

# BARNET PUTMAN of the Pendleton District

Virtually nothing is known about the early life of Barnet Putman. People estimate that he was born in Virginia in the early 1740 time period. As shown in the previous section, His father was Thomas Putman, son of Zachariah Putman I. Likewise people seem to feel he was married in the late 1750s or early 1760s. This is based on the birth dates of his children.

I feel that he was born in Virginia and went with his father, Thomas Putman, to Granville County, North Carolina and married there in the early 1760s. Daniel Putman is his eldest child and Daniel was born in January of 1764, probably in North Carolina.

The first and only proof I have that Barnet is a son of Thomas Putman was in a list of Tithables in Granville County, North Carolina in 1760. Half way down the second page there is a listing "Thomas Putman and *son* Barnet Putman 2 Tithables." Bingo, can't get better than that. I received this listing in February 2003.

Several Putman researchers, myself included, feel that Barnet is a family surname and that our Barnet's father probably married a Barnet woman and named his son after her family. This was quite common at the time.

Thomas Putman, who was Barnet's father, made a land transaction, a deed of 2 acres to the Baptist Church, in Granville County, North Carolina in 1761 and a James Barnet was a witness. It was most common for relatives to act as witnesses on such matters. Barnets appear near the Putman family throughout the 1700s in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. There was a John Barnett listed next to Thomas Putman in 1739 in the St. Marks Parish (Virginia) Vestry Book. Barnets owned land near Putmans in North and South Carolina in the 1700s. A John Barnett sold land to Thomas Putman (Daniel's son) in the Pendleton District of Anderson County in 1802. The families seem to be commonly found together throughout the 1700s. It was also extremely common to find families traveling to new areas together. I assume the Putmans and the Barnets were good friends and ventured out to new lands together for several generations.

The Barnard/Barnet family dates from the mid 1600s in Gloucester County, Virginia and appears all through the Carolinas in the 1700s. The name was originally Barnard, but in many old Virginia genealogies it was stated that the name was spelled Barnard, Bernard and most commonly Barnet or Barnett. References are found in the Genealogies taken from the *William & Mary Quarterly Historical Magazine*. This reference states that the name was most commonly pronounced 'BARNET' no matter how it was spelled. The Barnets and the Putmans date back to Kingston Parish in Virginia at the same time and very possibly were friends and neighbors. In fact the original Barnard family goes back to Buckinghamshire in England at the same time and place as William and Thomas Putnam. If Thomas Putman had married a Barnard/Barnet in Virginia, he well may have named his son after his mother's family. This is, of course, only speculation.

The first recorded mention of Barnet Putman was in a Land Grant of 300 Acres in Berkeley County, South Carolina to Bernard Putman on June 4, 1773 and recorded as a Colonial Plat in Volume 19, Page 304 on September 2, 1775. This is the only record of the name being spelled 'Barnard', all future recordings use Barnette, Barnett or Barnet which was the most common spelling and the one used exclusively after 1780.

Berkeley County at the time extended all the way inland from the coast to the western border.

Union County was formed out of the old Craven County which was in turn formed out of Berkeley County. Barnet was shown as being in Craven and Union Counties during the Revolution. He more than likely never moved from his Land Grant, it was simply that the location was in three different counties at three different times. The location of the grant was tied to two rivers and their location is near Sedalia in present Union County.

The Land Grant to Barnard Putman reads:

*South Carolina: Pursuant to a Warrant directed under the hand and seal of John Brenner, Esq. A Land Grant dated the 4th day of May 1773 I have measured and laid out unto Barnard Putman a plantation or tract of land containing three hundred acres in Berkeley County in the fork between Broad River and Saludy on the south side of Tyger River and bounded northeastwardly by River southwestwardly by Land laid out to Wiatt Wood and part vacant land and southeastwardly by Land laid out to Joseph Hopkins and northwestwardly by vacant land and hath such shape form and marks as is represented by the above plat certificate under my hand this 4th day of June 1773.  
(signed) Enoch Pearson D.S.*

The intersection of the Tyger and Broad Rivers is located in the southeast part of the present Union County near Sedalia, South Carolina. Barnet therefore resided in the present Union County from 1773 through the Revolution.

