

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Bell S2972

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } Declaration of Thomas Bell for Pension under the act of congress passed
Washington County } June 7th 1832.

Be it remembered that on the seventh day of November 1833 personally appeared before me William Gilleyland one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Thomas Bell aged seventy nine years against the 25th day of February next, who from age & bodily infirmity is unable to attend at the seat of Justice in order to perfect his claim to a pension, and being desirous of availing himself to the provisions of the act of Congress passed the 7th June 1832 made & subscribed the following declaration towit that he was born in the State of Maryland (now District of Columbia) on Rock Creek 25th day of February 1756 and was raised there, tho he has no record of his age, but believes the foregoing traditionary account is correct. That his father removed to Barkley [sic: Berkeley] County Virginia where he said declarent resided when he entered the service of the Country in the Revolutionary war. That being liable to military duty in the State & County aforesaid he volunteered in the Barkley Militia to intercept cornwallis when on his march to Virginia & enrolled himself in the 1st of May 1781 & rendezvoused at Shepherds Town [Shepherdstown] under Cap'n Beddinger [possibly George Michael Bedinger, pension application W2992] of Col Darks [sic: William Darke's] command, and after lying in Fredericksburgh falmouth & Williamsburgh [sic: Fredericksburg, Falmouth, and Williamsburg] on the watch for Cornwallis was finally marched under Capn Moore when Beddenger resigned and served his three months & again volunteered under Capn Moore for the seige & was marched to York Town and found there the main army under G'l. Washington and was in the seige & surrender of Cornwallis [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], and again volunteered under his former officers Cap'n. Moore & Col Dark to guard the french Army on their return as far as New york where the British reinforcement was collected, & after continuing on said march to Boston, where the French took shipping, the army to which he belonged then returned and was discharged by Capn Moore, & was in the three several engagements as a volunteer militia man in service from the 1st of May 1781 to the last of March 1782 when he returned home haveing been in active service ten months, lacking a few days, not more than ten days. that his discharges given him by Capn Moore have been lost many years ago, and he has now no documentary evidence, nor does he know of any person living by whom he can prove actual service, seeing that he removed shortly after the war & has been seperated from all old acquaintances & company ever since, but states that Samuel Mauk and Michael Copp are persons known to him & he to them by whom he can establish reputation of his said service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any state, that there is no minister of the Gospel in his vicinity by whom he can establish the facts required by the regulations of the War Dept. That from age and bodily infirmity he is rendered unable to travel to the seat of Justice of said County in order to have made out his pension claim.

Thomas hisXmark Bell

NOTE: On 1 May 1854 Brooks H. Bell of Washington County applied on behalf of himself and three surviving siblings for the pension that would have been due their mother, Mary Bell, had she known to apply. He stated that his parents, Thomas Bell and Mary Edwards, were married in Berkeley County on 22 Feb 1783, that Thomas Bell died on 30 March 1837, and Mary Bell died on 6 Aug 1839. The other children were Joseph E. Bell of Greene County TN; Andrew Bell of Washington County; and Rebecca Bell of Washington County.