

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Bell ¹ W12267

Rebecca Bell

f56VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 9/2/14

[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.]

[p 9]

State of Virginia, Augusta County, to wit

On this 28th day of July 1834, personally appeared in open Court before Jacob Lease [?], Robert Steele, Gerard B. Stuart & John K. Moore Justices of the Court of Augusta County, now sitting, Samuel Bell, a resident of said County of Augusta in the said State of Virginia, aged Seventy Five 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers, & And served as herein stated.

In the month of September 1777, he was drafted as a private to serve a three months tour in the militia, and rendezvoused at the mouth of Kerr's Creek, in what is now the County of Rockbridge in the State of Virginia. That he was attached to the Company commanded by Captain George Moffett (Joseph Patterson, Lieutenant & Andrew Anderson, Ensign) & to the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Dickenson in which Samuel McDowell was Major. That he marched from thence to the Town of Lewisburg (then called the Big Savannah) in what is now Greenbrier County [now in West Virginia], from thence to Walker's Meadows, & from thence, by the mouth of Elk [River] to the Point, where the town of Point Pleasant now stands where there was then a fort with a company of regular Soldiers commanded by Captain Arbuckle. At the time this applicant entered the service, he understood that the Troops were destined for Detroit, but in consequence of the late arrival of General Hand [Edward Hand] the expedition was for that time abandoned & in the month of December 1777, this applicant, with those who were drafted at the same time, were ordered for home, where he arrived on the night of the 24th of that month, having performed a full three months tour of duty. This applicant does not know of any person now living, who can prove this tour of service, except Robert Rancik [?]², of the County of Greenbrier, whose affidavit is hereto annexed.

In the latter part of April, or the beginning of May 1778, this applicant again entered the service, as a Substitute for his relative Benjamin Brown who had been drafted for a three months tour of duty, but who, being unable to leave home without great inconvenience, procured this applicant to take his place; -- This applicant proceeded, accordingly, in company with Ensign John Wilson to Clover Lick, where he joined the company commanded by Captain William Anderson (whose Lieutenant was James Mitchell) & where this applicant performed & completed his three months tour as a private, & was then discharged. There were no regular troops at this place nor any militia except Captain Anderson's company. This applicant has not been able to find any person who can prove this service, but he refers

¹ BLWt26094-160-55

² 

to the accompanying affidavit of Colonel Joseph Brown, the son of the said Benjamin Brown, as corroborative of the truth of his own statement.

In the Fall of the year 1780, this applicant volunteered his services as a private in Captain Thomas Smith's Company for another Tour of three months & rendezvoused at Col. Exsom's [?Exum's] on the South River, in the County of Augusta, in the month of October in that year. John Bell was the Ensign of this company, but this applicant does not recollect with certainty the name of the Lieutenant although he thinks it was probably George Craig. This applicant marched, by way of Charlottesville, to Richmond, for the purpose as well as he can recollect, of guarding the General Assembly. There were several companies of Militia, but no regular Soldiers, stationed there. This applicant cannot recollect any of the Field Officers names. After remaining there about two months or upwards, the troops were discharged as having served the full tour. For proof of service during this tour, this applicant refers to the affidavit of Robert Fulton, also hereto annexed.

In February 1781, a call was made for militia to go to the South. This Applicant was not then subject to a draft, having recently served a tour of duty, but not expecting to have to march far, he joined himself (he believes as a volunteer) to Captain Thomas Smith's Company & marched from Staunton, by way of Rockfish Gap, Prince Edward Court House, Charlotte County & Boyd's Ferry, & joined General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] Army in Guilford County, North Carolina. This applicant was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel George Moffett & after joining General Greene's Army was placed under the Command of Colonel Campbell [William Campbell of Virginia]. This applicant was engaged in the disastrous Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] & overtook the Main Army the next day at he believes at Troublesome Old Iron works, where, a few days subsequently, he was discharged & returned home, after having served rather better than one month. In support of this service, he also refers to the affidavit of the said Robert Fulton.

