

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Bell S30272

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } SS

Marion County }

On this the fourth day of August Eighteen Hundred and forty two, personally appeared before me William H Hawkins an acting Justice of the County Court in and for the County of Marion & State of Kentucky as afs'd Mr. John Bell a resident of the County of Marion and state of Kentucky, & who is prevented by reason of Bodily infirmity from appearing in open Court – & is aged between ninety and ninety three 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 the 7th 1832.

That he entered in the service of the United States as a malitiaman and a volunteer in the year of 1775 (he thinks) under Captain William Washington for the term of three months, and after the said tour of three months had expired he volunteerd under said Captain Washington again, and continued to serve as a private under Captain Washington until he made up a company of light horsemen. and that after Captain Washington had made up his Company of light horsemen, he Declarant volunteered for three months under Captain Cook in 1776 & is not certain in what month but knows that it was verry hot weather, for he well recollects that when the British Burnt William Brunts house in Stafford County Virginia on the Potomac River [probably in July 1776] he declarant became nearly exhausted from the intensity of the heat in endeavouring to make defence thereof – and that after the tour of service under said Cook had expired he again volunteered as a private of malitiaman for a term of three months, under Captain George Burass which was in 1777 & that after the said tour under Captain Burass had expired he again volunteered for another of three months under Captain Burass and served & at what date he does not exactly recollect but thinks in 1778. And that the next tour of service was under Colonel [sic: General] George Rogers Clark in 1780 & which was during his said Clarks Expedition to the west his second trip, & that he volunteered under said Clark to come with him to the west, and proceded with him and under him as far as Fort Wheeling where he was taken sick with the Plearacy and remained sick for three weeks and after he recovered sufficiently Clark having proceded for Kentucky or the falls of Ohio [at present Louisville, June 1780] down the Ohio River, he Declarant went up the monongahale [sic: Monongahela] River in Virginia as far as redstone [Redstone Fort now Brownsville PA] where he lay sick about 7 days and recovering sufficiently he started for his home in Stafford County Virginia, where he arrived in four months precisely from the time he set out to volunteer or as a volunteer under said Clark. Declarant farther states that he volunteered under said Clark to come with him to the west afsd & to continue with him until he should return, but was prevented by sickness as aforstated, and that he volunteerd in April he thinks – and that his next tour of service was rendered under Captain Burass when Cornwallis was proceding for Yorktown [late July 1781], the Malitia was called out, and Captain Burass & his men proceded near Richmond and finding the British has changed their rout some what, the troops were disbanded but stood in readiness to march out & that he enlisted for three months on the last mentioned tour – and that before the siege of York the malitia was called out to prepare the roads for the troops of General Washington to march to Yorktown and that he declarant was one of them and assisted in their preparation, and at Fredericksburgh on the Rapahannock River [sic: Fredericksburg on the Rappahannock River] Declarant was for some time in the water up to his waste and packing rock for the preparation of the Ford. And the next & last tour of service, he was draughted under Captain Hardin for three months and went to the siege of York, at which place Capt Hardin resigned and he does not now remember who was appointed in his stead. Declarant states that he resided at the first tour of service and also all the rest aforstated, in the County of Stafford & State of Virginia and was born and raised in said County &

continued to reside there until 1790 when he removed to Kentucky. Declarant farther states that he has no documentary evidence for the support of his claim. Declarant farther states and does hereby relinquish 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 whatever. Declarant would also state that he was not engaged in any civil persuit during the aformentioned tours of service whatever. In testimony of which said Bell of the Revolution hereto sets his hand and seal the day and year above written

John hisXmark Bell

I Wm. H Hawkins an acting justice of the County Court for Marion County State of Kentucky do certify that I propound now the following interrogatories to John Bell who has made his declaration or now making the same in order to apply for a pension under an act of Congress passed 7th day June 1832, towit

1st Where and in what year were you born

Answer I was born in Stafford County Virginia and in the year of Our Lord 1750.

2nd Have you any record of your age? And if so where is it?

I have not. But have had my age in my Bible set down, and John Bell my son took it years ago to South Kentucky and died and I know not now where it is.

3^d Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live?

Answer. I lived in Stafford County Virginia I lived until 1790 in Stafford County Virginia & since then I lived in Fayette County Kentucky and upon the farm upon which I now live in Marion County Kentucky

4th How were you called into service were you draughted did you volunteer, or were you a substitute; and if a substitute for whom?

Answer. I was called by virtue of the laws of virginia, and volunteerd & was draughted under Captain Hardin

5 State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such continental & malitia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service

Answer. I knew Captain Phil Slaughter [Philip Slaughter] of the Continental line of virginia I knew Barbee' Company of Regular troops that is Captain Thomas Barbee & General Green[?] was at the taking of Cornwallace. Wm Washington was a my first malitia Captain, Captain Cook was my second malitia Captain George Burass was another of my captains. Colonel George Rogers Clark was my Colonel or General at one term of my service. Captain Hardin was another of my captains. Frequent trip to the Potomac River we took – was at the Burning of the house of Wm Brunts on the Potomac River – marched near Richmond at one time – Marched to Fort Wheeling at one time on the Ohio River – returned by the redstone on the monongahale River – repaired the road at FredickBurgh on the Rappahanock – was at the taking of Cornwallis.

Question 6 Did you ever receive a discharge for your services?

no sir

State the names of the persons in your neighborhood who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer. Daniel Everheart, Mrs. Eliza Bell, Wm. [illegible] James Bell Wm Bell & Wm McAfee can testify to my character &c.

NOTE:

On 29 June 1842 Mrs. Eliza Bell made affidavit as follows: "he had not the opportunity of making a support for his family, and not even doing work enough to raise one Barrel of corn, for the support of his family and that she has frequently heard him speak of said war and the peril and hazard he had to encounter until his feelings would become so arroused, and his mind so crowded with the reflections of the past, that with him tears and dumbness would follow. And she farther saith that Sarah Bell said Johns

wife, who is now dead, and died many years ago, about eight, in number, has frequently, yes as deponent supposes hundreds of times, narrated to her and others the difficulties and suffering of those who fought in the Revolutionary war, and particularly the hardships and that her said husband had to endure in said war, while a soldier therein and that for three years during said war that her said husband John Bell was so deeply enlisted for the service of this country, and the ultimate achievement of American Liberty that had not sufficient time to remain at home with his said wife and family to raise one Barel of corn for their support, and that said Sarah while thus recounting the privations and difficulties and trouble she had to endure as the wife of said John Bell at the time afs'd. during said war, that feelings of the deepest nature would fill her bosom. deponent saith that she lived for upward of twelve years in the same family with said Sarah and that she was a Lady of Sincerity and inteligence and the strictest truth and that said John Bell is likewise a Gentleman of the strictest honor and veracity, and at the advanced in years a gentleman of a good recollection, and deposing memory and also of sound mind."

On 17 Sep 1842 John Bell stated that he had not previously known of the pension act of 1832. On the same date James Bell certified that to be the case, and he stated that his father, John Bell, had lived "under the same roof" with him for 20 years. On 4 Aug 1842 William H. Bell stated that he had lived in the family of James Bell for the previous 15 years and had often heard John and Sarah Bell describe the hardships of the Revolution.