

Please copy this and return to me.

William Bell I of County Antrim, Ireland, on the 13th day of May 1768 received from King George III as a religious refugee, a Bounty Grant of 200 acres of land in Craven County, South Carolina and on a branch of Little River called Ellis' Branch. This tract of land lies in what later became Fairfield District and is now Fairfield County.

Deeds of record identify William B. Bell of Fairfield District as his son. The Christian name of the wife of William Bell I is not known, nor is there a record of other children. He made a conveyance of land on October 14, 1789 and it is believed he died shortly thereafter. He left no will and there was no administration of his estate. Some descendants believe that William Bell I and his wife were buried at The Old Brick Church in unmarked graves.

According to tradition, the William Bell I and Hugh Montgomery families left their homes near Ballymena in County Antrim, Ireland and sailed together with other families to Charleston, South Carolina. William B. Bell II and Ann Montgomery, born 1755, playmates on the long sea voyage, were later married, and made their home on the Bell Plantation at Monticello.

Born to William Bell II and Ann Montgomery:

- William Bell, III <sup>William IV</sup> 1775 7/3/1845
- \* James <sup>"Dad" Bell,</sup> 1777 10/11/1809
- John <sup>our great grand father</sup> 1781 1/4/1849
- Ann Nancy (John Hawthorne) <sup>was sold to the State in 1819</sup> 11/16/1825

*John's father, William M. "Buck" Bell*



Sarah Montgomery Bell died October 30, 1813 and is buried at The Old Brick Church. Her grave is marked.

Sometime after 1820 William Bell III married his cousin Eliza Bell, a native of Ireland.

To William III and Eliza were born:

Charles	-	-
Thomas R.	1824	12/23/1876 (52 years)
Robert M.	-	-
Mary L.	-	-
Elizabeth	-	-
John C.	-	-
David	-	-

The foregoing information relating to the issue of William Bell III and his wife Eliza is based on the Census Report of 1850.

William Bell III died July 2, 1845 at 70 years of age. His second wife Eliza died September 21, 1854 at the age of 55. William III is buried beside his first wife Sarah. Eliza is buried at foot of William's grave at The Old Brick Church.

The Probate record of the Estate of William Bell III indicated that 3 of his children, Nancy Smith, Margaret Grey and William Bell (IV) all reside in the State of Mississippi.

At Starkville, Miss. in the year 1850 there were 10 Bell and related families, all descendants of William Bell I. This 1850 census reflects the household of William Bell born 1807 in State of South Carolina and based on information provided by Mrs. J. D. Gaston of Starkville, this <sup>was</sup> William Bell IV. It should be noted however that the grave marker for William Bell at the Assoc. Reformed Presbyterian Cemetery in Starkville, Miss. reflects his date of

birth as April 10, 1803. It should be noted also that James, son of William Bell II had a son William, born about 1803 and that his brother James and family is reflected in the 1850 census of Oktibeha County, Miss. This casts some doubt as to whether this William Bell is the son of William Bell, or that of James Bell, both descendants of William Bell I.

*"Dad Billy" - father of C.P. Bell, my grand-father*

William M. Bell (IV) was married to Margaret. Mrs. J. D. Gaston has information that she was a Margaret Milling. *(William II sold land to M. J. U.)*

The 1850 census of the William Bell household lists his wife as Margaret age 35 years, born in South Carolina. Again it should be noted that the only grave marker in the County for a Margaret during that era is that of Margaret Nason Bell "consort of William Bell born September 13, 1814 and died June 11, 1856"

This marker is in the Old Presbyterian Cemetery, Starkville. *(Louisville Street)*

Also of interest is that a Montgomery Nason, Blacksmith, born in Georgia, and Richard W. Nason, Medical Student, born in Georgia were living in household of William and Margaret Bell in 1850 census record.

