

Pension Application for Matthew Bell

W.21658 (Widow Esther)
State of New York
County of Fulton SS.

On this seventh day of October 1844, personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County now sitting, Esther Bell, a resident of the town of Ephratah in said County, aged eighty-four years, and who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed passed [sic] 7 July 1836. That she is the widow of Matthew Bell who served in manner and for the terms & under the officers herein after set forth, and as detailed in the documents to accompany this Declaration.

She further declares that she was married to said Matthew Bell in the spring of the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty four (1784).

That she was married at the time aforesaid, at Cambridge in the County of Washington in said State by the Reverend Thomas L. Beveridge of the Presbyterian Church who resided in [blot] of Cambridge & that her maiden name was Clyde". The said Matthew Bell died on the thirteenth day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred & thirteen and since his decease, she this declarant has remained single and unmarried and is still his widow.

This Declarant further saith, that she resided with her said husband Matthew Bell in said town of Cambridge from the year 1784 or from the day of her marriage as aforesaid until the year 1792, or thereabouts, when she moved to Johnstown in said County of Fulton. She continued to reside in said town of Johnstown until about two years ago, when she took up her residence in said town of Ephratah, where she now resides.

This Declarant has no personal knowledge of the revolutionary services of said Matthew Bell. (1) She has heard him give an account of his services in the war of the revolution, but she cannot remember all the particulars of said accounts that remembers that he stated a service of six & nine months in two single tours—that he was a prisoner for several months to gather with his father and oldest brother. She thinks the following were the names of some of his officers—David Allen Ensign (2) Col. Harper Lieut Sherwood (3) & others. Note "1792" written on rasure. (Signed with her mark) Esther Bell

Subscribed and sworn the day & year first aforesaid before me, Oct. 7th, 1844.

S. Wait, Clerk

End Notes—W.21658—Matthew Bell

1. Matthew Bell served as a private in Captain John Chipman's Company in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant John Harper's Second Regiment of New York State Levies in 1780. Captain Chipman was promoted to Major and Chipman commanded the Company until it was transferred from Fort Edward to the Mohawk Valley. On September 26, 1780, Captain Joshua Drake transferred from Colonel William Malcom's Regiment of New York State Levies to Lieutenant Colonel Harper's Regiment. Drake was now put in command of the former Captain Chipman's company. Harper's Regiment was sent to Fort Schuyler to replace the First New York Continental Regiment by October 1st. Harper's Regiment was discharged on November 30th.
2. Ensign David Allen is unknown at this time.
3. Lieutenant Seth Sherwood served in Captain Chipman's Company and then under Captain Drake.