In May or June 1781, Lieutenant Robert Kirk of the regular Cavalry, applied to Captain James Bell, in whose Company of militia this applicant was then enrolled, for some men to aid him in pressing Horses for the regular Army, & this applicant, with a few others, was detailed for that Service, it being promised to them that it should stand for a full tour of duty. This applicant proceeded, accordingly, with Lieutenant Kirk & his other companions through what are now the Counties of Bath, Powhatan, Greenbrier & Monroe & after spending as well as he recollects at least one month in this business, succeeded in procuring & bringing in the number of Horses required. He refers to the accompanying affidavit of Smith Thompson to prove this service.

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 the agency of any State.

Interrogatories propounded to the applicant, by the Court.

1st: When and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in the County of Augusta in the State of Virginia, in the year 1759, according to the best information I have been able to obtain.

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer: I have none; I have been informed that the record was burnt at the time the Indians or to my Father's House in the year 1764.

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

Answer: I was born in the County of Augusta, as above evidenced, & I have lived on the same plantation ever since my birth.

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

Answer: I have answered this interrogatory so far as I am able in my statements in the foregoing declaration.

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such

Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: I can add nothing to what I have already said on those subjects,

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

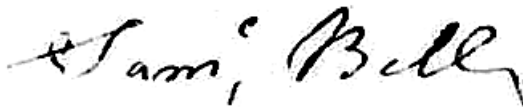
Answer: I never received a written discharge.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Answer: I have outlived my youthful companions. Generally, but believe I can refer to all who know me as to my veracity. In compliance however with the request I will name the following persons, viz.: The Reverend William Calhoun, Francis Gardiner, Samuel Gardiner, Francis Bell, Col. Joseph Brown, George Keller.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Sam'l Bell

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam'l Bell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Sam'l Bell".

Smith Thompson,³ aged 85 years, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace for the County of Augusta in the State of Virginia, & made oath that he is well acquainted with Major Samuel Bell of the said County & knows, that the said Samuel Bell served as a private (he believes) in the revolutionary Army, at the time of the Battle of Guilford; This affiant was there in the Army & recollects seeing the said Bell there then; This affiant also knows that the said Samuel Bell was engaged with Lieutenant Kirk impressing Horses for the use of the Army & thinks that he would have been fully one month engaged in this latter service.

Given under my hand this third day of May 1834.

S/ Wm Young

George Keller⁴ aged 74 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the County of Augusta in the State of Virginia, & made oath that he is well acquainted with Samuel Bell who has made the foregoing declaration & knows that he served a tour of about three months in the Militia, at Richmond, Virginia, in the year 1780, as he believes, & that the said Bell was also at the Battle of Guilford in 1781, & served then as long as he states, this affiant having been with him in both such tours. Given under my hand this 17th day of May 1834.

S/ Wm Young

Augusta County, to wit,

Francis Bell, aged about 64 years, this day personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid, in the State of Virginia, & made oath that he has, from his infancy been well acquainted with Samuel Bell (who is his brother) the applicant in the foregoing Declaration, & has a perfect recollection that said Samuel Bell was out on several expeditions during the Revolutionary War at least, he knows, that the said Samuel left home for that purpose & remained absent a sufficient time to have performed the tours which he states he had. This affiant remembers that the said Samuel left home at one time to go to the Point (now called Point Pleasant)--at another to Clover Lick, at the other to North Carolina, about the time of the Battle of Guilford, & he thinks he performed a fourth tour somewhere to the South, or in the lower part of the State. This affiant also has an indistinct recollection of the said Samuel Bell being engaged for some time with Lieutenant Robert Kirk in impressing Horses

³ [Smith Thompson S38438](#)

⁴ [George Keller R5827](#)

for the use of the United States Army – but this affiant cannot say how long the said Samuel was engaged in any of those tours. This affiant states that the said Samuel Bell is in his opinion a man of strict veracity, & he believes that to be his character as far as he knows. Given under my hand this 19th day of May 1834.