Listed as children of William Bell IV and Margaret in census of 1850 are:

- Robert age 17, born S.C. — *1833*
- Calvin age 14, born Miss. — *1836*
- Sarah age 10, born Miss. — *1840*
- Aquilla age 8, born Miss. — *1842*
- Isabella age *4*, born Miss. — *1846*
- Meak age 2, born Miss. — *1848*

*Richard* After death of William's wife Margaret, he married Lenora Donna and

they had the following children: *6. 1851* Charles, *1852* David, *1853* Allie, *1856* Moat, *1857* Loudon, *1871* Edward,

*Richard Thomas (Dick)*

*Elizabeth Mendenhall*  
*Elizabeth Mendenhall*  
*Elizabeth Mendenhall*

It should be noted after their father's death, Meak (age 16) and Loudon (age 17) *14* *19* *1871* *Census*

were reared in the home of their brother Charles and later...

Richard Thomas Bell (Dick) born in 1853 married Evie Sleadman

They had (1) William Gray (1888-1959) married to Louise McCreight. (2). Joseph *ALLEN* Aquilla --- married Lucy McCann (3) R. J. Jr. ---- married Hallie Edwards.

Evie Steadman Bell died in 1893 and R. T. Bell Sr. married Mary McManus and they had the following children.

1. Margaret Elizabeth 1907, married J. D. Gaston.  
*Robert Lee*
2. Mack Eckerd
3. Charles Eugene
4. Edward Everett
5. Raymond Lamar

Mary McManus Bell died in 1956.

It should be noted that there are other related families of the lineage of William Bell IV who reside in Mississippi.

#### Family of John Bell

1781] died Jan. 4, 1849 - <sup>4th</sup> ~~3rd~~ son of Wm. II and Ann Montgomery Bell

John Bell was born July 28, 1781 and married Elizabeth Hawthorne on April 1802. Elizabeth died August 27, 1802.

Following the death of first wife, he married Elizabeth Montgomery a cousin, daughter of James Montgomery.

From John Bell's bible (owned by Miss Dora Bell, Covington, Tenn.) the following information was copied:

1. Margaret Montgomery Bell (married Bolen) was born Sept. 14, 1807 and died Jan. 12, 1832, aged 24 years. Her children were born John Bell Bolen, born Oct. 18, 1831, and Sarah Jane Bolen who died May 11, 1830, aged 11 months and 24 days.
2. James Bell was born May 5, 1810. James Montgomery Bell died Dec. 29, 1871, aged 61 years. His wife Mary (Bigham) Bell died April 24, 1848, 40 yrs.

James Montgomery Bell and Mary Bigham Bell had the following children:

1. John Leroy Bell, born Dec. 20, 1832 died Mar. 21, 1863, in the War. He belonged to Co. A., 5th S.C. regt. His wife was Charlotte Bagley. (See Confederate Letters).

John Leroy Bell and Charlotte Bagly Bell's children were:

- a. Mary Agnes Bell, born Jan. 10, 1857.
  - b. Elizabeth Jane Bell born Dec. 3, 1858
  - c. Charles Bell born May 1860.
2. Robert Brown Bell, born June 16, 1834, died Aug. 23, 1903. Married Margaret Ann Barnes Jan 12, 1860. She was born Feb. 15, 1838, died Sept. 10, 1897. Robert Bell fought throughout the War in the Cavalry.
  3. Charles James Bell, born July 4, 1836, married Rachel Bigham Dec., 19, 1867. Note: Additional information on this family will be supplied by S. Lewis Bell.
  4. Joseph Bigham Bell, born July 30, 1839, died 1863(?) at Atlanta from wounds received at Chicamauga. He was a sergeant. Married Eliza Collina. He is buried at Hopewell.
  5. Margaret Nancy Bell born Feb. 20, 1841, died \_\_\_\_\_ 1875. Married Harvey Bigham. Buried at Hopewell.
  6. Elizabeth Montgomery Bell, born Dec. 8, 1842, died 1875 (or 6). Married W. W. Beattie Feb. 19, 1867. Buried at Pisgah Church, Gaston County, N.C.
  7. Mary Jane Bell, born Dec. 26, 1844, died in 1875. Buried at Hopewell.
  8. William Thomas Bell died May 7, 1848, age 2 months - (two weeks after death of mother).

Family of Ann Nancy Bell Hawthorne, daughter of William Bell II and Ann Montgomery Bell, and wife of John Hawthorne.

