

Thomas McClure's Commitment to Haywood County:

Found on Ancestry.com

(Honestly, the timing is right but I have no other verification this is the correct Thomas)

Haywood County was originally divided into military companies, and each one was to be assigned a justice of the peace. Thomas McClure was sworn in as a Justice of the Peace in Haywood County, NC in 1811.

A court order in March of 1811 stated that a county election was to be held in Waynesville. The persons to be the inspectors in the election were as follows:

For Beaverdam: Benjamin Odell and George Cathey. For Scotts Creek: **Thomas McClure**, Esquire, Benjamin Clark and George Hall. For Oconoluftee: John McCracken, Esquire, Daniel Black and James Curthers. Other: John Dobson, Esquire, William Welch Sr. and Benjamin Parks.

The court did not record what county offices were to be filled or the date on which the election was to be held.

(It is important to remember that Haywood County stretched from the Buncombe County line to the Cherokee Indian Territory. All of the counties west of Haywood, including Swain and Jackson, were later formed from Haywood County. That's why Oconoluftee and Scotts Creek—currently on the old road from Waynesville to Sylva—were mentioned in the original court records as being communities in Haywood County.)

On Monday, December 25, 1809, Anna McDowell, widow of James McDowell, gave an affidavit that David McFarland should be the administrator of the estate of James McDowell. He was permitted to sell all private property of the McDowell estate and to give an accounting of the sale in the March term of court. Then the court appointed four of the esquires to cut the provision allotted by law to Anna McDowell.

Sometime between March of 1809 and June of 1811, Anna McDowell seems to have followed her husband in death. Thomas McClure was appointed guardian to Margaret and James McDowell, minor orphan children in June 1811. It was on this date that the final settlement showed that \$16 was for the work of the executor. The balance of the estate \$105.29 was put in the hands of Thomas McClure, the guardian of the children.

Thomas McClure, Sr. was an officer of the court, election inspector, road builder and Justice of the Peace. He was one of the men who helped Haywood County grow and become a thriving county.