

BELLS OF FAIRFIELD DISTRICT

SOUTH CAROLINA

CHARLES MONTGOMERY BELL  
OWNER OF  
CHESTER BELPHON CO

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W. F. Foy

NOTE

This manuscript is a first draft of an accumulation of genealogical and historical data on the Bell Family. It has not been verified for the reason that the information has come from many sources, with some apparent discrepancies. Inasmuch as it will be supplemented, hopefully, and require revision, other apparent errors and omissions have not been corrected.

Much of the content was researched by others of our families, who have predeceased us. Some of it was written by Mrs. Eula W. Bell, wife of the late John Montgomery Bell of Chester, South Carolina. Mrs. Bell's notes indicate contributions to her from Miss Dora Bell; the Reverend Robert Murphy Bell; and I am sure there were others, including her husband, who perhaps contributed most of the family traditions. Mr. S. Lewis Bell of Chester, South Carolina has been most helpful and has provided all of the research material of the late Eula W. Bell. Mrs. Margaret Templeton of Memphis, Tennessee; Mrs. Margaret Kilgore of Columbia, South Carolina; Mrs. Margaret Gaston of Starkville, Mississippi; and more recently, Mrs. Helen Elizabeth Malone and her sister, Mrs. Margaret Sue London, of Miami, Florida, have each contributed information.

This is a family project, and hopefully will evolve a more comprehensive History of the Bells of Fairfield District, our heritage and traditions.

R. K. Bell  
Coral Gables, Florida  
June 28, 1975

## CHAPTER II

### CHARLES TOWN TO LITTLE RIVER

On January 5, 1768, the Clerk of the Council at Charles Town went aboard ship and administered the oath of allegiance to those of the passengers who were of age. So also on that date, a Petition was addressed to the Council on behalf of the new citizens of the Colony for allowance of the Bounty, under the Act of The General Assembly passed July 25, 1761. Their Petition was approved and it was "Ordered that the Public Treasurer do pay the Bounty of Four Pounds Sterling and Two Pounds Sterling according to their respective ages to Messrs Torrans and Pouag in consideration of their passage and the remaining Twenty Shillings Sterling to themselves agreeable to the directions of said Act." [1]

On the same date, the Council approved a Petition for Warrants of Survey on the Bounty, including the request of William Bell I for 200 acres, that allotted to him and to his wife Isabell, and 100 acres each for Elizabeth, John and William, Jr. Daughter Mary, aged 5, was not entitled to an allotment of land. [2]

It would be May 13, 1768, before William Bell I actually received his deed of conveyance from King George III to 200 acres of land on a branch of Little River, called Ellis Branch in Craven County, now Fairfield County, South Carolina. Conditions of the deed waived the payment of Quit Rents for a period of ten years. It described the land as a "plantation" bounded northeastward, part on land laid out to Stephan Ellis, on all other sides by vacant land. A further condition of the Grant was such that the land should be cleared and cultivated at the rate of three acres for every hundred acres each year. [3] And it was on the same date that Elizabeth received her deed to 100 acres on Cedar Creek, and John his deed to

[1] Council Journal 34, pages 1-10, Meeting January 5, 1768. Protestant Immigrants to South Carolina 1763-1773-Revill, pages 93-95. n. On this Petition were the names: William Bell, age 41; Isabell Bell, age 40; Elizabeth Bell, age 20; John Bell, age 17; William Bell, age 16; Mary Bell, age 5.

But, on the brighter side, was Christmas and then the New Year, which probably found them sailing south within sight of the American shoreline along the Atlantic Seaboard. It was sometime between the first and the fifth of January, 1768, that Master William Reed of the Brigantine Chichester sounded the order to drop anchor in the harbor of Charles Town; and while it marked the end of a long journey at sea, it signalled also the beginning of a new life in America for the Bells and other poor Scotch-Irish Protestant immigrants.

100 acres on Crooked Run Branch of Little River. William, Jr. would not receive his deed to 100 acres on Crooked Run Branch until September 1, 1768. While these tracts of land are not contiguous, they are all in the same general area.

Business with the government having been attended to, there now remained the very important task of preparing for the journey to the backcountry, which included the purchase of basic items of food, a musket, hand tools, such as the hoe, rake, mattock, axe to fell the timber, and a froe to square the logs with which to build a cabin. It may have been that they were permitted to bring with them from their homes in Ireland such items as bedding and small hand farm tools. But whatever purchases William Bell I would make as he and his family visited the stores and shops along Meeting Street would be measured by the amount of money in his pocket. We are only certain that he had one hundred twenty Shillings Sterling, the balance of the Bounty payment after paying passage for the family.

It is only from fragmentary records relating to earlier immigrants that we are able to glean some idea of how the Colony handled the settlement of the immigrants on their lands in the backcountry, and what they would take with them for sustenance until such time as they might harvest a crop. For example, in 1764, a group of French Protestants arrived at Charles Town under the auspices of the King of England, and "His Majesty thought it advisable that they should be Established in his Province of South Carolina where from their knowledge of the Culture of Silk and Vines it is hoped they may be particularly Usefull to the Colony and to the Publick and the Lords Commiss'rs of his Majestys Treasury having accordingly enter'd into an agreement with Mr. Alexander McNutt for the passage of these people to Charles Town it will be your duty immediately on arrival

[2] Ibid, pages 95-96.

[3] Department Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.

to give them every Countenance Support and Protection in your power." [4]

For the subsistence of these French Protestants it was provided:

"1 lb. flour 1 quart indian corn each pr. diem" and "1 steer pr. week among the whole" (approximately 124 persons) "1 corn mill salt &ca." In addition they were allowed "20 bushels of salt," a "Canoe" and "hooks and lines." Since the French Colony had arrived late in April, it was considered too late for them to go onto their allotted lands and put in crops for the ensuing winter, and it was suggested they go to Fort Lyttleton near the coast where ground was already cleared and plant some "corn potatoes pumpkins peas &ca." [5]

Geographically, the Colony was divided into the Low Country and the Piedmont, the Low Country extending some one hundred miles inland. Along the coast it consisted of swamps, sand and pine barrens, and along its rivers and streams were soil and water suitable for rice plantations. It was an area highly developed, with elegant and stately plantation mansions and more than one hundred thousand African slaves in its midst. Elsewhere in the Low Country were waste lands, sparsely settled, and used primarily to graze cattle. Then came the higher lands of the Piedmont, with its many rivers, creeks and streams, where the soil was fertile and covered by forests of white oak, hickory and pine.

The Colony had settled earlier immigrants along the fall line from the Province boundaries on the north and thence to the south. This was the line generally followed by the wagon trains from Pennsylvania, commonly known as the "Great Philadelphia Waggon Road." The road from Charles Town to the west intersected with the Great Road at the community of Pine Tree (Camden) or Pine Tree Hill, as it was sometimes called. Pine Tree was a trading post to which the people brought their products for sale, and where they, for the most part, purchased supplies. Some three thousand

[4] Protestant Immigrants to South Carolina 1763-1773-Revill, page 17.

[5] Ibid, pages 23-24.

lumbering four-horse wagons crossed the ferries near Charles Town each year, loaded with products of the backcountry. [6]

The officials of the Colony appear to have acted expeditiously to move this group by wagon to their properties in the backcountry. Already the surveyors were on the scene laying out the land; for on January 20, 1768, the Plat to William Bell's 200 acres was recorded in the Office of the Surveyor General. [7]

Perhaps the best extant history of the South Carolina frontier at the time of William Bell's arrival is the journal kept by Reverend Charles Woodmason, Anglican minister, who, newly ordained, left the culture and wealth of Charles Town September 12, 1766, to minister in the backcountry. He travelled horseback more than three thousand miles each year of his ministry, from settlement to settlement, marrying, baptizing and cajoling the people, who were, for the most part, of every religious faith or sect, except Catholic. [8]

Woodmason arrived at Pine Tree, his headquarters, on September 16, 1766. A journal entry of the 28th notes: "Not a house to be hir'd - Nor even a single Room on all this River to be rented, fit to put my Head or Goods in - The People all new Settlers, extreemly poor - Live in Logg Cabbins like hogs - and their Living and Behaviour as rude or more so than Savages. Extreemly embarrassed how to subsist. Took up my Quarters in a Tavern - and exposed to the Rudeness of the Mobb, People continually drunk." [9]

Again at Pine Tree, on December 21, he "Officiated in the Meeting House. By influence of the Chief Justice, had a Congregation, and preach'd

[6] Sellers, Charleston Business, pages 34-35.

[7] "Pursuant to a precept from Egerton Leigh, Esquire, Surveyor General, bearing date the 5th day of January, 1769, I have admeasured and laid out to William Bell a plantation or tract of land containing 200 acres situate lying and being in Craven County on a Branch of Little River called Ellis's branch bounding N. E. part on land laid out to the said Stephen Ellis and on another by vacant land and hath such shape form and marks as appears by the above plat. Certified on the 20th day of January 1768. Per Ralph Humphrey D. S." Department Archives & History, Columbia

[8] The Carolina Backcountry - Hooker. (Introduction, page xi)

[9] Ibid, page 7.

in the Afternoon. Found the School Room that was intended for me, turn'd by the Tavern Keeper into a Stable. Only 3 Boys offer'd, out of 2 or 300 that run wild here like Indians - But as their Parents are Irish Presbyterians, they rather chuse to let them run thus wild, than to have them instructed in the Principles of Religion by a Minister of the Church of England." [10]

In January, 1767, Woodmason, returning from Lynch's Creek, where he preached to a "great multitude" of people who he says "complained of being eaten up by Itinerant Teachers, Preachers, and Imposters from New England and Pennsylvania - Baptists, New Lights, Presbyterians, Independants, and a hundred other Sects \* \* \*," noted in his journal, "I was almost tir'd in baptizing of Children - and laid my Self down for the Night frozen with Cold - without the least Refreshment - no Eggs, Butter, Flour, Milk, or anything but fat rusty Bacon, and fair Water, with Indian Corn Bread, Viands I had never before seen or tasted." [11]

In February, the journal records, "From the lower part of Lynch's Creek I proceeded to the upper - and from the Greater to the Lesser; The Weather was exceeding Cold and piercing - And these people live in open Logg Cabbins with hardly a Blanket to cover them, or Cloathing to cover their Nakedness. I endur'd Great Hardships, and my Horse more than his Rider - they having no fodder, nor Grain of Corn to spare." [12] From Hanging Rock Creek he went "upwards to Cane Creek where I had wrote the Church People for to assemble - But when I came I found that all my letters and Advertisements had been intercepted. I trac'd them into the hands of one John Gaston, an Irish Presbyterian Justice of Peace on Fishing Creek, on other side of River \* \* \*. Here came Deputies from Camp Creek

[10] Ibid, page 11.

n. At this period in time there were no churches in the backcountry. Yet in almost every settlement there was a log Meeting House used primarily for religious purposes.

[11] Ibid, page 13.

[12] Ibid, page 16.

n. Hanging Rock is a hundred foot cliff overhanging the branch of Little Lynch's River. Meriwether Lupton, of South Carolina, page 145.



and Cedar Creek two adjoining Settlements - and Indeed, I was glad to get away from this starved place, where have lived all this Week on a little Milk and Indian Corn Meal, without any other Sustenance but Cold Water - and hardly any Fire to warm me tho the Season bitter Cold indeed. Wood is exceeding plenty (for the Country is a forest and Wilderness) but the people are so very lazy, that they'l sit for Hours hovering over a few embers, and will not turn out to cut a Stick of Wood." [13]

Having ended the first year of his ministry in the backcountry, Reverend Woodmason took account of conditions in general: "But the people wearied out with being expos'd to the Depredations of Robbers - Set down here just as a Barrier between the Rich Planters and the Indians, to secure the former against the Latter - Without Laws or Government Churches Schools or Ministers - No Police established - and all property quite insecure - Merchants as fearful to venture their Goods as Ministers their persons. The Lands, tho the finest in the Provincee unoccupied, and Rich Men afraid to set Slaves to work to clear them, lest they should become a Prey to the Banditti - No Regard had to the numberless petitions and Complaints of the people \* \* \*." [14]

It was October, 1767, that Woodmason found his way to the general area where the Bells would make their hom the following January. In his journal on the 31st of that month he wrote: "I was conducted over the Wateree River (across the Wild Woods where had never before been) to Little River, where I officiated the 31st, to about 300 Persons. Here a large body of People met me - I baptized several Adults, and of them 3 or 4 Quakers, who conformed to the Church." [15]

It was April, 1768 - the William Bell I family had arrived in January - that Reverend Woodmason returned to Little River, and from his pen, we are able, in some measure, to know now what it was like as spring

[13] Ibid, pages 16-17.

[14] Ibid, page 27.

[15] Ibid, page 29.

approached, following a winter of bitter cold. For he said, "Proceeded on my journey upwards - and on the 10th gave sermon to the Congregation at Little River - I found the Scarcity of Provisions here, greater than on other side of the River, and not a Bushel of Corn to be had for money - Nor Necessaries of any Kinds and the poor people almost starving - I was supplied with Bacon and Eggs - but having liv'd a fortnight on this my Stomack became quite sick - No Bread, Butter, Milk or anything else to be had." [16]

And finally, we note the observation of Woodmason in late May, 1763: "In all these Excursions, I am obliged to carry my own Necessaries with me - A Bisket - Cheese - A Pint of Rum - Some Sugar - Chocolate - Tea - or Coffee - With Cups Knife Spoon Plate Towels and Linen. So that I go alway (s) heavy loaded like a Trooper. If I did not, I should starve. Never will I be out again from home for a Month together to take the chance of things - As in many places they have nought but a Gourd to drink out of Not a Plate Knife or Spoon, a Glass Cup or anything - It is well if they can get some Body Linen, and some have not even that. They are so burthen'd with Young Children, that the Women cannot attend both House and Field - And many live by Hunting, and Killing of Deer - There's not a Cabbin but has 10 or 12 young Children in it. When the Boys are 18 and the Girls 14 they marry - so that in many Cabbin s You will see 10 or 15 Children. Children and Grand Children of one Size - and the mother looking as Young as the Daughter. Yet these Poor People enjoy good Health; and are generally cut off by Endemic or Epidemic Disorders, which when they happen, makes Great Havock among them." [17]

[16] Ibid, page 35.

[17] Ibid, page 37.

## CHAPTER III

### THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION

Broad River, flowing southerly along the western boundaries of Chester and Fairfield Districts, was known by the Indians as "Eswaw Huppedaw," which is said to have divided the Empires of the Cherokees and the Catawbas. A few miles to the east, and flowing southward from its headwaters in Chester District, is Little River. Between these two streams lies a high ridge, and it was at the southernmost point on this ridge in Fairfield District, that the Bells made their first home.

Circumstances would have dictated that they clear and prepare for cultivation as much ground as possible between mid-January and April, 1768, on which to plant Indian corn, peas, and other vegetables. Deer was plentiful and so, too, fish in the streams about. It probably was Isabell, Elizabeth and Mary who tended the crop while William I and his two sons, John and William, Jr., felled trees and squared and notched the logs as they began construction of a cabin.

None of the beneficiaries of the Land Bounty were in a position to make all of their land productive. Many exchanged or swapped for another site. Others traded land for food, livestock, or tools and farm implements. John and William, Jr. may have traded or sold their grants, as both of them soon purchased other land - John, the 100 acre tract adjoining his father's land from Stephen Ellis. [1]

William Bell I was more fortunate than many of his fellow settlers, for only a few miles north on the ridge from where his cabin would rise, was John Bell I, who had made his home near Mill Creek since 1756. In John's family were his wife, whose Christian name is unknown; three sons, John, Jr., William and Thomas; and two daughters, Jenny Craig and Margaret. [2] John Bell I would have had the tools, equipment, and

[1] a. Reference to this deed of February 8, 1774 is found in a deed from John Bell, dated November 4, 1776. Deed Book A, page 408, Fairfield County, South Carolina, Records.

[2] Last Will and Testament Thomas Bell, son of John Bell I, Department Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.

at least some livestock to help William I get established.

But there were other problems than simply carving a livelihood from a wilderness of virgin timber. The backcountry was undergoing a social revolution. Along the banks of the Wateree, Santee, Congeree, Peedee, Saluda and Broad Rivers and their tributary streams, more than 50,000 settlers now lived in log cabins on small clearings of land. Between 4,000 and 5,000 of them had come directly from Northern Ireland, but the great majority came by way of Pennsylvania. Among this latter group were many destitutes, criminals seeking a place of refuge, and many with the most remote religious background, if any at all. A great many of them were a generation removed from the skilled tillers of the soil in Northern Ireland and were without the skills necessary to sustain themselves in the wilds. And there were others - a generation of natives whose parents had settled along the Wateree River in the 1750's, many of them orphaned at an early age.

It was inevitable then that the need for government would be felt immediately with the impact of such a sudden migration of people to the area. In each Parish there were justices of the peace and constables, but this court had limited jurisdiction of civil and criminal matters. There were sheriffs' deputies also, but they were established to serve warrants and process from the court in Charles Town where all major civil and criminal trials were held. But if one obtained a warrant charging another with a crime, the cost of travel and sending witnesses to Charles Town was prohibitive. And thus, for all practical purposes, judicial process in the backcountry was meaningless.

According to law, the right to vote was secured, but the great distance between the settlers and the nearest Anglican Chapel where the ballots were cast, prevented them from exercising the right of suffrage.

So also were the Parish boundries so loosely defined, that few people knew in which Parish they were to vote. And even had they been able to exercise the right of sufferage, their votes would have been meaningless without the creation of additional Parishes to which could be elected representatives to the Commons House. [3]

So it was in this vast unpoliced wilderness that bands of rogues, thieves, looters and rapists traversed the land, stealing livestock, ravaging young women and, in some instances, stealing them away from their homes.

In 1776 the inhabitants of the Congaree, Ninety-Six, Saluda River, Broad River, and places adjacent, petitioned the Assembly in Charles Town, listing their problems: "They were without representation in the Assembly; Indians and lawless whites caused hardship; their produce could reach market by land carriage only," and "they had neither churches or schools." But this and other petitions to the Assembly accomplished nothing since it would not enact remedial laws, and the thieves established a reign of terror that was uninterrupted until 1767. Describing the plight of the honest settler, the Reverend Woodmason wrote: "Our large stocks of cattle are either stollen or destroy'd. Our cowpens are broke up - and all our valuable horses are carried off. Houses have been burn'd by these rogues, and families are stripp'd and turned naked into the woods - stores have been broken open and rifl'd by them (wherefrom several traders are absolutely ruin'd) Private houses have been plundered; and the inhabitants wantonly tortured in the Indian manner for to be made to confess where they secreted their effects from plunder. Married women have been ravished, virgins de-flowered, and other unheard of cruelties committed by these barbarious ruffians." [4]

[3] The Carolina Backcountry - Hooker, pages 215-219.

[4] Ibid, page 170.

In the spring of 1767, the settlers began to strike back. Families and neighbors confederated to resist the outlaws. At the outset, they acted only in defense of their homes and families and without defiance of the government, but the picture soon changed. On October 5, 1767, Governor Montague informed the Council that settlers between Santee and Wateree Rivers had assembled and in a "rioting manner had gone up and down the country committing riot and disturbances and they had burnt the houses of some people who were reported to be harbours of horse thieves and talk of coming to Charles Town to make some complaints." [5]

The Regulator Movement had begun. Governor Montague, on November 5, 1767, appeared before the Council and Assembly and asked for legislation to suppress the Regulators. But, on November 7, "The Remonstrance," a long and eloquent protest and petition written by the Reverend Woodmason and signed by four Wateree planters, in the name of 4000 settlers, was presented to the Assembly. This document contained the fullest account of backcountry grievances and was backed by the threat of backcountry invasion of Charles Town unless a redress of the grievances was forthcoming. Within four days of the presentation of "The Remonstrance," an Assembly Committee reported favorably on a Court System, a Vagrancy Act, and two Companies of Soldiers to suppress and prevent disturbances. [6] But the apparent victory for the backcountry people was to be short-lived. The Governor found it necessary to appoint leading Regulators as officers of the two companies of soldiers. The troops were commissioned as Rangers and began three months' pursuit of the outlaw bands. However, the Regulators were incensed to discover that the Court Bill, which Governor Montague signed April 12, 1768, failed to provide for county, as well as circuit courts; and worse, the Assembly had inserted provisions in the Act

[5] Ibid, page 171.

[6] Ibid, pages 172-173.

which made disallowance by the Crown almost certain.