Ann Nancy Bell married John Hawthorne. They had four daughters: Margaret, Isabella, Mary and Nancy.

Ann Hawthorne died November 16, 1825 and is buried at Old Brick Church. Her husband John after her death moved with the children to Georgia. No other information available on this family.

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III

Family of Charles Bell <sup>III</sup>IV, son of William II and Ann Montgomery Bell  
Born 1784 and died 11/27/1844.

Charles Bell was married to his cousin, Margaret Montgomery August 27, 1807. There were born to Charles and Margaret Bell:

1. James Bell, Sept. 23, 1808 moved to Starkville, Miss., died there on Dec. 20, 1845 buried Assoc. Reformed Presbyterian Cemetery.
2. William C. Bell, Sept. 3, 1810, died June 9, 1845 burried Assoc. Reformed Presbyterian Cemetery, Starkville, Miss.
3. Charles Bell, July 14, 1812, died Sept. 8, 1825, buried Old Brick Church.
4. Mary Ann Bell, May 13, 1815, married Rev. J. Boyce, Jan. 24, 1833; date of death and issue not known.
5. Nancy Bell, Feb. 4, 1820, married Rev. J.B. Watt Dec. 31, 1839; date of death and issue not known.

Margaret Montgomery Bell, wife of Charles Bell died Nov. 19, 1820; buried at Old Brick Church.

On Sept. 5, 1822 Charles Bell Sr. was married to Jane Martin, born to Charles and Jane Martin Bell were the following:

6. Edward Martin Bell born July 29, 1823, Further information check Mecklinburg,

- N.C. Died Aug. 31, 1825, buried at Old Brick Church.
7. Margaret Caroline Bell, November 8, 1825, married John A Brice April 7, 1846; date of death unknown also issue unknown.
  8. Charles E. Bell, March 27, 1828, died November 1, 1844. Burial site unknown. Charles E. Bell married Isabelle Witherspoon, and moved to Mecklinburg, N.C. before The War Between the States. Charles and Isabelle had 10 sons and 7 daughters. One of his sons is known to have been named Edward Marlin Bell and one of his daughters was Laura Bell Thompson. This information has been obtained from a letter written by Laura Bell Thompson RFD 3, Box 59, Charlotte, N.C. and dated October 19, 1948.
  9. John P. Bell, November 12, 1830, married Isabella Hemphill Caldwell, died April 10, 1863. Isabella died December 14, 1915. Both buried at Old Brick Church. There was issue to this marriage. It should be noted that John P. Bell is last of family to occupy the Old Bell Home on Little River.
  10. Celia Bell, June 9, 1833, married J.S. Brice May 9, 1850, died June 19, 1852. Issue of marriage not known. Burial site unknown.
  11. Isabella E. Bell, March 5, 1836, died May 26, 1836. Buried Old Brick Church.
  12. David Bell born January 4, 1818; married Jane (family name unknown). They had: William, born 1846; James, born March 5, 1848, died May 2, 1883; David died November 15, 1862. Both buried at Assoc. Reformed Presbyterian Cemetery.
- Charles Bell, Sr. died November 27, 1841 in his 61st year of his life. His wife Jane died July 29, 1862 in 62nd year of life. Buried at Old Brick Church with Margaret (first wife).



Family of Thomas Bell, 5th Son of William Bell II and Ann Montgomery Bell

Thomas Bell was born October 20 (?) 1785; married Martha Martin, daughter of Edward Martin, a Revolutionary Soldier. Martha was born in 1789.

Born to Thomas and Martha M. Bell were:

1. Margaret M. about 1810 (?)

It is noted from Last Will and Testament of her father Thomas that she had married her cousin William Bell and was living at the time of her father's death in 1850. It is undetermined which of her cousins bearing the name of William that she married. There were a total of 5 bearing the name of William. Some of her cousins moved to Mississippi and the Will and Testament of her father Thomas refers to land owned by him in Mississippi. At the Old Brick Church there are 3 grave markers of children born to William and Margaret M. bell. These children were: Martha Jane, died January 17, 1847 at age of 1 year; James Erskine, died April 24, 1848 at age of 4 1/2 years; Thomas Jefferson died Sept. 3, 1843 at age of 2 years.

