

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

Pension Application of Thomas Bell S30859

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky

Franklin County Sct

On this 29th day of March 1833 personally came before James Shannon a Justice of the peace in & for Franklin County Thomas Bell a resident of Henry County Kentucky aged Seventy two years of age, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the Spring of 1777 with George Thompson, and served in the first Virginia rignment on state establishment commaned by Col George Gibson, that he enlisted at the time aforesaid, for three years with the aforesaid Thompson, that he served the full three years in Captain Winsow Brown's Company [sic: Robert Windsor Brown's Company] in the Rignment aforesaid Commaned by George Gibson that in said Company the aforesaid Thompson died, in Demphries County [sic: Dumfries in Prince William County] with the small pox, and Elliott Rucker [Elliot Rucker, pension application S46408] & William Vaughter was thereafter promoted Lieutenants in said Company – that at the time of his enlistment as aforesaid, he lived in the State of Virginia in Albermarl [sic: Albemarle] County, that during his time of service of three years he was in the battles of Munmouth [sic: Monmouth NJ, 28 Jun 1778] & Stony Point in [16 Jul] 1779 – that in the aforesaid service this affiant marched Albermarl to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] from Williamsburgh to Alexandria from Alexandria to Maryland to Pennsylvania.

that in the Winter of 1777 this affiant laid at Valley Forge [winter 1777-78], that the winter of 1778 this affiant lay at MiddleBrook [winter 1778-79], the third in Philadelphia, that in the latter part of the Spring of 1780 this affiant after having served out his full three years service was discharged from Service, by Peter Mughlenburg [sic: Gen. Peter Muhlenberg] the comd't of the Brigade, which discharge I have lost.

That in the summer of 1780 this affiant left the County of Albermarl State of Va and came to Bryants Station [Bryan's Station near Lexington] in the State of Kentucky, that now is, and continued in said fort, under the command of Captain Robert Johnson, and under said Johnson acted as an indian spy untill August [14 - 17] 1782 when Bryants Station was attacked by the Indians, and this affiant took the express from said Fort thus in distress to Lexington, and from thence to the Cross plains, thence this affiant returned to the said Bryants Station with a recruit of 16 men unhurt, that afterwards the Indians retreated and went to the Lower Blue Licks where the Savages were pursued and Col. [Stephen] Trigg Col John Todd & others were killed in the defeat the whites sustained, on this occasion in [19 Aug] 1782

This affiant was in the fall of 1782 in a campaign on the Pickerway Plains, with Gen'l George Rogers Clarke [sic: Piqua, Standing Stone, and other Indian towns burned by George Rogers Clark on 10 Nov] for two months in duration, having been all the time between the Blue Lick defeat and the expedition aforesaid acting as an indian spy under Robert Johnson, as aforesaid, and also in guarding & protecting the fort from the Savages –

That after this affiant returned home from Clarkes expedition aforesaid, he still continued in Bryants Station, acting as a spy but not so laborious was the Service, this affiant performed other tours of duty but not untill after Nov 1783.

This affiant hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension, except the pension he is now receiving for wounds and disabilities he received in the late war, which certificate he has, and declares his name is not on the Pension roll of the United States except as aforesaid.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Thomas hisXmark Bell

This affiant was born in Albermarl county State of Virginia, in 1760 that he was called into the service

when a resident of said county in said state, that he has now no record of his age having lost the same, he was first an enlisted soldier for three years, that for all the other services he performed he was a volunteer in all the tours of duty he performed in Ky he recollects no regular officers except Genl Clarks Riment, that he received no discharges except from the tour of regular duty,

This affiant states his reason for making his declaration before a justice of the peace is that he is not concurently able to travel to the Court house of his county, it being a great distance

Shelby Cty Ky Ag'st 6th 1819 —

I hereby certify, that Thomas Bell served as a Soldier in the Company of Capt. Windsor Brown, of the 1st Virg'a State Reg't through the year 1777, 1778 & 1779 – and his servises were generally rendered in the Northern Army.

Given under my hand. – Elliot Rucker Then a first Lieut in Capt Browns Company

[On 23 Aug 1831 Rucker certified that he had known Bell in the service from 1777 until 1780. On 17 Mar 1832 Thomas Landrum (pension application S35512) certified that he had known Bell in the army during the same period.]

The affidavit of Thomas Bell of the County of Henry & state of Kentucky

The s'd Bell states that during the late war he volunteered his services & joined the company of Capt Thomas Morris of Bourbon County part of the Reg't of Kentucky volunteers commanded by Col Scott of Frankfort which was part of the Brigade commanded by Genl. John Payne of Scott County that while in the military of service of the United States against Great Britain & on the march of the army from Fort defiance to Fort Meigs the s'd Bell was detailed with others to aid in the transportation of Baggage & munitions of war; that about 1st January 1813 while in the Service & in discharge of his duty he was greatly injured & disabled by aiding the Sleds down a Bank or a Branch; that having taken one down; he was carrying down a second sled when he was pressed down with the weight of the Load; his body was thrown upon one side of a stump of a tree & his right arm on the other; in consequence of which his right arm was dislocated & after great difficulty it was restored to its place that ever since s'd injury he has been unable to use s'd arm in manual Labour; that in using s'd arm since the war his shoulder was again dislocated & at this time he is unable to use it in manual Labour & he find that he is unable to support himself as he has no profession to follow being a labourer & he has no property, – he states that he is Sixty five years old; that he served three years in the Revolutionary war & was in the Battle of Monmouth & Stony point; but has never applied for a pension for revolutionary services because he understands that the Law [of 1818] does not embrace his case because he was of the State troops of virginia & not on Continental establishment; that he has abstained from this application [illegible word], he finds himself compelled to apply to his Country for a Pension to keep him from want & from depending upon the Bounty of his friends. Signed Thomas Bell

October the 11th 1825

Being Present when Thomas Bell gave the Obove affidavit I know that the said Thomas Bell was in in the Sirvice at the time stated and was present when he met with the misfortune of his his arm being Dislocated that said Bell was a willing & faithfull soldier & the servic was very severe the army had to Transport the Munitions of War on Sleds Drawn by men & haveing to pass some precipasses that was Difficult to manage the Sleds, on one of those said Bell was thrown down & his arm Deslocated he Suffered much & it was with great labour that Doctor Ewing & others [illegible word] restore it to its place that Bell is poor & likewise know that he is a man that has performed great Sivice with Militia Dureing the former wars with the Savages in the first settlement of Kentucky given under my hand the date above John Payne late Brigadier General Commanding Left Wing North West Army

Statement of Doct Robert M. Ewing & doct. Alexander Keene – Practising Physicians in the town of Georgetown Scott County. They state that Thomas Bell is now before them & they have examined his right shoulder which was dislocated as stated within & we state as our opinion that taking into view the nature of the injury it is such as to entitle him to two thirds of a Pension of a private soldier.

[signed] Ale. Keene Robert M. Ewing

In addition to the above I will state that I was surgeon to the 1st Reg't Ky Militia to which s'd Bell was attach'd. that I was present when he received the injury named in this certificate, that I had great difficulty in reducing the shoulder & was then satisfied as I now am that he never could recover the use of it entirely

[signed] Robert M Ewing late Surgeon 1st Reg't Ky M.

NOTE: A Treasury-Department document states that the widow of Thomas Bell received his final pension payment up to the date of his death on 11 May 1841.