Robert Isbister (also spelled Isbester), formerly from the parish of Orphir (also spelled Orpher); Orkney, (HBC Archives A.32/4,fo.163), served the Hudson's Bay Company for a period of approximately twenty-five years (between 1775 and 1800) at Albany Factory (on James Bay) (HBC Archives A.30/1-10).

No details have been traced concerning his first three years of service, although between 1778 and 1795 he served in the capacity of Labourer (HBC Archives, A.30/1-6), and between 1796 and 1800 he is listed as a Steward. (HBC Archives, A.30/7-10).

The records do not list his age but in 1792 and 1798 he is referred to as a very faithful servant. (HBC Archives, A.30/5,fo.55; A.30/8,fo.7).