

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to Samuel Bell VAS2472
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) in two separate files. The first file is for service in the Continental Line for two years presumably as a Private, and the second is generally for service as a Lieutenant in the Amherst County Militia for an unspecified time. Virginia awarded bounty land only for at least three years of service in the Continental or Virginia Line, not the militia.]

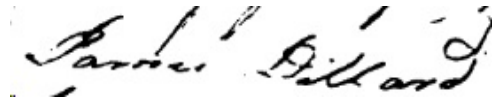
Amherst County to Wit

This day being called on by the Heirs and representatives of Samuel Bell Dec'd to give the following certificate; Some time during the Revolutionary war, I knew of my own knowledge that Samuel Bell dec'd enlisted as a revolutionary soldier for the term of two years under Samuel J. Cabell [Samuel Jordan Cabell VAS753], who was Capt in the Army aforesaid and Alexander Rice and James Barrett his Officers and it is further my opinion and belief that he Samuel Bell served his time agreeable to his enlistment

Given under my hand this 14th day of May 1831

James Dillard [W7019]

late Cap in 10 Virginia Reg/ on Continal establishment



Amherst county to wit

I do hearby certify that George H Bell Lucy Andrew formally Lucy Bell Shelly Bell and Boling Bell are the Surviving heirs and representatives of Samuel Bell decaes to which the above certificate was Given and Signed by Capt James Dillard Given under my hand this 14 day of May 1831

William andrew

In the name of God Amen. I Samuel Bell of Amherst County, being weak in body but of sound mind and memory, thanks be given to God Calling to mind the Mortality of my Body and Knowing that is appointed for all men Once to die do think proper to make and ordain this my last will and Testament in the following manner and form Viz.

First – all my just debts to be paid.

Item I lend to my beloved wife all my lands that I am possessed with, also all my personal Estate during her widowhood should my wife remain a widow during her natural life after her dec'd or marriage my desire is that All my Land & personal Estate shall be sold and Equally divided between my two sons George H Bell and Bolling Bell and between my daughters Sophia Bell Stilley W Bell & Elizabeth Bell, all which I give to them or their heirs for ever.

Item. Should either of my said Children die without heirs, his her or their parts to be equally divided between those living or their heirs.

Item I give to my daughter Lucy Andrew Five dollars to be paid to her or heirs out of my estate when sold I appoint my loving wife my Executrix and Drury Bell and Drury Christian executors of this my last will and testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this thirteenth day of February One thousand eight hundred and Eleven

Sam'l Bell

signed sealed and ach'd' in presence of us/ Jeremiah Taylor/ Abner Christian/ James Christian

[Will proved in June 1811]

To the Executive Department

June 22^d 1831

Gents the Enclosed is my papers for the purpose of obtaining Any Land that me be due to the heirs of Saml Bell Decsed, from the State of Virginia, So soon as the papers can be maid out pleas fored them to this office, Stonewall mills post office Ys Respectfully/ Bolling Bell

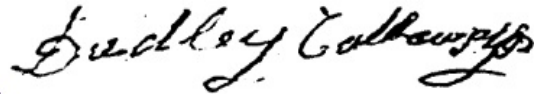
Not entitled. 2 yr Sold. [soldier] only
1831 June 27 Rejected

Sam'l Bell, Adj[utan]t to Col Gaines's [possibly Daniel Gaines] Detachment of Amherst Militia is hereby discharged, this present Day. Given under my hand this 2^d Oct'r 1781
Camp before York [Yorktown VA] [illegible] Jones Maj'r 2^d Reg't
Holt Richeson Colo. Com[mandan]t

Corporation of Lynchburg to wit

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the Corporation aforesaid Dudley Callaway [S39282] and made oath in due form of Law that he was a Soldier of the Revolution and that during that war he was well acquainted with a certain Samuel Bell, that He was in Capt. Sam'l Cabell's Company, Commanded by Colo. Daniel Morgan, I new him for eight months in 1777 & 1778 and was engaged in several actions together. In 1778 I left him in the army in good standing and believe he served three years.

Given under my hand this 29th day of March 1834



Amherst County to wit

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid William Lavender Sen [W8080] and made oath in due form of Law, that he is a surviving soldier of the war of the Revolution, and now a pensioner of the United States in consideration of his services therein. That during the said war, he well recollects, that a certain Samuel Bell of the County of amherst enlisted into the Regular service and he thinks in the continental line for the period of three years and sometime in the year 1776 marched from the said county as he believes under the command of Capt Saml J Cabell in the character of Seargant. The said Bell, was promoted as he understood to the grade of a subaltern commissioned officer and he thinks that of Ensign and returned late in the year 1779 That he cannot speak positively of the time of his enlistment or of his discharge but he well recollects the fact of his return from the northern army and his [undeciphered word] amherst old court House, a company with many private soldiers whose term of three years service had expired as he understood and who had formed with and belonged to the same company with the said Bell – on which occasion the said Bell was dressed in the Regt'ls [regimentals] of an officer, this was late in the year 1779. That he resided for many years a near neighbor of the said Bell after his said return, and about that period he always understood that the said Bell in [undeciphered word] character of soldier and officer had served in the said war upwards of three years and that he was an officer of great merit. That the said Bell has departed this life many years ago leaving as he understands a will which is of record in Amherst county & many children. Given under my hand this

12th day of April 1834

Henry J Davies J.P.