Thomas Bell, who came to the backcountry earlier, is recorded as having taken an active part in the quest for the establishment of civil government. "Well aware that the Act of 1768 would be set aside in England, Thomas Bell, William Calhoun, Patrick Calhoun and Andrew Williamson, for themselves and other upcountry settlers, presented in July, 1768, a second major protest to the Assembly, condemning it for the useless enactment of a law which would certainly be annulled in London, and insisting that additional Parishes sending members to the Commons House be organized." [7]

Notwithstanding the passage of the Court Act, the authorities continued to arrest Regulators for their acts. A Regulator victim, John Harvey, stated that in September, 1769, he was chained to a sapling and whipped for an hour. Fifty different Regulators gave him "ten stripes each until he had received 500 in all." [8]

As an outgrowth of the continued arrests of Regulators, "men of property" from as far away as the Peedee River met at the Congaree and unanimously adopted a plan of regulation. By this plan, not only were evil doers to be purged, but the Charles Town court was to be denied jurisdiction over the backcountry of the Province. Judicial process originating in Charles Town would be served only "where, and against whom" the Regulators thought proper. Now the government was faced with acquiescing in rebellion or opposing it, and serious clashes followed. There was great anxiety among the coastal planters, as rumors and stories came from the backcountry in August and September, 1768. It was reported from Camden that 2500 or 3000 Regulators planned to go to Charles Town, while a like number would "hold themselves in readiness, in case they should be wanted." [9]

[7] History of the South - Alden. Vol. 3, page 150.

[8] The Carolina Backcountry - Hooker, page 174, n. 48.

[9] *Ibid.*, page 175.

Finally, the Regulators determined to appeal for aid to the King and Parliament. This threat may or may not have been the turning point; but Governor Montague, after making a hurried tour into the backcountry, in late June, 1769, urged the new Assembly to pass the Circuit Court Act. The Governor sailed for England in 1769, taking with him the newly enacted law for Royal approval. In December, 1769, news arrived that the Crown had approved the Act. It was not until late May, 1772, that the Act was declared in effect and the courts did not open until November. Ironically, this event which met the greatest single demand of the Regulators took place after Reverend Woodmason had become ill and discouraged and had left the Province. He had preached, harangued and cajoled with the backcountry people for six long years in an effort to convert them to the Anglican faith. In this, he had failed, yet the Reverend Woodmason had been the champion of the people in their pursuit of political equality. It is likely that he, more than anyone else, was responsible for achieving that goal. [10]

[10] Ibid, pages 183-184.



## CHAPTER IV

### BELL - MONTGONERY UNION

Although some descendants of William Bell I have held to the belief that the Bell and the Hugh Montgomery families came to this country on the same vessel and that William, Jr. and Ann Montgomery were playmates on that trip [1]; the fact is, however, that no Montgomery name appears on the passenger list of the Brigantine Chichester [2].

Old land titles place a Hugh Montgomery at Rocky Creek in Chester District on or before September 18, 1765. [3] Just as John Bell I was the pioneer Bell in Fairfield District, Hugh Montgomery seems to be the Montgomery pioneer in Chester District. It is likely that some of his children joined him in later years. On June 22, 1767, a large group of Protestants arrived in Charles Town on the Ship Nancy, and among the passengers were Mary Montgomery, aged 50; John, aged 17; Elizabeth, aged 15; George, aged 13; and James, aged 12. [4]

On the Ship Hillsborough, that arrived February 27, 1767, were John Montgomery; Rachel, aged 30; Samuel, aged 13; and William, aged 12. [5] And, on January 6, 1768; the Ship Lord Dunluce dropped anchor in Charles Town with several hundred passengers, including their spiritual leader, Reverend William Mart(y)n. So also, among this group were several Montgomerys. David, with his family who were not named, received a grant to 350 acres on Rocky Creek in Chester District. Hugh Montgomery, who came without a family, received a grant to 100 acres in Fairfield District. [6] Most of these new settlers, including their minister, received grants to land in the Rocky Creek area of Chester District. And among them, for certain, were some of the kin and probably the children of Hugh Montgomery I.

[1] n. Notes of Eula W. Bell.

[2] Protestant Immigrants to South Carolina 1763-1773-Revill, pages 93-95.

[3] Deed Book V, page 193, Chester County, South Carolina Records.

[4] Protestant Immigrants to South Carolina 1763-1773-Revill, pages 74-76.

[5] Ibid, pages 67-68.

[6] Ibid, pages 121-124.

It is likely the Bell and Montgomery families were neighbors back in Ballymena, Ireland. And it's almost a certainty they would have renewed that acquaintanceship at the meeting house at Rocky Creek where the Reverend Martin preached each Sunday. Scotch-Irish Presbyterians had literally settled in every part of the backcountry; but the Reverend William Martin was the only Covenanter minister and his church attracted large crowds on Sundays, coming from great distances. If there were enough horses to accomodate them, whole families would come to attend religious services.

For an early view of the Rocky Creek Community, where the family of Hugh Montgomery I, including a daughter, Ann, resided, we turn to a "Historical Sketch" found in a "Reprint of the Reformed Presbyterian Covenanter" of 1875: "This settlement was composed of a congregation of recent immigrants from the north of Ireland, commonly called Scotch-Irish. They had come to America about the year 1773, accompanied by their pastor, the Rev. Wm. Martin. Here in the summer of 1773, the pious Covenanter might be seen, from day to day, felling trees and clearing a space of ground, on which they reared a large log church, many of them living in tents at home, till a place was provided in which they could assemble for religious service. Such was the condition of the Covenanters, who had left their native Ireland for the religious liberty found in the wilds. During seven years after their settlement in the woods, they enjoyed a life in which nothing of earthly comfort was wanting. Every Sabbath morning the parents in their Sabbath-day clothes, with their neatly-dressed and well behaved little ones, might be seen at the log meeting house, their pocket Bibles containing the old psalms in their hands; they would follow the preacher in all of the passages of Scripture cited by him as he commented on the text. Their simple, truthful piety caused the wilderness to rejoice. It was always insisted on as a point of duty among the Covenanters that children should be brought to church with their parents. The little ones

sat between the elders, that they might be kept quiet during divine service, and be ready at the appointed time for the Catechism. The strict deportment and piety of this people had already done much to change the customs formerly prevalent - men and women who used to hunt or fish on the Sabbath now went regularly to meeting, and some notorious ones, whose misconduct had been a nuisance to the community, left the neighborhood."

Eula W. Bell, in 1928, interviewed Miss Janie Hutchinson, then seventy-two years of age, and whose mother had related to her bits of Bell and Montgomery history. Based on that interview, she penned the following historical note: "Some light has been thrown upon the Hugh Montgomery line by the recollections of Miss Janie Hutchinson of Monticello, S. C., a quaint little person of seventy-two years (1928) who lives mostly in the past. Her stories are handed down from her mother who also must have had a remarkable memory. This Miss Hutchinson's mother was a daughter of Robert McCulloch, who married in County Antrim Ireland, one Ann Montgomery, then later immigrated to America, landing at Charleston, S.C., January 1, 1823. This Ann Montgomery was a daughter of Thomas Montgomery, who in 1779, was hanged by the Catholics from a limb of 'the great oak' at Bally Mena, County Antrim. Miss Hutchinson thinks perhaps 'the great oak' was as much as a hundred yards from the forks of the road! Thomas Montgomery with his last breath 'denounced the Pope of Rome and swore allegiance to the one and true living God.' This Thomas Montgomery was in all probability the brother of Hugh Montgomery I, father of Ann Montgomery, wife of William Bell II, since Ann Montgomery McCulloch, daughter of Thomas Montgomery of Bally Mena, County Antrim, Ireland, was first cousin of Ann Montgomery (wife of William Bell II), daughter of Hugh Montgomery who had come to South Carolina about 1760. Robert McCulloch and his wife spent their first year in America at Cannon's

Creek in Newberry County, S. C., and then moved to Wm. Bells at Monticello, and it is to be remembered that the wife of Robert McCulloch and the wife of Wm. Bell II, both named Ann Montgomery, were first cousins. \* \* \* Miss Hutchinson said the Montgomerys went to church in Bally Mena. Her hatred of the Catholics who hanged her Great grandfather Thomas Montgomery is still a burning fire in her heart." [7]

It was likely at preaching - at the Rocky Creek meeting house - that summer of 1773, as William Bell, Jr. turned 21, and Ann Montgomery, 18, that their courtship began. They were married, surely by the Reverend William Martin, in 1774; and William Bell I, as a gift, conveyed to his son 100 acres of the plantation on Ellis' Branch of Little River. [8]

[7] Notes of Eula W. Bell.

[8] n. The gift of land to William Bell, Jr. is referred to in a deed of a later date. Deed Book 8, page 76, Records of Fairfield County, South Carolina.

## CHAPTER V

### THE WAR YEARS

Genealogical sources provide scant information on the family of William Bell I, except in the case of his son, William Jr., where we are on firm ground. As to the eldest son, John, we are left to speculation and conjecture. As also, with his daughter, Elizabeth. And there appears to be nothing to be learned of the youngest daughter, Mary. But John Bell may have married a daughter of Robert Bradford of the Rocky Creek Community in the Chester District. In the estate of Mr. Bradford, a John Bell, referred to as a son-in-law and heir, was the husband of a daughter who had predeceased the father. [1]

Again, a John Bell of Craven (Fairfield) District, on November 4, 1778, for 1000 pounds lawful currency, conveyed to William Daniel 100 acres, originally granted to Stephen Ellis and adjoining that of William Bell, Sr. [2]

John Bell, the son of William I, may have moved to Chester District. In later years, a John Bell of Little River in Chester District, conveyed to Jacob Reapsoman of Broad River, 100 acres on Cedar Creek, originally granted to Elizabeth Bell on May 13, 1768. The deed recites that it was made by right of heirship from his sister, Elizabeth Bell, who died without a will. [3]

William Bell II and his wife, Ann, were residing on the 100 acre tract next to the elder Bell, when, in 1775, their first child was born - William III - named for his father and grandfather. [4] Thus marked the beginning of what would be a large, fruitful and productive family, assuming its place in the social, economic, religious and cultural life of a backcountry people for more than a century. Still in the distant future for William Bell II

[1] n. Robert Bradford died in Chester District, December 5, 1785. See Chester County, South Carolina Records.

[2] Deed Book A, page 409, Fairfield County, South Carolina Records.

[3] Deed Book P, page 56, Fairfield County, South Carolina Records.

[4] n. For date of birth, see grave marker - Old Leitch Church, Fairfield County, South Carolina.

Were such matters of concern as clearing enough land for money crops, and the establishment of neighborhood schools and churches.

The implementation of civil government in the backcountry was still in progress, when on July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress declared the independence of the Colonies with the formal signing of the Declaration of Independence. At the outset, the Bells and their neighbors were a divided people. They were reluctant to fight against some of their neighbors, neither did they want to be ingrates to the King who had made their new homes possible. But in time, when the war would be brought closer to them, they, and most of their neighbors joined with the Continental Forces.

The Revolutionary War had not progressed to the point that people in the Fairfield District were directly involved and the building of a society continued. At the home of William II and Ann, came their second child, a son named James, in the year 1777, the first natural born American citizen of the William Bell family. [5] A third child, Ann Nancy, was born in 1778 [6] and about 1780, their fourth child, Margaret. [7]

But in 1780, news had reached the backcountry that Sir Henry Clinton, on May 12 of that year, with the loss of less than 100 men, forced the American defenders of Charles Town, the Queen City of the South, to surrender after four months' seige. Sir Henry then sailed back to New York, leaving Cornwallis with orders to pacify first South Carolina and then North Carolina.

The Americans responded by sending south Horatio Gates, the Commander who had humbled the British at Saratoga. Cornwallis smashed Gates' army at Camden, only fifty miles distance from the Bell plantation, on August 16, 1780.

Cornwallis moved into Winnsboro, Fairfield District, where he

[5] n. Grave marker, Old Brick Church, Fairfield County, South Carolina.

[6] n. This is an estimate of time of birth of Margaret Bell.

[7] n. Grave marker, Old Brick Church, Fairfield County, South Carolina. Family Bible.

set up winter quarters. Wainsboro, now the county seat (District), had a total of twenty houses in 1780, and was less than twenty miles from the Bell plantation. Among the first uprisings against the Crown in the Little River area of Fairfield was an affray at Moberly's Meeting House on May 26, 1780.

It is interesting to note from the fragmentary military records on file with the Department of Archives & History at Columbia, South Carolina, an entry reflecting military service of William Bell II with the South Carolina Militia in support of the Continental Forces, beginning on the 8th day of May, 1780. [8]

Other entries in the military record of William II reflect he served from the 28th day of May, 1781, to June 19, 1781, and from July 4, 1782, to August 11, 1782. These periods of service were with the South Carolina Militia under command of Captain Thomas Robins of Colonel Winn's Regiment. [9]

Back at the plantation, Ann, on July 28, 1781, gave birth to a third son, named John. [10] The elder Bell, like his son William II, was aiding the military effort. Among the fragmentary records relating to William Bell I, appears a receipt for a gun taken by Colonel Lacey's Militia and approved by Hugh Montgomery, the <sup>BROTHER-IN-LAW OF WILLIAM II.</sup> son-in-law of the elder Bell. Another receipt "for provisions for 16 men and forage for as many horses." The document bears the signature of "Wm. B. Bell, Sen." And there is a third receipt: "Rec'd of Wm. Bell one bushel & half of corn for the publick use by order of Col. Hopkins by me, Lt. Jas. Love, Feb. 11, 1782."

William Bell I was visited again the following day by the Militia, when he was given this receipt: "Received of Wm. Bell forage for fifteen horses and provisions for as many men. By order of Col. Hopkins. Rec. by me James Love, Lieut." [11]

[8] Department Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Family Bible - John Bell.

[11] Department Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.

Nathanael Greene, Washington's second in command, arrived in the south to replace Gates, and soon had Cornwallis marching and counter-marching through the Carolinas in pursuit of him. With the British, several things went wrong almost simultaneously. A combined British and Southern Loyalist force was all but wiped out by American irregulars (militiamen) at the Battle of Kings Mountain in western North Carolina on October 7, 1780. At Cowpens, South Carolina, Brig. Daniel Morgan took on Cornwallis' elite light infantry, under the command of the British cavalry leader, Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, and whipped them as totally as Cornwallis had wrecked Gates at Camden. American armed bands (militiamen) under command of Marion and Sumter bedeviled the British with guerrilla warfare. With these defeats and harassments, Southern Loyalists began to find reasons to avoid the open support they had given the British since the fall of Charlestown, and the pressure on the back-country people lessened progressively until the war's end.



## CHAPTER VI

### MONTICELLO

On May 15, 1782. William Bell II, for 100 pounds, sold his plantation next to that of his father, to David Montgomery. [1] It may be that his mother, Isabell, had died and he moved his family into the home with his father. By this time William Bell II was looking north along the ridge between Broad and Little Rivers, thinking in terms of a new home, as planters along the route were talking of a new community where there would be mercantile establishments, churches and schools.

An ancient map, undated, but stained and darkened with age, delineates the "plan of the village of Monticello." The original map, in the possession of Charles Burley of Monticello (18\_\_ ) contains a memoranda which reads: "The plan includes fifty eight acres of land, and is situated on the ridge which divides the waters of Broad and Little Rivers in the District of Fairfield, sixteen miles southeast [2] of Winnsboro and thirty five miles northwest of Columbia. The said fifty eight acres of land is laid out into sixteen squares of two acres each; each square containing four square lots of half an acre each. The two streets bisecting the village were named Drayton and Winn, the former being 160 feet wide and the latter being 121 feet wide. The other streets were: Warren, Wooster, Montgomery, Hayes, Laurens, DeKalb, Campbell, and one other name obliterated."

A resident of later years pictured this village as: "This spot in the wilderness of Fairfield (originally an undivided part of Craven County) was both a challenge and temptation to these first few souls, neither of which they resisted. They willingly undertook to accomodate themselves to their strange, new environment - the lush lands and virgin forest,

[1] Deed Book C, page 211, Fairfield County, South Carolina Records.

[2] n. Reference to "southeast" is obviously in error. Monticello is to southwest of Winnsboro.

dripping with promise, were incentive enough. But to possess these treasures and to reap their gold were to be difficult endeavors. A firm foothold on this new land had to be secured, and with its accomplishment went severe hardship and grueling labor. Existence for them, was precarious and capricious at best. Lifelong habits and the orderly structure of society which they had known in the old world, had to be abandoned and forgotten. An indomitable spirit, sustained by a firm faith in God, carried them through several decades of such harsh existence. Thus did their new life unfold, and their dream take on the shape and substance of reality." [3]

Both Hugh Montgomery II and Charles Montgomery, brothers of Ann Bell, moved with their families to the Monticello area; and in the year 1784, William Bell II purchased 200 acres on Barton's Branch of Broad River close by [4], but it is not likely that he moved onto the property until some years later.

On October 21, 1784, a son, Charles, was born to William II and Ann, and a year later on October 20, 1785, another son, Thomas, bringing to seven the number of their children. Already their eldest child, William, was ten years of age, and the matter of the childrens' education was becoming a factor. It is known that among the early settlers were teachers, and those who could afford private tutorship took advantage of the opportunity. But they looked forward to the establishment of a school at Monticello. And the religious life of the Bells during this period of time was, for the most part, confined to daily Bible reading and prayer in the home. As early as 1762, Jacob Gibson, a Baptist minister and teacher, conducted religious services at the Gibson Meeting House, both for his own flock and others. About this same time, or perhaps earlier, two Seventh Day Adventist groups were formed under the leadership of

[3] A Fairfield Sketchbook - Boline page \_\_\_\_\_.

[4] Deed Book \_\_\_\_\_, page \_\_\_\_\_, Fairfield County, South Carolina Records.

John Pearson, lay preacher. Nearest to the Bells, however, was a Lutheran group, whose minister was the noted theologian, John Nicholas Martin. [5] And there was the Moberly Meeting House, begun by Episcopalians during the time of Reverend Woodmason, and used frequently by ministers of other faiths. According to Woodmason, Presbyterian Covenanters would sometimes attend his services, but never participated in Communion. And, while the Covenanters had no organized congregation at this time, the Reverend William Martin of Rocky Creek would at times visit the area and hold services at one of the meeting houses.

But the lack of ministers to serve the Covenanters was attributed to the disarray of the organization as a result of a defection of three of its ministers. In a reprint of the Reformed Presbyterian Covenanter of January, 1875, we are told: "The defection of three ministers, Messrs. Cuthbertson, Linn and Dobbin, in 1781, left the Covenanters without the administration of public ordinances. Their condition was very much like that of their forefathers in Scotland, nearly a century before, when Messrs. Shields, Linning and Boyd deserted them and went into the Established Church. The same course was followed by them in this country, that was taken by the remnant in Scotland. They not only refused to go with their ministers in their retrograde movement, but they testified against them by refusing to attend their ministrations. To hear them preaching would be a tacit approval of their course, and a constructive declaration that the principles that were compromised were no part of the testimony that the witnesses of Christ are required to maintain. This they could not do, having professed to be the witnessing Church that Jesus Christ her head has called to bear testimony to the truth of his regal authority as 'King of Nations.'

"Rev. Martin had come over from Ireland and arrived in South

[5] 1. John Nicholas Martin was a student of the famous Reverend Samuel Davis of Virginia and became a missionary to the Cherokee Indians. See footnote, Carolina Backcountry - Hooker, page 132.

Carolina in 1773. But though he did not go into the union, yet on account of his remoteness from the main body of people who were in Eastern Pennsylvania, little aid could be expected from him. Recognizing their covenant obligations to hold fast all the attainments of the church, sealed by the martyrdom of thousands 'who loved not their lives to the death,' they determined to 'go forth by the footsteps of the flock,' and in the way that was still open to them, maintain the cause entrusted to them, and pray to God to send them pastors after his own heart. Societies were formed for prayer and religious conference on Sabbaths and week days \* \* \*.

"Of the labors of Mr. Martin, during the seventeen years that he ministered there alone, we have no record. Unfortunately his social habits, it seems, led him at times into irregularity of conduct that impaired his usefulness. The following, contained in a letter from a correspondent in Chester District, we take the liberty of publishing: 'Mr. Martin was of revolutionary times. I have heard my parents speak of him often. When clearing a piece of ground on my plantation some twenty years ago, I found two trees growing about seven feet apart. There had been a notch out in each tree and a board placed between them, resting on the notches. On each of these trees I found a knot that had grown just above the notches, and extending to within four inches of meeting on the top of the board. I was told by my parents that this was the place where Mr. Martin preached in the grove. Mr. Martin was a warm Whig during the Revolution, and I have heard a great many anecdotes about him. ' "

But there would soon be a church - a minister - a high school - and a more affluent life for the family of William II, as they prepared to move onto land near the village of Monticello.

## CHAPTER VII

### THE BELL'S CHURCH

The last record of William Bell I is the deed of conveyance made by him to a Mr. Daniel, in the year 1791, to his plantation for 100 guineas. The elder Bell was 64 years of age and Isabell, his wife, would have been 63, if indeed she was still living.

