

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

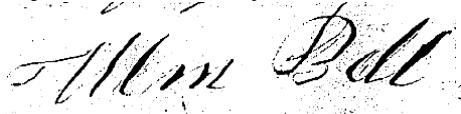
Pension application of William Bell R727
Transcribed by Will Graves

f27SC
7/23/10 & rev'd 6/17/18

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

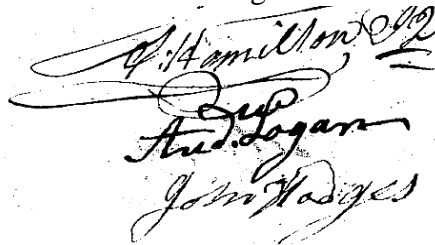
To the Honorable the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina

The humble petition of William Bell of the District of Abbeville and State of said sheweth that your petitioner is now upwards of seventy-nine years of age that he is extremely poor possessing no property or means of making a comfortable support. That he was a soldier in the State service during the revolution and that he did serve in a number of companies and was at one time commanded by Captain Weems [Thomas Weems] and at another by Captain Joseph Pickens. That he was at the battle with the Tories on Cany branch in Laurens District and into the engagement at Cambridge and at the battle of Kettle Creek¹ in the State of Georgia and was with the troops in a campaign as far as St. Mary's River² and during the whole of the revolutionary Struggle firmly attached to the American Cause. Your petitioner therefore prays he may be placed by your Honorable body on the pension list or given by the State such means of support as your Honorable body shall think proper and just and as in duty bound will ever pray.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William Bell", with a small number "3" written below the end of the signature.

South Carolina Abbeville District: I do certify that I was well acquainted with the within petitioner William Bell and to knows that the facts stated in his petition of the services rendered during the Revolution are true and that I was with Mr. Bell and some of the battles within mentioned and that he now is extremely poor without the means of support and has uniformly sustained a good moral character.

S/ A. Hamilton,⁴ JQ
S/ Andrew Logan⁵
S/ John Hodges⁶

Three handwritten signatures in cursive script, stacked vertically. The top signature is "A. Hamilton", the middle is "Andrew Logan", and the bottom is "John Hodges".

¹ Kettle Creek February 14, 1779 <https://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790214-kettle-creek/>

² probably the third Florida expedition: Spring 1778

<http://www.ourgeorgiahistory.com/wars/Revolution/revolution12.html>

³ image of the signature taken from the Audited Account file in the SC State Archives

⁴ This is PROBABLY [Andrew Hamilton S18000](#)

⁵ This is PROBABLY [Andrew Logan S9375](#)

⁶ [John Hodges W10117](#)

South Carolina Abbeville District: Personally came Major John Hodges and made oath that he did now [sic, know] and was with Mr. William Bell in the service of the United States in the Revolutionary war and that he did his duty as a good soldier. Signed & Sworn to before me
8 December 1828

S/. William Ware JQ

S/ John Hodges

[p 6: in December 1842 William Bell Junior petitioned the House and Senate of South Carolina to pay to him as the son and heir of William Bell the arrearages due his father under the pension granted to his father by the South Carolina legislature. The petitioner states that his father died December 12, 1838.]

[p 9]

State of Georgia County of Spalding: SS

On this 14th day of July in the year 1856 personally appeared in open court before the undersigned Judge of the Court of Ordinary in & for the County, and which a Court of Record David Bell a resident of said County & State aged about fifty-five years who being first 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 June 7 1832. That he is the son & heir at law of William Bell deceased late of Laurens District & formerly of Abbeville District in the State of South Carolina, who entered the service of the United States as this deponent has been informed & verily believes under the following named officers & served as herein after stated: That during the war of the Revolution his said father lived in what is now Abbeville District South Carolina and entered the militia service of South Carolina under the command of Captain Weems & served in different Companies of the militia under the command of Colonel and subsequently General Andrew Pickens. That he at one time belonged to Captain Joseph Pickens Company of militia and in the year 1779 was at the battle at Kettle Creek in the State of Georgia & also at another time in the battle on Cany Branch in Laurens District South Carolina. Also in an expedition to St. Mary's River Florida, and in two battles at old Ninety Six Fort now called Cambridge in Abbeville District South Carolina. That part of his service was under Captain William Strain & part also under Captain Robert Maxwell most of his duty having been as private horseman & a short while as Sergeant: That he served alternately in different Companies in the militia from 1779 to the year peace was made 1783 -- That among his comrades were Major Andrew Hamilton, Andrew Logan, John Hodges & David Waters⁷ who together with the officers above enumerated all lived in the same section with his said father. That he continued to live in the same section and in the year 1828 was pensioned by the State of South Carolina which he continued to receive till just before his death which took place in an adjoining District, Laurens District, in said State of South Carolina on the 12th day of December 1838: That he left no widow him surviving but that the following are the names of his now living children, William Bell Junior who was administrator on his said father's Estate whilst living in Laurens District South Carolina but who now lives in Pickens County Alabama, Peter Bell, Thomas Bell, Jane Vandiver and this declarant. All of which facts will more fully appear by reference to the proofs here with accompanying this declaration. Sworn to and subscribed the day & year first above written before me.