Amherst County to wit

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Drury Bell, and made oath in due form of Law, that he is the brother of the late Samuel Bell de'd of the county aforesaid. That during the War of the Revolution and at an early period thereof the said Samuel enlisted into the regular army, Continental Service, under the command of Capt Samuel J Cabell, for the period of three years and marched somewhere to the northward, and served as he understood at that time, the said period of three years. That he does not recollect exactly the date of his return but it was late in the year of 1779. That the said Samuel, after his enlistment and march northward, was promoted to the grade of a subaltern commissioned officer either Leut or Ensign, which rank or one of them he bore when he returned from the army. That he always understood until since the death of the said Samuel (which happened in the year he believes of 1811) that the said Samuel re'd from the commonwealth of Virginia,

bounty in Land for his said services, but since that period has understood that he had not so re'd his bounty lands. That the said Samuel died first having made and published his last will and testament, which is of record in the county court of Amherst, by which he disposed of his Estate to his children and appointed him the said Drury his Executor. Given under my hand this 19th day of April 1834

Ed. A Cabell J.P

Oakville May 5th 1834

Dear Sir On looking over my Fathers old papers I found a Discharge which I think will be of great use to us it appears that he re-entered the army, or served from the time that Mr Callaway left him until 1781 I enclose you the discharge and hope you will not fail to let me know very shortly wheather it will be of service or not Mr. J Christian who has been engaged in business of that kind for some years says there need be no further evidence of his service and says there will be also a considerable Draw of money, but my confidence is in them to whom the Power is given you will not fail to write back, to let me know your opinion on the subject.

yours very Respectfully

J. Tompson jr Esqr.

[?]. B. Bell

State of Virginia, Amherst County S.S.

On this 23 day of December 1843, before me William Kent a Justice of the peace in and for said county personally appeared Mathew Ricketts, a respectable resident of said county, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say – That he is 83 years old and was well acquainted with Sam'l Bell dec'd of said County during the Revolutionary War being both raised together in the same neighbourhood in said county; and that said Samuel Bell was amongst the first that enlisted from deponants neighbourhood, as a regular soldier, during the Revolutionary war under Capt. Sam'l Cabell and was marched to the North and was gone from home at least Four, (if not more) years; during which time he the said Bell got to be a Lieutenant in the Regular Service. How long the said Bell served as a private, before he was promoted, deponant cannot say positively but thinks it must have been two years or more. The dep. does not know himself, that Bell was an officer only from hearsay. Said Bell married Sally Mitchell in said county, towards the close of the Revo'y war. Bell died about 40 years ago, and left 5 or 6 children to witt, Wm B. Bell, Jonathan or George and Estille and 2 daughters, married Abraham, and Wm. Andrews.
Test/ Ro. H Gray Mathew hisXmark Ricketts

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the tenth day of September 1783, in the name of Samuel Bell as a Lieutenant of infantry for £169.8.6, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782. to wit from the 8 March 1777 to 31 March 1779

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 1st day of February 1844.

Jas. E. Heath AUDITOR.

State of Virginia, Amherst County S. S.

On this 23rd day of February 1844 before me William Dillard a Justice of the peace, in and for said county, personally appeared Sam'l Arrington [Samuel Arrington S8033] a resident of the county of Nelson, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say – That he is 81 years old, and was well acquainted with Sam'l Bell during the Revo'y war; and that him, and Reuben Griffin, Jno. Dickerson, Jno Philips, and Jas Dillard [Reuben Griffin, John Dickerson, John Philips, James Dillard], all enlisted for two years, from deponants neighbourhood, then Amherst county under Capt. Sam'l CaBell, in the early part of the Revo'y war – say in 1775, or 1776, dep. being then a boy – too young to go into service; and that his Cabells company, including said Bell, was marched to the north: And that he dep. is disposed to believe, that said Bell served out his time faithfully. deponant understood, that said Bell

obtained a Commission, as a Lieutenant, but does not know the fact himself. But he recollects seeing him in uniform, and was mustering, and drilling the militia, that was drafted to Yorktown, in the Fall of 1781: But that he Bell did not go himself. He dep. can not say, whether he Bell, was an officer at that time, or not. Said Bell, married a Miss Mitchell in Amherst County. Samuel hisXmark Arrington

[undeciphered word] May 18, 1847

Sir, Enclosed are the Aff[idiavits] of Mathew Rickets, and Sam'l Arrington – together with the Certificate of pay of Lieut Sam'l Bell – which we wish filed with the papers, already on file in the Executive department – in his case claim Land-bounty on the grade of Lieut, in the Cont. line [sic], which last rank he held, as will appear by the evidence. I have not been urging this claim, lately, because, the Govt has appropriated no new land for many years to pay such claims, and also I wished to add more Testimony, should I get it. I think however, that what I have sent, in addition to what is already on file will justify the claim of the heirs of Bell being allowed. yours Respectfully/ Ro. H Gray

Note. This claim was originally filed by Mr. Jno. Thompson – now Senator – but has been transferred to me, with Mr. T's consent. R. H. G.

Rejected aug. 20^t 1847 R. W. Daniel L. Gov.