

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Christy R1945 (and R1946)  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

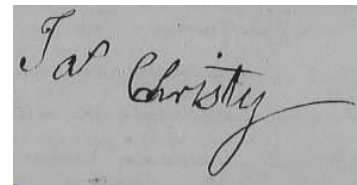
VA

State of Virginia } SS  
Monroe County }

On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of Aprile in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared before me Samuel Clark an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Monroe and State of Virginia the Rev'd. James Christy a resident in the County and State aforesaid aged Eighty eight years on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May next who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his Oath make the following Declaration in Order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named Officers and Served as herein Stated. That he moved from the Eastern part of Augusta County in the year 1774 to Turkey Creek a tributary stream of Indian Creek now in the County of Monroe then he thinks called West Augusta and better known by the name of the Greenbriar [sic: Greenbrier] Country. That in the early part of the Indian War there was a Fort or Garrison erected on a plantation belonging to James Burnsidess two miles north west from where he lived which was called Burnsidess Fort. That in the early part of the year 1776 he commened the service of his Country as an Indian Spy under the Command of Captain Wright and was Stationed in Burnsidess Fort. That he served in this year from the 1<sup>st</sup> of August until the 1<sup>st</sup> of November following, nothing of importance ocured during this year. That he again Forted and Scouted as an Indian Spy in the year 1777 from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May until the 1<sup>st</sup> of November – that he was stationed in Burnsidess Fort under the command of the aforesaid Captain Wright. That he does not recollect that any thing of importance took place in the immediate neighborhood of the Fort but that the Indians were constantly prowling about through the Country and committing murders and deperadations on the persons and property of the frontier setters – insomuch that the people were kept in constant alarm That in the year 1778 he again entered the Service of his Country in Burnsidess Fort on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May and continued in Service until the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November following that he was commanded this year as before by the aforesaid Captain Wright. That as early as the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May in the year 1779 he again commenced his Services in Burnsidess Fort and continued in service until the 1<sup>st</sup> of November following that he thinks it was in this year a party of Indians came into the settlement and Murdered William Bradshaws Wife the circumstances are these Bradshaw had remained at home with his Family and two of the Spys returning to Cooks Fort [on Indian Creek just below Greenville] called at his Cabbin to rest and informed him where they had been and that they had seen no signs of Indians but not thinking a family safe in such a situation advised him to leave his Cabbin and go to the Fort but he did not concent to do so and in a few hours after the Spyes left him the House was attack by a small party of Indians and some of them firing at the door which was shut the ball penetrated through the door and lodged in the boddy of Mrs. Bradshaw and wounded her so badly that she died that night and on Bradshaws firing his gun through the door from the inner side the Indians retired without doing any farther damage. That as early as the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May in the year 1780 he again entered the service of his Country as before in Burnsidess Fort and continued in service until the 1<sup>st</sup> of November following That he was commanded as before by the aforesaid Captain Wright. That in the year 1781 he again entered the service on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Aprile and continued in service until the 1<sup>st</sup> of November following That between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of Aprile in that year he was drafted under the command of Captain John Woods to go to New River that he served three months under Captain Woods on New River after which he was discharged and returned to Burnsidess Fort. That the nature of his service was to guard the Fort and go out when commanded in pursuit of the Indians when they would make their appearance in the settlement that his companions in service was commonly Matthew Patterson and John Cantly who are long since Dead. that during the whole of the

aforesaid time he was either actively engaged in scouting or in Garrison with an Imbodied Corps under the command of the aforesaid Officers and that he was not engaged in any civil pursuits during the aforesaid periods. (First [interrogatory prescribed by the War Department]) that he was born in the City of London in England in the year 1746. (Second) That he has a record of his age now in his possession which was made in the Handwriting of his Father (Third) That he was living on Turkey Creek in what was then called west Augusta or the Greenbriar Country in what is now called Monroe County and State of Virginia when called into service where he has lived ever since (Fourth) That he volunteered when he entered the service of his Country (Fifth) That he has stated the names of his Officers in the foregoing part of his Declaration (Sixth) That he has no documentary evidence or any written discharge for any of the services he rendered his Country (Seventh) That he is known to John Robeson William Robeson and Robert Christy who can testify to his good Character for Veracity and their belief of his services as he states – That he knows of no persons or person living by whome he can prove his services – He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the preasant and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. L. Edwards". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Washington, Jan. 17, 1839

Sir [J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions], I wrote some time since for a copy (not necessary to be officially certified,) of the application of James Christy of Morgan County, Ky. for a pension. He represents that, through the misapprehension of the gentleman who drafted it, the facts are not accurately set forth: to correct which is the purpose for which he asks a copy. Please furnish it as early as the duties of your office will permit. Very respectfully, / your ob't. serv't. / R H Menefee

NOTES:

A 1 Feb 1838 letter from the Pension Office states that Christy's "alleged service was not of that character provided for by the act of 7 June 1832." A letter dated 1 March 1840 stated that his claim was rejected because "spies and scouts on the frontiers of Virginia exposed to the hostile incursions of the Indians were not called out by the authority of the state, and none who were not so called into service, are provided for by the pension laws." The act of 7 June 1832 did, in fact, provide pensions for volunteer Indian Spies, and it was silent on the question of competent authority. Many Indian spies were, in fact, regularly called out as members of the militia. The misinterpretation of the act of 1832 was by the Pension Commissioner, James L. Edwards, as explained in my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111).

James Christy's file includes the following files pertaining to a William Christy who served after the Revolutionary War.

By his Excellency ANTHONY WAYNE, Esquire, Major-General and Commander in Chief of the Legion of the United States.

THESE are to certify, that the bearer hereof William Christy Corporal in the 4 Sub Legion has served in the above said Legion and in Capt. Edward Butlers company for the space of Three Years and is for the reason below mentioned discharged from the said Legion, he having received his pay up to 31 Dec'r. 1794, cloathing of all sorts, and all other just demands from the time of his inlisting in the said Legion, to this day of his discharge, as appears by the following receipt: he is discharged having Served the full Term for which he Engaged

And to prevent any ill use that may be made of his discharge by its falling into the hands of any other person whatsoever, here follows the description of the above said William Christy he is aged nineteen years, five feet, Eleven inches high, Dark complexion, Black hair, Black eyes, born in the county of Mifflin in the state of Pennsylvania by trade a Carpenter

Given under my hand and seal at Head Quarters Greenville this Nineteenth day of June 1795  
William Clark Lieutenant/ Acting SubLegionary Major to the 4<sup>th</sup> SubLegion  
To whom it may Concern/ Civil and Military.

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to be "Wm Christy". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

I William Christy do acknowledge to have received all the pay up to 31 of Decemb 179four, cloathing of all sorts, and all other just demands from the day of my inlisting into the said Legion to this day of my discharge.

[signed] William Christy

WITNES PRESENT./ Jon Taylor [illegible] in & Pay Mas'r 4 SubLegion

Paid up to 1 June 79 five

Rich'd. Chandler Ensign & Pay Master to the 4<sup>th</sup> Sub Legion