

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas McCamish (McAmis, McCarmish, McCarnish) W6805

Jinny (Jenny) McCamish

f73VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/4/13

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 14]

State of Tennessee Green County: September Term 1832

On this 6th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Samuel Powel [Samuel Powell] Judge of the first Judicial Circuit of said State, Thomas McCamish aged seventy-three years, and resident citizen of Green County & State aforesaid, 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 the 7th of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein after stated. Being before and at the time of his first service in the revolutionary war a citizen of Bedford County State of Virginia, in the spring of the year 1779 and was drafted as a militia man, under Captain Thomas Leftwick [Thomas Leftwich] of the Virginia militia in the said County of Bedford to serve a three months tour of duty in the expedition to the South against Cornwallis, and after his enrollment as aforesaid under Captain Leftwick was met by the Company of New London in said County and marched in conjunction with another Company raised in the same County (as well as now recollected) under Captain Clemons, to Hillsborough in North Carolina, where they met the regular Army consisting of the Maryland regulars but the No. of the Regiment, he does not recollect but remembers Gl. [? Genl.?] Smith commanded before the arrival of General Gaites [Horatio Gates], that the Army remained in Hillsborough until first of August, when the Army was moved to Brown's Ferry on Pedee River, where the sick & those unable to march were left to build a Fort (this declarant being of the number) but the Fort was not built on account of the defeat of the American troops at Camden [August 15-16, 1780] & the subsequent danger of that part of the Country being overrun by the British. That on the 24th of September 1780 after declarant had lingered with the fever which had been the cause of his being left at Pedee he procured the certificate of on James Rice of Caswell County in order to send on to the commanding officer of his Regiment in order to obtain his discharge, which is hereto annexed, and upon which Colonel Ralph Falkner [Ralph Faulkner], the Colonel Commandant gave him a discharge on the 26th of September 1780 which is upon the back of the aforesaid certificate and is annexed After the receipt of which he returned home to Bedford County having been in service from the preceding spring (an early in the spring) until the aforesaid period, being in the whole not less than seven months, actual service the reason of the service being protracted beyond the engagement was, that it was decaded [dictated? declared?] that the tour should only commence from the time of joining the main Army.

That after he returned home, immediately, it was understood that Cornwallis contemplated marching to Halifax County & into Virginia, and immediate call was made for all

the militia old & young to turn out & resist his march which was done & this declarant turned out with the Militia in great numbers and repaired to Taylor's ferry on Dan River, there expecting to be offered [?] & disciplined for the engagement, but Cornwallis learning that such force had there assembled changed his direction & went to Wilmington North Carolina, and the great body of the militia returned home, Captain Dixon [James Dixon] (however) beat up for volunteers to go and join the Army under Washington this declarant instead of returning home volunteered under said Dixon & marched with him to a point near Hillsboro & joined Colonel Washington [William Washington] of the Horse, and marched to the Reedy fork of the Haw River where they had a battle¹ with the British Army under Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton] and at which place the American troops were overpowered, defeated, & were compelled to retreat with precipitation, and joined Green [Nathanael Greene] up the Country, where Captain Dixon obtained leave for his men to return home in order to recruit their clothing, and was discharged by Captain Dixon in Bedford County which discharge he here annexes, and which service connected with that which preceded it in going to Taylor's Ferry before he volunteered was continuous from the first of October until the 12th of March in suing being near six months.

Again in the ensuing April (to wit 1781) he was drafted as a militia man to go to South Carolina to attack the British under Colonel Kruger [John Harris Cruger], who had fortified at Ninety Six. He enrolled under Captain Pate [perhaps Anthony Pate] in the County of Bedford, & marched to Green's Army in the vicinity of Ninety Six and was there under his command, but the British getting a reinforcement from Charleston Green's Army retreated to Charlottesville [Charlotte] North Carolina, and the term of his time (being four months) having expired the company to which he belonged was marched to the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin [River] & discharged on the 7th day of July 1781 which discharge given him by Edmund Tate Lieutenant is here annexed also said service being protracted to four months time.

