

74TH CONGRESS }  
1st Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{ REPORT  
No. 845

## JAMES H. BELL (OR JAMES BELL)

MAY 8, 1935.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered  
to be printed

Mr. TURNER, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the  
following

## REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1286]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1286) for the relief of James H. Bell (or James Bell), introduced by Mr. Reece, having considered the same, submit the following report thereon with the recommendation that it do pass:

The claimant, James H. Bell, enlisted and was mustered into the service April 1, 1862, and served honorably until he was captured. The company muster-out roll, according to the report from the War Department, attached hereto, dated at Nashville, Tenn., April 1, 1865, bears the remarks: "Prisoner of war captured September 20, 1862, on the march from Cumberland Gap and is not since heard of."

The claimant sets out in his sworn statement that he started to report to his organization after being paroled, but that he was again taken in custody by the enemy and released with the understanding that he would not return to his command. It is evident from the records that this claimant enlisted, served honorably and was captured by the enemy. He is now past 90 years of age and it is the opinion of the committee that he should be given the benefit of an honorable discharge.

The report from the War Department and other correspondence and statements follow:

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
January 29, 1934.

The SECRETARY OF WAR:

CASE OF JAMES H. BELL, PRIVATE, COMPANY C, FIRST TENNESSEE CAVALRY

The official records show that James Bell was enrolled April 1, 1862, at Cumberland Gap (also shown as "Cumberland Ford", Ky.), and was mustered into service to date April 1, 1862, at Camp Dennison, Ohio, as a private of Company C, Fourth Tennessee Infantry, which subsequently became (Captain Burkhart's

company), Company C, First Tennessee Cavalry, to serve 3 years. The company muster-out roll, dated at Nashville, Tenn., April 1, 1865, bears the remarks: "Prisoner of war captured September 20, 1862, on the march from Cumberland Gap and is not since heard of."

The prisoner-of-war records show that one J. Bell, private, Company E, First Tennessee Cavalry, who appears to be identical with the above-named James Bell, was captured at Rome, Ga., May 3, 1863; was confined at Richmond, Va., May 9, 1863; was paroled at City Point, Va., May 15, 1863; reported at Camp Parole, Md., May 18, 1863; reported at Camp Chase, May 22, 1863, and was sent to his regiment June 9, 1863.

A careful search of the records fails to reveal any later record in the case. Nothing has been found of record to show that James Bell ever rejoined his company. It has been ascertained from the General Accounting Office that the soldier received no pay for his services; that James Bell of Morristown, Tenn., requested claim blanks on January 9 and March 12, 1902, but that said blanks were never received in that Office.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES F. MCKINLEY,  
Major General,  
The Adjutant General.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, January 15, 1934.

Hon. B. CARROLL REECE,  
*House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. REECE: I have your letter of January 10, 1934, with further reference to the military service of James H. Bell, said to have served during the Civil War.

The records on file in this office show that the Battle of Crab Orchard, Ky., took place September 10, 1862. The records also show that the advance of the Army of Ohio under General Buell was engaged with the enemy at Bardstown, Ky., October 4, 1862; Perryville, Ky., October 8, 1862; and Stanford, Ky., October 14, 1862.

As stated in my letter of May 23, 1923, the records show that James Bell was enrolled April 1, 1862, at Cumberland Gap (also shown as "Cumberland Ford", Ky.) and was mustered into service to date April 1, 1862, at Camp Dennison, Ohio, as a private of Company C, Fourth Tennessee Infantry, which subsequently became (Captain Burkhardt's Company) Company C, First Tennessee Cavalry, to serve for 3 years. The company muster-out roll dated at Nashville, Tenn., April 1, 1865, bears the remarks: "Prisoner of war captured September 20, 1862, on the march from Cumberland Gap and is not since heard of."

The prisoner-of-war records show that one J. Bell, private, Company E, First Tennessee Cavalry, who appears to be identical with the above-named James Bell, was captured at Rome, Ga., May 3, 1863; was confined at Richmond, Va., May 9, 1863; was paroled at City Point, Va., May 15, 1863; reported at Camp Parole, Md., May 18, 1863; reported at Camp Chase, May 22, 1863, and was sent to his regiment June 9, 1863.

Nothing additional has been found of record.

Very respectfully,

JAMES F. MCKINLEY,  
Major General,  
The Adjutant General.

MORRISTOWN, TENN., October 9, 1933.

On February 14, 1862, I was 18 years old and subject to draft in the Confederate Army, my father being a Union man prompted me to go to Kentucky and join the Army.

I want to say that I am not seeking a pension, but am only asking for pay for my services, which I feel is justly due me, which service extends from April 1, 1862, until after the defeat of General Bragg, at Crab Orchard, Ky., which is a matter of history.

I also wish to state, that I was on duty when taken prisoner the first time. I was detailed with two other men of Johnson's Regiment to remain and destroy what equipment that could not be taken, we performed the task and were on our

way to regain our command, when overtaken by Confederate cavalrymen and captured. I was paroled with the understanding that I could come back to Tennessee, but could not go the way the Army went, I made a day's journey and met two squads of soldiers and my parole passed me, but just at sundown I came to a camp of several hundred Confederate soldiers, they questioned me and put me under guard, when morning came the Army advanced and I was held as a prisoner and marched with others to Crab Orchard, Ky., where Buell and Bragg engaged in battle. After the battle we were marched to Barbourville, Ky., and granted a parole and taken to London, Ky., and set at liberty.

Feeling that I could not get home, and being about starved, I decided to try to get work. I was told by the old soldiers that I would have to be exchanged before entering service again. Not knowing where my command was, I never reported.

I requested claim on January 9, 1902, and again on March 12, 1902, but have no recollection of receiving any blanks, and therefore dropped the matter.

This 9th day of October 1933.

J. H. BELL.

STATE OF TENNESSEE,

*County of Hamblen:*

Sworn to and subscribed before me October 9, 1933.

[SEAL]

FRANK HOLMES, *Notary Public.*

My commission expires October 13, 1936.

STATE OF TENNESSEE,

*County of Hamblen:*

Personally appeared before me the undersigned authority, James H. Bell, with whom I am personally acquainted and who upon oath deposes as follows:

I enrolled April 1, 1862, at Cumberland Ford, Ky., as a private in Company C, Fourth Tennessee Infantry, which subsequently became (Captain Burkhart's Company) Company C, First Tennessee Cavalry, to serve for 3 years. I was captured on the march of the evacuation of Cumberland Gap on September 20, 1862.

The record of J. Bell, private, Company E, First Tennessee Cavalry, in no wise applies to my record.

This January 22, 1934.

JAMES BELL.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this January 22, 1934.

[SEAL]

L. S. HOWELL, *Notary Public.*

My commission expires October 10, 1936.



