

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Christopher Isbell S9357

f21VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/28/14

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia Amherst County to wit:

On the 16th day of September 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of the said County now sitting Christopher Isbell a resident of the said County and State aforesaid aged about Seventy-nine years who being 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 June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

1st In the latter part of the 1775, he does not recollect the month, being a resident of the County of Goochland in the State aforesaid and enrolled for the "Minute service" or drafted from the Militia of the County he is not certain which, he was ordered into active service to perform a three months Tour of duty as a private and placed under the command of Captain Nathaniel Massie of said County whose company he joined and marched to the City of Richmond and from thence to the City of Williamsburg where the Company was attached to a Regiment or Corps said to be under the command of Colonel Patrick Henry, he does not recollect the name of any other field Officers if any other was on duty at that Station, from Williamsburg this Core was marched to York Town and back to the former place and in the vicinity of these two places until the expiration of his said Tour when he was discharged at Williamsburg and returned home before the commencement of the spring 1776. He was engaged in no battle but distinctly recollects the defeat of the enemy at the Great Bridge [December 9, 1775] and the burning of Norfolk by Dunmore [John Murray, Lord Dunmore, last Royal Governor of the colony of Virginia] took place during this service.

2nd In the year 1777 commencing in the latter part of that year and ending at or about the close of the year 1778 he performed four consecutive Tours of Militia duty as a private at the Albemarle Barracks in said state of three months each tour in the erection of said Barracks and guarding the Prisoners of War there stationed. The first tour he performed as the substitute of James Isbell of the County of Albemarle. The second as the substitute of Jacob Mayo of the County of Louisa. The third as the substitute of William Anderson of the same County and the fourth as the substitute of William Isbell of the former County all of whom had been regularly detailed by draft for that service respectively as above stated, and he being duly excepted performed said tours in their stead under the respective commands of Captains Benjamin Timberlake and John White of said County of Louisa, Minan Mills [Menan Mills?] of the said County of Albemarle and perhaps others whose names he does not recollect. And of field

Officers he recollects Colonel Taylor [Francis Taylor] and Colonel or perhaps Major Fountaine [William Fontaine] but none others. All this service he performed as a private soldier and at the close of each tour was duly and honorably discharged by the proper authorities.

3. In the fall of the year 1780, he cannot be precise as to months being still resident of the County of Goochland he was drafted from the Militia of said County and ordered into active service to perform another Tour of duty for three months and placed under the command of Captain Elisha Leake [Elisha Leak] of said County whose company he joined and was appointed a Corporal and served in that capacity during the Tour. The Company was marched to Richmond where it joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Woodson of the Militia and he thinks a Major Joseph Woodson was also in command: and being the headquarters of General Steuben the Chief in Command the whole was attached to the main Army, then being organized by that Officer and under his immediate Orders – from Richmond he marched with a detachment to Charles City Court House and from thence to Hickory Neck Church, Cox and Dale and Cabin point [Cabin Point] to Mackey's Mills in the County of Isle of Wight, and from thence back to Cabin Point at which place his tour having expired he was duly discharged previous to spring 1781. He was engaged in no battle being principally engaged in efforts to preserve the public property from the destruction and plunder of the Traitor Arnold [Benedict Arnold] who burned and destroyed much property public and private in and about Richmond and on his route from thence to Norfolk during this service.

4. In and about the last of winter or commencement of spring 1781 being still a resident of the County of Goochland he was again drafted and ordered into service as a private under the aforesaid Captain Leake to guard a detachment of Prisoners of War from Richmond to Winchester in Virginia which duty he performed and was duly discharged at Winchester after the expiration of a tour at least five weeks.

5. In the spring 1781 a short time after his discharge at Winchester being still a resident of the County of Goochland he was again drafted from the Militia of said County and ordered into active service to perform a Tour of duty of three months, and placed under the command of the aforesaid Captain Leake as a private whose company he joined and was marched to Richmond and there joined the Army still under the command of the Baron Steuben at and about which place he remained a month, when he was substituted by a man of the name of Hutcheson and returned home but in a few days thereafter his substitute being called into service himself he immediately repaired to his Company then commanded by Captain Gideon Hatcher of the same County, still in the neighborhood of Richmond and completed his tour in the Army of which General Lafayette had assumed the command constituting a period of three months abating the time he was substituted which did not exceed two weeks, but at the expiration of this Tour such was the distressed situation of the Country the want of men to supply the Army, the impracticability of agricultural pursuits within the range of the operations of the Enemy where he resided and there being a kind of levy in mass he did with many others at the request of his Officers continued with the Army on the regular duty without returning home until the siege of York and capture of the British Army under Cornwallis [October 19, 1781], when he was duly discharged and returned home after an arduous service of more than six months abating the time he was substituted for as aforesaid. In the performance of which service such was its desultory and harassing character he cannot at this distance of time being aged and infirm and illiterate withal pretend to give a correct account of the Field Officers under whom he immediately served because mostly employed on small detachments from the main Army he was never long at a place under the same Field Officers. Nor can he rely on his memory as a correct chronology of