Again in the month of September 1781 he was about the first of the month called upon to perform a tour of duty to go to Little York to resist Cornwallis, for which expedition five companies were ordered out from Bedford County Joseph Bullock being the Captain under which the declarant was enrolled, and was marched to Little York when and where was the Army under General Washington in the act of throwing up entrenchments, & cannonading (the British under Cornwallis being fortified in York Town). This declarant continued until the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781], & was called upon to remain in the Hospital to attend to his sick brother until after New Year's 1782, and returning home with him, sometime in January, not having received a discharge owing to their having been no officers at the hospital, but which tour was for five months or thereabouts, which said for terms of service were rated at the time stated and actually embraced twenty-two months, in addition to the time which in some instances was consumed in marching to headquarters of the main Army and is very confident that he served more than two years, though he cannot state the precise time with certainty. That he annexes all the documentary evidence in his possession – but knows of no person by whom he can establish his said service, or whose testimony he can procure who can testify to the same. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, & declares that his name is not on the roll of the pension agency of any State, nor does he know of a minister of the Gospel by whom he can establish the facts required to be established by the restrictions of the War Department.

S/ Thomas McCamish, X his mark

¹ From the veterans description of the action and its timing, it is my guess that he is describing the Battle of Whitesell's Mill (Wetzel's Mill, Weitzell's Mill, and several other variations of spelling of the mill) on March 6, 1781.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this date first written.

S/ V. Sevier, Clerk

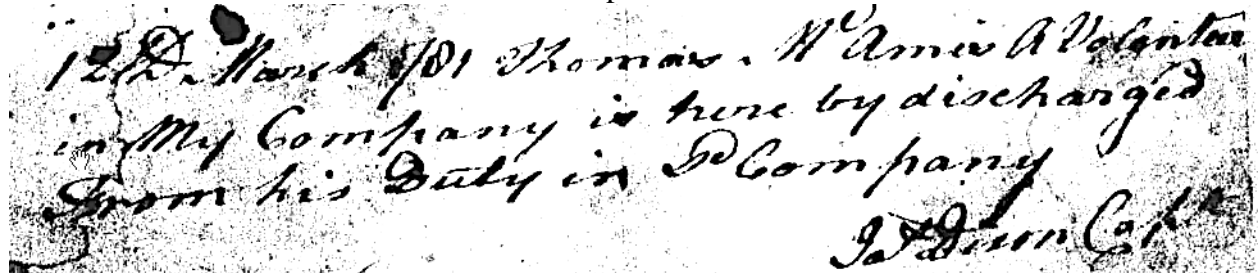
[Joseph Brown & David Farnsworth gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 11: copy of a marriage bond issued September 18th, 1810 to Thomas McCamish, Senr., Thomas McCarmish (William's son) and Benjamin Farnsworth of green County Tennessee conditioned on the marriage of Thomas McCamish Senr. to Jinney Wilson.]

[p 27]

12th March 1781 Thomas McAmis a Volunteer in my Company is hereby discharged from his Duty in said Company

S/ Jas. Dixon Capt.

