

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Jeremiah Mudd W9212

Barbara Mudd MD

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed July 4 1836.

District of Columbia, Washington County & City:

to wit; On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, A.D. 1838, Personally appeared, before me the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace in & for said County, Barbara Mudd, a resident of said City, aged 83 years, & being duly qualified according to law, deposes & makes the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed July 4 1836:

That she is a daughter of Edward Swan, dec'd. late of Charles County, Maryland, & widow of Jeremiah Mudd, dec'd. late of Washington City, afores'd. that this declarant had four brothers & three sisters, & her s'd. husband had ten brothers & one sister; that so far as this declarant knows, all these are dead; that two of declarant's sisters, (Elizabeth & Anne), were married to two of her s'd husband's brothers (Smith & James), that this declarant's marriage (see supplemental declaration) with said Jeremiah Mudd, took place in less than two years after the Capture of Cornwallis's army [19 Oct 1781], but declarant from age & loss of memory is unable to recollect the date; that s'd. Jeremiah was wounded & lost his right arm at the siege of Yorktown [sic: see endnote], as declarant has often heard; she has also heard that s'd. soldier went with a party in the night, to pull down sand bags from the enemy's works, at which time he received his wound; declarant bore to her said husband two sons at one birth and about 12 or 13 years after she bore to him a daughter; that one of these twins died while young, and the other twin also died after this declarant had removed with her s'd. husband & their family to the s'd. City of Washington, about three years previous to the death of their father's the said Jeremiah; that declarant is unable to assign the dates to the births of her s'd. Children or to her marriage, and she has no knowledge that a record was ever kept of these events. Declarant lived with her said husband below Piscataway, (she is unable to say whether the place is in Prince George's, or Charles County), Maryland; her s'd. husband rec'd a pension; he died about one year after the burning of the Capital, by the British [24 Aug 1814]; declarant is unable to mention the number of the year of his death, or their removal to this city; she respectfully refers the Department of War to the testimony of her neighbours for the dates, and to the rolls of service of the Maryland Line for the term & grade of her husband's service; for which service she claims a pension. The words "other twin" are interlined on the preceding page

Barbara herXmark Mudd

Washington, D.C. April 10<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1838, Then appeared, Mary Spooner, a resident of said City & being duly sworn deposes & says, that in the year 1803, deponent's husband, Holder N. Spooner, was appointed foreman of the sail loft in the Navy Yard in said City; that this deponent with her s'd. husband & family resided near the Navy Yard afores'd. and about that time became acquainted with Jeremiah Mudd & Barbara Mudd his wife, who lived opposite this deponent's dwelling in the same street; that said Jeremiah & Barbara had a son grown to manhood and a daughter differing very considerably from the son in age; that the two families afores'd. were intimate during the lifetime of said Jeremiah & deponent's husband; deponent, at times, hired coloured servants of said Jeremiah & Barbara; they owned several slaves; deponent knew said Jeremiah to be Market Master at the Navy Yard market, he had but one arm & was reputed to have been a soldier of the revolution; said Jeremiah & Barbara were reputed & believed to be & lived together as husband & wife; deponent has no reason to believe but that they were lawfully married, having never heard, during the life time of s'd. Jeremiah or since his death, anything to the contrary; deponent knows the s'd. Barbara to be the same who is now an applicant for a pension; she believes her statement to be the truth; and, from deponent's own observation during about 35 years, she is of opinion that said Barbara is 80 years of age or upwards. [signed] Mary Spooner

LAND OFFICE,/ Annapolis, April, 26<sup>th</sup> 1838,

I Certify, that it appears by a Pay Roll remaining in the Office, that Jeremiah Mudd, a Serjeant, received of John Hamilton, Agent of the Maryland Line, \$90.00 arrears of pay from the 1st August, 1780, to the 1st of January, 1782—also \$80.00 pay from the 1st January, 1782, to the 1st January, 1783—also \$20.00 from the 1st January, 1783, to the 15th of November, 1783.