From the coastal area had come planters of some wealth, to take advantage of land that was especially suitable for the production of cotton, rapidly becoming the main money crop. And with them came slaves to clear and cultivate the land, but only a few of the immigrant settlers were financially able at that time to own slaves. And there was yet another deterrent. The Scotch-Irish Presbyterian Covenanters had always been bitterly opposed to slavery in any form or character. But it had long been a way of life in the coastal area, and the younger generation of the immigrants found themselves yielding their personal view of slavery to the economic pressures of the times. It is likely that the proceeds of the sale of the elder Bell's plantation made it possible for William II to purchase the first slaves, two or three perhaps. It is interesting to note that the consideration for the sale of the elder Bell's plantation was not United States' dollar currency, which at that early date in the history of the Republic was not too stable, but instead was English guineas. The guinea was an English gold coin issued from 1663 to 1813, first struck out of gold from Guinea. In 1717 its value was fixed at 21 shillings, at par \$5.11. [6]

Sometime before the 1790's the Bells and their neighbors associated themselves together and organized the Little River Presbyterian Church, which in later years would become known as Ebenezer, and still later as the Old Brick Church. The first structure was a log cabin in the vicinity between Jenkinsville and Monticello, some two miles west of the present

[6] Deed Book C, page 211, Fairfield County, South Carolina Records.

structure. From the Centennial History of the Reformed Presbyterian Church is an account of the history of the Old Brick Church where the Bells and their neighbors worshipped: " \* \* \* Rev. James Rogers was the first pastor of the church, as far as we can learn. He was ordained and installed over the Brick Church, then called Little River, in connection with King's Creek, and Cannon's Creek, in Newberry Co., on Feb. 23rd, 1791. Mr. Rogers continued to be pastor until his death Aug. 21st, 1830. He is buried at the Brick Church. Rev. James Boyce was the next pastor, and was installed in 1832, and continued until 1843. Rev. Thomas Ketchin was pastor from 1844 until 1852. Rev. C. B. Betts was pastor from 1855 until 1869.

"During the pastorates of Revs. Rogers, Boyce, Ketchin, and a part of the pastorate of Rev. Betts, the Brick Church was a large and flourishing congregation. The membership was composed of the wealthy and cultured planters of the community, and large crowds waited on the gospel at the Brick Church. Mr. Rogers taught a large high school at Monticello, nearby, which was attended by pupils from many parts of the state. The Brick Church was made up of the noble men and women of the Old South. In 1852 the church and graveyard was enclosed with a granite stone wall.

"The deed to the land on which the Brick Church stands shows that it was conveyed on June 2, 1793, by Henry Crumpton, to the following persons designated in the deed as members of this church, viz: Benj. Boyd, John Martin, Jas. Gray, Chas. Montgomery, John Gray, James Kincaid, Aaron Hawthorne, Thomas Lewers, Wm. Bell, Andrew Gray, Wm. McMorries, Sr., Wm. McMorries, Jr., Daniel Cochran, Collom Forbes, Hugh Montgomery, Robt. Gray, Wm. Thompson, Wm. Richardson, Robt. Martin, Alexander Kincaid, James Mantee, Robt. McGill, Wm. Holmes, Wm. Kearnaghan, H. Ronalds, R. Robertson, Hugh Robertson, Wm.

Kennedy, Hy. Horton, S. Richardson, Wm. Watt, J. Kennedy, Wm. Southwick, and Agnes Calhoun. In addition to these, we find also that families of the following names belonged to the church prior to 1791, viz: McKermies, Davidson, Turnipseed, and perhaps others. In later times, we find the additional names as members and some of them officers in the church: Nelson, Sloan, Robinson, McDowell, Watt, Martin, Player, Curry and Bell. (emphasis ours)

"Mrs. Hutchinson, a member of the church, who died a few years ago, said that she remembered hearing her mother and others tell, that after the crops were laid by, that their fathers and grandfathers would go to the brickyard, and tramp the mud into mortar with their bare feet, put it into moulds with their hands, carry it out in the sunshine - then burning the kilns by night and day. And to them it was a labor of love and pleasure. It took them a long time to get ready to build, but the building was finally completed in 1788, and it stands today, as strong and solid as at first, showing that those old men did their work well.

"The history of this old church has been a noble one. Prof. McKemie, of Georgia, whose ancestors for three generations are in the cemetery around the old Brick Church says: 'That old Brick Church has been a seed bed from which transplants have gone throughout the South.' After speaking of the names of the families already mentioned in this sketch, he says: 'If I were in the cemetery, I could recall many other names whose generations have carried Presbyterianism from South Carolina to the Pacific Coast. I recall two ministers, Revs. Joseph and John E. Davidson (who were baptized in the Brick Church by Dr. Rogers) who passed their ministerial lives in North Louisiana. For thirty-five years Joseph Davidson preached more sermons, married and buried more people, than any minister in North Louisiana. John E. Davidson was a graduate of Princeton.

and in three years organized six or seven churches in Louisiana, but he "went away" just as his star was mounting. '

"In addition to these, four other ministers have come from the Brick Church, viz: Rev. J. B. Watt, Rev. J. A. Sloan, Rev. John E. Martin, and Rev. Horace Rabb. There are others perhaps, but we have not been able to get their names.

The old communion service, with its waiter, tankard, cups, and Irish linen, more than a century old, is still in possession of the congregation." [7]

The Reverend James Rogers came to Monticello from County Monaghan, Ireland, and was a graduate of the University of Glasgow. At the same time the church members were building an edifice in which to worship, they were also contributing to and building a school in which the Reverend Rogers would teach their children. An account of this school is found in "A Fairfield Sketchbook:"

"The Reverend James Rogers, coming to Fairfield from Ireland in 1791, a few years later helped establish here an academy of learning, over which he presided for twenty-five years. Built from individual contributions of citizens, it was first known as 'The James Rogers Academy.' There are conflicting reports as to whether this academy was a school for boys or girls, or perhaps for both sexes. However, the weight of evidence would establish more or less conclusively that it was at first a male institution, but by 1800 was known as 'The Monticello Girls School.' Thomas Jefferson, whose ideal of an educated citizenry led to the public school system, made a generous donation to the school through General John Pearson, then a member of the legislature. Its name was then changed to 'The Monticello-Jefferson Academy,' still later reports indicate, this school was attended

[7] n. This account was found among the notes of Eula W. Bell



by students of both sexes, and enjoyed a sound reputation as a noteworthy institution of learning." [8]

[8] A Fairfield Sketchbook - Bolidé page 211.

n. Alexander Douglass Bell, great-great grandson of William Bell I, and his wife, Martha Crosby, attended The Monticello-Jefferson Academy in the mid 1850's, as did most of the Bell children in earlier years.

n. While the Old Brick Church as been designated a historical site, descendants of members of the congregation assemble there annually for homecoming and religious services.

## CHAPTER VIII

### THE OLD BELL PLACE

Sometime between 1784, when William Bell II sold his plantation to David Montgomery, and 1789, when his father sold the remaining 100 acres of the original grant on Ellis' Branch of Little River, [1] William II moved with his family a few miles north in the area of the Village of Monticello. It might have been to the tract on Barton's Branch of Broad River or to the tract of 221 acres purchased from his cousin, John Bell II, the latter tract lying and being on Mill Creek. Again, he may have moved at that time to a tract on Little River near Monticello, where the families of some of his descendants continued to live until about 1915.

State Highway 34, running east and west through Fairfield County, traverses the old Bell plantation on the west side of Little River. The tract of land, it is believed, was the site of the second cowpen in the county, settled by a Mr. Howell, [2] about 1750. Before the Revolutionary War the Winn family lived on the east side of the river and the first bridge over the stream was known as Winn's Bridge. [3] In later years, it became known as Bell's Bridge, and the road to Monticello, traversing the Bell plantation, was known as Bell Bridge Road.

As one drives west from Winnsboro on Highway 34 and over the bridge at Little River, looking north, paralleling the river, will be seen an avenue of trees and the old "Bell Place." This old home, rich with tradition, legend and folklore, is featured in "A Fairfield Sketchbook" - Bolin, with the artist's pencilled sketch and some of its folklore and history:

"The Bell place is one of the older pre-Revolutionary houses in the county. It occupies the site of one of the first settlements or 'cowpens' in the upcountry.

[1] Deed Book C, page 211, Fairfield County, South Carolina Records.

[2] A Fairfield Sketchbook - Bolin page 2.

[3] Ibid, page 2.

Bell Place  
3000 acres  
West side  
of Little River

"Originally the Bell Place consisted of more than three thousand acres of land. The house was built in the 1750's, and is probably the oldest house in the county that is still in use. The original portion consisted of two rooms and a hall on the first and second floors and two partially finished rooms in the attic. These rooms were floored and ceiled with wide, heart-pine planks, some of which were hand planed. None of the lumber was tongued and grooved. In this old portion of the building loop-holes for sighting and firing on the Indians and holes used as candle holders are still to be seen in this pioneer house of which the entire framework is put together with pegs.

"Many years before the War Between the States the old house was enlarged and remodeled. A two story, seven room wing was added to the back of the building and was fronted with a doubled decked porch. During this time the three big mantels with their straight panels and beautiful hand carvings were added. This work was done by highly trained plantation hands who used only their pocket-knives to carve the intricate designs. The kitchen was in the yard a distance behind the house.

"The Bells owned many slaves and the quarters for housing them was about one quarter of a mile from the main dwelling. Across the road from the plantation house was a large slave cemetery. A few of the marked graves still may be seen. The inscriptions are quite interesting. Near the burying grounds on a peninsula jutting into Little River swamp, is a large grave. It is evidently a tomb of a person of some consequence. A heavy granite base supports the tomb which is above the ground and covered with a heavy slab of granite. This is enclosed with a low rock wall. In recent years this grave has either been desecrated or badly damaged by storms and floods for the slab now lies half buried beside the open grave. The wall is broken and the massive base has been upset in several places. Time and weather seems to have erased all traces of an

inscription. Old timers say that they can remember when the inscription was still legible and that this is the grave of a Winn, probably the Richard Winn for whom Winnsboro is named.

"Another story that is told, but is sometimes contradicted, is about a daughter of the family who eloped with the father's northern born overseer. The ambitious young man thought that he would be received as a member of the family and of the gentry of the neighborhood and would live in the 'big house' with his bride and her people. When they returned to the plantation he had a rude awakening. They were met by the master who horse-whipped the groom and later built a small four room house in the yard for the couple to occupy. Whether this is truth or legend is not known, but it is a fact that there was a four room building near the house that was removed a few years ago because it was not only useless but a fire hazard as well as an eyesore.

"The old place is heavy with tradition and many stories are told about the old house being haunted. One of these is based on an unfortunate accident that occurred many years ago. Mr. Martin, a Presbyterian minister, and several other men, were riding up the avenue of trees leading to the house. The men were joking and cutting at each other with their riding crops. As the play grew rougher some of them lost their tempers. One struck the preacher, who dismounted and picked up a rock to throw at his assailant. John Bell had also dismounted and hid behind a tree. Just as the clergyman threw the rock Mr. Bell peeped from behind the tree. The hurling stone struck him with full force on the head and he died soon after he was brought to the house for treatment. His widow continued to operate the plantation for a time and then it was leased.

"In the early 1900's the place was sold by Mrs. Bell to James T. Lemmon who bought the house and a one thousand acre tract of land. At his death the plantation was inherited by his daughter, Mrs. Lambert

WEST of LITTLE  
RIVER (BELL SOLD  
-34- TO LEMMON

Henry, the mother of the present owner, Mrs. Myrtle Henry Wilkes. [4]

[4] Ibid, pages 188-191.

n. The late Mrs. Myrtle Henry Wilkes, a typical Southern, genteel lady, with the poise and enthusiasm of a professional guide, related to a Bell descendant the tradition of how the blood of John Bell had stained the floor of the old house and that until the stain was removed by the passing of time, John's voice could be heard, at times, calling out to the Reverend Martin. She pulled back the narrow carpet in the hallway and, pointing to a burned scar on the floor, said, "This is where Sherman's troops set fire to the house, but the fire was extinguished by a loyal slave."

n. John P. Bell, son of Charles, b. November 12, 1830;  
married Isabella Hemphill Caldwell, December 8, 1858;  
d. April 10, 1863; buried Old Brick Church.

## CHAPTER IX

### FAMILY OF JOHN BELL I

As noted elsewhere, John Bell I was the pioneer Bell of the Little River area of Fairfield District, having settled there in 1756, and it is believed he was a brother of our William I.

John Bell I died in Fairfield District about the year 1787. The probate file of the estate of John Bell I contains only a single document, a citation directed to the executor to administer the estate. [1] The remaining documents in the estate file are missing. His son, John Bell II, entered into a bond on January 13, 1787, payable to his brothers, Thomas and William, both minors, and conditioned to convey to them certain land in which the widow was given a life estate. He was also required by said bond to convey 100 acres to his sister, Margaret. [2]

Thomas Bell, son of John I, died in July, 1798, as a single man. In his last will and testament, Thomas gave and bequeathed to his "loving sister Jenney Craig the whole of what goods I bought when last in Town [3] as pr. the bills for the same, also the mare and colt I bought, the colt for to raise and keep for her own riding horse for my sake, a colt to be given her son James Craig, also to have the whole of what money is collected for me by Andrew Patterson, Esq. of Richland [4] and all of what other debts are due to me then also the notes and accts. in his hands.

" I also give and bequeath the whole of my part of my late father's estate to which I am entitled equally between my brother William Bell and my sister Margaret Bell to be equally divided between them at the death of my mother.

[1] Apt. 1, Package 14, Probate records, Fairfield County, South Carolina and Department Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.

[2] Bond Book A, Probate records, Fairfield County, South Carolina.

[3] n. Town, as used in this instrument referred to Charles Town.

[4] n. Columbia, South Carolina.

"I also order the remainder of my estate to be sold and out of the moneys arising from said sale I order my sister Margaret to be paid the value of a mare I had from her as also the interest on said value. And the ballance or over pluss I leave to my brother Wm. Bell also my notes on James Smith.

"I also leave to my brother John Bell the sum of five shillings.

"I also give and bequeath to Jane McCune her choice either of a chints or muselin gown and enough of cirmnity for a coat and a pair of long gloves." [5]

Thomas Bell signed his name to his last will and testament, however the witnesses, Robert Bradford and Jane McCune, each signed by mark.

The wife of John Bell I died about 1790, and John II, as administrator of his father's estate conveyed to his brother, William, 200 acres, and to his sister, Margaret, 100 acres, as required under the terms of his bond. [6]

On March 1, 1797, William Bell and his wife, Agness, sold a bay mare and cows to James Smith for 10 pounds [7] and also, in 1798, they entered into an apprenticeship agreement with Thomas Stanton Cooper whereby they would train for Cooper seven Negroes in the skills of farming and one Negro girl in the art of spinning, knitting and weaving. [8]

John Bell II also conveyed for sixty pounds sterling, on August 3, 1799, 221 acres to a William Bell. This William Bell may have been William II, son of William Bell I. [9] . . .

William, the son of John Bell I, and his wife, Agness, may have migrated to the West about the turn of the century, for on December 22,

[5] Department Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.

[6] Deed Book N, page 326, Fairfield County, South Carolina Records.

[7] Bill of Sale Book K, page 440, Fairfield County, South Carolina Records.

[8] Book L, page 257, Fairfield County, South Carolina Records.

[9] Deed Book N, page 273, Fairfield County, South Carolina Records.

1800, he conveyed to Stephen Lee, 200 acres on Little River, originally the property of John Martin. [10]

John Bell II continued to reside on his Mill Creek property, where his father before him had lived.

John Bell II was married to Nancy, whose family surname is not known. In the family plot of the cemetery at the Old Stone Church in the Lebanon Community of Fairfield District is the grave of Marjory Bell, who died January 10, 1799. She may have been the first wife of John Bell II. In this family there were: Robert, William, Alexander, Isabella Turner Law, Elizabeth Hughs, and Mary.

In his last will and testament John II refers to his wife, Nancy, as "my best beloved wife," and returns to her all of her former estate, together with a life estate in one hundred acres of land and improvements, being the former home of the then late E. Mortus, Esq. He remembered all of his children. To his eldest son, Robert, a Negro man, named Scott; to his daughter, Mary, a number of slaves and household furniture; to daughter, Elizabeth Hughs, the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), to be paid in money or slaves of that value; and a like bequest to daughter, Isabella Turner; to his son, William, two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00); and to his youngest son, Alexander, "all of my plantations and mills," together with a total of seven slaves. The residue of the estate was divided equally among his children. [11]

John Bell II was laid to rest at the Old Stone Church burial ground near his plantation. Only a portion of a stone wall stands today as a reminder of the church where John, his family and neighbors worshipped. [12] So distant the past, and perhaps so far removed from the lineal descendants of John and his contemporaries, neglect and the elements have taken their

[10] Deed Book \_\_\_\_\_, page \_\_\_\_\_, Fairfield County, South Carolina Records.

[11] Department Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.

[12] A Fairfield Sketchbook. - F. L. H. L., page 177.



toll with this pioneer burial ground. Among the tilted stones, leaning markers with faded and obscure epitaphs, where young pine saplings push upward, soon to merge with the surrounding forest and forever erase this evidence of a once vibrant community life, there stood, until 1970, a tall granite marker, almost as a symbol of affluence. It read: "John Bell, who departed this life - 22 January, 1819 - in his sixty-seventh year of age."

No further search has been made of the descendants of John Bell II.

## CHAPTER X

### THE BELL COMMUNITY

As if always mindful of the Biblical injunction, "Be fruitful and multiply," William II and Ann Bell were the parents of twelve children born to them from 1775 to 1797. In addition to William III, James, Ann Nancy, Margaret, John, Charles and Thomas, already mentioned, there came Hugh in 1789, Elizabeth in 1790, Adam in 1791, Robert in 1795, and Isabella, their last child, in 1797.

It is understandable, then, that the neighborhood along the road to Ashford's Ferry, between Little River and the ridge, would become known and designated on county maps in the early 1820's as the "Bell Community." And as the last child was born there in 1797, some of the older children were preparing for marriage.

These are the families of the children of William II and Ann Montgomery Bell after they were married and established their homes in the Bell Community:

#### Family of William Bell III

William was married to Sarah Montgomery about the year 1800 or 1801. There were born to this union: James, 1802, who died 1809; [1] William M. (IV), April 10, 1803, who married Margaret Milling; [2] Nancy, whose date of birth is unknown, married James Smith; [3] Margaret, whose date of birth is unknown, married William Gray; [4] and Jane, 1806, who died 1829. [5]

Sarah Montgomery Bell died October 30, 1813, at the age of 36 years and was buried at the Old Brick Church. [6]

- [1] Grave marker, Old Brick Church, Fairfield County, South Carolina.
- [2] U. S. Census 1850, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. n. Information relating to wife of William Bell IV supplied by Mrs. Margaret Bell Gaston, granddaughter, of Starkville, Mississippi.
- [3] Estate of William Bell III, Department Archives & History, Columbia, S. C.
- [4] Ibid.

Eliza Brown, a cousin of William III, born in Ireland, October 9, [7] 1799, came to this country about 1820, possibly with the McCullough family, relatives of Ann Montgomery Bell, wife of William II. William III and Eliza Brown were married about 1821; and there were born as issue of this marriage: Charles, 1823; [8] Thomas R., 1824, [9] who is believed to have married; David M., 1827; [10] Hugh Cainin, 1828, and died 1833; [11] Elizabeth J., 1830; Mary C., 1833; and John C., 1834. [12]

#### Family of James Bell

James, second child of William II and Ann Bell, was married to Jane, whose family surname is unknown, about the year 1801. Born as issue of the marriage, were: William, date of birth unknown; Margaret, date of birth unknown, who married James Watt; Nancy, date of birth unknown, married P. (or) R. Talliaferro; and James M., 1807, married Martha, whose family surname is unknown; and Sarah, December 4, 1809, who married Samuel B. McCreight. [13]

James Bell, Sr. died October 11, 1809, shortly before the birth of his last child, Sarah, and is buried at the Old Brick Church. [14]

#### Family of John and Ann Nancy Bell Hawthorne

Ann Nancy Bell was married to John Hawthorne and they had four children, all daughters: Margaret, Isabella, Mary and Nancy; their dates of birth being unknown. Ann Nancy Bell Hawthorne died November 16, 1825 [15] and was buried at the Old Brick Church. After her death John Hawthorne and the children moved to Georgia. [16]

[5] Grave marker, Old Brick Church, Fairfield County, South Carolina.

[6] Ibid.

[7] Ibid.

[8] U. S. Census 1850, Fairfield County, South Carolina.

[9] Grave marker, Old Brick Church, Fairfield County, South Carolina.

[10] U. S. Census 1850, Fairfield County, South Carolina.

[11] Grave marker, Old Brick Church, Fairfield County, South Carolina.

