

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Isbell (Isabel) W7863¹

Transcribed by Will Graves

Polly Isbell f51NC

rev'd 6/24/11 & 5/27/15

[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.]

[Note: The original application is not to be found in either the Fold3.com or HeritageQuest.com versions of this file. I did not see a note explaining what had happened to the original declaration. The following is taken from a letter dated October 19, 1932, summarizing the veteran's services as follows:

"He volunteered, place not given, June 15, 1780, and served at various times on short tours until the end of the war, at least 12 months in all, officers' names not given: he stated that he was in the battles of King's mountain and at the cross roads near the Hawfields."

Also, in the brief of the declaration, it was noted that he claimed to have volunteered in 1778 or '79 as a private under Capt. Kays [probably John Kees], Col. Cleveland [probably Benjamin Cleveland] (precise length of service not stated); in 1780 under Captains Gess [probably Moses Guest] and P. Isbell [probably Pendleton Isbell], Col. Cleveland (again, length of service not stated); that altogether, the veteran stated he served about one year.]

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State of Kentucky, Warren Circuit Court

On this 27th day of May 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Warren Circuit Court now sitting, James Isbell, who makes the following amendment to his Declaration for a pension which has lately been returned from Washington for defects in the same. He states that he was born in Orange County Virginia on the 3rd April 1760. My age was recorded in my Father's Bible in Virginia. The following are the names of all the officers he knew in the revolution: Col Cleveland, Col Campbell [probably William Campbell], Col Shelby [Isaac Shelby], Genl Pickens [Andrew Pickens] from South Carolina and Col Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee]. He was in two battles, the battle at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] and at the Crossroads near the Hawfields. He does not remember the number of the Regiment in which he served. You cannot state precisely the length of the periods of his service but from June 15, 1780 when the Tories rose he volunteered for the whole war and held himself constantly in readiness and was called every few weeks into service. He states that he knows that he served not a shorter period than twelve months. Captain Payne, Alexander Graham, Benjamin Vance are the persons who can testify to his veracity for truth and their belief in his services in the revolution. He states

¹ BLWt26782-160-55

that for all his services he received nothing. He is unable to procure a witness to his direct services as seem to be required from the Brief lately sent from Washington.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James Isbell, X his mark

[On October 20, 1854 in Warren County Kentucky, Polly Isbell, 74, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of James Isbell a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolutionary war at the rate of \$40 per annum; that she married him August 5th 1819; that her husband died April 1, 1840; that she remains his widow; and that she has resided in Warren County for the last 37 years previous to which he had lived in Madison County Virginia.]

[Facts in file: the veteran married August 5, 1819 Mary or Polly Simpson; they were married in Warren County Kentucky; the widow died June 29, 1871; there is the keys farm no reference to any children in this file.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, full one-year service as a private in the North Carolina militia. Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 3rd, 1853.]