events as they occurred in relation to the Country through which he marched. The Continental Regiments or Companies with which he served and many other matters proper for him to state. He recollects the following General and Field Officers with whom he served more or less to wit Generals Nelson, Steuben, Lafayette and Wayne, Colonels Woodson, Innis, Monroe, Fleming and Butler, Majors Woodson, Call, Willis and McPherson and part of the time in a company commanded by a Captain Stokely or Towles [Stockley Towles] he forgets which and at another time in a company of Light Infantry commanded by Captain Richeson. He also recollects the following stations and places embraced in the operations of the Army at which he was present to wit, Richmond, Point of Fork in Fluvanna County, through Goochland and Richmond to Frazers Springs in Charles City County, Maubin Hills [Malvern Hills], Brandon on James River, Green Spring in Charles City, Burwell's Ferry, James Town, Williamsburg and York. He also recollects that the British General Phillips [William Phillips] superseded Arnold and united his forces to the Army of Lord Cornwallis at Petersburg. That Petersburg and Manchester were burned by the British Army, the excursion of Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton] to Charlottesville and of Simcoe [John Graves Simcoe] to Point of Fork. That there was an engagement above Williamsburg between the Americans under Colonel Butler and the British under Colonel Simcoe, another at York Island near the Green Spring between the Army under Lafayette and that under Cornwallis and finally the siege of York. He was near the scene of action on the first occasion, engaged in the second and employed in the guarding and transporting of supplies during the last.

And the said Christopher Isbell further on his oath saith – that as he is informed and believes he was born in the County of Goochland in the year 1754, That he has no record of his age, and knows of none in the possession of any other person. That he lived in the said County of Goochland when he was called in the service and until after the War of the Revolution, he then removed to the County of Hanover where he lived four years, from thence to the County of Louisa where he lived one year, from thence to the County of Fluvanna where he lived one year, from thence to the County of Amherst his present residence where he has lived ever since. That he believes [but] he cannot assert the fact positively he obtained a written discharge for all or most of the tours above enumerated, but does not know what has become of them, They were probably burned in his house which was consumed by fire in October 1829 when the whole of his old papers were destroyed, and these papers if he had them he has long since considered of no value, he has no recollection whatever by whom they were granted. That by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service other or further than herein before stated but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades to wit – For one year two months and seven days as a private and for three months as a Corporal. That he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service: other than the testimony of William Isbell, Henry Isbell and Anthony Layne of the County of Goochland duly certified for that purpose and here with exhibited, and of Daniel Day and Daniel F. Christian of his present neighborhood who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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.

S/ Christopher Isbell, X his mark

[Daniel Day, a clergyman, and Daniel F Christian gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

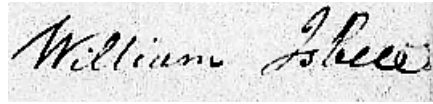
State of Virginia Goochland County SS

This day personally appeared before me John Underwood a Justice of the peace for Goochland County in the State aforesaid & presiding Judge of the court of the County aforesaid William Isbell aged about eighty-two years who being first duly sworn doth give the following affidavit in behalf of Christopher Isbell who considers himself entitled to a military pension under the law of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

This affiant states. That the said Christopher Isbell served a tour of duty for him at the barracks in the County of Albemarle and State aforesaid in the year 1778 or 1779 but does not recollect the length of time precisely but knows it was several weeks. In date [sic, the year] 1781 this affiant knows said Christopher Isbell was again in the Army and stood continual for him one night below Chickahominy swamp. But does not remember the length of the tour, but knows it [was] several weeks. He not being in the same company.

And further this affiant saith not.

S/ William Isbell

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Isbell". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

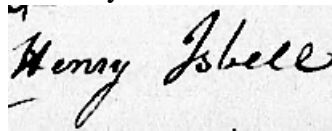
State of Virginia Goochland County: SS

This day personally appeared before me John Underwood a justice of the peace for Goochland County in the State aforesaid & presiding judge of the court of the County aforesaid Henry Isbell aged seventy-one years who being first duly sworn doth give the following affidavit in behalf of Christopher Isbell who considers himself entitled to a military pension under the law of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

This affiant states that said Christopher Isbell was called into service as a militia man when Dunmore left the seat of Government of this state at Williamsburg or about that time. This affiant further states that said Christopher was a soldier in the Militia in 1780 & 1781 but cannot say how long he continued in service, but entertains no doubt it was some months.

And further this affiant saith not.

S/ Henry Isbell¹

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Isbell". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

State of Virginia Goochland County: SS

This day personally appeared before me John Underwood a justice of the Peace for Goochland County in the State aforesaid and presiding Judge of the court of the County aforesaid Anthony Layne² aged seventy-four years who being first duly sworn doth give the following affidavit in behalf of Christopher Isbell who considers himself entitled to a military pension under the law of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

This affiant states he was a soldier in the militia of the State aforesaid and well remembers that the said Christopher Isbell was also in the service with him & belonged to the same company which was commanded by Captain Elisha Leake, Lieutenant Anderson Peers, & William McCall Ensign. They marched from Goochland County to Richmond and from thence

¹ FPA S9359

² [Anthony Layne S8822](#)

to Winchester as a guard of the British prisoners who were sent to that place. This affiant believes the tour lasted about 4 or 5 weeks. And further this affiant saith not.

S/ Anthony Layne

vv
Anthony Layne
I swear to before me

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$81 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private & Corporal in the Virginia service for 2 years.]