

TUSCANIA

Bell, Lawrence Cleveland
1889 IN – 1975 IN



Lawrence Cleveland Bell & wife Esther Hobbs Bell - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/88009531/person/32569327362/media/bef67a80-530d-4b6b-bcb4-f838b81c21be?_phsrc=yGl579&_phstart=successSource



Lawrence Cleveland Bell - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/88009531/person/32569327362/media/7d1118f9-7a2b-4825-9a6c-0deff330549d?_phsrc=yGl581&_phstart=successSource



https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/88009531/person/32569327362/media/f563fd17-1498-4485-a94a-7efaa7672786?queryId=012a75d1-7fbc-4d09-9030-1f4431d42475&_phsrc=cPx5843&_phstart=successSource



From left: wife Esther Hobbs Bell, son Kenneth L. Bell (killed in WWII), Lawrence Cleveland Bell & Dicki – Nov 1942 - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/83196274/person/38473087081/media/dba762be-16c1-4d51-a306-bf70dbe31d1b?queryId=33cdde4a-1ac4-4853-8cf0-d545871220f7&_phsrc=cPx5837&_phstart=successSource



Lawrence Cleveland Bell in the 158th Aero Squadron – 1918 -

https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/83196274/person/38473087081/media/271ddb6e-946c-420e-8015-746d6eaca2c3?queryId=161f37d3-7cf2-4cc9-8db4-d647cfaa2d08&_phsrc=cPx5838&_phstart=successSource



Close-up of Lawrence Cleveland Bell from 158th Aero Squadron photograph -

<https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/83196274/person/38473087081/media/7196cf1e-94b2-4039->

[ab3c-bedf2e603c9b?queryId=63d2a824-1ec9-498d-b8fc-877f3f27dfc1&_phsrc=cPx5839&_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/83196274/person/38473087081/media/5c4d1edb-296a-490a-9f51-3adf049dcf8f?queryId=63d2a824-1ec9-498d-b8fc-877f3f27dfc1&_phsrc=cPx5839&_phstart=successSource)



Lawrence, son Kenneth and brother Russell Carroll Bell – Nov 1942 -

https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/83196274/person/38473087081/media/5c4d1edb-296a-490a-9f51-3adf049dcf8f?queryId=5a675347-5d6e-4df8-8f0d-928482e82aa9&_phsrc=cPx5840&_phstart=successSource



Father George A. Bell, older sister Nora May Bell, mother Mary Harmon Bell and Lawrence Cleveland Bell (in plaid skirt) - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/88009531/person/32569327362/media/4f047022-de29-48ff-a587-6190a8365477?queryId=fb0b3a7f-b1b0-4803-a055-891642d4e837&_phsrc=cPx5841&_phstart=successSource

AN ACCOUNT GIVEN BY LAWRENCE C. BELL, 158TH AIRRO SQUADRON OF THE TORPEDOING
AND SINKING OF THE H.M.S. TUSCANIA.

(Former address: Charleston, Illinois) (Present Address: 112 W. Victoria St.,
South Bend, Indiana.)

On the afternoon of February 7, 1918, this country was stunned with the news that the TUSCANIA, a monster vessel loaned by England to the United States for the purpose of transporting United States military forces overseas, had been torpedoed, and sunk off the Irish coast about 5 o'clock on Tuesday evening, February 5th, with the probable loss of 200 American military men, marking the largest casualty list since the United States entered the War.

Courier bulletins told of the great disaster, and the next morning dispatches only added to the horror of the first American transport bound for France to fall a victim to the submarine warfare.

Lawrence Bell, son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Bell of Charleston, now in the service of McArthur Sales, was on the TUSCANIA, and had the most trying, exciting and horrifying experience of his life thus far.

Mr. Bell has kindly given the Courier the following interview, which will prove most interesting:

"Three years ago this afternoon, February 5th, the American boys on the Transport TUSCANIA sailing for France had perched themselves on whatever they could find, to witness the boxing bouts given by the officers. There were 2200 soldiers on board, most of that number being on deck. There had been three or four boxing matches and all enjoying it immensely when some one spied land on either side of us, Scotland being on our left and Ireland on our right. Such yelling you never heard for it certainly looked good to us, although we were many miles from either shore. We had sea for thirteen days.

The water was calm and the boat was going fine. There were five transports six freighters and a battle cruiser in the convoy besides eight British Destroyers that met us three days out.

As night drew on the boys began to return to their apartments. Those who ate supper first had finished about five o'clock, and the second sitting, including myself, was waiting at the top of the stairs for mess call, when suddenly we heard a loud explosion which rocked the ship. The lights went out, and the boys began to rush for the stairs when someone yelled "take your time". This was about 5:45 p.m.. This being repeated several times quieted the boys - we then passed out in good order.

