

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Christian W6668

Mary

fn54NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

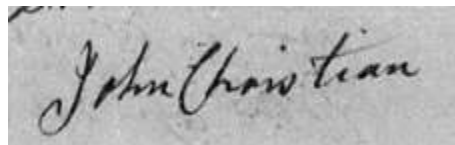
11/16/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Smith County: October 1st 1818

This day before me Parry W Humphreys one of the Judges of the Circuit Courts in & for the State of Tennessee now presiding in said County of Smith came John Christian a citizen of said County in the 64th year of his age who being by me first duly & legally sworn the truth to declare & speak touching his services in the Army of the United States in the revolutionary War he declares & says he enlisted in the revolutionary war as a fifer for 2 1/2 years with Captain Emmet [James Emmet] who commanded a company in the 3rd Regiment of infantry & Continental line of North Carolina – commanded at the time of his enlistment by Colonel Sumner [Jethro Sumner]: he enlisted as he believes on the 11th of May in the year 1776: & was discharged in October 1778, having served the term of his enlistment within a few days – his discharge was burned in his house which was burned about two years after the War. He further says that the certificates of William Hill the Secretary of State of North Carolina & of Samuel Goodwin Comptroller which are hereto annexed are all the evidence in his power at this time to produce of his services. He further says he was in the Battle of Germantown & Brandywine, he was in the reserves at the Battle of Monmouth & not in the action he has been in several other skirmishes & engagements of the inferior note. He further says that he has no means of subsistence but his labor & that by reason of his age & infirmities he is unable to perform much manual labor his whole property is not worth \$60 he has no land & is in such reduced circumstances in life as to require assistance from his country for support & he wishes a pension if his case be such as to come within the provisions of the Act of Congress.

S/ John Christian

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Christian". The ink is dark and the background is a light, slightly textured paper.

[fn p. 20]

State of North Carolina Secretary's Office 21st January 1818

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid do hereby Certify that it appears from the musterroll of this Office, that John Christian enlisted in the revolutionary war

as fifer for 2 1/2 years in the 3rd Regiment on the 11th of May 1776 under Captain Emmett, and that on the 17th of August 1777 he was Fife Major in said Regiment, in June 1778 he was a private and was discharged in October 1778. A warrant was issued to him for 358 acres for his services as Fife Major on the 21st of October 1783 drawn by himself as appears from the Warrant Book, which Warrant was numbered forty four (No. 44). In testimony of which I hereto set my hand at office in Raleigh the date above.

S/ Wm Hill

[fn p. 34: affidavit dated January 21, 1818 from Samuel Goodwin Comptroller of the state of North Carolina indicating that the records in his office show payments to John Christian as Fife major equal to £68.0.2 during the revolution.]

State of Tennessee Smith County Court: August Term 1820

On this 21st day of August 1820 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for the County aforesaid, John Christian, aged 64 years a resident in said County, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows, to wit, in the State of North Carolina, he enlisted on the 17th day of May 1776, in the third Regiment commanded by Colonel Sumner, as a fifer Major, and Captain Emmet's Company, and served in the same, until he was discharged on the last day of October 1778, being nearly 2 years and a half he made a declaration on the first day of October 1818, and obtained a pension Certificate, No. 10272. And said Christian doth solemnly swear, that he was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled ~~an~~ "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that he has not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by him subscribed: two tables, two chairs, one smoothing iron, half dozen tin plates for baking, about \$18 due by book account, for gingerbread etc. one club ax – This declarant is by occupation a baker of cakes, he is disabled in his right shoulder, has a wife aged about sixty, who is disabled from contributing to the support of his family by the rheumatism, and one daughter Sarah, aged about 14 years, in good health.

S/ John Christian

[fn p. 12: On July 1, 1837 in Smith County Tennessee, Mary Christian, 75, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of John Christian, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that he died March 25, 1824 in Smith County Tennessee; that she married him in Chatham County North Carolina in the latter part of the year 1778; that he was in the service after their marriage but not as a fifer; that she believes he was at a skirmish at Colson's Mills in North Carolina and another skirmish near the Raft swamp in North Carolina.]

