

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Bell S12986  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia. Prince William County.

To wit.

On this 3<sup>d</sup> day of June 1833 personally appeared before the Justices of the County of Prince William in the County Court John Bell a resident of the county aforesaid in the state aforesaid aged seventy one years the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832: "That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1782 under Captain Henry Marjoram and served in the regiment commanded by Colo. Wadsworth; that he resided in the County of Prince William and enlisted at the place called Cheap's[?] old race grounds, that he marched under Capt Marjoram from Prince William County through Falmouth, Fredericksburg, Bowling green, Hanover Court House, Williamsburg & thence to yorktown where he joined the army & served in Colo. Wadsworth regiment. we started from york town in June 1782 and marched back to Fredericksburg thence to Alexandria, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Trenton; crossed the north river passed through Hartford in Connecticut thence to Providence in Rhode Island and on to Boston and was discharged in 1783 last of may or early in June. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. Sworn to and subscribed this 3<sup>d</sup> day of June 1833.

John Bell

Dis'i of Columbia } Ss.  
County of Washington }

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June 1834 personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid John Bell and being by me first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration as an amendment, to the one made by him in Prince William County Va. in order to obtain the benefits of the act of June 7, 1832. That he the said John Bell enlisted in Prince William County Virginia, in the regiment, commanded by Col'n. Wardsworth, and was attached to the Company commanded by Cap'n. Henry Margarum, in the month of January 1782 for the term of 18 months, that he continued in service till the expiration of his term and was discharged on or about the last of June 1783 at a place called Sheffield in the State of New York. He therefore prays that his pension may be increased to that rate allowed those who served the period of eighteen months.

Jno. hisXmark Bell

War Department/ Pension Office/ June 17 1834

Sir Your claim to an increase of pension has been examined. On referring to your original declaration I have very strong doubt whether you ever performed any military service during the revolutionary war. Your statement is entirely at variance with well known historical facts in relation to the movements of the Army, names of Officers &c., and unless you can produce some more substantial proof than your own declaration respecting your service, your name will be dropt from the pension roll.

I am Respectfully/ Your Ob't. Servant/ J. L. Edwards

[20 June 1834]

Charles Atwell [pension application S10064], now of the County of Loudoun in the State of Virginia deposeth and saith, I lived neighbor to, and was well acquainted with John Bell, in the County of Prince William, in the state of Virginia, who has been a pensioner, and knows he enlisted in the company of

Capt. Margurum. I was engaged in the recruiting service, and marched at the same time Bell did, tho in another Company, to the City of Williamsburg – this was in the month of February 1782. We remained there in the service together until the month of July, when we marched under Col. Wadsworth to the north, and were stationed at different places, and finally I left him with the rest of the army at a place called Hatfield or Hatley, or some such name [probably Hadley MA], in New England, having been with the said John Bell for [illegible] months, in the service together from the time we marched from Prince William County. Six or seven months after my return, he came home, saying he had served in the army ever since I left it, until a few days before his return when he had been discharged. I never heard any doubt expressed of his having served the said time after my discharge and I believe he did serve the six or seven months, in addition to the ten months which he did serve to my own knowledge.

[signed] Charles B Attwell

State of Virginia/ Prince William County Sct.

John Sullivan of the County of Prince William County this day personally appeared before the undersigned one of the Justices of the peace in and for the county aforesaid and made oath that John Bell enlisted in the Army upon continental establishment some time in the month of February in the year 1782 in the company commanded by Capt. Marguram – that he enlisted for the term of twelve months – that he the said John Sullivan enlisted in the same company at the same for the same term and that they were marched from the county of Prince William to the city of Williamsburg and remained there until the month of July following when they marched to the North under Colo Wadsworth that from the time of the enlistment aforesaid he the said John Bell served to his own known at least fourteen months at which time he the said John Sullivan was discharged leaving the said John Bell still in the service who did not return to his home for three or four months thereafter

Given under my hand this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 1834.

[signed] John Sullivan

NOTE: According to the pension application of Charles B. Attwell, the purpose of this service was to convey artillery to Boston following the Siege of Yorktown. Col. Wadsworth may have been from the militia of a northern state.