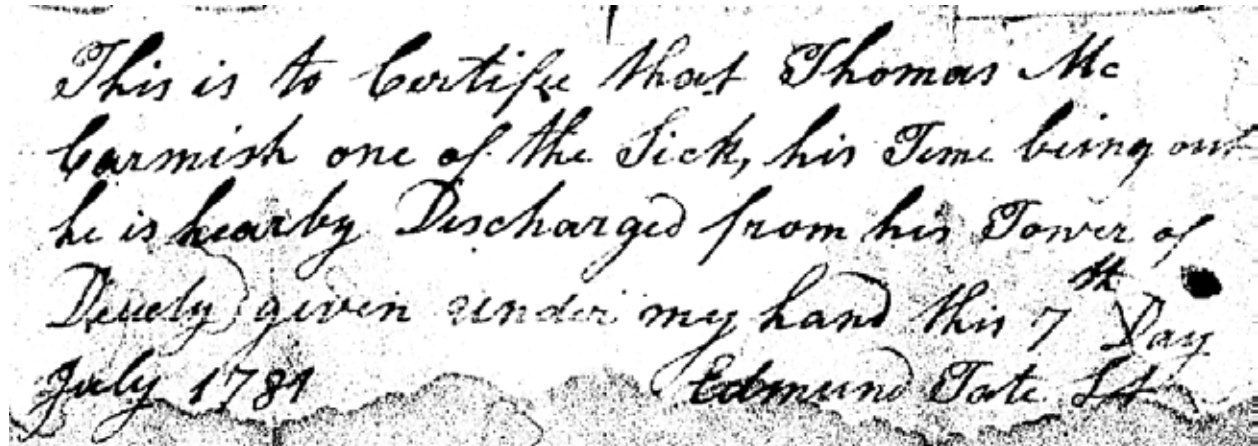


12th March 1781 Thomas McAmis a Volunteer in my Company is hereby discharged from his Duty in said Company
Jas Dixon Capt.

[p 28]

This is to Certifie that Thomas McCarmish one of the Sick, his Time being out is hereby Discharged from his Tower of Duuty given under my hand this 7th day of July 1781

S/ Edmund Tate Lt



This is to Certifie that Thomas McCarmish one of the Sick, his Time being out he is hereby Discharged from his Tower of Duuty given under my hand this 7th Day July 1781
Edmund Tate Lt

[p 30]

This is to Certify that the Within mentioned Thomas McCamish in consideration of his ill State of Health is discharged from the remaining part of this tour of Duty

26 Sept. 1780

S/ Ralph Falkner Col. Comt.

This is to certify that the Within mentioned
Thomas McFamish in consideration of his ill
state of Health is discharged from the remaining
part of this tour of Duty.
26th Sept 1780
Ralph Falkner Col. Comdr

[p 31]

About the 22nd or 23rd of August Thomas McFamish came to my House in ye County of Caswell about 25 miles from the Town of Hillsboro at which Time he appeared to be unwell and very unfit for Military duty within a few Day after he was Taken with a high Fever and other Complaints which was succeeded by the Ague and Fever. He has had it every Day since until within a few Days his Agues is remitted but his Fevers continues.

This 24th day of Sept. 1780

S/ James Rice

About the 22nd or 23rd of August Thomas McFamish
came to my House in County of Caswell about 25 Miles
from the Town of Hillsboro at which Time he
appeared to be unwell and very unfit for Military duty
within a few Day after he was Taken with a high Fever
and other Complaints which was succeeded by the Ague
and Fever. he has had it every Day since until a few
his Agues ~~has~~ ^{within} ~~is~~ remitted but his Fevers continues.
This 24th Day of Sept 1780
James Rice

[p 45]

State of Tennessee Green County

On this 20th day of July 1833 personally appeared before me Robert Maloney one of the acting Justices of the peace for said County Thomas McCamish who is on the pension roll of the Agency of Jonesborough Tennessee at the rate of \$56.66 per annum and in order to correspondent increase of pension made & subscribed the followings statement on oath, to wit, that in September of the year 1781 he was drafted as a militia man in Bedford County Virginia, to go on the expedition against Cornwallis at Little York, was put under the command of Captain Bullock, Colonel Tucker's command, was marched to Little York & in the siege and surrender,

and after the surrender was put into the hospital to take care of his sick brother² & continued in said hospital until Christmas following & obtained his discharge verbally and returned home for which he has had no allowance in his first claim, & to which he is entitled, & prays that an increase of pension be allowed him from September until Christmas, being three months time. Sworn to & subscribed before me this date first before written.

S/ Robert Maloney, JP

S/ Thomas McCamish, X his mark

[p 8: On May 2, 1853 in Greene County Tennessee, Jinney McCamish, aged near 72 years, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Thomas McCamish or McAmis, a private and Sergeant in the Virginia militia and pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$66.66 per annum; that she married him in Greene County Tennessee about the 18th or 19th day of September 1810; that they were married; that her husband died in Greene County Tennessee January 4, 1840 by Benjamin McNutt, JP; that her name prior to her marriage was Jinney Wilson. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$56.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 17 months in the Virginia militia. His widow also was pensioned.]

² I believe there is some possibility that his 'sick' brother was the same man as [James McAmis \(McAnnis\) VAS549](#)