2. Sarah, born 1813, died September 18, 1825, buried Old Brick Church.
3. James, born 1816, died December 9, 1845, buried Old Brick Church.
4. Edward Martin, October 8, 1822. Married Martha S. Douglass on the 19th day of May 1846. They had:

1. Martha Martin Bell, born July 31, 1847, married A. J. Hamilton on October 15, 1867, one child Martha Jarrett Hamilton born Sept. 22, 1868 and died ----. Martha Martin Bell Hamilton died March 5, 1869. Buried Old Stone Church, Lebanon.

2. Alexander Douglass Bell born February 25, 1850; married Martha (Mattie) J. Crosby on August 27, 1872. They had Martha Ethel Paulina born Dec. 27, 1873, William Edward born May 3, 1875;

Arthur Hampton born Dec. 24, 1877; Walter Douglass born March 16, 1880.

All except Arthur Hampton died leaving issue

3. Edward Martin Bell born August 1, 1851, died August 13, 1854,  
Buried Old Brick Church.

Edward M. Bell, Sr., while enroute home from Mississippi where he had been attending affairs of his father's estate, and while a passenger on a steamship bound for Mobile, took suddenly ill of a fever and died February 15, 1856. He is buried at Old Brick Church.

His widow, Martha, was married to Rev. John Hunter on Dec. 10, 1861. Martha Bell Hunder died May 9, 1864 and is buried beside Edward M. Bell at the Old Brick Church.

Family of Margaret Bell McGill, daughter of William II and Ann Montgomery Bell

Margaret Bell married a McGill. This information being derived from the Last Will and Testament of her father William Bell II. The given name of her husband is not known. Neither is her birth date or her death date. It can be assumed from her father's Will that there were children of her marriage. It is noted in the Will that her share of her father's estate was given in trust for her lifetime and thereafter to her children.

Family of James Bell, 2nd son of William II and Ann Montgomery Bell

James Bell was born in 1777, married to Jane \_\_\_\_\_ (family name unknown). There were born as issue of this marriage:

1. William M. Bell date of birth is unknown or is it known whether he married. As indicated elsewhere, he may have been married to a cousin, a daughter of Thomas Bell, Margaret.

2. Margaret Bell, married James Watt, . Her date of birth and death unknown.
3. Nancy Bell, date of burth and death unknown.
4. James M. Bell (Jr) born in 1807 and according to 1850 census, Oktibaha County, Miss. was married to Martha, who was born in Virginia. By the ages of children listed in this Census, it would appear that his marriage to Martha was a second marriage. The names appearing in the household in 1850 are:

1. Glenn, 18 years, born in S. C.
2. Sarah, 15 years, born in S. C.
3. Mary, 14 years, born in Georgia
4. Joh, 12 years, born in Georgia
5. William, 11 years, born in Miss.
6. Benj, 9 years, born in Miss.
7. James, 5 years, born in Miss.
8. Emmet, 3 years, born in Miss.
9. Ellen, 2 years, born in Miss.

James M. Bell and Martha ~~Watt~~ Bell have descendants buried in cemeteries in Starkville, Miss. As an example: in Blk 7 of the Old Part of Odd Fellows Cemetery are the graves of Benj F. Bell, 1841-1902, and Annie Pressley Bell, 1844-1912.

*his son  
WAS LAWYER FRANK BELL*      *wife  
BF Bell*

5. Sarah M. Bell, born in 1809, married Samuel G. McCreight and moved to Starkville, Miss. Samuel G. Mc Creight died in 1841. Sarah M. McCreight died August 18, 1870. Both are buried at Assos, Reform. Presbyterian Cemetery, Starkville.