I had my life belt hanging on my shoulder. I did not move for a few moments, as too many men were rushing for the stairs. In a short time I managed to get in line. By the time I got to the top deck, boat No. 9, to which I was assigned, had met with a mishap, which left 50 of us boatless. We had strict orders not to get in any other boat, for it might be overloaded, or we would cheat someone out of his place who had been assigned to that boat. A sergeant of my squadron asked if I would help save the squadron records. We brought them to the deck but saw no chance of saving them and not much of a chance for ourselves to escape. Several of the life boats had been smashed in lowering them, while another boat was let down on a boat loaded with men. Their fate we do not know. This sergeant, seeing no chance of getting off except by getting in another boat, called to me and said we had as good a right to get in a boat as anyone else, so he said for me to come on as he climbed over the railing and slid down a rope. That was the last I saw of him, as I did not follow him, not even looking over the railing to see what he got in. Sergeant Skinner, I believe, was his name.

Lawrence Bell-Tuscania, Cont:

"By this time the TUSCANIA was leaning to one side in a very uncomfortable position. While I was helping get a life boat down a destroyer pulled up to within fifty or seventy-five feet of the vessel and a rope was thrown to it. We slid so fast that the rope was kept warm. This was about two hours after the torpedo had hit us. There were three destroyers that took boys off the ship. About twelve o'clock that night we landed in Ireland. The only thing I got wet was when we unloaded from the destroyer to a tugboat and a large wave dashed over the top and gave us a good ducking. We marched to a British camp, went to the big kitchen where we dried our clothing and ate a good hot meal. More than 200 boys were drowned, and among them was the sergeant that wanted me to go with him down the rope. A burial squad was sent to care for the dead boys, and they were sleeping in far off Scotland until a short time ago, when their bodies were sent home.

"We remained in Ireland five days, when we took a boat to Hollyhead Wales (an American destroyer was our protector on that trip), then by train to England, where we spent seven months before going to France for five months and then to dear old United States on the S. S. Mexican.

The Flag of my Squadron was the only one saved from the ship".

LAWRENCE C. BELL,
158th Aero Squadron.

From a 1921 interview – in the "Courier" – courtesy of Steven Schwartz

BELL LAWRENCE CLEVELAND		c 18913570
Pvt Dem Co		K
1925 Van Buren Charleston Ill		A 1 005 875
Sa 249 950	Died	T 1 479 083 F
Born 6/9/89		R
Enl 11/21/17	Dis 3/21/19	Cl. 7954
U. S. VETERANS BUREAU MAIL AND RECORDS FORM 7202		INDEX CARD GPO 2-113400

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1Q-K75V-L?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQPZY-V73D&action=view>

Lawrence C. Bell

Lawrence C. Bell, 85, of 302 N. St. Louis, died at 12:30 a.m. today in St. Joseph's Hospital after a brief illness. Bell was a retired Studebaker Corp. employe, having retired in 1955 after 30 years. Born on June 9, 1889, in Charleston, Ill., he had lived here 50 years, coming from Charleston. On Dec. 24, 1919, in Charleston, he married Esther E. Hobbs, who died April 7, 1964. Surviving are a son, Allen E. of Fountain Valley, Calif.; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren a brother, Russell of South

Bend. and a sister, Mrs. Melvin Branhan of Vienna, Ill.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Forest G. Hay and Son Funeral Home, 1201 S. Michigan. Rev. George A. Harris, pastor of the Southside Christian Church, will officiate. Burial will be in St. Joseph Valley Memorial Park. Friends may call from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday in the funeral home. Bell was a member of St. Joseph Lodge 45, F&AM, a World War I veteran and a life member of Chapter 6, DAV, and Post 1167, VFW.

Obituary – “South Bend (IN) Tribune” Thursday 13 Mar 1975 p 40

Life:

Meager Report on Survivors Lists One Indiana Soldier

BY EVERETT C. WATKINS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Fourteen Indiana soldiers, including two Indianapolis men, were on the transport Tuscania when it was torpedoed by a German submarine, according to War Department records made public tonight.

One Indiana boy is listed among the first twenty-eight names reported as rescued and it is the fervent hope that later reports will disclose that all of these Hoosier boys have been saved. The complete list of survivors probably will not be known here for a day or two. The first Indiana man to be reported as safe is Private James T. Moss, a brother of Mrs. Oakley Marie Moss of Cory, Ind. He is a member of the Twentieth Engineer Regiment of Forestry.

The other thirteen Indianians on board the transport, about whom no reports have been received so far are as follows:

GROVER J. RADEMAKER, Company D, Twentieth Engineer Forestry Regiment; father, John T. Rademaker, 1619 South Washington street, Marion, Ind.

PRIVATE CHARLES DILLINGHAM, One Hundredth Aero Squadron; wife, Mrs. Floy Dillingham, 519 Lynn street, Indianapolis.

PRIVATE RAY CREBAUGH, One Hundred and Fifty-eighth Aero Squadron; sister, Clara Crebaugh, 1522 Woodlawn avenue, Indianapolis.

JOSEPH L. MCKEE, Two Hundred and Thirtieth Aero Squadron; father, Joseph McKee, 4126 Parrish avenue, Indiana Harbor.

SERGT. CLEMENT E. ECKSTEIN, Twentieth Engineers; mother, Mrs. Therese Eckstein, Jasper, Ind.

SERGT. ARCHIE McCRACKEN, Twentieth Engineers; father, Q. A. McCracken, New Albany, Ind.