While Barnet and his family were living in Union County, the Revolutionary War fighting came to the area. Barnet's eldest son, Daniel Putman, my ancestor, joined the South Carolina Militia in 1781 and served in the Regiment of Colonel Thomas Brandon in the fighting of the siege of Fort at Ninety-Six in Pickard's Brigade. Young Daniel was barely 18 years old at the time and was riding a mare that belonged to his father, Barnet. The horse was lost in the Battle and Barnet placed a claim for its value. Barnet received five pounds, fourteen shillings and three pence for the loss. This record was attached to Daniel's Service Record. Daniel's discharge date is unknown, but he was probably in service for about a year as the fighting then began to move northward out of South Carolina. As a result of this was service, Daniel entitles all you folks to membership in the D.A.R. or the S.A.R.

On November 22, 1784 a Baptist Church, The Church of Christ on the Tyger River, was formed and Barnet Putman was listed among the first Deacons of that Church. In 1803 the Church was renamed Padgett's Creek Baptist Church. Claude E. Sparks wrote a History of the Padgett's Creek Baptist Church and the minutes show Barnet Putman and W. Willbanks were ordained on the same day the Church was organized. The first church was a crude log structure located about a mile from where the present place of worship stands today.

In the rolls of the Padgett's Creek Baptist, there are several Putmans including a Thomas Putman and his wife. This Thomas might be Barnet's father. Barnet had a son named Thomas, but he was unmarried at that time, and Barnet had moved out of the area in 1787.

On June 2, 1787 according to the Church minutes, Barnet and his wife were given their Discharge Papers so they could move and be accepted in another Church. Claude Sparks thinks that she was a Mary Putman, but nothing is shown to that effect in the records. Very shortly thereafter, Barnet and his family moved to the Pendleton District near what is now Anderson, South Carolina.

Nothing has been proven as to the identity of Barnet's wife. As mentioned above there is a

possibility that Mary Putman was his wife. I feel that his wife was a Sarah Putman. In the 1800 South Carolina Census, Barnet is listed with his wife and also one female between 16 and 26, two females between 10 and 16 and a male between 16 and 26. I think that the other family living with him may have been Ezekiel and his family.

Barnet was listed on the Tax Rolls in Kentucky in 1804, 1806 and 1808. In the 1809 Book there was listed a Sarah Putman and then Barnet's name with a line drawn through it and down the rest of the page. There was no Tax Book in 1810. I have the feeling that Barnet died in that year and Sarah was his widow. But, again, there is no proof.

In the 1810 Kentucky census, there is no Barnet, but there is a Sarah Putman, listed as a Widow, living in Warren County with 3 young males and a 26 to 45 year old female. Barnet drops out of the picture at this time and this very possibly could be his wife and the other female could be Lavinia Putman. Lavinia never married and at times moved in with relatives to take care of Barnet, Prudence and Reding's family. This seems to make the most sense and my guess is that Sarah was Barnet's wife.

On December 2, 1790 Barnet purchased 400 acres on the B Branch of Generostee Creek in Anderson from William Love. Other lands in the area were owned by John Barnett and his wife Jane and by Amos and Winney Barnett. These Barnetts living near Barnet Putman possibly strengthen the theory that Barnet Putman's mother was a Barnett.

Daniel Putman purchased adjacent lands on the Savannah River from William Love in 1792 and from Charles Bond in 1796. Other children of Barnet, Thomas and Ezekiel bought and recorded farms in the area in 1802 and 1803. There were obviously other land transactions that were not recorded; Daniel has recorded a sale of lands on the Generostee to his brother Thomas, but his purchase was not recorded. At any rate, the Putmans were well established on farms in the area in the 1790s to the early 1800s.