[12] U. S. Census 1850, Fairfield County, South Carolina.

Family of Margaret Bell McGill:

Margaret Bell married a McGill, whose given name is unknown. Her dates of birth and death are unknown, however, she was living in 1825 when her father passed away. In his last will and testament he bequeathed to her a number of slaves, but this bequest was in trust for her lifetime, and then to her children. We can assume, perhaps, that she was in bad health at the time of her father's death, and also that she had children. The estate of her brother Adam refers to the children of Margaret as heirs, so we may assume that she predeceased him. Adam died in 1833. [17]

Family of John Bell

John Bell, at the age of 21 years, was married to Elizabeth Hawthorne, aged 20, on April 1, 1802. The Hawthorne family were charter members of the Old Brick Church congregation. Elizabeth passed away in the fifth month of the marriage, August 2, 1802.

About the year 1806, John was married to Elizabeth Montgomery, daughter of James and Margaret Montgomery of the Chester District. Born to John and Elizabeth were: Margaret Montgomery, September 14, 1807, who married Enoch Bolen; James Montgomery, May 5, 1810, who married Mary Bigham; John, Jr., February 18, 1814, who died October 2, 1835; and William Joseph, 1816, who died August 27, 1837. [18]

- [13] Last will and testament of William Bell II, Department Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina.
- [14] Grave marker, Old Brick Church, Fairfield County, South Carolina.
- [15] Ibid.
- [16] Estate of William Bell II, Department Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina.
- [17] Estate of Adam Bell, Department Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina.
- [18] Family Bible of John Bell, as copied by Eula W. Bell and Dora Bell.

### Family of Charles Bell

Charles Bell, aged 23, was married to Margaret Montgomery, aged 22, on November 27, 1807. She was a daughter of Hugh Montgomery II and his wife, Margaret.

Born to Charles and Margaret were: James, September 23, 1808; William, September 3, 1810; Charles, July 14, 1812, who died September 8, 1825; Mary Ann, May 13, 1815, married the Reverend James Boyce, January 24, 1833; David, January 4, 1818; Nancy, February 4, 1820, married the Reverend J. B. Watt, December 31, 1839.

Margaret Montgomery Bell died November 1, 1820 and was buried at the Old Brick Church. On September 5, 1822, Charles was married to Jane Martin and there were born to them: Edward Martin, July 29, 1823, who died August 31, 1825; Margaret Caroline, November 8, 1825, married John A. Brice, April 7, 1846; Charles E. March 27, 1828, married Isabella Witherspoon, March 18, 1853; John P., November 12, 1830, married Isabella Hemphill Caldwell, December 8, 1858; Celia M., June 9, 1833, married J. S. Brice, May 9, 1850; and Isabella E., March 5, 1836, who died May 26, of that same year. [19]

### Family of Thomas Bell

Thomas, at the age of 30 years, was married to Martha McClure Martin on October 5, 1815. There were born to this union: James, August 23, 1816, who died December 9, 1845; Margaret McClure, May 10, 1818, married her cousin, William Bell, son of Hugh and Martha Watt Bell, on December 24, 1839; Sarah, September 25, 1820, who died September 23, 1828; Edward Martin, October 8, 1822, married Martha Simonton Douglass, May 19, 1846; Nancy Jane, April 13, 1825, married William Martin; and Martha Sarah, October 16, 1828. [20]

[19] Family Bible of Charles Bell, as copied by Eula W. Bell.

[20] Family Bible of Thomas Bell.

### Family of Hugh Bell

Hugh married Martha Watt, daughter of William Watt. As issue of this marriage: William, January 4, 1814, married his cousin, Margaret McClure Bell, December 24, 1839; Jane, , married Frank Ware; James W., 1821, married Elizabeth Brown; Mary, 1822; John, 1827; Sarah, 1830; Henrietta Susannah, April 27, 1834, who died December, 1855, unmarried. [21]

### Family of William and Elizabeth Bell McKell

Elizabeth married William McKell in Fairfield District, South Carolina and moved to Starkville, Mississippi. It is not known if there was issue of this marriage.

### Family of Robert Bell

Robert married Rebecca Martin in Fairfield District in South Carolina and migrated to Mississippi. Rebecca is believed to have died enroute. He married Nancy Y., whose surname is not known. Among his children buried in the A.R.P. Cemetery in Starkville, Mississippi are: Jane Y., 1831, died September 21, 1846; John M., April 23, 1835, died December 8, 1854; Nancy Elizabeth, 1839, died December 1, 1850; Mary Anna, June 7, 1845, died September 23, 1863. [22]

The U. S. Census of 1850, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, reflects Bell daughters living with their aunt, Isabella Bell Montgomery, and these are likely children of Robert Bell who were orphaned at the time of his death in 1848. [23]

[21] U.S. Census 1850, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi and Cemetery Records of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, Mississippi Genealogical Society, Starkville, Mississippi.

[22] Ibid.

[23] Ibid.

Family of Hugh Montgomery II and Isabella Bell Montgomery

Hugh Montgomery II and Isabella Bell were married in Fairfield District, South Carolina. There were born to them: Nancy Elizabeth, 1824, married Dr. M. Brainard Barnwell; William B., August 21, 1829, married Sarah Glenn; Robert, 1834. [24]

On either side of the road to Ashford's Ferry (State Highway 34) from Little River to the ridge, in the 1820's, were farms or plantations of the children and grandchildren of William Bell II, for the most part, fields of cotton.

Near the Old Brick Church lived James Kincaid, a retired sea captain, who brought the first tomato to his country and developed it as a food. And "almost every resident of Fairfield will tell you without hesitation that the cotton gin was invented by James Kincaid, though Whitney received accolades as the inventor. In Fairfield it is stated that the inventor stole the idea after visiting Kincaid's home and watching the machine, which was originally to remove the burrs from sheep's wool. In Mr. Kincaid's absence, his wife allowed the northerner to see the machine, he promptly made off for Savannah, Georgia, sketched the intricacies, and applied for a patent." [25]

But to whomever belong the accolades for the invention of the cotton gin, its advent brought the development of the cotton culture, based on the slave system, and wealth and sumptuous living for many. For already in the early 1800's, fine colonial homes were rising to grace an already beautiful landscape. But the wealth of William Bell II was not to be measured by his place of abode, nor by sumptuous living, for that matter, but rather by the twelve farms or plantations staked off by him for his children.

The family social life seems to have been closely associated with

[24] n. This information obtained from the U.S. Census 1850, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi and Cemetery Records of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, and may be incomplete.

[25] A Fairfield Sketch Book, Bolick, page \_\_\_\_\_.

the activities of the church and its congregation. It was at their church that the Synod of the Carolinas, which is now the Associate Reformed Synod of the South, was organized on May 9, 1803, with the Reverend James Rogers acting as moderator. [26]

Sunday was a very special day in the lives of the Bell family, a day set aside for worship at the Old Brick Church and for fellowship and visitation. For it was on this day each week, that William II and Ann, their eleven living children and more than forty grandchildren, would assemble together to worship, and, after services, have dinner on the grounds of the church, shaded by the large and towering white oak trees. But then on occasion, they would be invited to the homes of members living nearest the church, such as the Kincaids.

In the early 1800's Charles, fourth son of William II and Ann, had won election to the office of Justice of Peace in the Justice District embracing the Monticello area. He also had established a grain mill on Little River, or one of its tributaries, and was engaged in the milling business. [27]

Among other events of the era was that of John's departure for North Carolina. John, third son of William II and Ann, " \* \* \* settled early in life on the middle fork of Crowder's Creek, in Lincoln County, the part that is now Gaston County, N.C., in a neighborhood where he had relatives. Having lost his bride of five months, Elizabeth Hawthorne, he married Elizabeth, daughter of James and Margaret Montgomery, who were his mother's kin, and who had moved to Crowder's Creek from Chester County, S.C. in 1301. John Bell received from James Montgomery a plantation of 110 acres, and he owned other land, besides." [28]

[26] The Centennial History of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

[27] See affidavit of William Bell III, Estate of William Bell II, Department Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.

[28] Notes of Eula W. Bell.



For more than a quarter century there had been but a single death in the William Bell II household, that of the second son, James, in the year 1809.

But death visited the family for the second time, when on November 16, 1823, Ann Montgomery Bell, wife of William II, passed away, in the 69th year of her life. [29] In something less than a year from her death, they would have celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. We can be almost certain that those of the Bell Community, including the collateral kin, would have filled the sanctuary of the Old Brick Church as the celebrated Reverend James Rogers delivered the eulogy. And so, also, we may presume that among the mourners that day, and seated in the servants' gallery [30] of the church, were a Negro girl, named Winney, a mulatto girl, named Sukey, and a Negro man, named Jack, all faithful household servants. [31]

Ann Montgomery Bell was laid to rest at the Old Brick Church, where, beside her resting place, was a space reserved by William II for his own interment. When "the old gentlemen," as he was affectionately referred to, was assisted onto his wagon or buckboard for the ride back to his home, he likely sensed the events of that day marked the beginning of the end of the immigrant era.

Living at the plantation with the father was Adam, the seventh son, who never married. The youngest son, Robert, who married Rebecca Martin, may also have been living there with his family. And there were the faithful household servants. It is likely "the old gentlemen," at the age of seventy, left the planting of money crops to his sons. But he still held title to his plantation, or so much as was left of it, after staking off lands

[29] Grave marker, Old Brick Church, Fairfield County, South Carolina.

[30] The term "servant" rather than "slave" was used to denote the gallery used by the family slaves, who attended religious services with their masters. See plaque in Old Brick Church.

[31] In last will and testament of William Bell II, these servants were bequeathed to some of his children. Department Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.

to his children. And he owned another tract of two hundred fifty acres that he had leased. Occasionally one of the children would be in need of financial assistance; and to the end that none of them should be dealt with unfairly, a cash advance was treated as a loan. For it was about this period of time that his son, Hugh, borrowed fifty dollars. [32]

Perhaps the waning years or a lingering illness, prompted William Bell II to call for his neighbors, Robert Milling, L. T. Rabb, and William Hawthorne, to witness his last will and testament, a document to which he would be unable to affix his signature - only his mark, that May 14, 1824. [33]

To his son, William Bell III, he would leave the sum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00), and the family Bible, or a new one at his choice; to his grandchildren, William Bell, Margaret Watt, Nancy Bell, James Bell, and Sarah Bell, children of his son, James, deceased; and Margaret Hawthorne, Isabella Hawthorne, Mary Hawthorne, and Nancy Hawthorne, children of his daughter, Ann Nancy Bell Hawthorne, each the sum of fifty dollars (\$50.00). And, for the payment of these bequests, he directed that his parcel of two hundred fifty acres of land be sold. To his youngest sons, Adam and Robert, he would leave his plantation. Of his faithful household servants, the Negro girl, named Winney, together with a bed and furniture, would go to son, Adam; to son, Robert, the mullato girl, named Sukey, together with a bed and furniture; and to son, John, the Negro man, named Jack, together with his (William II's) saddle.

All the rest of his Negro slaves, he would give and bequeath to his children, Margaret McGill, Charles Bell, Thomas Bell, Hugh Bell, Betsey McKell, and Isabella Montgomery, each to share and share alike. The share of daughter, Margaret McGill, was left in trust for the use and benefit of her children after her death.

[32] See Footnote [27].

[33] Last will and testament of William Bell II, Department Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.

And, finally, William Bell II bequeathed his Brown's Dictionary to his son, Charles, who, with son-in-law, Hugh Montgomery II, were named co-executors of his last will and testament.

## CHAPTER XI

### THE THIRD MIGRATION

It was late summer, 1825, and more than a year since William Bell II had touched a pen as his mark to his last will and testament. Whether or not he suffered a terminal or lingering illness, is left to conjecture, but on September 3, 1825, the patriarch of the Bell Community passed away, in the 72nd year of his life. [1]

Probably no person outside the immediate family knew him better than did the Reverend James Rogers, his pastor for more than a quarter century. The Reverend Rogers had baptized his children, performed their marriage ceremonies, and they had received their education in his school. If we could but recapture the words of the Reverend Rogers in his eulogy of William Bell II, we would know much more of his life than the fragmentary records tell us today. But just as we know that his name is implanted for posterity on the Deed to the Old Brick Church, and his labor embodied in the brick that line its sturdy walls, the Reverend Rogers might also have noted that William Bell II had drawn inspiration from the old books in his home - the Holy Bible, The Confession of Faith and Catechism, The Scot's Worthies, Cloud of Witnesses, and the Crookshank's History of the Church of Scotland. And, as the Reverend Rogers closed his Bible and stepped from the small pulpit of the sanctuary to speak personally with the family, he might well have said to them, and for us today - therein is your family heritage.

The estate of William Bell II was administered by the co-executors, Charles Bell and Hugh Montgomery III. In order to pay the cash bequests for the grandchildren named in the will, as well as to William Bell III, the executors, on November 2, 1825, sold eight Negro slaves for a total of \$2,852.00, or \$356.50 each. At this same sale, they disposed of many

[1] Grave marker, Old Brick Church, Fairfield County, South Carolina.

items of personal property, including: a "Side Board" for \$15.00; a "Lot of Books" for \$6.00; "20 Old Fat Hogs" for \$100.00; "14 Stock Hogs & Pigs" for \$21.00.

On the 10th day of January, 1829, the executors sold 255 acres of land for \$2.00 per acre, or a total of \$510.00. This property was sold on credit, payable in twelve months.

Hugh, son of William Bell II, had borrowed fifty dollars from his father. William III, now William Bell, Senior, made oath before his brother, Charles, Justice of Peace, to the following:

"Wm. Bell Senr. swears before me that sometime in the year 1824 previous to the death of his father Wm. Bell he heard the old gentleman saying that a certain note which he held on his son Hugh Bell for Fifty Dollars was all paid but thirteen or fourteen dollars - and has reason to believe that the ballance was paid by said Hugh Bell as means was procured for that purpose."

In settlement of the legacies to William Bell, Senior, and the grandchildren, Charles, one of the executors, on March 9, 1829, paid to P. (or) R. M. Tallaferrro \$50.00, amount of legacy to his wife, formerly Nancy Bell, and the same amount to James Watt, legacy of his wife, formerly Margaret Bell. On January 1, 1831, John Hawthorne received \$228.00, amount of legacies due his daughters, Margaret, Isabella, Mary and Nancy. February 3, 1831, William M. Bell received \$56.30, the amount of legacy and interest. August 19, 1831, Samuel G. McCreight received \$57.00, legacy due his wife, formerly Sarah Bell, and the interest. On February 17, 1829, James Bell received \$54.48; and March 30, 1830, William Dell received \$327.00.

And, finally, among the papers in the file of the estate, is the notation of the executors of a receipt for the Negro slave, Jack:

"Received of John Bell of the State of North Carolina, Lincoln County, his receipt for a Negro man by name Jack about twenty-six years of age which Negro Man was willed to him by William Bell Senr. decd of South Carolina Fairfield District." [2]

By the early 1830's, the cotton fields in the Piedmont were badly eroded and leached, the humus gone from the onetime fertile soil. Crop production had declined steadily, requiring greater acreage. And, with all of this, a steadily increasing population to share the arable land. So it was little wonder that the Bells, at least most of them, turned their eyes westward for land on which to plant cotton.

In the State of Mississippi, and particularly Oktibbeha County, the Choctaw Indians had been removed, the county surveyed, and the land offered at public sale:

"In 1832, or 1833, the report of the surveyors became public. This described the county; giving not only section and quarter-section lines, but adding comments on topography and fertility; noting timber and streams and lay of the land. This valuable report is still in existence. Upon its publication, the Government threw open the lands to settlement, and on November 27, 1833, the Land Office began to sell and to record claims at a dollar and a quarter an acre." [3]

But just as many of the family were in the process of liquidating their holdings, as also were their neighbors, in preparation for the migration to the State of Mississippi, Adam, seventh son of William II and Ann Bell, died in 1833, and was laid to rest with others of his family at the Old Brick Church. [4]

From all that is known, it would appear the four eldest sons of William II - William III, John, Charles and Thomas, never intended to

[2] Estate of William Bell II, Department Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.

[3] Historical Sketches, Oktibbeha County, page \_\_\_\_\_.

[4] Grave marker, Old Brick Church, Fairfield County, South Carolina.

move to Mississippi. Thomas, however, had acquired property there. [5]

It was Robert, youngest son of William II, who led the way westward about the year 1834. It may have been that Robert, then 39 years of age, had been chosen by the group to go first and purchase land claims in their names.

Eula W. Bell, in her notes, refers to Miss Janie Hutchinson of Monticello, who remembered her mother saying that Robert was the first of the Bell family to leave home. It is believed that a daughter, Isabella, was born to Robert and his wife, Rebecca, in the State of Tennessee in 1834. [6]

We know that his route of travel would have taken him first to the State of North Carolina and then to Tennessee. Likely with two covered wagons, laden with two months' supply of grain and rations and all of their personal effects, Robert and wife Rebecca, then heavy with child, and Negro slaves, including the household servant, Sukey, first headed northward, possibly to his brother John's home on the middle fork of Crowder's Creek in Lincoln County, North Carolina. From thence, his route of travel would have taken him to a road leading from Lumberton, North Carolina to the Smokies and into Tennessee.

Those of the Bell family who joined the wagon trains to Mississippi were:

Hugh, son of William II, his wife, Martha, and likely all of their children except William, who remained behind in Fairfield District.

Robert, youngest son of William II, his wife, Rebecca, and their children.

Elizabeth, daughter of William II, and her husband, William McKell.

Isabella, youngest daughter of William II, her husband, Hugh Montgomery III, and their children.

[5] Last Will and Testament of Thomas Bell, Department Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.

[6] Notes of Eula W. Bell.  
n. See U.S. Census 1850, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, Household of Isabella Montgomery.

James, the son of James, grandson of William II, and his wife, whose name is unknown; and his sister, Sarah, with her husband, Samuel G. McCreight. [7]

William IV, grandson of William II, his wife, Margaret, and children; his sister, Nancy, and her husband, James Smith; and his sister, Margaret, and her husband, William Gray. [8]

And finally, three sons of Charles - James, William, and David, grandsons of William II. [9]

The wagon trains probably took a route that carried them to the Savannah River at Augusta, Georgia, and across that State to LaGrange. In a cemetery at LaGrange, Georgia is the grave marker of a Nancy Bell, as yet unidentified. Some of the Bell wives are believed to have died enroute, and probably some of the children. James, son of James, lingered in Georgia for two years, where two of his children were born. His wife probably died there, inasmuch as his wife, Martha, as reflected by the U.S. Census of 1850 for Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, was too young to have been the mother of his older children.

Just as their ancestors had migrated from Scotland to Ireland as yeomen farmers, taking with them their flinty Presbyterianism, so, too, had some of the Bells of Fairfield District come to Mississippi with equal skills and religious zeal. For it was only shortly after they had arrived that the Bells and their neighbors organized for religious services. Included in this first group were Robert Bell and Elizabeth Bell McKell, children of William II, Hugh Montgomery III, husband of Isabella, daughter of William II, William Bell, Sr., believed to be a son of Charles Bell, and William Bell, Jr. (IV), son of William III, who was at that time the Senior William Bell, still residing in Fairfield District.

[7] U.S. Census 1850, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi.

[8] Estate of William Bell III, Department Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.

[9] Estate of Charles Bell, Department Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.



From the Historical Sketches of Oktibbeha County, by Judge Thomas B. Carroll, we are told:

"The Reform Church Presbyterians had preaching in 1839, organized formally in 1840, and built a church-house in 1841. The building, a wooden structure, stood at the juncture of east Main St. and West Point Rd., people called it the Reform, the Seceder, or the United Presbyterian Church. The charter members were Margaret Fleming, Jane Wiseman, Elizabeth McKell, Hugh Montgomery, Robert Bell, William Bell, Sr., William Bell, Jr., and John and James Wiseman. The membership was 25 in 1842; and David Pressley was pastor."

It was their dedication and their skill as planters that would enable the Bells and other early settlers of Starkville to see that community become the capital of the farming aristocracy of Mississippi. As a landmark today of that aristocracy is "The Cedars," the home built by David Montgomery on a high knoll overlooking his cotton fields. At his death, the property was purchased by W. B. Montgomery, son of Hugh Montgomery II and his wife, Isabella Bell Montgomery, youngest daughter of William Bell II. In "Mississippi, a Guide to the Magnolia State" is found this reference to "The Cedars":

"Left from Starkville on State Road 23 1.3 miles to the Montgomery home (open by appointment.) Built in 1839 by David Montgomery and modeled after a 2-story 18th Century English dwelling. It is marked by restraint of treatment, no unnecessary details detracting from its good proportion. Long green blinds hang at the small-paned windows, and walls and columns are white. Brick chimneys, mellowed to a faint rose, flank the ends. The house sits on a knoll in a grove of ancient cedars."

