

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹ relating to George Bell SC463
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 415A

AA48

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/31/18

[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.]

[Note: I have included the following documents in this database even though the veteran did not claim to have served in the Southern Campaigns of the Revolution. His is a very unusual situation in which the SC legislature granted a pension to a veteran living in SC but who did not service in SC. Neither he nor his widow filed for a pension under the federal pension laws. I was concerned that the record of his service may well have remained buried in the SC records, unavailable to those who may have an interest in his service. Records relating to him are in pp 2-43 of this file. The other records in this file erroneously relate to Harrison Bell SC464.]

[p 2]

State of South Carolina

To the Honorable the Speaker & Members of the House of Representatives.

The Humble Petition of George Bell.

Sheweth that he was a volunteer in the Revolution, in the militia Service in the year 1776 when his first tour of five months servitude was in what was called the Flying Camp in the State of New York under the command of Captain John Reed, That he was in the Battle of Long Island [August 27, 1776], the Battle of White Plains [October 28, 1776] State of New York, also in a Battle with the Hessians at five Miles Square a place so-called [? Battle of Trenton, December 26, 1776], also in the Battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777], also in the Battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777] also in the Battle of White Marsh Church [December 5-8, 1777] in which he received a Shot through the right hand while in the act of taking ammunition from his cartridge Box in consequence of which he lost the use of his two forefingers and has never been able to use them with any effect since.

In the year 1777 he had the commission of Lieutenant under Captain James Murray of the 3rd Battalion of Lancaster Pennsylvania Militia which commission he has lost – he was in the Battle against the Indians in the State of Pennsylvania under Captain William Johnston, also various other rencounters with the enemy not particularly remembered by this your Petitioner.

If your Honorable Body should deem him worthy to be placed on the pension Roll and extend to him the bounty which the law provides for and affords to revolutionary Services his distresses and wants in his old age will be greatly relieved. And your Petitioner will ever pray.

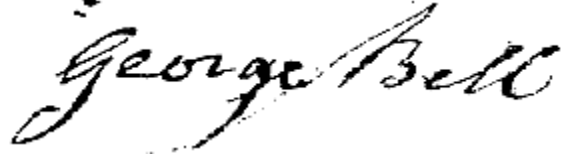
¹ The South Carolina Audited Accounts are available on microfilm at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia, SC. They will eventually be available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. The "SC" file number has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number.

George Bell says on oath that the Statement of facts above related by him are to the best of his recollection and belief the truth.

Sworn to before me November 6th, 1824

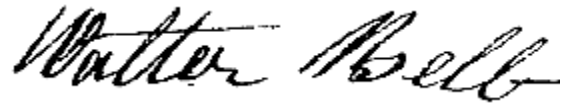
S/ [indecipherable first name] Howard, Q. U

S/ George Bell



Walter Bell says on oath that he recollects of his Brother George Bell being in those Battles, that is by the common reputation of the country where they both lived, and that he recollects of seeing the commission of Lieutenant which his brother held under Captain Murray which he thinks his brother brought to this country with him from Pennsylvania.

S/ Walter Bell



[p 6: The Petition was reported on favorably by the Committee on Pensions and in both the House of Representatives on December 7, 1824 and the South Carolina Senate on December 11, 1824. The veteran was granted a pension of \$60 per annum.]

[p. 9]

South Carolina Lancaster District

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives.
The Humble Petition of Sarah Bell, Wife of George Bell, who at the last Session of your Legislature was placed on the List of Pensioners, and departed this life on the 3rd of November in the year of our Lord 1825.

Your Petitioner therefore prays that the arrears of Pension due her deceased husband may be paid over to her or other persons by her Authorized to receive the same and should your Honorable Body grant the prayer of your Petitioner, your Petitioner hereby authorizes either of the representatives of Lancaster District to draw and receive the same & give receipts therefore, and your Petitioner will ever pray &c

S/ Sarah Bell, X her mark

[p 15]

South Carolina Lancaster District

To the Honorable the Speaker and other Members of the House of Representatives

The Humble Petition of Sarah Bell, respectfully

Sheweth,

That your Petitioner was the Wife of George Bell a revolutionary Soldier who was, by your humanity, at the last Session of the Legislature, placed on the Pension Roll, and who departed this life on the 3rd day of November last leaving your Petitioner very old, poor and infirm, having nothing to support on except the little pittance of arrears of Pension due her

husband, which she has not yet obtained, nor can obtain until she produces letters of administration to Justify the Legislature in paying out the same.

