

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Bell R720
Transcribed by Will Graves

Jane

fn56NC
8/25/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Iredell County

On this 13th day of August AD 1846 personally appeared before me W. F. Cowan a justice of the peace in & for the County above named John C. Bell a resident of said County and State aged forty seven years, who after being 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 July 7th 1838, entitled an Act granting half pay & pensions to certain widows: That he is the child of the identical Thomas Bell who was a private Soldier in war of the Revolution, in the North Carolina Militia [militia] & of Jane McGuire wife of the said Thomas Bell that his said father & mother were residents of the County of Rowan & State aforesaid, at the time of their marriage which took place in the year 1783 or 1784 which was after the said Thomas Bell's last service in the war, but previous to the 1st of January 1794--& that his father the said Thomas Bell served in the militia of said State mostly in the capacity of a wagoner furnishing his own wagon & team generally; that he volunteered one tour during which in the early part of the year 1778 he was sent with his wagon & team in the service of the United States, to York Town during the Setting of the Congress at that place, & was discharged on the 31st of March 1778, by the Hon. Henry Laurens president of Congress, all of which will more fully appear on a reference being had to the paper containing the same & also the certificate of Jacob Nichols, JP, Matthew Locke and Ad Osborne [?] dated 26th Feb'y 1778 at Salisbury, all of whom were leading characters at that time in their County (Rowan) & neighborhood, & which said paper is herewith included. That said Thos. Bell was drafted & served one other tour of three months under Capt. Headon, in Col. Loftins Regiment Gen Rutherford's brigade, & was discharged on 4th Decr 1781 by Col. Wm. Lofton in accordance with the general order all of which is shown more fully by a reference being had to the discharge which is herewith enclosed, that declarant has heard his father often relating facts concerning his services, in South Carolina, Georgia & other States—that his father the said Thomas Bell lived during the War & afterwards in Rowan County (now Iredell) State of North Carolina & died in the same place on the 14th day of February 1825, being then about seventy years of age, leaving the said Jane his wife who remained his widow up to the period of her death which took place on the 1st day of November 1843,--that the said Thomas Bell & Jane his wife were both members of the Presbyterian Church at Bethany Rowan Co. in 1785 of which Church James Hall Jr was pastor --being about to remove (& did remove) to the State of Georgia

for a short time & returned) they obtained from their pastor, a certificate of Church membership dated 19th of Decr 1785—that the said Thomas & Jane always lived together as husband & wife until the death of said Thomas Bell & raised &* left children living as follows viz. the undersigned applicant who is acting in behalf of himself & brothers & Sisters, that is, James A. Bell & Casithey [sic, Cynthia] Jane & Mary, now living & others that are dead, that the Court is not now in Session or this declaration would have been made in open Court.

Sworn to & Subscribed before me this day & year first above written.

S/ W. F. Cowan, JP

S/ John Carson Bell

[fn p. 9]

Feb'y 26, 1778

To all Whom these may concern

We the Subscribers Justices of the County of Rowan in the State of North Carolina, Do hereby Certify that the Bearer Mr. Thomas, Bell is a good and faithful Subject of the said State, and hath as far as called upon evinced an Attachment to the American Cause And We do further certify that the said Thomas Bell is at present employed in the Service of the united States and We recommend him to the Countenance & Encouragement of all Friends to Liberty

S/ Jacob Nichols, JP

S/ Matthew Lock

S/ Ad Osborn

Suffer Mr. Bell to return with his Waggon & Horses to his habitation—York Town 31 March 1778

S/ Henry Laurens,

President of Congress

Feb 26. 1778
 To all Whome these may concern,
 We the Justices of the County of Warren
 in the State of North Carolina, Do hereby certify that
 the Person Mr. Thomas Bell is a good and faithful
 Subject of the said State, and hath on his said
 upon received an Attachment to the American Cause
 and we do further certify that the said Thomas Bell
 is at present employed in the Service of the United States
 (and we recommend him to the Countenance & Encouragement
 of all Friends to Liberty. *Jacob & John B.*
Matthew Lock
 Done at Salisbury. *J. D. Wilson*
 Suffer Mr. Bell to return
 with his Wagon & Horses to his
 habitation - York Town 21 March 1778
Henry Laurens
 President of
 Congress

[fn p. 13]
 These are to Sertifey that Thomas Bell of Capt. Caldwell's
 Compy hath Sarved a three months tour of Dutey under
 Capn headon in Coll Loftons Ragt. Gell. Rutherford's
 Bragade-& is now Discharged by the Gell. order this
 4th Desember - 1781
 S/ Wm Loftin Coll.

These are to certify that Thomas Bell of Capt. Caldwell's
Comp^y - hath served a three months tour of Duty under
Capt. Meador - in Col. Loftons Regt - 9th - (Katherine's)
Brigade - & is now Discharged by the Genl - under this
4th of December - 1781
S/ Jas Hall Jun^r

This certifies, that the bearer Thomas Bell & Jane his wife have lived in this congregation from their childhood to this date, that they have behaved soberly & inoffensively, have been admitted to full communion in our church, are free from any scandal or ground of church censure known to us; and are hereby recommended to the care of Providence & the regard of any religious society with which they may choose to associate – given at Bethany, Rowan County North Carolina, this 19th of December 1785 with approbation of Session, by

S/ Jas Hall, Jun'r
Pastor of Sd. Church

This certifies, that the bearer, Thomas Bell & Jane
his wife have lived in this congregation from their childhood
to this date, that they have behaved soberly & inof-
fensively, have been admitted to full communion in
our church, are free from any scandal or ground of church
censure known to us; and are hereby recommended
to the care of Providence & the regard of any religi-
ous society with which they may choose to asso-
ciate – given at Bethany, Rowan County,
N. Carolina, this 19th of Dec. 1785.
With approbation of Session, by
Jas Hall Jun^r
Pastor of Sd. Church.

[facts in file: Jane McGuire was the daughter of Timothy McGuire; the claim was not allowed for

failure to prove the requisite 6 months minimum service to qualify under the 1832 act;