## CHAPTER XII

### YEARS OF PESTILENCE

Hardly a household in Fairfield District had escaped the impact of the migration westward. Almost overnight, the Community of Starkville in Mississippi was like a transplant of life from old Fairfield. It seems that most of the older children of the families, whose ties were not so firmly rooted as to deter them, moved westward, almost en masse. About thirty in number were those of the Bell family community who had joined the migration, for they, like their forefathers, were filled with an indomitable pioneering spirit, lured on by the prospect of purchasing land for one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre and the promise of a cotton culture that mirrored wealth and gracious living.

But as the stripping community of Starkville had gained most of the young talent of Fairfield District, it marked the beginning of a long period of regression in the community life back in South Carolina, and eventually to the day when it would be said of the Bell Community, though once there were many, now there are none.

A culture that had evolved among these Scotch-Irish immigrant descendants over a period of some three-score and ten years - industry, frugality and God-fearing - it was all still there, but surely noticeable were the empty pews each Sabbath at the Old Brick Church. The very old were in attendance, as also the youth, but the many young married couples and their children, who had contributed so much to the spiritual and material vitality of the church, were no longer there. Moreover, death had taken their pastor-teacher, the celebrated Reverend James Rogers.

The Reverend Rogers was succeeded in the pulpit at the Old Brick Church by the Reverend James Boyce. Reverend Boyce was married to Mary Ann Bell, daughter of Charles Bell, son of William Bell II.

Few, if any, of the children or grandchildren of William Bell II, prior to 1840, had the benefit of a higher education. South Carolina had established a State University at Columbia, but among the Associate Reformed Presbyterians, it was considered a corrupt institution and they refused to permit their children to enroll. This led to the establishment by them of the State's first four-year sectarian college: " \* \* \* Due West was the holy city of the Associate Reformed Presbyterians. The last named sect, by the way, were anything but newfangled, or liberal Presbyterians. They claimed, to the contrary, a purer devotion to John Knox; reformation, polity, zealous to keep their sons from corruption in Columbia, they opened at Due West the state's first four year denominational college - Erskin - in 1839." [1]

About 1835, John Bell, son of William II, sold his lands on Crowder's Creek in North Carolina, the last tract being a piece of meadow land bequeathed him by James Montgomery. John and Elizabeth, by joint deed for \$222.00 conveyed "1 acre and 70 square perches" to Robert Barber on January 14, 1835. On January 25 of that year, he held a sale to dispose of part of his personal property and immediately thereafter removed to his native Fairfield District.

An acute, infectious, often fatal, febrile disease, characterized by jaundice, hemorrhages and vomiting, its virus transmitted by the yellow-fever mosquito, found its way into parts of the South in the 1830's, though not epidemic until the mid-40's. We can only assume that the many deaths among the young and middle aged of that era were attributable to it.

At this period of time, John and wife Elizabeth, together with their only surviving son, James Montgomery Bell, and his family, were living at the old Bell Place, then owned by his brother, Charles.

From the notes of Eula W. Bell we are told that:

[1]

"In 1843 John Bell and his son James Montgomery Bell bought a plantation in partnership in Chester County on Rocky Creek. Deed Book DD, page 372, shows this purchase of 154 acres for \$432.57 from David Willson. The land was bounded by lands of Alexander Barber, John Nesbit, and Mr. Kilgore. Witnesses were W. Flenniken and John F. Bigham. )A note should be made about this John F. Bigham, who was the brother of Mary Bigham Bell, wife of James Montgomery Bell. Mr. Bigham never had any children and was especially considerate of all his relatives. He married Miss Jane Johnson who was the beloved 'Aunt Jenny' to all her husband's kin, as well as her own. They are buried at Hopewell.)

"On this farm on Rocky Creek John Bell and his wife Elizabeth Montgomery lived in one house, alone, being cared for through the years by the faithful Negro Jack. A very short distance away, probably not more than a hundred yards, lived James Montgomery Bell and his family. In fact they were so near that James Montgomery Bell's wife every morning took the children to their grandfather John's for morning prayers, (her husband at that period of his life not being much given to prayer) and on the way home carried up a bucket of water from the spring. The children who were taken to grandfather John's for morning prayers received there impressions for good that they never forgot. Charles James Bell spoke often to his sons of that period. John and his wife were dependent upon the daughter-in-law Mary for much attention and care, and after her death April 24, 1848, they moved back to the old home place in Fairfield County \* \* \* John Bell at the time of his marriage 'was provided for' by his father William Bell of Fairfield Co., S. C., and James Montgomery, his father-in-law, gave him land in Lincoln Co., N. C., but he was never very successful in a financial way, and also he suffered from much bitterness of heart because of the way Charles Bell executed the will of William Bell (II)."

John Bell lost three children in the 1830's: Margaret Montgomery

Bolen, on January 12, 1832; John, Jr., October 2, 1835; and William Joseph, August 27, 1837.

The yellow fever had reached epidemic proportions throughout the South. In Starkville, Mississippi, Elizabeth Bell McKell, daughter of William Bell II, died on June 2, 1842; on May 7, 1844, Nancy Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh Montgomery III and wife Isabella Bell. Back in Fairfield District, on November 27, 1844, Charles Bell, Sr. passed away and was buried beside his first wife, Margaret Montgomery, at the Old Brick Church. On June 9, 1845, his son, William, died at Starkville, Mississippi; as did his son, James, on December 25 of the same year; and a daughter, Mary Ann Boyce, of Fairfield District, on December 5, 1847.

William Bell III, first born of William II. at Fairfield District on July 2, 1845, and was buried at the Old Brick Church beside his first wife, Sarah Montgomery. Also at Fairfield District, James, son of Thomas Bell, died December 9, 1845; Martha Jane, daughter of William, the son of Hugh Bell, on January 18, 1845; and her brothers, Thomas Jefferson, September 3, 1847, and James Erskin, April 24, 1848; Margaret Caroline Brice, daughter of Charles Bell, died March 1, 1848.

And back in Starkville, in the family of Robert Bell, son of William II. Robert's second wife, Nancy Y., died February 3, 1846; his daughter, Jane Y., on September 2, 1846; his third wife, Catherine A., on August 30, 1847; Robert died on July 19, 1848; his daughter, Nancy Elizabeth, on December 1, 1850; and his son, John M., December 8, 1854. Also in Starkville, Hugh Montgomery II, husband of Isabella Bell Montgomery, died September 2, 1849.

From the notes of Eula W. Bell is an account of:

"A 'store bill' made at the time of the death of Mary Bigham Bell, aged 40 (wife of James Montgomery Bell) six weeks after the birth of her baby, William Thomas, throws light upon the customs of the times when

when shrouds were used for burial garments, while the handmade coffins were covered and lined with cloth. The footing was fine net trimming for caps, collars and ruffles. Under date of April 24, 1848, the following items were entered:

1	Bottle port wine	.75
9 yards	White cambric at .25	2.25
2 1/4 yards	Footing	.20
1/4 yard	Book muslin	.10
1 pair	White cotton gloves	.12 1/2
1 pair	White hose	.25
4 1/2 yards	Black covering at .37 1/2	1.68 1/4
6 1/2 "	Lining at .14	.91
4 1/2 "	Black ribbon at .15	.67 1/2

"Her baby was taken to be reared by the Misses Peden of the Peden's Bridge Road, but he survived his mother only two weeks, dying on May 7th. On May 8th the store account received a charge for 1 1/2 yards of white ribbon which must have been used on the tiny burial robe, a spool of white thread and 1 1/2 yards of blue covering cloth for the coffin."

John Bell, son of William II, passed away January 4, 1849, at the age of 68 years; and his brother, Thomas, on March 15, 1850, at the age of 65 years. Both are buried at the Old Brick Church, John in an unmarked grave.

Thomas Bell died testate, having made his will on January 14, 1847. He devised and bequeathed to his wife, Martha, a child's share, and more should she desire it, during her lifetime; the remainder to his four children. Other provisions of the will are:

"3rd My daughter Margaret M. Bell (who has intermarried with William Bell) I have already given a Negro Woman Charlott, a horse saddle and bridle, bedsted bed & furniture, one cow & calf, &c-- at the time given I valued the Negro Woman at Eight hundred dollars (800.00) the horse bridle & saddle at one hundred (100.00). The other property I have placed no valuation on - and I wish my Wife & other three children to receive each as much property as I have already given my daughter Margaret M. when she shall come in and share equal with the rest of my heirs.

"4th The balance of my property real & personal (after my Wife takes what she chooses and my three children namely Edward M. Bell, Nancy I. Bell and Martha S. Bell - shall receive each as much in valuation as I have already given my said daughter Margaret M. Bell - including a Negro boy Alexander & a girl Phily which I lent to my daughter Margaret to wait on her as I chose) I wish equally, divided in valuation among my four children Margaret M. Bell, Edward M. Bell, Nancy I. Bell and Martha S. Bell, share and share alike.

"5th The property real or personal that my three daughters Margaret M., Nancy I. & Martha S. may or do receive by this my Will I hereby settle it on them and the lawful issue of their bodies forever and I do declare that it shall in no wise be subject (to) the debts of their husbands in no case whatever.

"6th I do hereby appoint my son Edward M. Bell sole Guardian of the person and property of my daughter Martha S. Bell during her minority.

"I hereby empower my Executors to sell any or all my real property either here or that in the State of Mississippi and to give warrantie titles to the same.

"8th I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my Wife Martha M. Bell executrix and my son Edward M. Bell Executor of this my last will and testament." [2]

Thomas, at the time of his death, owned perhaps as much as 1000 acres of land. The survey of his brother Charles' land [3] reflects adjoining tracts belonging to him (Thomas) of more than half that number of acres, and did not include his home plantation. He also had holding in the State of Mississippi, and owned an undetermined number of slaves.

Death struck again on April 7, 1859, when Elizabeth Montgomery Bell, widow of John, passed away, and was buried beside her husband at the Old Brick Church.

Although this was an era of great sadness at the Bell Community -

[2] Estate of Thomas Bell, Department Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.

[3] Estate of Charles Bell, Department Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.

death of fever still hovering over the remaining families, and ominous war clouds everywhere as the Secessionist Movement gained momentum, there was still occasion for some levity and celebration. Perhaps it was to be a wedding, for on March 3, 1851, Martha, wife of Edward M. Bell, rode to Winstboro in her carriage to make some purchases at the mercantile establishment of Woodward & Randolph. These included: "2 gallons malaga wine, 2 gallon demijohns, 17 pounds loaf sugar, 1 box raisens, 2 pounds candy, 2 pounds kisses, 1 pound pop kisses, 4 bottles cordial, and 1 quart rye whiskey." Martha returned to Woodward & Randolph on March 12, and made some additional purchases: "12 sperm candles, 1/2 bushel of rice, 2 gallons Bourbon whiskey, 2 pounds of candy, 1 bottle lemon syrup and 14 1/2 pounds of bacon."

Death among the Bell families continued, unabated, as on July 29, 1852, Jane Martin Bell, widow of Charles, passed away, at the age of 67 years; and on June 9, 1852, Celia M. Brice, daughter of Charles, died.

On March 19, 1853, Charles E., eldest of three surviving sons of Charles Bell, was married to Isabella Witherspoon. This couple moved to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina to make their home, leaving only John P. Bell, aged 23, as the last of Charles' children to reside in the Bell Community of Fairfield District. [4]

On May 16, 1854, Martha Sarah, daughter of Thomas Bell, passed away; and on December 21 of the same year, Eliza Brown Bell, widow of William II, died. On August 10, 1854, Edward M. Bell, Jr., infant son of Edward M., a grandson of Thomas, died. And death took the widow of Thomas, Martha McClure Bell, on September 9, 1855. All of the foregoing are buried at the Old Brick Church. And at Starkville, Mississippi, <sup>HERRIETTA SUSAN BELL,</sup> a daughter of Hugh Bell, son of William II, died on December 22, 1855.

[4] Charles Edward Bell and Isabella Witherspoon were the parents of 10 sons and 7 daughters. Of these were Edward Martin Bell, Laura Bell Thompson and Jessie Bell McDonald, whose address, in 1948, was R. F. D. 3, Box 59, Charlotte, North Carolina. n. This family has not been traced,



Having lost his father, mother, a sister, and his child, Edward, Jr., all within a period of two years, Edward M. Bell left Fairfield District, perhaps in early January, 1856, for a journey to Starkville, Mississippi. He was executor of his late father's estate, the administration of which had been complicated by the death of his mother and sister, both beneficiaries under the will of Thomas Bell. His father had acquired land in Mississippi and it was this item of business that required him to make the trip. Edward probably visited in the home of his Uncle Hugh at Starkville, the last surviving son of William Bell II. On his return journey, he travelled southeast of Starkville to a cotton port on the Tombigbee River, where he boarded the steamboat "Frank Lyon." The affidavit of three passengers aboard the vessel tell of the death of Edward M. Bell and his nuncupative will: [5]

"On the 16th day of February, 1856, Thomas E. Cannon, Alonzo R. Cushman and Angi E. Sove, residents of the State of Mississippi, made oath that 'Being on board the steamer Frank Lyon and being with Edward M. Bell of Fairfield District of State of South Carolina during his last illness were then and there called upon by him to take notice and bear witness to his Will hereinafter set forth; that one of us, to-wit, Angi E. Sove retired to the Clerk's office on said boat to write the will at length. That after the Will was reduced to writing it was brought to him for his approval and signature. He was so far gone that he was unable to listen it or to sign the same; that he was taken very suddenly, only sick about forty eight hours; that he spoke plain and distinctly without any person suggesting or dictating his Will, being of sound mind & disposing memory and understanding, viz: I desire that my wife shall have all my property free from the interference

[5] n. An oral will declared or dictated by the testator in his last sickness before a sufficient number of witnesses, and afterwards reduced to writing.

Estate of Edward M. Bell, Department of Archives & History,  
Columbia, South Carolina.

of any legatees or any other person and at her death wish my property to go to my children and that my wife be my executrix.."

Edward M. Bell was buried at the Old Brick Church. His nuncupative will was offered for probate in Fairfield District; and he was survived by his widow, Martha S., a daughter Martha M., and a son Alexander Douglass Bell.

As the end of the era of the 1850's came to a close, the Bell households in Fairfield District, as far as we now know, where both the husband and the wife were living, were reduced to two in number. There was the household of William Bell, son of Hugh, and wife Margaret, daughter of Thomas Bell, and their children: Sarah Elizabeth, Hugh, Thomas E., and Margaret Jane. And the household of John P. Bell, son of Charles, who married Isabella Hemphill Caldwell on December 8, 1858.

In the household of William Bell III, deceased, were: Charles, Thomas R., who may have been married at that time; David M.; Elizabeth J; Mary C.; and John C.

And finally, there was the household of Edward M. Bell, deceased, with his widow, Martha S., and two children, Martha M. and Alexander Douglass.

So it was that of the nine known male descendants of William Bell I residing in the Bell Community of Fairfield District, six were eligible for military service and awaited the call to arms in the coming era.

In Chester District was the family of James Montgomery Bell, son of John, and his children: John Leroy; Robert Brown Bell; Charles James; Joseph Bigham; Margaret Nancy; Elizabeth Montgomery and Mary Jane.

Chapter XIII  
BELLS AND THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

Hugh and Martha Bell at Starkville, Mississippi received a letter from their son William of Fairfield District, South Carolina, with distressing news, perhaps of the Secessionist Movement in progress there. On January 1, 1860, Hugh penned this letter to his son, in reply:

"My dear son and daughter: We received your very welcome favor a few days ago, but I must say I was somewhat surprised to read a letter from Billie, for I thought that he had forgotten how to write. It filled my heart with joy when the announcement came that I had a letter from one who is dear to me. But alas; it brought sad news. Your mother is very much distressed about you. There is a great deal of excitement here at this time. Mississippi will secede in a few days. They are making up companies here to send too Charleston. The times are improving cotton is worth eleven and a half cents. There are plenty of every thing. We made a sorry corn crop, but by being economical we will have enough to do us. We made sixty or seventy bails of cotton. We sold some cotton, eight bails at eight cents, fifteen at eleven, the balance hand yet. We are preparing to plant another crop. Margaret Valentine has another fine daughter. William Goyens has moved to the place he sold Davis. Miller is doing very well. We received a letter from Sallie last week. Tell her that I am very much obliged too her for writing. Tell Hugh that I think that he has forgotten us entirely. I thought that he would write as he promised to do so. John is playing around the girls very extensively. I think he has a little thought of marrying. I thought that you would have moved out here, but I have lost all hopes. I think that you will do a great deal better here than where you are. The times are very hard here, but hard as they are negroes are hiring at a big price. Negro fellows from two hundred and twenty-five too two hundred and sixty; women from two hundred too one hundred and fifty. If you had your

negros here you could make more by hireing them out, than you make there. I have hired none this year, but I expect to hire, if I can get them at their worth. We made five bails of cotton to the hands. I have written all of the knews. This leaves us all well. I must say that Margaret has been very faithful in writing. I would like that you would write often, and let us hear the knews. Nothing more. I remain forever your true father. Hugh Bell."

[1]

In Chester District, Robert Brown, son of James Montgomery Bell, was married to Margaret Ann Barnes on January 12, 1860. Two of his brothers had already married, Joseph Bigham to Eliza Jane Collins on November 24, 1851, and John Leroy to Charlotte Bagley on February 14, 1856. Charles James was married later to Rachel Bigham, December 19, 1867. [2]

December 20, 1860 - an event that all had expected - South Carolina seceded from the Union, and the State of Mississippi followed on January 9, 1861. March 4, 1861, marked the Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States, and, on April 8, 1861, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, called for twenty thousand volunteers.

Among the descendants of William Bell I, as now known to us, twenty-five were probably eligible for service with the Confederate Army. Fourteen of them resided in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi; six in Fairfield District; four in Chester District; and one in the State of North Carolina. We presume that most, if not all, of these saw service during the war. Official records tell of the service of some, Bible records and grave markers of others, and a number of them are unaccounted for. They, perhaps, gave their lives along with those who are known to us to have died in service.

On July 25, 1861, Hugh, son of William and Margaret Bell, died.

[1] Letter in possession of Margaret Starnell Kilgore, Columbia, South Carolina, great granddaughter of William Bell, son of Hugh.

[2] Family Bible of John Bell.

On October 15, of that year, Martha M., daughter of Edward M. and Martha S. Bell, was married to Archibald J. Hamilton. And her mother, Martha S., widow of Edward M. Bell, married Reverend John Hunter on December 10, 1861.

Early in the year, 1862, the Bell men in Fairfield and Chester Districts were leaving the plantations for Camp Instruction at Columbia, South Carolina. Perhaps there were no male adults left at the Bell Community in Fairfield to manage the plantations and oversee the planting of crops. The older men were all dead. In Chester District the responsibility would rest upon James Montgomery Bell to care for the families of his four sons, all in the military service.

From Camp Instruction, Columbia, John Leroy Bell, son of James Montgomery Bell, expressed a thought to his wife Charlotte, one likely shared by all in the service, "I hope to get back to you again. This wicked war can't last long." He expressed other thoughts, too, in his letters that have been preserved to be shared with us: [3]

"South Carolina  
Camp Instruction.  
Columbia, July 22, 1862

Dear Wife:

I seat myself this evening to inform you of our health which is tolerable good at this time. I hope these lines may come to finding you all well. Charlotte I have wrote you two letters since I came to this place but I have never received an answer yet - I do think the time long to hear from you. \* \* \* They say that we will be taken to Virginia - I would rather not go there if I could help it but if it is Gods will we will come through and get back to our dear friends again. If we have to go I want to go home to see you all before we leave. If it were not for you and my dear little children I could get along but you are never out of my mind. \* \* \* I heard that you had a

[3] Original letters of John Leroy Bell were in the possession of Dora Ann Bell, daughter of Robert Brown Bell, when copied by Eula W. Bell.

storm of wind and rain in Chester last Thursday night - I want you to give me the news about it - let me know how the crops look - I would like to be there to get some apple pie - we cant get apples they are asking 5 ¢ for 2 apples. Charlotte you had better dry all the fruit you can for you have no idea how high and scarce provisions is. Take care of your stock the best you can. Tell William and your mother that I will write to them soon. Let father see this - direct your letters to Columbia Camp Instruction in care of Major Gibbs I hope you will write to me as soon as this comes to hand. Nothing more but I remain yours until death."

"South Carolina  
Columbia Camp Instruction

Dear wife and little children

I seat myself this morning to inform you of our health which is good at this time. I hope these lines may come to hand and find you all well. Dear wife I will inform you that we have to take cars to Virginia this evening at 4 o'clock - Charlotte I hope you wont take it hard - I want you to take it easy and pray to God for me - If it is Gods will for me to come to and get back to you and my Dear little children once more - Charlotte you must trust in God and you will get along some way. \* \* \* Charlotte I will write to you as soon as I get there and I hope you will write to me. Nothing more at this time but I remain your husband till death - may God be with you and bless you forever. (postscript) Kiss my little children for me Fare ye well if I never meet you on earth - I hope to meet you in heaven."