Gratuity, Total received, \$190.— George G. Brewer/ Register Land Office, W. S. Md  
I further Certify, that Jeremiah Mudd, (mentioned above) had awarded him for his Revolutionary services, fifty acres of land in Allegany County being Lot No. 327; George G. Brewer/ Reg'r Land Off. W.S.Md

Land Office, Annapolis, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1838,

Sir [James L. Edwards, Pension Commissioner], In reply to your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> Inst., which I have just received, I have to state, that the rolls of the Maryland Continental troops are very imperfect, – there are no muster rolls later than 1780 to be found, – I cannot therefore state, the names of the officers under whom Jeremiah Mudd served or the Regiment to which he belonged, – Jeremiah Mudd appears by a pay roll, to have received pay, as a Sergeant, up to the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1783, and in the margin of Remarks, opposite his name, it is stated, that he was “discharged 1<sup>st</sup> August 1783,” – he must have inlisted after 1780, or his name would appear upon the Muster rolls from 1776 to 1781, – the records do not shew where he was discharged, – I should presume that he did not enlist for during the War, because by the pay roll, he does not appear to have been entitled to the “Gratuity,” of eighty dollars, which was allowed to all soldiers that enlisted for during the War; very respectfully/ Y'r Ob't S't/ G. G. Brewer

[On 31 Oct 1838 Mary McCurdy applied for the pension due to her mother, who died on 14 Sep 1838 at the residence of Dennis McCurdy on 14<sup>th</sup> Street West in Washington DC. Her claim was rejected by James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions, because of his doubts about the date of her mother's marriage. The following is one of several appeals from that decision.]

The claim of Mary McCurdy, daughter of Jeremiah Mudd and of Barbara, his widow, dec'd. for balance of pension due her mother, act 4 July 1836.

Jeremiah Mudd was a Sergeant in the Maryland Line, and served, as set forth in his discharge, from Jan'y 1 1780, until Nov 15 1783. It appears also, that opposite his name on the roll is marked, August 1 1783; which signifies that his discharge was then issued, to take effect finally in November following.

He was wounded at “Fort 96,” on the 18 June 1781 [see endnote]; this is the widow's own statement while her memory was good – in her declaration she mentions Yorktown. During the latter part of his time, Jeremiah served in the Corps of Invalids at Annapolis. This Corps was authorized by act of Assembly, session commencing 22<sup>d</sup> July & ending 15 August 1779, Chap 15. Thomas Johnston, Governor. He was pensioned as an invalid, and died in 1815, at the age of 60 years or more\*: so that his age was 25 years when he entered service.

His widow was of the same age; for she died in 1838 at the age of 83 years. It was believed in the family that the marriage took place before he entered the service; and that the connexion was renewed during the time of his service in the Invalid Corps; this is still our belief; for he was stationed there, (at Annapolis), above two years, within ten hours walk of his wife's residence in Charles County. The widow's memory had failed; she was on her death-bed at the time of making her declaration; therefore the papers want precision; but we hoped the department would extend to her case, a portion of the indulgence which it allows to applicants under the act of June 7 1832, who are permitted to plead old age and loss of memory.

There were three brothers of the name of Mudd, who married three sisters of the name of Swan; Jeremiah and Barbara were of the number. Edward Mudd, one of the witnesses, is cousin to Mary McCurdy by father's & mother's side. He was 50 years of age in 1838; he says Bennet, the brother of Mary, was 4 years older than himself; so that Bennet was born in 1784. Edward, upon being recently

asked the day of his birth, stated he was born 30 March 1788, and that Bennet was more than 4 years his senior.

The age of Mary McCurdy is clearly proved; she was born Feb'y 29 1796; and the widow declares that Bennet was 12 to 13 years older than Mary; this proves also that Bennet was born in 1784, or previous to that year.

George Adams, another witness, states that the twins, of which Bennet was one, were able to run about smartly in the fields, in the winter of 1789 & 1790; he residing with a relation in their vicinity; this would also indicate that Bennet was born early in 1784.

Bennet Mudd enlisted in Capt. Carberry's Company in 1813, giving his age at 28 years. His mother, in making her declaration, had forgotten this enlistment; it would have greatly relieved the case to have previously known this fact; it now strengthens the evidence in general, but might not to control it. For, as Mary McCurdy felt disposed to call herself 19 years of age, when she was actually 21, as ascertained by the peculiar day of her birth; so Bennet Mudd may have called himself 28 years old when he was 29, or 30.

But as the date of a child's birth has no influence over the day of his mother's marriage; and the marriage itself is not disputed, being carried in this case, over every doubt, by the force of testimony; there are many more reasons for believing that it occurred before the date of the discharge, than there are on the opposite side of the question.

If the merit of a case were allowed to speak, few claims have higher pretensions than that of Mrs. Barbara Mudd. The rolls show that two of the brothers of Jeremiah, "3 years' men," were slain in 1777. Jeremiah himself lost his right arm, and received for pension only \$5 a month. Others of the brothers served in the "9 months' militia", for there were nine of them. Barbara was the only widow of the family; she survived her husband 23 years; and died just in time to hear of provision made for her by law, but not to eat thereof. Mary McCurdy accepted of pension for 29 months, from the necessity of meeting the expenses of her mother's sickness and death.