Your Petitioner further states that by reference to the Petition of her deceased husband which is now among the files of the legislature your Honorable body will be enabled to see that her husband was in a great variety of Battles during the Revolutionary War; that in one of those battles he was shot through the hand whilst in the act of taking a charge from his cartridge box – which ever since until his death was rendered almost entirely useless to him – and had he not raised a few sons to make a subsistence for him, would have been long before compelled to implore your assistance, that he did not call on the aid of his country for support until he was very old and his sons had generally left him, and indeed all of them except the youngest who is of a very delicate constitution being often sick & not able to work which son is still living with your Petitioner.

Your Petitioner further states that her husband's petition will show that he was an officer in the Revolutionary War having fought in several battles in various states and would have made application to Congress to compensate him for his services but unfortunately lost his commission and other papers as testimonials of his services which precluded him from receiving that bounty from his country which it otherwise would have afforded him.

Your Petitioner therefore prays your Honorable body to place her on the Pension list in lieu of her deceased husband and thus afford to your Petitioner that comfort & support which your Honorable body in its wisdom & humanity has extended to others in a similar situation with herself and your Petitioner will as in duty bound ever pray &c.

S/ ~~Sarah Bell~~

We the Delegation from Lancaster District certify that the above named Petitioner Sarah Bell was the Wife of George Bell as stated in her Petition and believe that the facts therein stated to be true.

November 15th 1825

S/ [illegible signature]

S/ George D Blair

S/ Nathaniel Barber

[p 28: Certificate issued by James H Weatherspoon, Judge of the court of ordinary for Lancaster District South Carolina indicating that Sarah Bell has been named the administrator of the Estate of George Bell.] Him

[p 20: another petition by the widow to the House and Senate of SC praying for a pension. This petition is dated November 22nd 1826. It adds no new facts to her prior petition.]

[p 31: Report of the Committee on Pensions recommending that the widow be placed on the pension roll at the rate of \$30 per annum. The recommendation was subsequently approved by both the South Carolina House and Senate.]

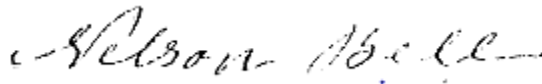
[p 36]

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

The Petition of Nelson Bell of the District of Lancaster in the State of South Carolina respectfully submits to your Honorable Body that he is the Son of Sarah Bell an annuitant of the State of South Carolina, late of Lancaster District, that his mother the aforesaid annuitant departed this life on the 22nd day of January 1849 – that before her death an order had been

obtained, drawn by the Treasurer of the State of South Carolina upon John R [surname too faint to discern] Esquire Tax Collector for Lancaster by which, in her favor for the sum of Thirty Dollars & payable to her “the said Sarah Bell in person & not to her order, attorney agent or assignee, for one year’s annuity due on the first of March 1849, and dated Columbia November 26, 1848 at the Treasury Office that before she had an opportunity of presenting the said order & receiving the amount from the Tax Collector of Lancaster District in person, she the said Sarah Bell died: that at the time of her death & 15 or 20 years previous to the same she was living & had lived with her said son, Nelson Bell, Your Petitioner & that he has taken care of & provided for in everything during that whole period: That for the last two years previous to her death the said Sarah Bell had been in a very helpless condition & confined to bed, That during the said last two years your petitioner has had extra care, trouble & expense in attending to her, in boarding, clothing & waiting upon her, also paying her physician’s bill; that at her death your petitioner, furnished & paid for all her burial expenses = Your Petitioner states that the said Sarah Bell had no estate but her Annuity of thirty dollars per year – that this was inadequate for her support before her confinement two years previous to her death & since then it has been wholly inadequate to pay her expenses – that the expenses of her last illness, Physician bill & burial expenses would far exceed the amount of the annuity. Your Petitioner therefore submits that having boarded, clothed & waited upon her the said Sarah Bell in her last illness & having paid all her burial expenses, he is legally entitled to be paid first of all as far as her estate will go towards doing the same, and that the said order for her annuity aforesaid being her whole estate your Petitioner humbly begs your Honorable body that the said annuity the ordered to be paid to him by the tax collector of Lancaster District or in any other way which your Honorable Body may direct. Your Petitioner submits that to require him to administer upon the estate being her annuity of only \$30 would consume a greater part of it in the expenses of administration & leave him but little to pay for his expenses aforesaid – And your Petitioner will ever pray.

S/ Nelson Bell



South Carolina Lancaster District} Personally appeared before me Nelson Bell & on oath states that the facts set forth in the above & foregoing Petition are true & correctly stated.

Sworn to before me November 15th, 1849

S/ James H Weatherspoon, J. O. L. D.

S/ Nelson Bell

[p 39: The committee of Pensions recommended that the petitioner be granted and was concurred in by both the House and Senate of South Carolina.]