

Sketch: Is Barnett Markham a misspelling of Bernard Markham?

In 1996, while doing research on the Markham surname at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City Utah, I came across a wonderful series of Virginia Revolutionary War Pension Records. They were part of a fifty volume series prepared by John Frederick Dorman. They provided me with my first opportunity to read the basic details (abstracts) of pension applications without having to order and pay for them individually. I relished the opportunity, and copied every application containing the Markham surname. This meant about twenty-five applications. Unfortunately, I discovered that Dorman had only completed his work for surnames beginning A thru H.

When I returned home I spent long hours reading and piecing together possible chronologies. The records identified the leadership roles played by four brothers – Bernard, John, Vincent, and George Markham, during the American Revolution. I have written further about this in my sketch on Chesterfield County Virginia during the Revolution. There were numerous mentions of the Markham brothers in various pension applications, as they served as Lieutenants, Captains, Majors, and Colonels. But the name Barnett Markham (Marcham, Markine) kept popping up in the applications, and this made me curious.

At first I felt sure that the Barnett Markham name was a misspelling of Bernard Markham. The mentions of the name connected Barnett Markham to Chesterfield county Virginia, where Bernard Markham lived and served first as Captain of a militia company, and later as Lt Col of a regiment. But, there were two things that caused me to question the idea of misspelling the name.

First, I did know of a Barnett Marcum who resided in Franklin county Virginia during the Revolutionary War years. I had done some considerable study on him and his family, and come to the firm conclusion that his family had no close connection to my Markham family in Chesterfield county Virginia.

Second, I asked myself this question – Is it reasonable to think that a misspelling of “Bernard” as “Barnett” would occur in seven different pension applications? That doesn’t seem so likely to me. More recently I have come across one further application that mentions Barnett Markham.

My purpose in putting together this sketch is to lay out the evidence. To this point, I have drawn no conclusions. In 2014 I am able to draw from the resources of the online website - Southern Campaign Revolutionary War Pension Statements at revwarapps.org. They have a vast collection of pension applications that have been transcribed and annotated primarily by C Leon Harris and Will Graves. I am so grateful for their work.

For the sake of comparison, here are references to Bernard Markham and Barnett Markham.

Pension Application of William Baker; S12967; Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris
Cumberland county Kentucky, August 1832

. . . I entered the service of the United States in Jan’y. 1779 Commanded by Capt. Barnet Marcham [probably Bernard Markham], Rendousvois’d at Osburn’s below Warwick on James River. From thence we went to Petersburg, from thence to Cabin point where we joined the Army, commanded by the Barren Stuben; from there we went to Smithfield, from thence to Mackys Mills. I think Thos. Bowlin Commanded the Regiment. From the Mills returned to smithfield and to Petersburg, where we were discharged; I suppose the Tower was about two months.

note – The pension application of William Cheatham, S31607, submitted same place and same day, has this identical paragraph.

Pension Application of John Bass; S6592; Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris
Chesterfield county Virginia, September 1832

. . . That sometime in the summer of the year 1777 he entered the service of the United States in the Militia thereof, in Chesterfield county, in the company commanded by Capt. Bernard Markham, in the Regiment commanded by Colo. Robert Haskins, that he was marched through the counties of Charles City, James City, Newkent, to York, & thence to Williamsburg where he was discharged, after serving about three months.

Pension Application of Benjamin Brummal; S14984; Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris
Cumberland County Kentucky, August 1832

. . . He states that he served under Col Robt Goode [Robert Goode] his captain was named Barnet Markham who was afterwards promoted to the command of a regiment . .

Pension Application of William Cary; S10424; Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris
Cumberland county Kentucky, August 1832

. . . That he entered the Service of the United States as a souldier under Capt. Barnet Marcom [probably Bernard Markham], met at Osburns on James River, from thence marched to Williamsburgh, from that to York, from that to Hampton being gone about two months and discharged . . . I think my first Tower was in the year 1777 . . .

Pension Application of John Condrey; S9214 VA; Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris
Chesterfield county Virginia, August 1832

. . . That he was also frequently called out during this year [1782], and served short periods, sometimes more than a month, sometimes only a few days, in various companies & under different officers, he remembers to have served under Col. [Robert] Goode, Capt. Stephen Pankey, & Capt. Bernard Markham, & thinks that during that year he was on service not less than nine months, including the tours before specified.

Pension Application of Thomas Cashon; W5890; Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris
Mecklenburg County North Carolina, November 1833

. . . I then remained th[page torn] week at Home was then drafted for three months [?] served under Capt Barnette Markham. the other officers not Recollected was marched to petersburgh & was in the Battle at that place [25 Apr 1781], was then marched to Little York where we Besiedged Lord Cornwallis [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] & Remained there until his surrender.

note – the pension application for Burrell Cashon, S8181 reads almost identically to Thomas Cashon.

