

NAME: ISBISTER, Joseph

PARISH: Stromness, Orkney

ENTERED SERVICE: 1726

DATES: b. ca.1710
d. 1771 (buried 20 Oct.)

Appointments & Service

Outfit Year*:	Position:	Post:	District:	HBCA Reference:
<i>*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May</i>				
1726-1730	Apprenticed to Captain Christopher Middleton of the Hudson's Bay Company			<i>Dictionary of Canadian Biography</i> Volume IV
1726-1727	Servant	On ship <i>Hannah</i>		C.2/2 fo. 5d, 12d
1728	Boy	On ship <i>Hudson's Bay</i>		C.2/1 fo. 16d
1730-1735	Able Seaman, Sailor	On ship <i>Hudson's Bay</i>		C.2/1 fo. 25d; A.16/2 pp. 50, 81
1735-1738	Mate	On sloop <i>Beaver</i> (winter i/c Eastmain post)	Eastmain	B.59/a/1-4, DCB IV
1738-1740	Master	On ship <i>Moose River II</i>		DCB IV
1740-1747	Chief Factor	Albany	Albany	A.11/1; B.3/a/30-38; A.1/36 p. 276
1743	Built Henley House inland to oppose the Canadians			DCB IV
1745	Built the first shallow draught boat that presaged the York Boat			DCB IV, <i>The Beaver</i> , Mar. 1949 p. 20
1747-1748	Returned to Britain in ill health			DCB IV
1748-1752	Chief Factor	Fort Prince of Wales	Churchill River	A.16/10 p. 19
1752-1756	Chief Factor	Albany	Albany River	A.16/3 p. 87; A.5/1 p. 26
1756	Returned to England on the ship <i>Sea Horse</i>			B.3/a/49 fo. 1
1757	Unsuccessful in winning a position as Commander of a Company ship			A.1/40 pp. 224, 235
1760	Emigrated, with his wife and six small children, to Quebec City, obtained a lease of the post of Mingan, and in 1763 purchased a property on the Rue des Remparts, Quebec.			DCB IV
1770, 3 Nov.	Wrote a letter to the Company dated Quebec			A.1/43 19 Dec. 1770
1771, 4 Aug.	Mrs. Judith (wife of Joseph) Isbister wrote a letter dated Quebec			A.1/43 fo. 172

Parents: Adam Isbister and Helen MacKinlay (DCB IV)
Wife: m. 1748 Judith, daughter of Christopher Middleton (DCB IV)
also took a native wife (DCB IV)

Journals written by Joseph Isbister: Albany, 1740-1746, 1753-1756 (B.3/a/30, 33-35, 37, 46-48); Churchill 1748-1752 (B.42/a/32-34, 36, 38); Eastmain 1748-1752, including Ship's Logs for *Beaver* and *Moose* (B.59/a/1-4)

See also:

Letters from Hudson Bay 1703-1740, London: Hudson's Bay Record Society, 1964, Volume XXV

J. Storer Clouston, "Orkney and the Hudson's Bay Company," *The Beaver*, September 1937

R. Glover, "York Boats," *The Beaver*, March 1949, pp. 19-23