Witness my hand & seal of said County

S/ David Bell

S/ J. H. illegible, Judge of the Probate Court

[Thomas Waters and Wiley Henderson gave supporting affidavits as to the reputation of the veteran as a revolutionary soldier.]

⁷ [David Waters S7845](#)

[p 19: certificate dated July 9, 1856 from South Carolina Comptroller General showing payments made to William Bell during the revolution for the use of his horse & wagon; 40 days duty as a Sergeant; 281 days duty as a private and 25 days duty as a foot soldier. Another indent shows payments to William Bell for 79 days duty for the pay bill of Captain Joseph Pickens; hundred 28 days & 25 days service as a private under Captain William Strain's pay bill; 53 days payment for another pay bill of Captain William Strain; another pay bill or 40 days service as a Sergeant under Captain Wm Stain's pay bill; & 21 days as a private pursuant to Captain Robert Maysfield's pay bill.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁸ relating to William Bell AA30
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 423

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/17/18

[[p 8] This file contains an image of the original petition filed by the veteran by which he petitioned for a pension from the State of South Carolina, which petition is transcribed above.]

[p 4]

South Carolina

To the Honorable David Ramsay Esquire President and the Rest of the Honorable Members of the Senate –

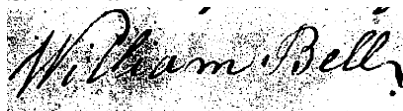
The petition of William Bell Humbly Sheweth –

That your petitioner Lodged Accounts against the Publick in the hands of William Tait [sic, William Tate] Esquire early in the year 1784 who was then Auditor for Colonel Bratton's [William Bratton's] Regiment and that all your Petitioner's Accounts except one for a certain mare which was taken into General Green's [Nathanael Greene's] Service were regularly passed into an Indent, that Notwithstanding your petitioner taking every step in his power and produced Sufficient vouchers In his opinion for said mare yet the Office of the Treasury department hath neglected to grant him an Indent for the said Account of said Mare –

Your petitioner therefore submits to your Honorable house the Account on which the above Claim is founded and most Humbly prays your Honorable House will take them into your Serious Consideration and Grant him such Relief as from the Circumstances of his Case shall seem proper –

And your petitioner in duty will pray

S/ William Bell

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Bell". The ink is dark and the signature is written over a light, textured background.

[p 6: An identically worded petition addressed to Robert Barnwell Esquire Speaker of the house of Representatives and the members of the same.]

[Note: The veteran's petition to be placed on the pension list was granted and the veteran was awarded a pension of \$60 per annum commencing June 6, 1829. Since the veteran never filed for a pension from the federal government under any of its act, the petition of heirs for a retroactive pension would have been denied. That explains why this file bears an "R" or 'rejected' number under the federal pension file numbering system. I don't see in this file what action, if any, the SC Senate and/or House took on veteran's petition to be reimbursed for his lost mare. However, the following documents relating to this veteran have been misfiled in the file

⁸ The South Carolina Audited Accounts are available on microfilm at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia, SC. They will eventually be available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.

relating to James Bell AA file No. 417. The page numbers referenced below are to the pages of the file relating to James Bell.]

[p 82]

3 January 1785

Mr. William Bell's Account as a Horse Wagon Service for Militia in [illegible] 1782 and for Militia Duty per the different Pay Bills [indecipherable] mentioned [indecipherable] alternatively from the year 79 [1779] to March 1783 inclusive Amounting to Viz.

