On this 11th 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 12th 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 7th 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 Burnside in two miles north west from where he lived which was called Burnside’s Fort. That in the early part of the year 1776 he commended the service of his Country as an Indian Spy under the Command of Captain Wright and was Stationed in Burnside’s Fort. That he served in this year from the 1st of August until the 1st of November following, nothing of importance occurred during this year. That he again Forted and Scouted as an Indian Spy in the year 1777 from the 1st day of May until the 1st of November – that he was stationed in Burnside’s 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 deprivations on the persons and property of the frontier settlers – insomuch that the people were kept in constant alarm. That in the year 1778 he again entered the Service of his Country in Burnside’s Fort and continued in service until the 1st of November following. That he was commanded this year as before by the aforesaid Captain Wright. That in the year 1781 he again entered the service on the 1st day of Aprile and continued in service until the 1st of November following. That between the 20th and 25th 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 Burnside’s 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.

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.
THESEx 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 Greeneville this Nineteenth day of June 1795.

William Clark, Lieutenant/ Acting SubLegionary Major to the 4th SubLegion.

To whom it may Concern/ Civil and Military.

I William Christy do acknowledge to have received all the pay up to 31 of Decemb 1794, 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 4th Sub Legion