

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas McCuistin S8885

f24NC

Transcribed by Nancy Poquette

supplemented by Will Graves

2/5/09 & 9/29/16

Pension Application of Thomas McCuistin, Natl Archives Microseries M804,
Roll 1674, Application #S8885

State of North Carolina Guilford County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions February
Term A.D. 1833

On this 20th day of February person he appeared in open Court before the
Justice is now sitting Thomas McCustian [sic] a resident of the County of Guilford and
State aforesaid aged Seventy years on the thirty first of October last, who being first
duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to
obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832:

That he entered the service of the United States in the first of the year 1781. That
General GREENE on his retreat from South Carolina in the first of the year 1781 on to
Virginia, passed through **Guilford**, and from the general disturbance of the county and
the disaffection of the citizens in part of **Guilford County**, this affiant joined General
GREENE's [Nathanael Greene's] army in its retreat and went on as far as **Charlotte
Courthouse, Virginia**, where he remained for a short time and left the army and
returned home to **Guilford County**. On the return of the army of General GREENE to
North Carolina, this affiant volunteered and joined the army, when he was ordered to
take charge of a wagon pressed into service belonging to ____ CRAWFORD of
Mecklenburg County, NC. and was principally engaged attending the foraging parties in
hauling provisions in to the army. That he was thus engaged at the time the two armies
met at **Guilford Old Courthouse**. That he had been dispatched with his wagon from
the army a day or two before the battle, while it was lying between **Haw River** and
Troublesome Creek for the purpose of getting meal at **Brashear's Mill** on
Troublesome Creek, and on his return ascertained that the army had moved towards
the courthouse at a place called the [Holt's] **Race-Paths**: That on the next morning
when the firing commenced near to **Quaker Meeting house**, a general consternation
took place, all cooking preparations were dispensed with, & after the firing seemed to
approach nearer, the wagon-master as he was called, enquired if any person knew the
road to **Troublesome Ironworks**, when this affiant answered that he did, when all the
baggage and provision wagons were ordered to repair to that place, that he
rendezvoused at that place with the army where General GREENE expected to be
again attacked by the British **forces**, and made preparations in that purpose. While the
army thus lay stationed at the **Ironworks**, this Declarant together with two armed
soldiers as a guard, **were verily [? heavily?]** engaged in collecting provisions from the
more fertile country over upon **Dan River**, where the country had not been foraged by
the army. DAVID ALLISON was the Commissary who pressed provisions and was the
cause of this Declarant's getting many a hearty scald from the stingy and prudent
matrons of that section of country. That after General GREENE had rested his troops
and procured a sufficient supply at the **Ironworks**, and learning that CORNWALLIS had
turned to march towards **Hillsboro**, then the capitol of North Carolina: he immediately

marched his army towards the south and a few days before he reached **Ramsay's Mills** on **Deep River**, this Declarant was released from service by his father, who came down from the neighborhood of the battleground and he told General GREENE that on the **Sunday**¹ evening before the battle, LORD CORNWALLIS had marched up to his house conducted by a parcel of Tories, some of whom now live in the neighborhood, and expelled his family out of the house & kitchen, and gave to this Declarant's mother and the smaller children, a **Loom-house**² which stood in the yard and stationed his army on the plantation, who burned up nearly all the fencing and left his plantation wholly unfit for a crop, and his family without the necessary means of subsistence, & **beds** furniture &c was taken away or destroyed. Upon this representation, General GREENE granted the request and suffered the Declarant to return home with his father. This Declarant states that he was in actual service five weeks in this campaign in the manner above stated:

The Declarant further states that upon his return home from General GREENE's army which was the last of March or first of April, he aided his father in putting his plantation in repair and joined some time in the last of April, a company of volunteer light horse, which had been formed by the neighborhood at an early period of the war, commanded by Captain GILLESPIE [**John Gillespie**] and Colonel PAISLEY [**John Paisley**], which company were generally kept in readiness to suppress the Tories in the lower part of **Guilford** and in Orange and also frequently under the necessity of crossing **Deep River** and passing over into Randolph and Moore Counties, a section of country lying between the waters of the **Cape Fear River** and **Pee Dee**, much infected by Toryism during the whole war. That he was engaged in serving in this company at various times and was in actual service three months.:

