

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Virginia documents pertaining to Robert Bell VAS2470  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

To The Honorable Executive of Virginia.

The petition of Edmund W P. Downing (M.D.) of the Count of northampton respectfully shows – That in the year 1776 as your petitioner has always understood & verily believes, Robert Bell now deceased, was a Sergeant in Capt. John Blair’s company which formed a part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Va Regiment on continental establishment during the war of the revolution. That the said Robert Bell marched with the said regiment to the north and he was in the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] & was afterwards taken prisoner at the battle of German Town [Germantown 4 Oct 1777], and was confined as a prisoner of war in the City of Philadelphia. That he afterwards again joined the army at the north as Sergeant, & after serving in the war about 4 years the said Robert Bell returned to this County where he died about the year 1797 your petitioner further shows that in the year 1808 he intermarried with Mary Bell who is now the only child & heir at law of the said Robert Bell – your petitioner nor his wife, knows nothing personally of the services of the said Robert Bell, and the facts relating to his services your petitioner derives from the declaration of the said Bell & from the information derived from others who knew him & that he was in the Service of the Country as a sergeant in the revolutionary war – your petitioner files herewith the affidavit of Robert Russell [W5753] who was a soldier in the said regiment, and who knew the said Robert Bell – the said Russell your petitioner is informed has been allowed his bounty by Virginia in the said regiment & he is now a revolutionary pensioner of the U. S. & he is a man of good character and fully worthy of belief – on the evidence your petitioner hopes your honorable body will grant to him and his wife the Land bounty to which a Sergeant is entitled for 3 years services in the war of the revolution.  
[10 Nov 1834] Edmund WP Downing.

Accomack County to wit: I Robert Russell aged about 77 years do hereby declare & make known that I was a soldier in the 9<sup>th</sup> Va. regiment on continental establishment and that I was attached to Capt. Thomas Snead’s company. I further certify that in 1776 when that part of the said regiment which was raised in northampton County came to this county there was attached to it Robert Bell who enlisted in northampton and served in the said regiment from the time it was raised (in 1776) until it was reduced and joined to the 11<sup>th</sup> regiment: the said 9<sup>th</sup> regiment was so reduced at the battles of Brandywine & Germantown, in both of which I was, that it was, or the remains of it, was attached to the 11<sup>th</sup> Va regiment.

I know that the said Robert Bell was a Sergeant in the 9<sup>th</sup> regiment and that he served in that capacity until he was finally discharged and returned home to northampton county. I do not doubt but he served more than three years successively as a sergeant in the army of the revolution, as we were attached to the same regiment I saw him on duty as such, and had every opportunity of being acquainted with him and his services. I was a soldier in the war more than four years – at Germantown I was taken prisoner and confined in Philadelphia & afterwards I was moved to a prison in New York. I was there exchanged & I then joined the army [under] Gen’l. Peter Mulenberg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg].  
[25 Aug 1834] Robert Russell hisXmark