[fn p. 52]

State of Tennessee Smith County

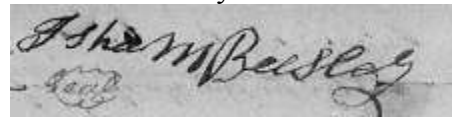
Be it remembered that on this day personally appeared before me, Nelson Thornton, an

acting justice of the peace for said County, Isham Beasley,¹ of the County and State aforesaid, who being first sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration to it – I am myself a pensioner of the government of the United States granted on account of services rendered during the War of the Revolution. I make the following declaration in behalf of the present applicant Mary Christian, widow of John Christian, who was also a pensioner of the government and who, according to the declarations here with filed departed this life on the 25th day of March in the year 1824. I have knowledge of the fact of the said John Christian having served in the war of the revolution, first by enlistment, a part or whole of time which term he served as Fife Major, – and afterwards in the militia probably as a volunteer, and on account of which services the said Christian received from government a pension. I also know the fact of said Christian's marriage with the present applicant, Mary Christian, his widow, which marriage took place in Chatham County North Carolina in the year 1777 or 1778 – So long a period having elapsed since the rendering of the services that I am unable to state positively whether the said Christian did or did not render a term of service after his marriage with said Mary the present applicant, but from the best recollection I have and from circumstances I think he did serve after his marriage.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of July in the year 1837.

S/ Nelson Thornton, JP

S/ Isham Beasley

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Isham Beasley". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The name is written in a fluid, connected style typical of the early 19th century.

[fn p. 15]

State of Tennessee Smith County: On this day personally appeared Isham Beasley before me Nelson Thornton one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid and made oath in due form of law that in addition to what he has heretofore stated in relation to the services of John Christian being interrogated what he knows and recollects about the marriage of Mary Wilson with the said John Christian answers and says that he was acquainted with him and Mary Wilson before her marriage with John Christian his recollection is that at that time he thought her beautiful and would have had no objections to paying his address to her himself although he was then rather too young he lived about 10 or 12 miles from the parties, he was not at the marriage but recollects the period when it took place and believes although not an eyewitness that they were married legally as if he were present saw them often before and after marriage and has no more doubt of the legality of the marriage than if he was present. That it was after he was thus married that this affiant had a cousin in the Army of North Carolina and was engaged in the battle of Cane Creek and this affiant was informed by credible persons and he believes the same to be true that when his cousin received a very dangerous wound in the abdomen in said battle Christian was the man who took him off the field of battle and took care of him. This affiant could state a great many circumstances about that Period but is advised it is not material. Knows that the battle of Cain Creek was after the marriage of John Christian and Mary Wilson.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this fourth day of September 1836.

S/ Isham Beasley

State of Tennessee Smith County: On this day personally appeared William Gregory² a resident

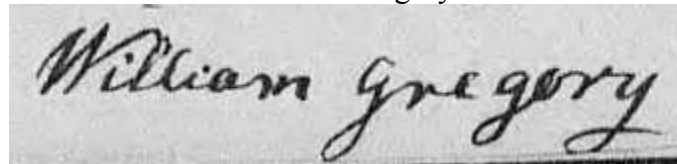
¹ [Isham Beasley S1943](#)

² [William Gregory S1666](#)

of Smith County and also a Pensioner of the United States age 74 years who being duly sworn according to law makes oath that he was well acquainted with John Christian the husband of Mrs. Mary Christian the affiant recollects distinctly that sometime in August 1781 after the battle of Guilford and before the taking of Cornwallis he and John Christian were in the service together and under different captains but under General Butler at the battle of Cane Creek. This affiant recollects that when they were drawn up at the commencement of the battle he was standing close to Christian and noticed him he looked pale and this affiant thought strange of it as he knew Christian had been in the regular service and was accustomed to war and battles but when the action commenced he discerned that Christian was brave as any, Christian's Captain was killed but this affiant does not know whether it was a volunteer or drafted troops that Christian belonged to but they were the Army of North Carolina ^{none of them were for a shorter time than three months} and in actual services Colonel Martin was also with them from Charleston this was called the battle of Cane Creek or Lindley's Mill. He did not see Christian after the battle as General Butler retreated with the main part and Colonel Martin with rest. This affiant cannot say anything about the marriage as Christian lived at that time 10 miles off in Chatham County and further the this deponent is advised it is not material for him to say.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 8th day of May 1838.

S/ William Gregory

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Gregory". The ink is dark and the background is light-colored paper.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of eight dollars per month commencing October 1, 1818, for 2 1/2 years service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line.]