveal several patents tied to their service and early settlement in the Green River region. Both brothers were prolific in land and they held multiple warrants and patents.

Joseph Barnett was the most active of the two brothers in land speculation and surveying than Alexander. He held numerous patents, often in partnership with other settlers. One was registered on Feb 1, 1785, and two patents were registered in Jefferson County on May 20, 1786. These were located on the Green River near the Narrows.

Alexander Barnett was less active than Joseph but registered patents on June 1, 1785, May 20, 1786, and December 1, 1792, most north of Hartford and on the Rough River. Both Barnett's were interested in land; however, Alexander concentrated more on farming and agriculture. He is buried in the Alexander Cemetery north of Harford. The cemetery is on land which was on his property.

Joseph moved around and was involved in much land speculation and as a purveyor. He often was involved with land surveying, claims and land litigation. He is buried on the banks of the Rough River near the Narrows.

The land of both brothers provided the livelihood for both families and offered opportunities for several generations of Barnett families. From this location, the family went through the War of 1812, Civil War, World War I and later. Ohio County became the revered springboard for family members to move to widespread locations.

While I am proud and know some of the rich history of both Joseph and Alexander Barnett, I am still learning about their experiences prior to establishing Barnett's Station. I have not included the rich history of the family after the establishment of the Station. I must conclude with several important observations.

We need to recognize the families and especially the wives. We carry a bias in our genealogical research. We tend to focus on the male forefathers in this case Joseph and Alexander but rarely mention the wives and family members who shared the risks and burdens of the family. Sometimes the research even loses the women who often provided the backbone and motivation to improve the family.

We also do not recognize that we are directly related to many, many people. If I track back the family names to my first known ancestor, John Barnett, born in 1678, I am kind to 128 families; only one is named Barnett. If we go back further, the names double each generation, so we are related to many, many people. We don't do our ancestor's justice by only tacking one male line.

I make special note of the importance of Ohio County to my family. As testament to it being the "springboard" to widespread destinations of my Alexander Barnett line, there are seven male Barnett men with remains in Alex Cemetery just North of Hartford. In addition, there are many wives, aunts, uncles, cousins and nephews all interred there.

Finally, I am proud of my Barnett line, but I recognize that Ohio County includes many, many other families with stories and historical background that we need to remember as we celebrate America's 250th birthday.

I urge readers to dig in, find these stories and share them. Ohio County has much to celebrate.

Credits: This paper has been written referencing the document entitled *Joseph and Alexander Barnett* by Mary Barnett, Owensboro Kentucky, dated 1957. In addition, it includes information from my cumulative research on Ulster, settlement in Pennsylvania, Virginia, the Braddock Campaign and Battle of Kings Mountain. In addition, the information on Barnett property in Nelson County Virginia is based on a map drawn by Michael K. Crabill from Lynchburg Virginia from original deed data.