For Waggon & Horse	£140
[illegible] Days Duty as Sergt. at 22/6	45
[illegible] Days Duty as Private at 20/	281
25 Days Do on foot at 10/	<u>12.10</u>
[Old SC] Currency	<u>£478.10</u>
Stg. [Sterling]	£68.7.1 ½

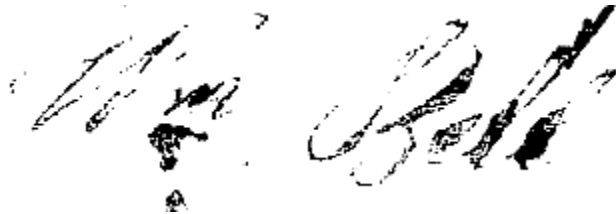
[p 83]

State of So Carolina

Dr. to William Bell	
For a Horse per Voucher included No. 1	£100
Hire for Waggon, Team, & Driver per Voucher No. 2 [indecipherable]	140
79 Days per Capt. Joseph Picken's Pay Bill 20/	79
128 Days 20/ & 25 Days at 10/ per Capt. William Strain's Pay Bill	140.10
53 Days at 20/ per Do Do	53
40 Days 22/6 as Sergt. per Do Do	45
21 Days at 20/ per Capt. Robert Maysfield's Do	21
Stg	£68.7.1 ½

Received January 3rd 1784 the full Amount of the above Account in a Treasury Indent No. 619, Book J

S/ Wm Bell



[p 93]

The United States Dr. [deliver] to William Bell for a mare the sum of 160 pounds

August the 26th 1781 £160.0

The State of South Carolina Dr. to William Bell for a Wagon the sum of 100 pounds

June the 10 1781 £100.0.0

Currency £260.0.0

Sterling £37.2.10 ¼

Sworn to this 7th May 1783

S/ Wm Tate, JP

S/ William Bell

[p 98]

This is not a proper voucher no Certificate that the Mare was received

Mr. William Bell should have prosecuted Corporal Judge who took the Mare

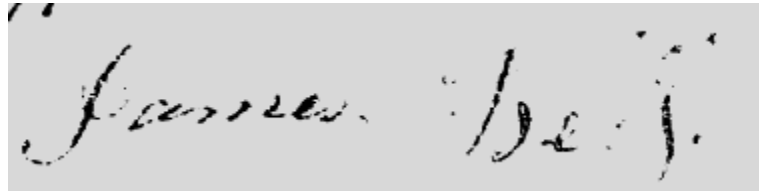
Without a proper Certificate Rejected by the Board of Commissioners

[p 100]

State of South Carolina Union County} Personally came before me a justice of said County, James Bell of said County and being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, Declareth on oath & saith that he was personally present in the year 1781 and in the month of August; and saw a sorrel mare impressed from William Bell of the state of South Carolina, and I the said James Bell with a certain William Hagans were appointed to appraise said sorrel mare, which we appraised to the sum of 40 pounds North Carolina Money in Gold or Silver, and further saith not. Sworn and subscribed to this 27 of August 1791 before me

S/ Thos. Blasingame, JP

S/ James Bell

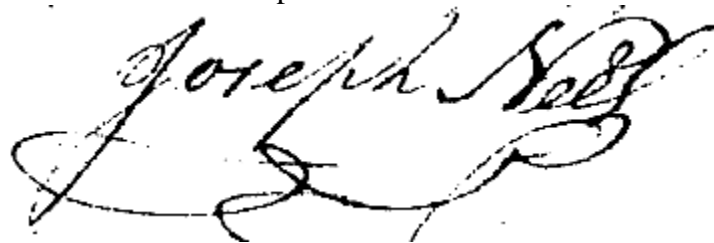
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Bell". The ink is dark and the background is a light, slightly textured grey.

[p 102]

York County South Carolina} This Day Joseph Neel made oath before me, that sometime in the year 1782 he being in the Public Service he the Deponent was Informed by a certain William Bell that he the said Bell had a sorrel Mare of the value of £40 proclamation impressed from him into the Service of the United States & that this Deponent was requested by said Bell to recover or get the said Mare back to him again out of the Service but this Deponent did not nor could not but that he did see the said mare in the Continental Service & Branded with the Public Brand Sworn to & subscribed before me this 5th day of December 1791

S/ William Hilbet CC

S/ Joseph Neel

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Neel". The ink is dark and the background is white.

[p 104]

State of South Carolina Lexington County} Personally appeared William Bell, before me and made oath as the Law Directs, that the said Mare sworn to by James Bell and Joseph Neel was his property & that she was impressed from him into the service of the United States by a certain John Padget Sergeant in the Continental Army under the Command of General Greene [Nathanael Greene], and that he the said Deponent, took the said Padget's Certificate as there was no other Officer present, and made a return of the same with the Bill of Appraisement, by Mr. William Tate Commissioner of Accounts for Colonel Bratton's Regiment and when he the Deponent applied for his Indent, was informed that his Account was not Audited, for want of being Certified by a Commission Officer, and now the Deponent Declareth that there was no such Officer Present nor to be come at; and that time and that he never received an Indent nor any Satisfaction for the same. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15 day of December 1791

S/ James M. Kelly, JP

S/ William Bell