

**Subject: John Leroy Bell**

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**From: "echols" <echols@dixie-net.com>**

**To: <jgehring@sccoast.net>**

Joan, the information I have on John Leroy Bell came from information I found at the Fairfield County Museum, A Registered National Historic Landmark c.1830, when I visited Winnsboro, S. C., several years ago. It is a wonderful place to research histories of area families. They have quite a large file on the Bells. I copied some 60 pages on just the Bells, from record intitled "Bells from Fairfield District South Carolina" There are several references to John Leroy & his family & some 6 or 7 letters that he wrote his family during the war. Also it states that he died March 21, 1863, survived by daughters, Mary Agness and Elizabeth and son Charles. I'm going to attempt to scan two pages and send you, I'm new at this so, let me know if you receive it ok., otherwise I'll be glad to make copies and mail to you. Ruth Echols



your affectionate son until death."

Camp near Frederick  
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 all 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 mail the last letter I got with my clothes - I haven't got one from you by mail two months and it hurts my feelings that I can't 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 had the chance of going to see you - I got one pair of pants two pair of drawers one shirt one pair of shoes I 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 some good masses of. It has done us a heap of good - you have no idea how good it eats to us - I wouldn't 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 day rations cooked in our haversacks to be ready to march at a moments warning 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 Overton 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 with 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 fall 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 Agnes 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. [1] John P. was survived by his wife Louisa H. Bell.

and to Mississippi, serving with Company "C" of the 14th Mississippi

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