That sometime between the 15 and last of August, there was a call made for forces to march from the upcountry to suppress a strong band of Tories who had gathered between the **Cape Fear River** and the **South Carolina line**. When this declarant joined his company under the command of Captain GILLESPIE and marched on either to the lower end of Montgomery or Moore County, where they joined two companies of Light horse, one from Rowan and the other Mecklenburg County. That upon the union of the three companies, Colonel SMITH [**Robert Smith**] of Mecklenburg took command of the horse and General BUTLER [**John Butler**] had command of the infantry, who were dispatched for the same purpose: Colonel SMITH marched on his cavalry and left the infantry behind. That they went to a place called the "**Raft's Swamps**," where they found about three hundred Tories assembled near the edge of the swamp, when orders were given by Colonel SMITH to charge and spare not. Upon the charge, the Tories took flight and sought refuge in the swamp, leaving their horses and little provisions behind. All were killed who could be come at, some sought refuge by a narrow causeway which led through the swamp and in the hurry of flight, many were thrown from the passage with their horses into the mud and water where the horses were left floundering in mud and their riders shared the fate of war. That after this defeat, Colonel SMITH marched his troops through the low country in the vicinity of **Wilmington** and scoured pretty much all the disaffected sections of the lower counties, passed through **Elizabethtown** and upon the completion of the object of the campaign,

¹ thanks to Hershel Parker for deciphering this one

² ditto

Colonel SMITH dismissed each of his respective troops and Captain GILLESPIE marched his company home to **Guilford** and dismissed them in November. That he served in this campaign two months and one half. It was in this tour that he learned of the capture of CORNWALLIS. That the intelligence reached his company while at **Elizabethtown**: After the return home in November from the eastern part of the state, this declarant was frequently called upon to join his company under Captain GILLESPIE to suppress the Tories in the **south** of **Guilford** and Randolph Counties. That he served in this character six weeks at different periods which continued until the British evacuated **Charleston**, when the spirit of Toryism seemed forever to have closed itself in [indecipherable word]³ in this state. That he served in his different campaigns eight months."

This declarant further states that WILLIAM RYAN whose affidavit is hereto attached was with him the greater part of the service herein set forth. That he knows of one or two other old men who could testify to the same, but who are too aged to attend court without inconvenience.

He states that he was born in the County of Guilford on the thirty first day of October 1762, that there is a record of his age in his father's family Bible which was carried to the State of Tennessee about 30 years sense by his Brother James McCuistin [sic]. That he was raised in Guilford County lived there when called into service & continued still to reside in said County. That he entered the service as above stated as a volunteer, That he was with the officers heretofore set forth. That he never received a written discharge as General GREENE in the first instance gave him up to his father, and Captain GILLESPIE and Colonel **PAISLEY** were not in the habit of giving written discharges:

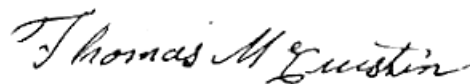
He states that he is known in his neighborhood to the Rev. William Paisley -- The Honorable Thomas Settle, Dr. John A. Mebane almost to every old man in his section [of the] County to all of home he refers as to his character for services & veracity.

He hereby relinquishes every claim what ever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ A. E. Hanner, CCC

S/ Thomas McCuistin



[William Paisley, a clergyman, and Thomas Caldwell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 8]

William Ryan⁴ aged Seventy years September last makes oath that he was a soldier in the revolutionary War and that he was in the service with Thomas McCuistin who has signed the preceding Declaration for a pension & that several of the facts therein stated to the knowledge of this affiant are true & that he can safely state to the best of his

3


⁴ [William Ryan S7436](#)

recollection that the said McCuistin was with him in several tours against the Tories and that he knows of his serving several tours in the years 1781 & 82.
Subscribed & Sworn to the day & year aforesaid.

S/ William Ryan

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Ryan".

[On July 24, 1852 in Guilford County North Carolina, the veteran executed a power of attorney whereby he empowered his attorney to pursue any arrears in pension or increase in pension due him as a result of his service in the Revolutionary war. He signed this document with his mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$28.75 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months and 27 days in the North Carolina militia.]