S/ Wm Young

[p 42]

State of Virginia, Augusta County, to wit

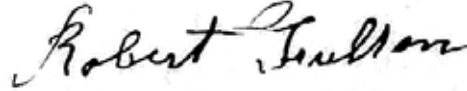
The Affidavit of Robert Fulton Senior⁵ taken before me John B. Christian, a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid in the State of Virginia on the 25th day of May 1833 who being first duly sworn saith as follows,

That in the Fall of the year 1780, this Affiant was drafted for a three months Tour of duty to serve in the war of the revolution and knows of his own personal knowledge that Samuel Bell of said County of Augusta now known as Major Samuel Bell near the North Mountain was drafted at the same time also for a three months Tour of duty to serve as a private in Captain Thomas Smith's Company of Militia which company rendezvoused at Col. Esom's [?Exum's] on the South River in said County (the place where the Town of Waynesborough is now situated) sometime in the month of October 1780. From thence marched to Richmond in Virginia for the purpose as this affiant understood of guarding the General Assembly then in Session at that place they having removed from Williamsburg there in consequence of an alarm of the British coming to Williamsburg. That the said Samuel Bell was with the said Company on their march to Richmond and was encamped about 1 mile below Richmond for some time, how long precisely this affiant does not now recollect but knows he there got a discharge for having served out the tour of three months. This affiant was not in the same Company with the said Samuel Bell but was in a Company commanded by Captain Samuel McCutchen which company was attached to the same Regiment with Captain Thomas Smith's Company in which the said Samuel Bell served. The names of any of the field Officers commanding said Regiment this affiant does not now recollect.

This affiant further states that of his own knowledge the said Samuel Bell was in the service as a Private on another Tour of duty in the war of the Revolution. Being drafted some time in the month of February 1781, say about the 20th of the month. This affiant was drafted at the same time, and marched in Captain James Tate's Company. The said Samuel Bell marched in Captain Thomas Smith's Company. The same he served the previous orders tour of duty in. Both were companies of Rifleman and both Companies marched on the same route in this tour into the State of North Carolina and joined General Greene's Army at some place in said state the name of which he does not now recollect and where those two companies viz., Captain Tate's & Smith's were put under the Command of Colonel William Campbell from Washington County in Virginia, and were marched under his command to near where the British Army was Encamped Commanded by Lord Corn Wallace [sic Cornwallis] and after being kept near the British encampment a few days were marched back to Greene's Army. This Affiant thinks it was the third day after joining General Greene's Army on the return of these two Companies, The engagement with the British force called the Battle of Guilford took place. This Affiant distinctly recollects that the said Samuel Bell was in the Service at the time and on the march herein stated and believes that he was in the engagement at the Battle of Guilford. In this battle this Affiant was taken prisoner by the British and further he has no personal knowledge of the Services of the said Samuel Bell during the revolutionary War, but from information and other circumstances this Affiant believes the said Samuel Bell served other Tours of duty in said War. This Affiant believes the said Samuel Bell is near his own age who is now in his 73rd year of his age – further this Affiant saith not. All which he subscribes with his name the day & year first above written.

⁵ [Robert Fulton S8532](#)

S/ Robert Fulton



Sworn and Subscribed before me the date first written above in this Affidavit.

S/ John B. Christian, JP

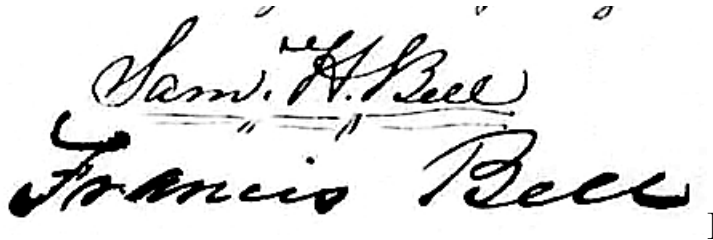
[Joseph Brown and Rev'd William Calhoun, a clergyman, gave supporting affidavits.]

[Samuel Gardiner and Francis Gardiner give affidavit stating they know the applicant served in the Revolution, but neither give any specific basis for their statements.]

[p 6: On July 15, 1854 in Augusta County Virginia, Rebekah Bell, 75, filed for a widow's pension stating that her husband died on May 15, 1838; that she married him on December 7, 1815.]

[p 8: Certificate dated July 3, 1854 given by the clerk of the Augusta County court that the records in his office show that Samuel Bell married Rebekah Hays December 7, 1815 and that Samuel Bell died May 15th 1838.]

[p 33: On July 20, 1854 in Augusta County Virginia, Samuel H Bell and Francis Bell both of lawful age gave testimony that they have long known Mrs. Rebecca Bell, the widow of Samuel Bell; that she married him in 1815 and lived with him as husband and wife until Samuel Bell died at his residence in Augusta County on the 15th of May 1838. Their relationship, if any, to the veteran and his family is not stated.



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$33.33 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 10 months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]