"Richmond, Va.  
August 2, 1862.

Dear Wife

I take this opportunity to inform you of my health which is good at this time. I hope these lines may come to hand and find you all well. We arrived here about 12 o'clock today - We left the Camp of Instruction last Wednesday

evening at 4- we got to Charlotte Tuesday morning at 3 o'clock and we left Charlotte that evening and got to Raliegh about sunrise. We got to Weldon yesterday evening sundown - we had a very uneasy trip the cars was so crowded - we suffered for water and something to eat - we drew two loaves of bread in Columbia - and that was all we got un til we got to Weldon and then we got a half a loaf to a man. We have been eating bread and water since we left Columbia. Charlotte it was hard for me to come through Chester so nigh home and couldnt get to see you but I hope to see you all before long - we are all going to the sixth regiment to the Old Pickens Guard. This is a pretty place there are lots of men here - I can see 25 or 30 carriages of artillery now. I would like to hear from you very bad I havent heard a breath from you since I left Home - I would like to be there to go to preaching with you tomorrow - they are expecting a battle here every day but we have to be drilled before we are taken into battle - I havent time to give you all the news at this time - I will give you the news in a few days. Direct your letters to 6 Regiment Company F in care of Capt. R. A. Crawford - Nothing more at this time but I remain your husband til death."

"Richmond, Va.  
August 9, 1862

Dear Brother (in-law)

I take my pen in hand this morning to inform you of my health which is good at this time though I am very weak - I had a very bad spell of disentary - I took some medicine this give me relief. I hope these lines may come to hand and find you all well and doing well. \* \* \* We have to drill two hours in the day and we get a half a loaf of bread and it is the worst bread ever I eat - we get enough of meat if we could get wood to cook it. We draw 3 sticks of wood to the mess every three days about enough to make one fire. This is a hard place to be but I hope we will all get home once more. There is lots of soldiers here - there was an exchange made of prisoners

the other day about four thousand which has crowded our camp - they are lying in every direction about here and as lousy as hogs. It is reported that they have been a fighting about 8 miles from this place but that is all that I can tell you - I heard the guns very plain last Sunday evening east from this place - William I think I could get along if I could hear from home - I havent heard from home since I left - I am uneasy to hear - I hope you will stay with my Dear family and do the best you can for them - it seems that I can hear the crys of my little children now - I can never forget the fix I left them in but may God be with and bless them and you all forever - nothing more at this time but I remain yours til death. "

"Gordonsville, Va.  
August 16, 1862

Dear wife

I take my pen in hand to inform you of my health which is tolerable at this time - I have been very bad off and had got better when we got orders to move - we left Richmond yesterday morning - we landed at Gordonsville at 5 o'clock then we had to march about 4 miles - we had to march 6 miles yesterday morning - we was brought here to reinforce Jackson army - I never wanted to come here but it don't matter God is here as well as there - I think if I had a days rest I would be well enough - I never was so sore in my life. Charlotte I am uneasy to hear from you - I received one letter from you since I left and it was wrote the 31 of July - it was sent to me at Camp Columbia - it was sent (on) to me. I received a letter from sister Nancy and a pair of shoes come by hand to Charles. Nancy's letter stated that our baby was very bad off with that rising and I want you to write me soon and tell my friends all to write and I am hoping to get some of them - I have wrote to many and havent received any til it looks like no use to write. Dear wife I went to the sergeant doctor since I commenced my letter and he excused me from drilling today - he gave me 2 quinine pills to take - we have to



drill 6 hours in the day which is going to be hard on us - I would give the world if this wicked war was over which I hope will be in a short time - if I could hear from home it would do me good - I cannot be easy when I know the fix my dear little baby is in but I hope the Lord will be with and bless us and that the time will not be long when we will all meet again - Charlotte I received that lock of hair that you sent me I was glad to see it - write soon as this comes to hand and fail not. We fare but middling for some thing to eat - we get a half of loaf of bread a day - we get beef and a little bacon - we can live on it when we are well - fruit is worth \$10.00 per bushel - 25 cts. for three little apples - I havent bought any since I come to Va. I bought a pint of buttermilk yesterday morning I paid 10 cts. for it - it wasnt fit to drink - I believe I have told you all that I can think of at present. Nothing more at present but I remain your husband untill death."

"Camp near Culpepper,  
November 9, 1862.

Dear Father,

I seat myself to-day to inform you of our health which is good at present hoping these lines may come to hand and find you well - Dear Father I got to my Regiment yesterday - I left the hospital Wednesday and got here Friday - I hadnt to walk but 2 miles - I went away to Stanton and we heard that the Regt. had moved and I turned back and got to Culpepper Friday night - we had snow here Friday and it snowed some last night - it is very cold this morning and is some warmer \* \* \* Charles says he wants his old uniform coat and a woolen shirt and drawers if you have them ready when you send the rest of his clothes - we have marching orders but have no idea where we will go - we expected to leave this place by daylight this morning but are still here - we hear such talk as going to the coast - I dont know how it will be but I hope we will get from this cold place - I have told you all that I can think of at present. Nothing more at this time but I remain

your affectionate son untill death."

'Camp near Fredericksburg  
January 22, 1863

Dear Wife

I seat myself this morning to inform you of my health which is good at present. I do truly hope these lines may come to hand and find you all well and a doing well. Charlotte I haven't much to write at this time for I have wrote you 4 or 5 letters since I have got one from you by male the last letter I got with my clothes - I havent got one from you by male in two months and it hurts my feelings that I cant get no letters from you. Charlotte I got my clothes by Mr. Strong and Calvin Chestnut. Calv told me that he saw you at your mothers - he said that you was well and hearty looking - he said that he expected to go to see you before he started back but Mr. Strong took a notion of starting earlier than he expected and hadnt the chance of going to see you - I got one pair of pants two pair of drawers one shirt one pair of shoes 1 neck comfort & something to go over my ears and I got a handkerchief and letter in one of the pockets - and we got some fruit and some butter which we have had som good messes of. It has done us a heap of good - you have no idea how good it eats to us - I wouldnt take 10 dollars for what fruit and butter you sent us - Now Charlotte we are expecting orders to march every minute - we have orders to keep two days rations cooked in our havoc sacks to be ready to march at a moments warn- ing but we have no idea where we are going to - it is hard the way poor soldiers are treated - it is bad weather if we have to march now. I do think yesterday and last night was the worst night of wind and rain and cold that I ever saw - the ground is nothing but mud and water - I am tired of this place and I am worn out with the sound of the drum and drilling - I want to hear the sound of your voice and of them Dear little children and

I do hope to be spared to enjoy that day. I wrote home to you to try to get me to Overseas somewhere but it looks like I will never get any more letters from you - I still look every day but I look in vain - you said in your last letter that you had killed your hog - I think you ought to have enough meat to do you - I hope and trust I will get home to help you eat some of it - my advice to you is to save all you can to eat. Tell my little children howdy for me and I do want you to write to me soon and fail not - I will close by asking you to write to me. Nothing more at present but I remain your affectionate husband until death."

In a postscript to one of his letters to Charlotte, John Leroy Bell left this philosophical bit: "When this you see, remember me - though in some distant land I be."

John Leroy Bell died March 21, 1863, while serving in Company "A" of the 5th South Carolina Regiment. He was survived by his wife Charlotte; two daughters, Mary Agness and Elizabeth Jane; and a son Charles.

Joseph Bigham, brother of John Leroy, died at Atlanta in 1863, following wounds received in the Battle of Chickamauga. He was survived by his wife Eliza, and one son John Robert.

Two other sons of James Montgomery Bell, Robert Brown Bell and Charles James Bell, fought through the war and returned to their families in Chester District.

Two sons of Charles, the son of William Bell II, died: David of Mississippi, November 15, 1862, and John P. of Fairfield District, April 10, 1863, presumably in the military service. David was survived by his wife Jane, and two sons, William and James. [4] John P. was survived by his wife Isabella H. Bell.

And in Mississippi, serving with Company "C" of the 14th Mississippi

[4] U.S. Census 1850 of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi lists children of David Bell. There may have been others.

Regiment, were: J. G. Bell and his brother, Benjamin F., believed to be sons of James II; J. Aquilla and Robert M., sons of William Bell IV. [5]

William Bell, son of Hugh, served in Company "F", 12th Regiment of the South Carolina Infantry, and returned to his family in Fairfield District after the war.

These are but a few of the Bell descendants who saw service with the Confederate Army. Most are unidentified - some unaccounted for until this day.

The year, 1864, saw the price of all commodities sky-rocketing, with government agents purchasing most of the available meat and grain products. Sale of the assets in the estate of Nancy Bell, deceased, [6] in Fairfield District gives us some idea of the cost of living during the War Between the States. Dried peas sold for \$5.00 a bushel; wheat at \$6.00 a bushel; bacon, \$1.50 a pound; lard, \$3.00 a pound; cotton at .20 cents a pound; and cattle at \$138.00 a head. Slaves were sold for between three and four thousand dollars - all in Confederate currency. As an indication of the scarcity of writing paper during this era, the accounting in this estate was written on brown wrapping paper.

Back now to the Bell Community. After the death of Edward M. Bell, his widow, Martha S., waived her right to serve as executrix of the estate of her late husband in favor of her brother, John S. Douglass. Mr. Douglass was also appointed guardian of the person and property of young Douglass Bell, the widow Martha having married the Reverend John Hunter.

In 1862, Douglass Bell was sent to a boarding school in Due West, South Carolina to complete his primary education. The Reverend Hunter would pay Doug's expenses and bill the guardian for reimbursement. It is interesting to note from the guardianship account that a pair of shoes was purchased in 1862 for \$3.00. Another pair, purchased in 1864, cost \$60.00.

[5] Historical Sketches Oktibbeha County, Mississippi - Carrol.

[6] n. This Nancy Bell is unidentified, but likely of the family of John Bell II. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, South Carolina.

Four yards of suit material. purchased December 15, 1868 at Columbia, cost \$140.00.

In 1864, Douglass Bell was being schooled by a private tutor, John C. Chislom, in Fairfield District. [7] His mother, Martha S., suffered a respiratory illness and died April 9, 1864. Though survived by her husband, the Reverend Hunter, Martha was laid to rest beside Edward at the Old Brick Church. A faded receipt given by Dr. Walter Brice of the New Hope Community reflects payment for medical services rendered in 1864. [8]

After the death of his mother, and when he was not away attending school, Douglass Bell lived in the home of his maternal grandparents, Alexander and Martha Douglass, in the New Hope Community of Fairfield District. An account of this home is found in A. Fairfield Sketchbook - Bolick:

"Albion is the largest and most elegant home in the New Hope section. It is the ancestral home of the Douglas family having been built about 1840 by Alexander Douglas, who was a grandfather of the late Albert Douglas, whose widow now owns the place.

"The house is beautifully located on an elevation at the head of an avenue of ancient trees. Its appearance is commanding; a true Southern plantation mansion in the best tradition. Green lawns and larger trees set it off. This tall, three-story manor house is built along simple Colonial lines. The main body is covered with a gabled roof and extends over the upstairs veranda. In the center of the roof is a beautiful gable. The mammoth chimneys are built in the house. Two-story piazzas extend across the entire front and each porch is supported by ten large square columns and are enclosed with picketed bannisters. The windows are long and well placed. The entrances are simple but decorative, surrounded

[7] Original receipt for payment as tutor of Alexander Douglass Bell.

[8] Original receipt of Dr. Walter Brice for services rendered.

by glass side lights. The decorations of the columns, doorways, windows, and trim are beautifully designed and executed.

"As would be expected, the interior is spacious with elegant mantels, rosettes, cornices, and mouldings. A graceful stair of three flights dominates the front hall. A narrower stairway rises from the rear hall.

"The original owner of this old house employed a builder from York to construct his home. The best of materials were used. The original locks and hardware are still in good working order. Alexander Douglas was a slave owner, a successful planter and a builder of good wagons. His wagon shop was located on the main road near the avenue leading up to his home.

"Down through the years this place has remained in the Douglas family. It has been well kept and is still in good condition and with a little redecoration, proper furnishings, and landscaping it could well be one of the show places of the Upcountry." [9]

On March 9, 1864, Ulysses S. Grant was created a lieutenant general and placed in supreme command of all the Federal armies in the field. Sherman was left in command of the west. In November, Sherman cutting loose, began his march to the sea, laying waste the country on a 60-mile front; and he occupied Savannah, December 20-21. When Mobile was taken by Farragut in August, the close of the year saw the termination of Confederate power in the far South. After wintering for a month in Savannah, (January 1865) Sherman again began driving General Johnson to the north through the Carolinas. Orangeburg fell, the Congaree was carried, Columbia and then Charleston were taken, effecting a junction with Slocum's forces at Winnsboro, Fairfield District.

[9] A Fairfield Sketchbook - Bolick page 123.  
n. For some reason the Douglass family, after the War Between the States, dropped an "s" from the Douglass name.

## CHAPTER XIV

### THE CARPETBAG RULE

After the war clouds lifted over Fairfield and Chester Districts and as the mourning of the war dead continued, those few remaining Bell households faced another tragic era, that of Reconstruction.

At the Bell Community in Fairfield District, the widow Isabella Hemphill Bell lived alone at the plantation of Charles Bell, deceased, father of her late husband, John P. Bell.

Of the four sons of William Bell III residing in Fairfield District before the war, only Thomas R. is known to have survived.

William Bell, son of Hugh, and his wife, Margaret, and their three children: Sarah Elizabeth, Thomas E., and Margaret Jane, lived in the former home of Thomas Bell, inherited by his daughter, Margaret.

And there was Alexander Douglass Bell, son of Edward M., living with his maternal grandparents.

The migration, pestilence and war had reduced the male Bell population of the Bell Community to four in number, two adults and two minors.

In the Chester District, there were James Montgomery Bell and the families of his children: John Leroy, deceased; Robert Brown; Charles James; Joseph Bigham, deceased; Margaret Nancy Bigham; Elizabeth Montgomery Beattie; and Mary Jane.

And finally, at Starkville, Mississippi, there were the families of Hugh Bell, son of William II; Isabella Bell Montgomery, widow of Hugh Montgomery III; James Bell II, son of James; William Bell IV; and some of the grandchildren of Charles, son of William II; and other unidentified Bell descendants.

Nowhere among the Confederate States would the oppression, subjugation and human misery of the Reconstruction Era be felt as in the

State of South Carolina. Not even the Bells' place of worship was entirely spared the desecration of war. Confederate soldiers had destroyed the bridge over Little River. Federal troops fell upon the Old Brick Church, overlooking the stream, and removed the flooring and its sleepers, which were used by them to construct a makeshift bridge. One of the company of soldiers, stirred in heart as he witnessed the desecration of the Lord's House, wrote in pencil on the door facing of the church these words: "Citizens of this community: Please excuse us for defacing your house of worship so much. It was absolutely necessary to effect a crossing over the creek, as the Rebs destroyed the bridge. - A Yankee." [1]

So devastating was the war's effect on the congregation of the Old Brick Church, that the organization rapidly declined until it disappeared from the roll of the Presbytery without any formal act of dissolution. [2]

On May 2, 1865, Mrs. Mary Boykin Chestnut, travelling from Chester to Camden with her husband, Confederate Brigadier General James Chestnut, Jr., noted in her diary: "I am writing from the roadside below Hackstock enroute to Camden. Since we left Chester, solitude; nothing but tall, blackened chimneys to show that any man has ever trod this road before us. This is Sherman's track! It is hard not to curse him. I wept incessantly at first. 'The roses of the gardens are already hiding the ruins,' said Mr. Chestnut trying to say something. Then I made a vow - if we are a crushed people, I will never be a whimpering, pining slave.

"May 4 - From Chester to Winnsboro, we did not see one living thing, man, woman or animal. \* \* \* The blooming of the gardens had a funereal effect. Nature is so luxuriant here; she soon covers the ravages of savages. The last frost occurred the seventh of March, so that accounts for the wonderful advance of vegetation. It seems providential to these

[1] Charles Montgomery Bell, son of the late John Montgomery Bell, of Chester, South Carolina, in 1933, placed a framed copy of the inscription on the wall of the church near the original.

[2] Notes of Eula W. Bell.



starving people; so much that is edible has grown in two months.

"At Winnsboro, to my amazement, the young people had a May Day amidst the smoking ruins. Irrepressible youth! The fidelity of the Negroes is the principal topic everywhere. There seems not a single case of a Negro who betrayed his master; and yet they showed a natural and exultant joy at being free. In the fields we saw them plowing and hoeing corn as always. The fields in that respect looked quite cheerful." [3]

With the end of the war came two new social and economic factors. The slaves were free and a part of the free economic system; but neither they nor their former masters possessed the financial resources to cultivate crops. The prosperous planter of the ante bellum era was deep in debt and would become more so, as the carpetbaggers at Columbia wrested control of government from the solid, white citizens of South Carolina.

So it was that the planter turned to the country store for credit - the only source of credit. With this development came the lien law enacted by most of the Southern legislatures, under the terms of which a planter would give the merchant a lien on his crop in exchange for credit. Based upon the number of acres to be planted, the borrower would be limited in the amount of purchases that he could make each month during the term of the lien. But the Negro freeman had neither land nor credit; and for these, he looked to his former master. And the planter needed, equally as much, the services of his former slave. In fact, they needed each other, if either was to survive the Reconstruction Era. The Negro, through his former master, found a source of credit, though indirect, at the country store. These circumstances gave birth to the practice of sharecropping. The freed slave, however, took a dim philosophical view of a credit system that benefited him but only indirectly; and some one of them composed this ditty, which expressed their attitude:

[3] A Diary From Dixie - Chesnut, Editor, Ben Ames Williams, pages 527-528.

"An ought's and ought  
And a figger's a figger  
All for the white man  
And none for the nigger." [4]

The merchant served the community as a semi-banker. The farmer brought in his crop of cotton and sold it, but seldom received cash in payment. Since the merchant was to get most, if not all of the returns for a crop anyway, it was much simpler to take a credit allowance on the merchant's books and do away with the worry of losing the money. Long before the next cropseason closed, the debit side of the ledger had consumed the credit surplus funds.

Such was the economic system that enabled the Bells and their freed Negro tenants to eke out an existence during the Reconstruction Era.

The year was 1866, and farm production was almost nil. The assets of the estate of Edward M. Bell, deceased, son of Thomas, were in fact quite substantial before the war. Yet the income of the estate in 1866 was limited to the sum of \$175.00, derived from the sale of a single bale of cotton. [5] On August 1, 1866, Mr. John S. Douglass, administrator, paid real estate taxes in the amount of \$6.45. He was receipted by R. H. Jennings, tax collector, Fairfield District. [6] In December of the same year, the estate purchased a buggy and harness, perhaps for Martha Hamilton, daughter of Edward M. Bell, at a cost of \$225.00. [7]

Martha (Bell) Hamilton died March 5, 1869, leaving her brother, Alexander Douglass Bell, then attending Atlanta Medical College, as the sole surviving child of his father and mother. [8] He received his degree in medicine in 1870, at the age of 20 years, and returned to Fairfield District to practice his profession.

[4] Pills, Petticoats, and Flows - The Southern Country Store - Thomas D. Clark, page 271.

[5] Original receipt for sale of bale of cotton.

[6] Original tax collector's receipt, Fairfield District, South Carolina.

[7] Original receipt for payment horse buggy and harness.

[8] Family Bible of Edward M. Bell.

n. The original documents referred to in Footnotes [5][6][7], as well as Footnote [8], Chapter XIII, are in possession of R. K. Bell, Coral Gables, Florida.

After a year amid the ruins of Atlanta, Dr. Bell could hardly have been surprised as he viewed the scarred and debilitated city of Columbia, from the window of his train as it paused there enroute to Winnsboro. But had that window been a modern day television tube focusing in on the Statehouse, where Robert K. Scott, by grace of the bayonet, was exercising the Office of Governor, Dr. Bell might have, at that very moment, experienced total disillusionment in the professional career he was embarked upon. For it was there that the forces of corruption, including the Freedmen's Bureau were at work under the leadership of Governor Scott, agitating the Negroes to leave the farms and promising them ownership of the property of their former masters. Excessive taxation, in most instances tantamount to confiscation, issuance of worthless bonds and outright thievery soon found the State near bankruptcy and its people on a near starvation diet. Even the most experienced medical practitioner could do little for a patient suffering malnutrition.

