

Odell McGuire wrote a very readable and instructive article <http://rockbridgeadvocate.com/odell/cowpens.htm> about the Rockbridge Rifles at the Cowpens.

McGuire provides many details including Ensign John McCorkle's letter to home to his wife, Rebecca McNutt McCorkle. McGuire includes a company payroll roster written by Captain Gilmore's Lieutenant John Bowyer.

Robert McNutt was one of Captain James Gilmore's riflemen. Robert was the son of John McNutt and Katherine Rebecca Anderson. He was mortally wounded at the Battle of Cowpens as was brother in law, John McCorkle, his sister, Rebecca's first husband.

Robert McNutt is buried buried at Old Providence Presbyterian Church Cemetery. It is located (N 37.96112 W 79.22469) near Spottswood VA in Augusta County at the junction of Highway 620 and 613. It is about a mile north of the Rockbridge County line. Robert's uncle, James McNutt 1740-1811, was an elder of Old Providence. **Robert McNutt's** grave marker stating KIA is dubious. The battle victors were busy taking captured enemy soldiers to prison. They would unlikely haul a body hundreds of miles. Burial on or near the battlefield would be expected if Robert had been KIA. Instead, the Augusta County marker indicated that he died at or near home some time after the 17Jan1781 battle.

The biographical sketch of William Alexander MacCorkle was the apparent source of the false rumor that **John McNutt** was a Cowpens casualty.

"William Alexander MacCorkle, governor of West Virginia, was born in Rockbridge county, Va., May 7, 1857; son of William and Mary (Morrison) MacCorkle and grandson of Alexander and Rebecca (McNutt) MacCorkle, and of William and Margaret Morrison. His ancestor emigrated from Scotland in 1650. His great grandfathers, Capt. John MacCorkle and Capt. John McNutt, were killed in the battle of Cowpens during the Revolutionary war."

First, McCorkle's letter to Rebecca said nothing about her father, an indication that John McNutt was not on the expedition. Second, John McNutt was not in the payroll list.



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