*Wife Bell - youngest (no children)  
Ellen Pressley Bell - 3 sons -  
His son) M. EMMA - (Bell-Nicks)*

*↓  
TOMBELL*

Family of Hugh Bell, 6th son of William II and Ann Montgomery Bell

Hugh Bell was born in 1789; married Martha Watt, born in 1793;

According to census of 1850, the Hugh Bell family moved to Starkville about 1845. Based on the census and other information there were born to Hugh and Martha Bell:

1. Maj. Willim Bell, Jan 4, 1814, died June 8, 1881, Buried at Old Brick Church. ~~At~~ this time information regarding family of Maj. William Bell is not available.
2. John Bell, born in S. C. 1827
3. Sarah Bell, born in S. C. 1830
4. Mary Bell, born in S. C. 1832
5. Menrietta Susannah, born in S. C. 1834, died 1855

In the Hugh Bell household numbered 641 in 1850 census there appears:

Jane McDowell, age 32, born in S.C. with 3 children; Martha, age 9, born in S.C.; Dorothy, age 7, born in S.C.; and Elizabeth, age 5, born in Miss. It is likely that Jane is a daughter of Hugh and Martha Bell, and there are grandchildren. It should be noted that a William McDowell, age 33, died Sept. 15, 1847 and was buried at the Assoc. Reform. Presbyterian Cemetary in Starkville. It should be noted also that living in the household numbered 128 of the 1850 census of William Brown and Elizabeth Brown were James W. and Elizabeth Bell. This James W. Bell may be a son of Hugh Bell. James W. Bell was born in 1821 and died 1877 and Elizabeth was born 1827 and died 1881.

There is no record of death of Hugh or Martha Bell. Their grave markers may have been destroyed.

Family of Elizabeth Bell McKell (Betsy), daughter of William II and Ann Mont. Bell

Elizabeth Bell McKell born in 1790; married William McKell. They moved to Starkville, Miss. and Elizabeth died June 2, 1842 and is buried in Assoc. Reform. Presbyterian Cemetery. Date of death of William McKell is unknown. They died leaving issue and this family is under study.

Adam Bell, -<sup>7<sup>th</sup></sup> son of William II Bell and Ann Montgomery Bell

Adam Bell was born in 1791. Adam never married and was living at the Bell Plantation at the time of his death in 1833. His is buried at the Old Brick Church.

Family of Robert Bell, 8th son of William II and Ann Montgomery Bell

Robert Bell, youngest son of William II and Ann Montgomery Bell, was born June 29, 1795; married Rebecca Martin, daughter of Edward Martin. Robert was the first of the Bell family to migrate westward and it is believed he first settled in Tennessee. He later joined other members of the family in Starkville, Miss. The cemetery records of Oktibbeha County fail to disclose a gravemarker for Rebecca Bell, his wife, and it is likely she died and is buried in Tennessee.

Robert married Nancy Y., whose family name is unknown; and they had Jane Y., born in 1831, died Sept. 21, 1846; John M. Bell born April 23, 1835, died Dec. 8, 1854; and Mary Anna born in June 7, 1845, died Sept. 23, 1863; Nancy Elizabeth born August 11, 1839 and died Dec. 1, 1850.

Robert's wife Nancy Y. Bell died February 3, 1846.

He was married again to Catherine A. Bell, born July 4, 1814, died Aug. 30, 1847

Robert Bell died July 19, 1848.

This information is gained from gravemarkers at the family burial plot

in the Assoc. Reform. Presbyterian Cemetery. Starkville, Miss.

The 1850 census of Oktibbeha County, Miss. reflects 5 Bell girls in the household of Isabella Montgomery, sister of Robert Bell, deceased. They are: Isabella, age 16, born in Tenn; Nancy, age 14, born in Miss; Margaret age 8, born in Miss; Josephine age 6, born in Miss and Mary age 4 born in Miss.

Some, if not all of these children were those of Robert Bell, This family is under study.

Family of Isabella Bell Montgomery, daughter of William II and Ann Mont.

Isabella Bell Montgomery, twelfth and youngest child of William II and Ann Montgomery Bell, born March 16, 1797, married to Hugh Montgomery III, her cousin.

According to 1850 census Oktibbeha County, Miss., there were in the Montgomery household two children: William, age 20, born in S. C. and Robert age 17, born in S. C.

Hugh Montgomery III born 1795, died Sept. 21, 1849. Buried in Assoc. Reform Presbyterian Cemetery.

Isabella Montgomery died May 5, 1891 buried in Assoc. Reform Presbyterian Cemetery.

This family is under study.