Barnet remained active in the Baptist Church. As soon as he arrived in Anderson County, he joined the Shockley's Ferry Baptist Church. That church is today called Shilow Baptist Church and located a few miles from the Savannah River that separates Georgia from South Carolina. Barnet was appointed Deacon of that Church and attended the South Carolina Baptist Convention in Charleston in 1795 as a delegate from Shockley's Ferry Church.

About 1804 or 1805, Barnet moved into Warren County, Kentucky with his sons Daniel, Laban, Thomas and Ezekiel to homestead in the area near Bowling Green. On January 1st, 1810, while he was in Warren County, Kentucky, he was excused from paying Taxes due to his old age and infirmities. Barnet Putman is not listed in the 1810 census taken later that year; but as mentioned earlier, there was suddenly a Sarah Putman, widow, in the census as head of her household. As there is no record of Barnet's death, some people felt he went along to Indiana and died there. I feel he died in early 1810 in Warren County, Kentucky and his wife survived and went with everyone else into Indiana. No one knows for certain.

The exact date of his death is uncertain, but he was in his late seventies. At any rate, he died before his son Daniel, as Daniel requested that Ezekiel Putman be paid \$2.36 as the remainder of Barnet's estate. Daniel was the administrator of Barnet's estate and had not quite settled the estate when he, himself, died in 1816.

Some researchers, Thomas Russell Putman included, feel that Barnet and his wife had seven sons, Laban, Elias, William, Ezekiel, Daniel, Willis and Thomas, probably all born in Virginia or North Carolina. Corrine Mehringer felt that there were also two daughters, Elizabeth and Sarah,

but I have no record of them at all. Tracking daughters is hard as they rarely owned land and once married became anonymously merged with the husband's family.

I am not convinced that Barnet had that many children. I can satisfactorily account for four males; Daniel, Ezekiel, Laban and Thomas Putman. As mentioned earlier, daughters are hard to track, but Barnet had 5 females living with him according to the 1790 Census. One of these, most likely was his wife, but I'm just not certain.

Barnet's family seems to have been a very close knit one. They lived near each other and traveled to new lands together. Because of this, I am convinced that William, Elias and Willis Putman were not actually sons of Barnet Putman. It seems William, Willis and Elias are part of the North Carolina Branch and sons of Benjamin Putman. Further I can find no records of these Putmans, with the exception of William, in South Carolina where numerous records of the other children appear. Thomas was in South Carolina at the same time as Barnet. Benjamin remained in North Carolina. I personally feel that Benjamin and Barnet Putman were brothers born in Virginia or North Carolina in the 1730s.

To further muddy the waters, Thomas Russell Putman mentions in passing that Barnet may have had another son named Philemon. I have parts of a hand written letter dated in Fayetteville, Arkansas February 23rd, 1922. This was written by Anna Elizabeth Putman, daughter of Reding and Elizabeth Putman, and a school teacher in Arkansas. Of this letter, only pages 1, 2, 3 and 6 remain, so things are a bit sketchy. It refers to "*...a Bible in Father's (Reding II) handwriting. Grandfather's given name was Daniel, he had three brothers Laban, Philemon and Ezekiel. His (Daniel's) father's name was Barnett.*" It then goes on to list Daniel's family birth dates as shown in the pension record and ultimately Anna's bible that I have a copy of. That makes two mentions of a Philemon Putman and I have not a single scrap of information on him. On the other hand, this list leaves out Thomas and I am certain he was one of Daniel's brothers. Maybe Thomas' real name was Philemon, and he went simply by Thomas. Nothing is simple, is it?

## **The Children of Barnet Putman**

The following is what I know about the sons of Barnet Putman. I do feel there were daughters, but I have no records of them at all. These children, all sons, are listed separately here in the South Carolina Section.

**LABAN PUTMAN**

**DANIEL PUTMAN**

**THOMAS PUTMAN**

**EZEKIEL PUTMAN**