

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Bell S2971

fn48NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/24/10

[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 Rowan County

On this 8th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Superior Court of Law for Rowan County now sitting, the same being a court of Record, James Bell a resident of Rowan County aged seventy-two 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 act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he was born in Rowan County North Carolina in the year 1760 and has there resided ever since; that he has no Record of his age except a defaced one in an old family Bible where the figures 1760 only are visible –

That he entered the service of the United States, as a volunteer under Captain William Bell, Colonel Francis Locke's Regiment under the command of General __ Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] at the Battle of Ramsour's Mill in the then County of Tryon; that he was then under age returned home after a tour of about ten days – and immediately afterwards went as a volunteer for a few days with a company in pursuit of one Briant [sic, Samuel Bryan] a Tory officer with some soldiers under him in the forks of the Yadkin [River] in said County of Rowan, but did not sign Briant & returned home. Was again a volunteer for a three months tour in Captain Huggins' Company during which time he was under General Rutherford at General Gates defeat near Camden in South Carolina where the whole troops were dispersed. Afterwards volunteered for a three months tour in Captain William Bell's Company Colonel Francis Locke's Regiment under General Rutherford and marched to join General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] and was near Guilford but had not reached that place at the time of the Battle there between the American forces under General Green and the British Army under __Cornwallis – that he was one of General Rutherford's life Guards and was sent shortly after the Battle of Guilford to convey home Captain William Bell who was sick with the smallpox and was removed from the Army to prevent contagion and the spreading of that disease in the camp.

That he was again a volunteer in Captain James Catheys company Colonel Harris's Regiment under General Rutherford for three months was chosen again one of the life guards and was stationed for most of this last time at Wilmington North Carolina. That he was one of the mounted militia – or always served on horseback and furnished his own horse; besides these several tours before related he was what was then called a minute man and was frequently out on

various military expeditions for a few days at a time; during the whole of the Revolutionary War. That he does not remember of seeing or knowing any of the officers of the Continental Army, except Brigadier General Guest¹ of Virginia with whom he traveled home after Gates defeat. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any State or the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid –

S/ Hy Giles, [Henry Giles, Clerk of the Superior Court]

S/ James Bell

In the absence of any regular Clergyman, We James Houston and John McNeely residing in Rowan County do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with James Bell who has Subscribed and Sworn to the foregoing Declaration and we believe him to be seventy-two years of age; that we served with him part of the time in General Rutherford's Army during the Revolutionary war, that we have before his confidence in his integrity and believe that he served in the war as he states.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Hy Giles [Henry Giles]

S/ James Huston²

S/ John McNeely³

The foregoing Declaration having been returned from the office of the Secretary of War the objections of the Department thereto, the Declarant appeared before John Carigan, a justice of the peace in & for Rowan County and state an officer following explanations of the objections made. That his first term of service for 3 months was in the summer of the year 1780. That his second term of 3 months was in the spring of the year 1781. That his third term of service for 3 months was in the summer & fall of the year 1781. That his service as a minute man commenced in the year 1779 and were rendered at various times at short intervals until the end of the War the whole time together making at least 3 months. The various times of his service being added together makes in all twelve months. That there is no clergyman now living nor at the time he made his declaration was there any one living within any reasonable Distance of him that was or is acquainted with him, and he could not procure anyone to attend the court. That the two citizens whose affidavit he procured were his neighbors & were with him in the war at several places though not all the time, that he thought & was advised that direct evidence was more certain than report of reputation. The declarant being disabled could not appear in court – And the declarant further states that he knows of no other living witness by whom he could prove his service except the two witnesses who certificate is hereto annexed.

S/ James Bell

[facts in file: the veteran moved to Gibson County Tennessee on the 18th day of March in 1834; there is no family data in this file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 9 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

¹ This MAY be a mistaken reference to B. G. Mordecai Gist of the Maryland Line, 2nd Maryland Brigade.

² FPA S8717

³ [John McNeely S7261](#)