There may have been record evidence of this marriage, but we have no guide to lead us in the search for it. The parties lived in the country, at a time when registers of marriages were not regularly kept; and the movements & dispersion of families make their loss extremely probable. But we cannot agree in the report of the examining clerk, "that there is no satisfactory evidence to show the date, &c." For we prove that Bennet Mudd was born early in 1784, that allowing the marriage to precede his birth by only 12 months, the date of it precedes that of the discharge by many months.

\*Proof of this was furnished to the secretary of the Interior

[signed] D. McCurdy  
Washington, 20 Aug. 1849

#### NOTES:

As noted elsewhere in the file, Jeremiah Mudd was probably wounded at the siege of Ninety Six SC (22 May - 19 Jun 1781), not at the siege of Yorktown VA (28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781). On 18 June 1781 a detachment of Virginia and Maryland Continental soldiers stormed the Star Fort at Ninety Six, attempting to pull down sandbags to expose the besieged Loyalists in what was called the "forlorn hope." No such event occurred at Yorktown.

The file contains a document stating that Jeremiah Mudd died on 10 July 1815.

On 19 April 1838 Edward Mudd, 50, stated that he was the son of Smith Mudd and Elizabeth Swan, formerly of Charles County MD, and that two of his father's brothers, James and Jeremiah, married two of his mother's sisters, Anne and Barbara.

On 23 April 1838 Nathaniel Brady, an Alderman of Washington DC, stated that "he was taken to account for his share, as a member of the M. E. Church, in procuring religious conversion for the daughter of s'd. Jeremiah for this alleged fault this deponent was blamed by s'd Jeremiah, as teaching disobedience in the family of s'd Jeremiah."

On 26 April 1838 Barbara Mudd stated that she was married to Jeremiah Mudd by Rev. James Campbell of the Episcopal Church of Newport MD, and that she lost a child by miscarriage between the births of the twins and her daughter. She also referred to her brother named Edward.

On 31 Oct 1838 Nicholas L. Queen, aged 62 on the following 28 January, stated that “at the age of ten or eleven years, he knew, as his schoolmaster, near Bladensburg where deponent was raised, the late Jeremiah Mudd of [Washington] City, who wrote with his left hand, having lost the right...” and “afterwards knew said Mudd and his said wife where they kept a tavern below Piscataway.” He further stated that after the death of Jeremiah Mudd his widow’s “goods were taken for debt & exposed for sale near her door at the East market house of this City; deponent interested himself for said widow; took his hat & collected, in a little time, in \$20, tens, fives & smaller sums sufficient to reclaim her furniture, & place a surplus in her hands, between thirty & forty dollars.”

On 26 Sep 1849 Dennis McCurdy as agent for Mary McCurdy wrote that “the family of Jeremiah Mudd resided low down in Prince Georges County,” and the family of Barbara Swan lived some 25 miles lower in Charles County.” He further stated that the marriage of Jeremiah and Barbara Mudd was not recorded, because ministers of the Church of England “having received their ordination from the Bishop of London, were at a loss to know the line of their duty in regard to men in rebellion against their king.”

James L. Edwards’s decision to reject the claim of Mary McCurdy was reversed by a decision of Congress.

On page 100 of the file is a letter by Mary McCurdy dated Baltimore, 1 Oct 1859 to Jacob Thompson, Secretary of the Interior, which reads in part: “I deeply regrett givin you so much truble but do feel disappointed to here that there is no pension coming from my two uncles I was under the impression that any of those slane or disabled in the revolutionary war that they or there relietives would receive a pension and I am the only surviving relietive left.” She also stated, “I have been thrown from the pinicle of comfort and plenty to I may say abject distress and if I do not get some immediate relief I know not what I shall do Mr McCurdy my husband who was a clerk in the Pension Office is no more and his Work of Geometry are in New York.” She also referred to their son, who was educated at Washington College. The “Work of Geometry” apparently refers to a book published in 1842 entitled *An Essay on the Means and Importance of Introducing the Natural Sciences into the Family Library, and Diffusing the Elements of Geometry into the Plan of the Popular Education*, by “D. McCurdy, late a Clerk in the U.S. Pension Office.” That book contains an ad for “The Washington Magazine, and Junior Citizen’s Guide to Science,” published by D. McCurdy & Co.

The 109 pages in the file include other documents of family interest.