



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Madison G. Bell

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Madison G. Bell was a native of Kentucky who volunteered for Union service in an Illinois infantry regiment. In later years he settled in present-day Hurst, and lies buried near there in Birdville Cemetery in present-day Haltom City.

Mr. Bell was born in Wayne County, Kentucky on August 25, 1836, and was a son of Lindsey Bell and his wife, Permelia A. (Hall) Bell. When the 1850 census of Wayne County was taken, Madison was a fourteen-year-old boy living with his parents and siblings in Division number one of the county. He grew up surrounded by a large extended family which included many aunts, uncles, cousins, and his paternal grandparents, Francis and Elizabeth Bell, both of whom were born before the American Revolution.

By August 18, 1859 Madison Bell had moved to Moultrie County, Illinois. On that day he married his first wife, Sarah Elizabeth Hedrick. She was born about 1841 in Illinois, and lived until about 1890.

When the 1860 census was taken, Mr. Bell and his new wife lived at Lovington in Moultrie County. He was a farmer. They owned no real estate, but owned three hundred dollars worth of personal property.

Madison G. Bell enlisted in the Union army while he was a resident of Lovington, Illinois. Two different dates of enlistment are shown: July 8, 1862 and August 7, 1862, both in Company A, 126th Illinois Infantry. He was mustered into the service on September 4. He served only a short time, and left the regiment on November 29, 1862, probably at or near LaGrange, Tennessee. Any descendants who have copies of his service records are asked to share them with this compiler.

We have not been able to locate any records of Mr. Bell between the time he left the army and the taking of the Kansas state census in 1895. Either he managed to miss the census takers in 1870 and 1880, or his name is illegible in those records and has been misinterpreted by the indexers.

At the time of the 1895 Kansas state census, Mr. Bell and his family were living in McAdoo Township in Barber County. With him were his second wife, Samantha (born in 1842), two of her children from her first marriage (Frank and Mary Smith), and Mr. Bell's daughter from his first marriage, Lulie Bell, who was born about 1889 in Kansas. Given the time since his marriage, it seems possible that some children could have grown to maturity and left the family before 1895.

At the time the 1900 census was taken, Mr. Bell and his family were still living in McAdoo Township. With him were his second wife, Samantha J., his daughter Lulie or Lula, born in Kansas in September 1888, and a step-daughter, Mary Smith, who was born in June 1882 in Missouri. Mrs. Bell said she had given birth to five children, all of whom were still alive. It seems likely that they were all in her first marriage to a Mr. Smith. The Bells were still there as late as 1905 when they were again enumerated in the Kansas state census.

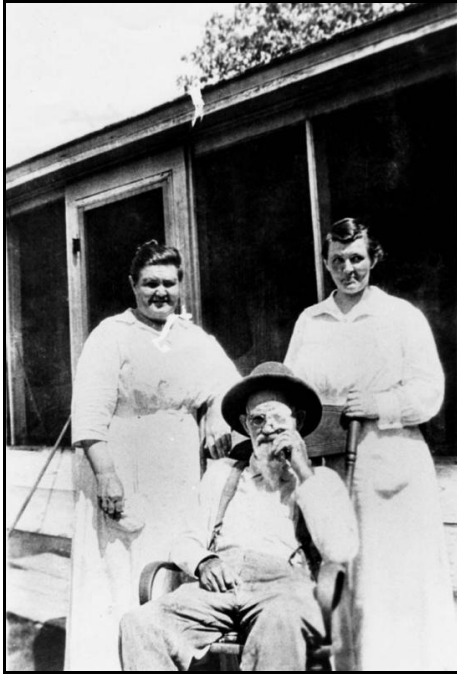
By 1910 the Bells had arrived in northeast Tarrant County and were living "near Hurst Station." Mr. and Mrs. Bell had been married nineteen years, thus since about 1891. Also in the family with them were their son-in-law, Cane Robertson, his wife Mary (who was born about 1882), and a granddaughter Gladys Saulsbury, who was born about 1901 in Kansas. The census indicates that Mary was in her second marriage and Cane was in his first; thus it seems likely Gladys was Mary's daughter from her first marriage.

A notation on an old family photograph says their farmhouse was located southeast of present St. Philip's Presbyterian Church. This church sits in Hurst, Texas at the intersection of West Pipeline Road and Precinct Line Road.

Mr. Bell died at 5 a.m. on February 17, 1919, and was buried in Birdville Cemetery later that day. Dr. L. F. Rhodes certified the cause of death as "organic heart." The death certificate shows his name as "Mat G. Bell." His second wife, Samantha, lived until 1921 and lies buried beside him.

A few photographs of the Bell family have been placed in the Heritage Room's collection of local history photographs at Tarrant County College in Hurst. In one of them, Mr. Bell is shown seated, with his two daughters, Quin and Lou. Another photo includes Mr. and Mrs. Bell at their home place with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. "Robinson." Another shows the two Bell daughters, "Quinn and Lou" seated at a table. We have been unable to determine who these sisters married or where they lived.

One family researcher at ancestry.com lists two daughters for Mr. Bell: Ceclia Bell, born about 1888, and Julie Bell, born about 1889. This Julie is almost certainly the "Lulie" or "Lou" found in other records.



The two girls with their dad are Quin (left) and Lulie (right).



Mr. and Mrs. Bell, their daughter and son-in-law, and their granddaughter.
Sources disagree on the names of those other than Mr. and Mrs. Bell.