

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Bell S22116  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Pennsylvania }  
Clearfield County Ss }            On this third day of September AD 1833 personally appeared before the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for Clearfield county in open Court John Bell aged 81 years a resident of Pike township in said county who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by Act of Congress, passed 7th June 1832.

That he resided in the year 1776 in the county of Lancaster, Paxton township, State of Pennsylvania. That in the month of February 1776 in the township aforesaid he enlisted in the army of the United States with Captain William West and served in the 2nd Regiment of the Pennsylvania line and served under the following named Officers, viz

Colonel Shay [possibly John Shee]  
Lt Colonel Cadwallader [probably Lambert Cadwalader]  
Major Biddle  
Capt William West  
Adjutant Biddle  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Stokes

The applicant served the full term of his enlistment, viz One year. the company marched from Lancaster county aforesaid to Philadelphia and thence to Trenton on board shallops, thence to Princeton, thence to New Brunswick, thence to New York, and from thence to Fort Washington where we remained about two months. From thence to Long Island, where the company, then under the command of Captain Stewart, arrived just at the conclusion of the battle, and were ordered back to Fort Washington, and were stationed there when the fort was besieged and taken [16 Nov 1776]. The applicant being on piquet guard at the time of the surrender made his escape with twenty-five others to Fort Lee, from thence to New Brunswick, from thence to Philadelphia, where he again joined in the army and remained in quarters until the expiration of his time of service under Lieutenant Stout of the Regular army. He received a regular discharge, but long since lost it. He afterwards joined the 4th Virginia Regiment, and drove team for eighteen months, having been employed by the Waggonmaster, whose name he does not now recollect. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State, except that I receive an annuity of forty dollars for my service aforesaid from the State of Pennsylvania. The applicant knew regular Officers, belonging to the army but being principally employed in garrison duty he had not a very extensive knowledge of the Officers. He knew & well recollects Col [Robert] Magaw who commanded in Fort Washington. He also knew Col. Nagle [sic: George Nagel], but thinks he was not at Fort Washington. The fort was taken sometime in the month of October 1776. He also recollects, Captain Lenox [sic: David Lennox] of the 5th Pennsylvania Regiment, who he thinks was taken prisoner at the Fort.

[signed illegibly]

NOTE: On 5 Nov 1833 Mary Bell of Dauphin County PA certified before William Bell, a Justice of the Peace, that John Bell had volunteered in the war and served until its end, when he returned to his father in Dauphin County.