Pension Application of William Goode; S8581 VA; Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.
Chesterfield county Virginia, 14 Aug 1832

. . . That he in the year 1777, in the summer of that year he entered the service of the United States in the Militia of Chesterfield County, as a substitute for John Goode, under the Command of Bernard Markham Captain, the Subalterns not now recollected, that he marched from the County of Chesterfield, crossed James River at the place called the Hundred, from there marched to Williamsburg then to little York from there to Hampton, was stationed some time at the above named Towns, then marched back to York, and up to Williamsburg and there was discharged but does not recollect the names of any of the regular officers, but well recollects a sham fight took place between the regulars and militia; the Regiment was commanded by Col. Robert Goode, but the day and month he entered the service, he cannot recollect, nor the day that he was discharged – and thinks that the tour did not exceed two months.

Pension Application of Thomas Gregory; W7599; Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.
Chesterfield county Virginia; 11 February 1833

. . . That sometime in the year 1780 he was called out in a company of Militia in Chesterfield county, commanded by Captain Bernard Markham, (the subalterns not recollected) and marched down to the lower part of Virginia, in the neighbourhood of Smithfield and Cabin point, &c and after serving a tour of three months was discharged. Colo. Robert Goode and a Colo. White had command of the Regiment to which he was attached, that he was not engaged in any battle during this tour . . . That sometime in the month of January (believed to be the sixth) 1781, he was again called out in a company of Militia in Chesterfield county, commanded by Capt. Bernard Markham, and marched to Manchester, where he was impressed or drafted by Colo. Robert Goode who had command of the Regiment, as an artificer for the purpose of repairing and mending the arms, that he was continued and remained so employed for the term of at least five months . . .

Pension Application of James Hall; S5492; Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

note - In April 1833 James Hall went before a JP to make further clarification of his pension application, that had been submitted in Powhatan county Virginia in September 1832.

Very shortly after returning home [about November 1780] he went as a volunteer down below Petersburg under Capt. Barnet Markham & was gone five weeks.

Pension Application of Thomas Smith; S6124; Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris
Chesterfield county Virginia, Sept 1832

That he was called out by draft, in a company of Militia, in chesterfield county, commanded by Captain Bernard Markham, of which Stephen Pankey was Lieutenant, sometime in the year 1781; the regiment to which he was attached was commanded by Colo. Ralph Faulkner, and the troops generally were under the command of General Steuben; that they were marched from Chesterfield county to the lower part of Virginia, they were at McKey's mills, Smithfield, Suffolk, Bryant's point, and in the vicinity of the Dismal swamp, and after being marched about in that section of country a considerable time, came up to Petersburg, and was in the battle at that place [Battle of Blandford Hill, 25 Apr 1781]; after which he was marched to Tuckahoe, from thence to Cumberland old courthouse, and from thence to Wilton below the City of Richmond, where he was discharged, after having served a tour of somewhat more than three months.

Pension application of Charles Tharp (Thorp); W1664; Transcribed by Will Graves
Hickman county Kentucky, November 1832

. . . That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year A.D. 1775 under Captain John Markam (or Markham) Lieutenant Robert Scott it being the second company in the first Regiment which Regiment was commanded by Colonel Patrick Henry . . . The said Regiment belonged to the State line Troops of Virginia. He enlisted as aforesaid at and in the County of Amelia and State of Virginia for the term of twelve months and served during said Term, and was discharged at old Williamsburg in the County of Kent and State of Virginia his discharge was written by Barnett Markam, and the discharge has been lost and destroyed some years since.

Pension application of Philip H. Vest; S7789; Transcribed by Will Graves
Chesterfield county Virginia, October 1832

. . . That about eight or ten months before the siege of York, he was called out in a company of Militia in Chesterfield County, commanded by Edward Moseley Captain, John Hill Lieutenant, and Joseph Newby Ensign, and attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Bernard Markham, and marched from Chesterfield County down to McKey's mills, Smithfield, and the lower part of Virginia, and after serving a tour of six or eight weeks was discharged.

Pension application of Allen Whitworth; S6367; Transcribed by Will Graves
Chesterfield county Virginia, August 1832

. . . That early in the year 1781 about the month of January during Arnold's invasion he was called out in a company of Militia commanded by the said Captain George Markham – Colonel Bernard Markham commanded the Regiment, the troops were marched through several of the counties in the vicinity of Richmond, then to the lower part of the State and after serving a tour of about one month was discharged at the town of Smithfield.

Do you want to know more?

[Sketch: Chesterfield County Virginia during the Revolution](#)

[Link for Bernard Markham](#)

Sketch: Is Barnett Markham a misspelling of Bernard Markham?; Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2014.