South Carolina became a happy hunting ground for the northern bandits who sustained themselves on Negro credulity. In 1870, there were 415,814 Negroes to 289,667 whites [9] And these were not uniform in intelligence. Those on the coast and rivers were little above the intellectual level of the mules they drove, even their jargon was unintelligible to a stranger. Because of their ignorance and strong passions, they were easily organized and used by the leagues and carpetbaggers. [10] The members of the House of Representatives were mostly black or brown or manogany, some of the type seldom seen outside the Congo. [11]

Perhaps as the train moved slowly through Columbia, Dr. Bell observed only the pigs grunting in the unpaved streets, that were also teeming with Negroes in from the plantations to enjoy their freedom, or

[9] The Negro in South Carolina, page 7.

[10] The Tragic Era, Claude D. Powers, page 358.

[11] Pike, page 15.

the blackened ruins of flame-gutted buildings, or the pillars of the portico of what had once been the baronial mansion of the Hamptons. [12]

But the impact of it all became Reality to Dr. Bell as he alighted from his train at Winnsboro and saw the streets of that town policed by Governor Scott's armed Negro militia.

[12] The Tragic Era, Claude D. Powers, page 239.

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GENERATION III con't

Children of William Bell II

8. Hugh	b.	1789	d.	bur. ARP*
m. Martha Watt			b. 1791	d. 12/29/1871 Bur. ARP
9. Elizabeth	b.	1790	d. 6/2/1842	bur. ARP
m. William McKell			b.	d.
10. Adam	b.	1791	d. 1833	bur. OBC
unmarried				
11. Robert	b. 6/29/1795		d. 7/19/1848	bur. ARP
m. Rebecca Martin			b.	d.
m. Nancy Y.			b. 1806	d. 2/3/1846 bur. ARP
m. Catherine A.			b. 7/4/1814	d. 8/30/1847 bur. ARP
12. Isabella	b. 3/16/1797		d. 5/5/1891	bur. ARP
m. Hugh Montgomery III			b. 1795	d. 9/2/1849 bur. ARP

GENERATION IV A

Children of William Bell III and Sarah Montgomery and Eliza Brown

1. James	b.	1802	d.	1809	bur. OBC
2. William M. (IV)	b. 4/10/1803		d. 2/24/1877		bur. ARP
m. Margaret Milling			b.	d.	
m. Lenore Donna			b.	d.	
3. Nancy	b.		d.		
m. James Smith			b.	d.	
4. Margaret	b.		d.		
m. William Gray			b.	d.	
5. Jane	b.	1806	d. 12/ /1829		bur. OBC
unmarried					
6. Charles	b.	1823	d.		
7. Thomas R.	b.	1824	d. 12/03/1876		bur. OBC
m.					
8. David M.	b.	1827	d.		
9. Hugh Cainin	b.	1828	d.	1833	bur. OBC
10. Elizabeth	b.	1830	d.		
11. Mary C.	b.	1833	d.		
12. John C.	b.	1834	d.		

\* Associate Reformed Presbyterian Cemetery, Starkville, Mississippi.

GENERATION IV B  
see No. 2 Generation III

Children of James Bell and Jane \_\_\_\_\_

- 
- |                          |              |             |              |          |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| 1. William               | b.           |             | d.           |          |
| 2. Margaret              | b.           |             | d.           |          |
| m. James                 |              | b.          |              | d.       |
| 3. Nancy                 | b.           |             | d.           |          |
| m. P. (or R.) Taliaferro |              | b.          |              | d.       |
| 4. James M.              | b.           | 1807        | d.           |          |
| m.                       |              |             |              |          |
| m. Martha _____          |              | b.          | 1821         | d.       |
| 5. Sarah                 | b. 12/4/1809 |             | d. 8/19/1870 | bur. ARP |
| m. Samuel G. McCreight   |              | b. 8/6/1800 | d. 10/1/1841 | bur. ARP |

GENERATION IV C  
see No. 3 Generation III

Children of Ann Nancy Bell and John Hawthorne  
(moved to Georgia)

- 
- |             |    |  |    |  |
|-------------|----|--|----|--|
| 1. Margaret | b. |  | d. |  |
| 2. Isabella | b. |  | d. |  |
| 3. Mary     | b. |  | d. |  |
| 4. Nancy    | b. |  | d. |  |

GENERATION IV D  
see No. 4 Generation III

Children of Margaret Bell and \_\_\_\_\_ McGill

Left issue - no information

GENERATION IV E  
see No. 5 Generation III

Children of John Bell and Elizabeth Montgomery

- 
- |                           |              |  |               |                     |
|---------------------------|--------------|--|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. Margaret Montgomery    | b. 9/14/1807 |  | d. 1/12/1832  |                     |
| 12/27/1827 m. Enoch Eolen | b.           |  | d.            |                     |
| 2. James Montgomery       | b. 5/5/1810  |  | d. 12/29/1871 | bur. ARP - Hopewell |
| m. Mary Bigham            | b. 9/5/1808  |  | d. 4/24/1848  | bur. ARP - Hopewell |
| m. Peggy Spence           | b. 1808      |  | d. 1848       |                     |
| 3. John                   | b. 2/18/1814 |  | d. 10/2/1835  | bur. OBC            |
| 4. William Joseph         | b. 1816      |  | d. 8/27/1837  | bur. OBC            |



GENERATION IV F  
see No. 6 Generation III

Children of Charles Bell and  
Margaret Montgomery and Jane Martin

1. James	b. 9/23/1808	d. 12/20/1845	bur. ARP
2. William C.	b. 9/3/1810	d. 6/9/1845	bur. ARP
3. Charles	b. 7/14/1812	d. 9/8/1825	bur. OBC
4. Mary Ann 1/24/1833	m. Rev. James Boyce	b. 5/13/1815	d. 12/5/1847 bur.
5. David	m. Jane	b. 1/4/1818	d. 11/15/1862 bur. ARP
6. Nancy 12/31/1839	m. Rev. J. B. Watt	b. 2/4/1820	d. 1827 bur. ARP
7. Edward Martin	b. 7/29/1823	d. 8/31/1825	bur. OBC
8. Margaret Caroline 4/7/1846	m. John H. Brice	b. 11/8/1825	d. 3/1/1848 bur.
9. Charles E. 3/19/1853	m. Isabella Witherspoon	b. 2/27/1828	d. 1827 bur. ARP
10. John P. 12/8/1858	m. Isabella Hemphill Caldwell	b. 11/12/1830	d. 4/10/1863 bur. OBC
11. Celia M. 5/9/1850	m. J. S. Brice	b. 6/9/1833	d. 6/9/1852 bur.
12. Isabella E.	b. 3/5/1836	d. 5/26/1836	

GENERATION IV G  
see No. 7 Generation III

Children of Thomas Bell and Martha McClure Martin

1. James	b. 8/23/1816	d. 12/9/1845	bur. OBC
2. Margaret McClure 12/24/1839	m. William Bell	b. 5/16/1818	d. 1891 bur. OBC
3. Sarah	b. 9/25/1820	d. 9/23/1828	bur. OBC
4. Edward Martin 5/19/1846	m. Martha Simonton Douglass	b. 10/8/1822	d. 2/16/1856 bur. OBC
5. Nancy Jane	m. William Martin	b. 4/13/1825	d. 2/27/1857 bur. OBC
6. Martha Sarah unmarried	b. 10/16/1828	d. 5/16/1854	bur. OBC

GENERATION IV H  
see No. 8 Generation III

Children of Hugh Bell and Martha Watt  
(moved to Oktibbeha County, Mississippi)

- |                                |              |               |                       |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1. William                     | b. 1/4/1814  | d. 6/8/1881   | bur. OBC              |
| 12/24/1839 m. Margaret McClure |              | b. 5/16/1818  | d. 1891 bur. OBC      |
| 2. Jane                        | b. 1818      | d/            |                       |
| m. William McDowell            |              | b. 7/30/1814  | d. 9/13/1847 bur. ARP |
| 3. James W.                    | b. 1821      | d. 12/18/1877 | bur. ARP              |
| m. Elizabeth Brown             |              | b. 7/23/1827  | d. 7/21/1881 bur. ARP |
| 4. Mary                        | b. 1822      | d.            |                       |
| 5. John                        | b. 1827      | d.            |                       |
| 6. Sarah                       | b. 1830      | d.            |                       |
| 7. Henrietta Susannah          | b. 4/27/1834 | d. 12/22/1855 | bur. ARP              |

GENERATION IV I  
see No. 9 Generation III

Children of Elizabeth Bell and William McKell  
(moved to Oktibbeha County, Mississippi)

Under study

GENERATION IV J  
see No. 11 Generation III

Children of Robert Bell and Rebecca Martin and  
Nancy Y. (moved to Oktibbeha County)

- |                    |              |              |          |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| 1. Jane Y.         | b. 1831      | d. 9/2/1846  | bur. ARP |
| 2. John M.         | b. 4/23/1835 | d. 12/8/1854 | bur. ARP |
| 3. Nancy Elizabeth | b. 1839      | d. 12/1/1850 | bur. ARP |
| 4. Mary Anna       | b. 6/7/1845  | d. 9/23/1863 | bur. ARP |

Note: Some unidentified bells reflected in 1850 Census of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi may be children of Robert and Rebecca Bell.

GENERATION IV K  
see No. 12 Generation III

Children of Isabella Bell and Hugh Montgomery III  
(moved to Oktibbeha County, Mississippi)

- |                             |              |               |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Nancy Elizabeth          | b. 1824      | d. 5/7/1844   | bur. ARP     |
| m. Brainard Barnwell, M. D. |              | b. 10/11/1817 | d. 9/17/1850 |
| 2. William B.               | b. 8/21/1829 | d. 9/25/1904  | bur. OF*     |
| m. Sarah Glenn              | b. 1841      | d. 1932       | bur. OF      |
| 3. Robert                   | b. 1834      |               |              |

\* Odd Fellows Cemetery, Starkville, Mississippi.

**GENERATION V A** **Children of William Bell IV and Margaret Milling  
and Lenore Donna (Moved to Oktibbeha County)**  
see No. 2 Generation IV A

1. Robert	b.	d.		
2. Calvin	b.	d.		
3. Sarah	b.	1840	d.	
4. J. Aquilla	b. 11/28/1842	d. 6/29/1895	bur. OF	
M. Mary E.	b. 1/5/1852	d. 10/15/1894	bur. OF	
5. Isabella	b.	1846	d.	
6. Meak C.	b.	1848	d. 1901	bur. OF
m. Alabama H.	b. 1/5/1852	d. 5/4/1881	bur. OF	
7. Joseph Allen	b.		d.	
8. Charles P.	b. 12/10/1858	d. 2/8/1923	bur. OF	
m. Bessie Edmunds	b. 9/27/1869	d. 7/21/1952	bur. OF	
9. David	b.		d.	
10. Allie	b.		d.	
11. Moat	b.		d.	(moved to California)
12. Louden	b.		d.	(moved to California)
13. Edward	b.		d.	
14. Richard Thomas	b.	1853	d. 1935	bur. OF
m. Evie Steadman	b.	1868	d. 1893	bur. OF
m. Mary (Donnie) McManus	b.	1887	d. 1956	bur. OF

**GENERATION V B** **Children of Thomas R. Bell and \_\_\_\_\_**  
see No. 7 Generation IV A

1. Clara Adella	b. 2/23/1859	d. 9/21/1863	bur. OBC
2. John Anthony	b. 1/27/1862	d. 1/29/1863	bur. OBC

**GENERATION V C** **Children of James M. Bell and \_\_\_\_\_  
and Martha (moved to Oktibbeha County)**  
see No. 4 Generation IV B

1. J. Glenn	b. 9/26/1832	d. 9/7/1913	bur. OF
m. Matilda K.	b. 4/26/1833	d. 12/17/1892	bur. OF
2. Sarah	b.	1835	d.
3. Mary	b.	1836	d.
4. John	b.	1838	d.

GENERATION V C con't  
see No. 4 Generation IV B

Children of James M. Bell and  
and Martha (moved to Oktibbeha County)

5. William	b.	d.	
6. Benjamin F. m. Annie Pressley	b. 8/24/1841 b. 1844	d. 6/18/1902 d. 1912	bur. OF bur. OF
7. James	b. 1845	d.	
8. Emmitt	b. 1847	d.	
9. Ellin	b. 1848		

GENERATION V D  
see No. 1 Generation IV E

Children of Margaret Montgomery Bell and  
Enoch Bolen

1. Sarah Jan	b. 1829	d. 1830	bur.
2. John Bell	b. 10/10/1831	d.	

GENERATION V E  
see No. 2 Generation IV E

Children of James Montgomery Bell and  
Mary Bigham

1. John Leroy 2/14/1856 m. Charlotte Bagley	b. 12/20/1832 b.	d. 3/21/1863 d.	bur. Pleasant Grove
2. Robert Brown 1/12/1860 m. Margaret Ann Barnes	b. 6/16/1834 b. 2/1/1838	d. 8/23/1903 d. 9/10/1897	bur. ARP - Salem** bur. ARP - Sal
3. Charles James 12/19/1867 m. Rachel Bigham	b. 7/4/1836 b.	d. 1896 d.	bur. ARP - Hopewell 1898 bur. ARP - Hopewell
4. Joseph Bigham 11/24/1851 m. Eliza Jane Collins	b. 7/30/1839 b.	d. 10/1/1863 d.	bur. ARP - Hopewell bur. ARP - Hopewell
5. Margaret Nancy m. Harvey Bigham	b. 2/28/1841 b. 8/11/1851	d. 3/21/1875 d. 6/18/1927	bur. ARP - Hopewell bur.
6. Elizabeth Montgomery 2/19/1867 m. Weir Beattie	b. 12/8/1842 b.	d. 9/27/1876 d.	bur. Pisgah Church***
7. Mary Jane m.	b. 12/26/1844 b.	d. 3/21/1875 d.	bur. ARP - Hopewell
8. William Thomas	b. 3/6/1848	d. 5/7/1848	

\* Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church, Chester County, South Carolina.

\*\* Salem ARP Cemetery, Tennessee.

\*\*\* Pisgah Church, Gaston County, North Carolina.

GENERATION V F Children of James Bell and \_\_\_\_\_  
see No. 1 Generation IV F

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Note: James died in Mississippi in 1845. There are two unidentified households listed in 1850, one of which was probably that of James. A Henry A. Bell, b. 1829, listed in 1850 Census of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, married Della Billington and is believed to be a son of James or William C. Bell; Henry A. Bell died 1907, his wife, in 1908.

GENERATION V G Children of William C. Bell and \_\_\_\_\_  
see No. 2 Generation IV F

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Note: William C. died in Mississippi in 1845. See Note above.

GENERATION V H Children of Mary Ann Bell and Rev. J. Boyce  
see No. 4 Generation IV F

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Under study.

GENERATION V I Children of David Bell and Jane \_\_\_\_\_  
see No. 5 Generation IV F (moved to Oktibbeha County, Mississippi)

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- |             |    |          |    |          |          |
|-------------|----|----------|----|----------|----------|
| 1. William  | b. | 1846     | d. |          | bur.     |
| 2. James J. | b. | 3/5/1848 | d/ | 5/2/1883 | bur. ARP |

GENERATION V J Children of Nancy Bell and Rev. J. B. Watt  
see No. 6 Generation IV F

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Under study.

GENERATION V K Children of Margaret Caroline Bell and  
see No. 8 Generation IV F John H. Brice

---

Under study.

GENERATION V L Children of Charles E. Bell and Isabella  
see No. 9 Generation IV F Witherspoon (moved to Mecklenburg County, N. C.)

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Note: Before the War Between the States, Charles E. and wife Isabella moved to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, per letter written by a daughter, Laura Bell Thompson, R.F.D. 3, Box 49, Charlotte, North Carolina, dated 10/19/1948. Charles E. was survived by a son, Edward M. Bell, who left issue.

GENERATION V M  
see No. 10 Generation IV F

Children of John P. Bell and  
Isabella Hemphill Caldwell

1. Jane b. 11/12/1860 d. 4/10/1862 bur.

GENERATION V N  
see No. 11 Generation IV F

Children of Celia M. Bell and J. S. Brice

Under study.

GENERATION V O  
see No. 2 Generation IV G

Children of Margaret McClure Bell and  
William Bell

1. Thomas Jefferson b. 10/21/1840 d. 9/3/1847 bur. OBC  
2. James Erskin b. 10/23/1843 d. 4/24/1848 bur. OBC  
3. Martha Jane b. 11/3/1845 d. 1/18/1847 bur. OBC  
4. Sara Elizabeth b. 2/27/1848 d. bur. (moved to Texa  
5. Hugh b. 4/11/1849 d. 7/25/1861 bur. OBC  
6. Thomas E. b. 8/13/1851 d. bur. (moved to Texa  
7. Margaret Jane b. 7/17/1856 d. 12/23/1923 bur. ARP -Salem\*  
1881 m. Robert Means Aiken b. 7/10/1852 d. 1/25/1925 bur. ARP-Saler

GENERATION V P  
see No. 4 Generation IV G

Children of Edward Martin Bell and  
Martha Simonton Douglass

1. Martha Martin b. 7/31/1847 d. 3/5/1869 bur. OSC\*\*  
10/15/1867 m. Archibald J. Hamilton b. d.  
2. Alexander Douglass b. 2/25/1850 d. 2/9/1931 bur. Greenwood Cen  
8/27/1872 m. Martha Isabella Crosby b. 9/17/1853 d. 3/12/1940 bur. Greenw  
3. Edward M. b. 8/1/1853 d. 8/10/1854 bur. OBC

\* Salem Crossroads ARP Cemetery, Fairfield County, South Carolina.

\*\* Old Stone Church, Fairfield County, South Carolina.

\*\*\* Greenwood Cemetery, Orlando, Florida.

GENERATION V Q  
see No. 1 Generation IV H

Children of William Bell and  
Margaret McClure Bell

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See Generation V O (Children of Margaret McClure Bell and William Bell)

GENERATION V R  
see No. 2 Generation IV H

Children of Jane Bell and William McDowell  
(moved to Oktibbeha County, Mississippi)

---

1. Martha	b.	1841	d.	bur.
2. Dorothy	b.	1843	d.	bur.
3. Elizabeth	b.	1845	d.	bur.

GENERATION V S  
see No. 3 Generation IV H

Children of James W. Bell and  
Elizabeth Brown (Oktibbeha County)

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Under study.

GENERATION V T  
see No. 2 Generation IV K

Children of William B. Montgomery and  
Sarah Glenn (Oktibbeha County)

---

Under study.

GENERATION VI A  
see No. 4 Generation V A

Children of Joseph Aquilla Bell and Mary E.  
(Oktibbeha County)

---

Under study.

GENERATION VI B  
see No. 6 Generation V A

Children of Meak C. Bell and Alabama H.  
(Oktibbeha County)

---

1. Lela	b.	11/13/1875	d.	5/4/1881	bur.	OF
2. Richard A.	b.	10/24/1877	d.	7/3/1890	bur.	OF

GENERATION VI C  
see No. 8 Generation V A

Children of Charles P. Bell and Bessie Edwards  
(Oktibbeha County)

---

1. Harry C. m.	b.	3/4/1895	d.	1/2/1964	bur.	OF
2. Charles P. m.	b.		d.		bur.	

Under study.

GENERATION VI D  
see no. 12 Generation V A

Children of Loudon Bell and  
(moved to California from Oktibbeha County)

Under study.

GENERATION VI E  
see No. 13 Generation V A

Children of Edward Bell and  
(moved to California from Oktibbeha County)

Under study.

GENERATION VI F  
see No. 14 Generation V A

Children of Richard Thomas Bell and  
Evie Steadman and Mary (Donnie) McMan

- |                       |               |              |         |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------|
| 1. William Gray       | b. 8/10/1888  | d. 4/25/1959 | bur. OF |
| m. Louise McCreight   | b. 12/26/1893 | d.           | bur. CF |
| 2. Joseph A.          | b. 2/5/1877   | d. 1/23/1947 | bur. OF |
| M. Rosa McCann        | b. 5/16/1884  | d. 2/17/1920 | bur. OF |
| 3. Richard Thomas     | b.            | d.           | bur.    |
| m. Hallie Edwards     | b.            | d.           | bur.    |
| 4. Margaret Elizabeth | b. 1907       | d.           | bur.    |
| m. J. D. Gaston       | b.            | d.           | bur.    |
| 5. Mack Eckerd        | b.            | d.           | bur.    |
| m.                    | b.            | d.           | bur.    |
| 6. Edward Everett     | b.            | d.           | bur.    |
| m.                    | b.            | d.           | bur.    |
| 7. Charles Eugene     | b.            | d.           | bur.    |
| m.                    | b.            | d/           | bur.    |
| 8. Raymond Lamar      | b.            | d.           | bur.    |
| m.                    | b.            | d.           | bur.    |

GENERATION VI G  
see No. 6. Generation V C

Children of Benjamin F. Bell and  
Annie Pressley (Oktibbeha County)

- |                      |               |               |         |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------|
| 1. James Pressley    | b. 3/15/1872  | d. 6/25/1947  | bur. OF |
| m. Mattie D.         | b. 11/30/1875 | d. 12/23/1957 | bur. OF |
| 2. Benjamin Franklin | b. 9/1/1874   | d. 6/10/1950  | bur. OF |
| m. Ella S. Bailey    | b. 6/18/1874  | d. 6/15/1941  | bur. OF |

Under study.



GENERATION VI H  
see No. 1 Generation V E

Children of John Leroy Bell and  
Charlotte Bagley

- |                               |              |    |                     |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----|---------------------|
| 1. Mary Agnes                 | b. 1/10/1857 | d. | bur. Mt. Prospect * |
| m. Joe Bishop                 | b.           | d. |                     |
| 2. Elizabeth Jane             | b. 12/3/1858 | d. | bur. Mt. Prospect   |
| m. Jim <sup>Kaid</sup> Bishop | b.           | d. |                     |
| 3. Charles                    | b. 5/ /1860  | d. | bur. Mt. Prospect   |
| m. Wilmoth Morgan             | b.           | d. |                     |

GENERATION VI I  
see No. 2 Generation V E

Children of Robert Brown Bell and  
Margaret Ann Barnes

- |                                      |               |               |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mary Elizabeth                    | b. 11/1/1860  | d. 6/1/1935   | bur. Salem Cem. **  |
| 12/11/1895 m. James Calvin Hindman   | b. 10/14/1864 | d. 12/20/1926 | bur.                |
| 2. John Bigham                       | b. 3/23/1866  | d. 3/30/1919  | bur. Salem Cem.     |
| 12/23/1890 m. Laura Josephine Murphy | b. 2/25/1869  | d. 2/8/1937   | bur.                |
| 3. Nancy Jane                        | b. 8/3/1867   | d. 2/17/1939  | bur.                |
| 2/10/1886 m. James W. Mize           | b.            | d. 1/22/1940  | bur                 |
| 4. Robert                            | b. 6/29/1872  | d. 2/17/1883  | bur. ARP - Hopewell |
| 5. Dora Ann                          | b. 5/12/1875  | d. 4/7/1954   | bur.                |
| unmarried                            |               |               |                     |
| 6. Charles Andrew                    | b. 9/13/1878  | d. 3/12/1950  | bur. Salem Cem.     |
| 1/10/1916 m. Jessie Hill             | b. 3/31/1885  | d. 3/31/1968  | bur. Salem Cem.     |
| 7. Susan Amanda                      | b. 9/13/1878  | d. 1/16/1970  | bur.                |
| 11/6/1912 m. Ivey Alphenso Templeton | b. 12/14/1871 | d. 1/1/1956   | bur.                |

Robert Brown Bell left Chester County, South Carolina on November 23, 1886;  
arrived Idaville, Tennessee on January 6, 1887.

GENERATION VI J  
see No. 3 Generation V E

Children of Charles James Bell and  
Rachel Bigham

- |                      |              |               |                         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1. John Montgomery   | b. 4/8/1875  | d. 2/18/1947  | bur. Evergreen Cem. **  |
| m. Margaret L. Lewis | b.           | d. 1912       | bur.                    |
| m. Eula Willis       | b.           | d. 10/18/1935 | bur.                    |
| 2. Charles Killough  | b. 2/19/1882 | d.            | bur. (moved to Arizona) |
| m. Maggie McClerkin  | b.           | d.            |                         |
| 3. Thomas Bigham     | b.           | d.            | bur. Evergreen Cem.     |

(Generation VI J con't on page xiii)

- \* Methodist Church, Chester County, South Carolina.
- \*\* Salem Cemetery, Atoka, Tennessee.
- \*\*\* Evergreen Cemetery, Chester, South Carolina.

GENERATION VI J con't  
see No. 3 Generation V E

Children of Charles James Bell and  
Rachel Bigham

4. J. Harvey	b.	d.	bur.
5. Robert McMaster	b.	d.	bur.

GENERATION VI K  
see No. 4 Generation V E

Children of Joseph Bigham Bell and  
Eliza Jane Collins

1. John Robert	b.	d. 6/28/1886	bur. (killed by Col. Leroy Springs)
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GENERATION VI L  
see No. 5 Generation V E

Children of Margaret Nancy Bell and  
Harvey Bigham

1. Alma	b.	d.	bur.
2. Nancy	b.	d.	bur.

GENERATION VI M  
see No. 6 Generation V E

Children of Elizabeth Montgomery Bell  
and Weir Beattie

1. Walter	b.	d.	bur.
2. Marion	b.	d.	bur.
3. Inez	b.	d.	bur.
4. Elizabeth	b.	d.	bur.
5. Robert	b.	d.	bur.

GENERATION VI N  
see No. 7 Generation V E

Children of Mary Jane Bell and

1. Laura Cherry	b.	1875	d. 10/15/1933	bur.
m. _____	White	b.	d.	

GENERATION VI O  
see No. 7 Generation V O

Children of Margaret Jane Bell and  
Robert Means Aiken

1. Robbie	b. 9/13/1893	d.	bur.	
6/1/1916	m. Clark Eyrne Starnell	b. 2/4/1891	d. 7/7/1931	bur.

GENERATION VI P  
see No. 1 Generation V P

Children of Martha Martin Bell and  
Archibald J. Hamilton

1. Martha Janett b. 9/22/1868 d. 1879 bur.

GENERATION VI Q  
see No. 2 Generation V P

Children of Alexander Douglass Bell and  
Martha Isabella Crosby

1. Martha Ethel Paulina b. 12/27/1873 d. 1971 bur.  
m. George Stevens b. d.
2. William Edward b. 5/3/1875 d. 5/5/1960 bur. OAKRIDGE CEM., FLA.  
5/12/1900 m. Lula Landis b. 5/11/1872 d. 10/25/1968 bur. " "
3. Arthur Hampton b. 12/24/1877 d. 1964 bur. \*  
6/29/1909 m. Susie Smith b. 1884 d. 1963 bur.
4. Walter Douglass b. 3/16/1880 d. 6/15/1966 bur. Oakridge Cem.  
9/21/1905 m. Lillian Blanche Williams b. 3/11/1888 d. 10/13/1973 bur. "

Alexander Douglass Bell moved to Alachua County, Florida from Fairfield  
County, South Carolina, in 1877

GENERATION VII A  
see No. 1 Generation VI I

Children of Mary Elizabeth Bell and  
John Calvin Hindman

1. James Robert b. 3/23/1897 d. 10/7/1918 bur.  
d. aboard Laviathan bound for France in WWI

GENERATION VII B  
see No. 2 Generation VI I

Children of John Bigham Bell and  
Laura Josephine Murphy

1. Robert Murphy b. 12/10/1893 d. 9/6/1969 bur.  
10/10/1923 m. Eleanor Henry b. 7/22/1895 d.
2. James Wardlaw b. 8/21/1895 d. 1/14/1925 bur.
3. Neil Langston b. 2/28/1897 d. bur.  
11/24/19 m. Alice Payne Forsyth b. 2/12/1901 d.
4. Ina Fentress b. 6/22/1898 d. bur.  
12/7/1921 m. William Benjamin Anthony b. d.
5. Joseph Paul b. 3/14/1901 d. bur.  
12/22/1922 m. Cliffie Anthony b. d.
6. Leta Tekoa b. 9/17/1904 d. 10/14/1905 bur.

\* Green Cove Springs, Florida.

\* Oakridge Cemetery, Arcadia, Florida.

GENERATION VII C  
see No. 3 Generation VI I

Children of Nancy Jane Bell and  
James W. Mize

1. Lily Magnolia b. 11/10/1887 d. 2/30/1953 bur.  
1909 m. John Greir Baird b. d.
2. Inez b. 12/1/1889 d. bur.  
8/17/1917 m. Thomas Wright b. d.  
m. Edward Sapp b. 9/2/1884 d.
3. Seba Leroy b. 10/14/1891 d. bur.  
10/13/1912 m. Lily May Caraway b. d.
4. Sunie b. 8/14/1894 d. bur.  
1/18/1921 m. Joseph McDaniel b. d.
5. Plumie b. 8/14/1894 d. bur.  
8/7/1915 m. Claude Powers b. d.
6. Robert Jerry b. 7/17/1897 d. 9/ /1969 bur.  
m. Ione Deverill b. d. 10/1/1970
7. Margaret b. 9/27/1899 d. bur.  
11/20/1916 m. Frank Mize b. d. 4/23/1928
8. Sarah Elizabeth b. 2/11/1901 d. 1/1/1933 bur.  
1/18 m. Samuel Clyde Eubank(s) b. 11/6/1901 d. 7/9/1931

GENERATION VII D  
see No. 6 Generation VI I

Children of Charles Andrew Bell and  
Jessie Hill

1. Robert Sloan b. 10/11/1918 d. bur.  
unmarried
2. Margaret Sue b. 4/4/1920 d. bur.  
3/27/1954 m. Robert London b. 7/27/1925 d.
3. Helen Elizabeth b. 12/8/1921 d. bur.  
5/25/1956 m. John Malone b. 8/24/1913 d.
4. Mary Charles b. 5/3/1924 d. bur.  
m. James Bennett Kraft b. d.

GENERATION VII E  
see No. 7 Generation VI I

Children of Susan Amanda Bell and  
Ivey Alphonso Templeton

1. Robert Gracey b. 8/30/1913 d. bur.  
7/8/1935 m. Margaret Simonton b. 8/15/1916 d.
2. Edward Ivey b. 12/28/1917 d. bur.  
6/21/1946 m. Annie Bernice Bishop b. 10/21/1922 d.

GENERATION VII F  
see No. 1 Generation VI J

Children of John Montgomery Bell and  
Margaret L. Lewis

- |                        |             |              |                       |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Samuel Lewis        | b.          | d. 12-22-75  | bur. <i>Evergreen</i> |
| m. <i>Lucia Beason</i> |             |              |                       |
| 2. Charles Montgomery  | b. 12-18-86 | d.           | bur.                  |
| unmarried              |             |              |                       |
| m. <i>Edna Schulte</i> | b. 3-19-19  |              |                       |
| 3. Daniel Stinson      | b.          | d. 7/16/1932 | bur.                  |

GENERATION VII G  
see No. 2 Generation VI J

Children of Charles Killough Bell and  
Maggie McClerkin (Arizona)

- |                   |    |    |      |
|-------------------|----|----|------|
| 1. Charles Samuel | b. | d. | bur. |
| m.                |    |    |      |
| 2. Lowry          | b. | d. | bur. |
| m. Elizabeth      |    |    |      |
| 3. Lewis Daniel   | b. | d. | bur. |
| m.                |    |    |      |

GENERATION VII H  
see No. 1 Generation VI N

Children of Laura Cherry and  
White

- |                    |    |    |      |
|--------------------|----|----|------|
| 1. Mary            | b. | d. | bur. |
| m. Guy Castles     | b. | d. |      |
| 2. J. B.           | b. | d. | bur. |
| m.                 |    |    |      |
| 3.                 | b. | d. | bur. |
| m. J. B. Robertson | b. | d. |      |

GENERATION VII I  
see No. 1 Generation VI O

Children of Robbie Aiken and  
Clark Byrne Starnell

- |                                    |              |    |      |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----|------|
| 1. Margaret Rose                   | b. 3/5/1925  | d. | bur. |
| 3/24/1945 m. James Jackson Kilgore | b. 4/26/1923 | d. |      |

GENERATION VII J  
see No. 1 Generation VI Q

Children of Martha Ethel Paulina Bell and  
George Stevens

- 
- |                    |               |    |      |
|--------------------|---------------|----|------|
| 1. Lillian Bell    | b. 11/5/1897  | d. | bur. |
| m. E. F. Jones     | b.            | d. | bur. |
| 2. Martha Ellen    | b. 11/20/1900 | d. | bur. |
| m. Milton W. Irwin | b.            | d. |      |
| 3. Georgie Leroy   | b. 7/7/1907   | d. | bur. |
| m. Henry S. Lovett | b.            | d. |      |

GENERATION VII K  
see No. 2 Generation VI Q

Children of William Edward Bell and  
Lula Landis

- 
- |                     |                        |               |              |            |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. Elizabeth Landis | b. 9/4/1909            | d.            | bur.         |            |
| 12/21/1946          | m. <i>LEARNER DEAN</i> | b. 10/27/1900 | d. 5/24/1971 | TOLEDO, OH |

GENERATION VII L  
see No. 4 Generation VI Q

Children of Walter Douglass Bell and  
Lillian Blanche Williams

- 
- |                     |                          |              |               |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Douglass Sampson | b. 11/25/1906            | d. 3/5/1968  | bur. Oakridge |
| unmarried           |                          |              |               |
| 2. Evelyn Blanche   | b. 1/8/1910              | d.           | bur.          |
| 3. Rudyard Kipling  | b. 3/2/1915              | d.           | bur.          |
| 1/11/1936           | m. Emily Alicia Smothers | b. 7/4/1918  |               |
| 4. Iris Yvonne      | b. 8/28/1917             | d.           | bur.          |
| 5. Walter Eugene    | b. 3/1/1920              | d.           | bur.          |
| 6/4/1955            | m. Melba Jean Cather     | b. 7/29/1926 |               |
| 4/19/1957           | m. Verna Irene Dunn      | b. 2/22/1926 |               |
| 6. Edith Miriam     | b. 2/6/1923              | d. 8/30/1948 | bur. Oakridge |

GENERATION VIII A  
see No. 1 Generation VII B

Children of Robert Murphy Bell and  
Eleanor Henry

- |                 |                                  |             |    |      |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------------|----|------|
| 1. Laura Ann    | unmarried                        | b. 6/6/1925 | d. | bur. |
| 2. James Murphy | 6/10/1952 m. Lois Bell Alexander | b. 4/5/1928 | d. | bur. |
|                 |                                  | b.          | d. |      |

GENERATION VIII B  
see No. 3 Generation VII B

Children of Neil Langston Bell and  
Alice Payne Forsyth

- |                   |                               |              |    |      |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|----|------|
| 1. Erma Josephine | 1/29/1939 m. Welch Huddleston | b. 9/14/1921 | d. | bur. |
|                   | m. W. V. Huffman              | b.           | d. |      |
| 2. Neil Langston  | 5/8/1943 m. Vivian Campbell   | b. 7/20/1924 | d. | bur. |
|                   |                               | b. 2/27/1925 | d. |      |
| 3. Venita         | 6/4/1954 m. Charles Walker    | b. 2/25/1933 | d. | bur. |
|                   |                               | b. 8/9/1932  | d. |      |

GENERATION VIII C  
see No. 4 Generation VII B

Children of Ina Fentress Bell and  
James Benjamin Anthony

- |                       |                                |               |    |      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|----|------|
| 1. Alcia Bell         | 5/6/1942 m. Fallen C. Southall | b. 12/31/1923 | d. | bur. |
|                       |                                | b.            | d. |      |
| 2. Ina Clair          | 6/12/1945 m. Joseph M. Silano  | b. 5/26/1925  | d. | bur. |
|                       |                                | b.            | d. |      |
| 3. James Benjamin III | m. Jean Cole                   | b. 5/3/1927   | d. | bur. |
|                       |                                | b.            | d. |      |
| 4. Leta Floretto      | 8/19/1956 m. Billy Barr Wilson | b. 8/31/1929  | d. | bur. |
|                       |                                | b.            | d. |      |

GENERATION VIII D  
see No. 1 Generation VII G

Children of Lily Magnolia Mize and  
John Greir Baird

- |                    |                             |               |    |      |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----|------|
| 1. Thelma          | 1929 m. Emmett Short        | b. 8/28/1910  | d. | bur. |
|                    |                             | b.            | d. |      |
| 2. Edward Greir    | 2/11/1936 m. Mable Barnes   | b. 11/12/1912 | d. | bur. |
|                    |                             | b. 7/4/1917   | d. |      |
| 3. William Clayton | m. Kate Cole                | b. 7/31/1915  | d. | bur. |
|                    |                             | b.            | d. |      |
| 4. Mary Lois       | 5/9/1935 m. Rudolph Bowling | b. 7/22/1917  | d. | bur. |
|                    |                             | b.            | d. |      |

GENERATION VIII E  
see No. 2 Generation VII G

Children of Inez Mize and Thomas Wright

- 
- |                              |                 |              |              |    |      |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|----|------|
| 1. Inez Mildred<br>9/19/1929 | m. James Palmer | b. 3/25/1911 | d.           |    | bur. |
|                              |                 | b.           |              | d. |      |
| 2. Thomas Brook              |                 | b. 4/13/1908 | d. 8/13/1908 |    | bur. |

GENERATION VIII F  
see No. 3 Generation VII G

Children of Seba Leroy Mize and  
Lily May Caraway

- 
- |                                |                     |               |      |    |      |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|------|----|------|
| 1. Thelma Leola<br>2/14/1933   | m. S. Tinsley       | b. 7/20/1913  | d.   |    | bur. |
|                                |                     | b.            | 1910 | d. |      |
| 2. Velma Glendola              | m. Thurston Thorpe  | b. 7/20/1913  | d/   |    | bur. |
|                                |                     | b. 8/9/1910   |      | d. |      |
| 3. Leroy William<br>8/12/1936  | m. Laverne Faulk    | b. 11/16/1914 | d.   |    | bur. |
|                                |                     | b. 1/6/1921   |      | d. |      |
| 4. Sara Elizabeth<br>12/6/1933 | m. R. M. Richardson | b. 10/26/1917 | d.   |    | bur. |
|                                |                     | b. 9/10/1909  |      | d. |      |
| 5. T. J.                       | m. Gene Hawkins     | b. 8/30/1920  | d.   |    | bur. |
|                                |                     | b.            |      | d. |      |
| 6. Mary Evelyn                 | m. _____ Drinkard   | b. 11/6/1924  | d.   |    | bur. |
|                                |                     | b.            |      | d. |      |

GENERATION VIII G  
see No. 4 Generation VII G

Children of Sunie Mize and Joseph McDaniel

- 
- |                           |                    |              |    |    |      |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------|----|----|------|
| 1. Josephine<br>1/18/1942 | m. Raymond Griffin | b. 11/7/1923 | d. |    | bur. |
|                           |                    | b. 9/17/1919 |    | d. |      |

GENERATION VIII H  
see No. 5 Generation VII G

Children of Plumie Mize and Claude Powers

- 
- |                       |               |              |    |    |      |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|----|----|------|
| 1. Claude<br>1/2/1942 | m. Doris Cobb | b. 9/26/1919 | d. |    | bur. |
|                       |               | b.           |    | d. |      |



GENERATION VIII I  
see No. 6 Generation VII G c

Children of Robert Jerry Mize and  
Ione Deverill

- |   |                     |    |    |      |
|---|---------------------|----|----|------|
| 1. Robbie Marie<br>1942 m. Cissero Eubanks    | b. 7/22/1915<br>b.  | d. | d. | bur. |
| 2. Andrew Lawrence<br>unmarried               | b. 9/25/1917        | d. |    | bur. |
| 3. Janice Erline<br>10/4/1937 m. Harmon Haley | b. 10/21/1919<br>b. | d. | d. | bur. |
| 4. George Henry<br>unmarried                  | b. 5/31/1923        | d. |    | bur. |
| 5. Robert Jerry<br>m. Mary Davis              | b. 10/4/1926        | d. |    | bur. |

GENERATION VIII J  
see No. 7 Generation VII G c

Children of Margaret Mize and  
Frank Mize

- |  |                         |    |          |      |
|--|-------------------------|----|----------|------|
| 1. Herbert Franklin<br>7/12/1939 m. Martha Forbes<br>m. Jo Coleman | b. 7/3/1919<br>b.<br>b. | d. | d.<br>d. | bur. |
| 2. Houston Monroe<br>m. Christine Waites                           | b. 10/5/1921<br>b.      | d. | d.       | bur. |

GENERATION VIII K  
see No. 8 Generation VII C

Children of Sara Elizabeth Mize and  
Clyde Samuel Eubanks

- |  |                     |    |    |      |
|--|---------------------|----|----|------|
| 1. Clyde Samuel<br>unmarried                         | b. 12/25/1921       | d. |    | bur. |
| 2. Janie Lorine<br>9/14/1947 m. Thurmond Knight Sage | b. 2/28/1928<br>b.  | d. | d. | bur. |
| 3. Dorothy Ann<br>4/9/1950 m. Charles Eugene Butler  | b. 12/17/1930<br>b. | d. | d. | bur. |

GENERATION VIII L  
see No. 3 Generation VII D

Children of Helen Bell and  
John Malone

- |                        |              |    |  |      |
|------------------------|--------------|----|--|------|
| 1. Charles Briese Bell | b. 3/31/1958 | d. |  | bur. |
|------------------------|--------------|----|--|------|