PRIVATE RUSSELL E. EKENBERRY, One Hundredth Aero Squadron; father, Elias E. Ekenberry, Elwood, Ind.

PRIVATE LLOYD LEDBETTER, One Hundred and Fifty-eighth Aero Squadron; father, Cicero Ledbetter, Lapel, Ind.

PRIVATE LAWRENCE C. BELL; father, George Bell, Georgetown, Ind.

SERGT. FRANK W. PEARSON, One Hundred and Seventh Supply Train of Thirty-Second National Guard Division; father, Charles M. Pearson of Mooreland, Ind.

SERGT. HARRY C. PETERS of a regimental medical detachment of the Twenty-second Division; mother, Mrs. T. W. Peters, New Albany, Ind.

PRIVATE CHARLES A. CAMPBELL; father, Daniel Campbell, Dubois, Ind.

RUSSELL JAMES MORRISON, One Hundred and Seventh Supply Train; father, J. F. Morrison, Lagrange, Ind.

"Indianapolis (IN) Star" Friday 8 Feb 1918 p 1

ONLY 1 INDIANA MAN IS MISSING

Seventeen Other Hoosier Soldiers Are
Among the Survivors of Torpedo-
ed Liner Tuscania.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 11.—With 1,532 names of American soldiers rescued from the torpedoed liner Tuscania, only one of the 18 Indiana men aboard was unaccounted for early today. He is Joseph L. McKee, son of Joseph L. McKee, of Indiana Harbor. Three hundred and forty-five of the soldiers on the Tuscania had not yet been accounted for and it is considered probable that the remaining Indianan would be numbered among those when their names are made public.

The Indiana men included in the latest list of rescued include:

Grover J. Rademaker, of Marion.
Ray D. Crebaugh, of Indianapolis.
Archib McCracken, New Albany.
Lawrence C. Bell, Georgetown.
Clement E. Eckstein, Jasper.
Frank L. Crzeszcyk, South Bend.
Frank W. Pearson, Mooreland.
Charles A. Campbell, Duboise.

"Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune" Monday 11 Feb 1918 p 2

Boys On Tuscania Safe.

Relatives in New Albany of Private Lawrence Bell, formerly of Georgetown township, who was aboard the transport Tuscania, which was torpedoed by a German submarine off the Irish coast, have received word that he is in a hospital at Londonderry, Ireland. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Bell, now live at Charleston, Ill.

"Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal" Wednesday 13 Feb 1918 p 6 -
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/119543019/>

INSTRUMENTS FILED ON COUNTY RECORDS

Army discharges recorded—Lester O. Heddins, James F. Dora, Howell

F. Scherer, Lawrence C. Bell, James A. Welch, James P. Murphy and Walter B. Wright.

“Mattoon (IL) Journal Gazette” Tuesday 25 Mar 1919 p 3

Lawrence C. Bell to Maggie A. Darling, wd., pt. 10-12-9, \$2600.

“Mattoon (IL) Journal Gazette” Monday 23 Nov 1925 p 10

Wife:

V. F. W. AUXILIARY INSTALLS OFFICERS.



—Photo by Tribune Staff Photographer.

Here are new officers of the women's auxiliary of South Bend post No. 1167, Veterans of Foreign Wars, installed Wednesday evening in post headquarters, 1047 Lincoln Way East. Seated, left to right, are state department officers, including Mrs. Beatrice Kent, of Michigan City; Mrs. Prestie M. Huntington, of Elkhart; Mrs. Alice Walker, of Indianapolis, state department president; Mrs. Lucille Sandwig, of Michigan City, and Mrs. Carl Turney and Mrs. Lawrence C. Bell, of this city. Standing, left to right, are Mrs. Theresa Belina, Mrs. Sarah Whitmer, Mrs. William F. Adelsperger, Mrs. Clay H. Sellers, Mrs. Albert Grise, Mrs. Robert Wendt, Mrs. Firmin A. Tollens, Mrs. Mabel Flynn, Mrs. Cleo J. Phelps, Mrs. Maurice J. McErlain, Mrs. Henry A. Black, Mrs. William Hanley and Mrs. Rose Hall.



Esther Hobbs Bell seated in front row, far right - "South Bend (IN) Tribune" Thursday 8 Nov 1934 p 9 - <https://www.newspapers.com/image/513797261/>

MOTHERS FORM MARINES CLUB

Mrs. Arthurholtz Picked to Lead MOM'S.

A South Bend chapter of Mothers of Marines, popularly known as the MOM's club, was organized

Thursday night in 117 East Madison street. Twenty-three charter members were enrolled and tentative plans were made for a membership drive to reach the mothers of the more than 500 St. Joseph county men in the marine corps.



MRS.
ARTHURHOLTZ.

Mrs. M. W. Arthurholtz, rural route No. 1, South Bend, a gold star mother, was elected president of the club, whose future meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month. Other officers are Mrs. Elsie Pier, 1510 West Kinyon street, vice-president; Mrs. Zella L. Trowbridge, 2378 Dixie Way North, secretary; Mrs. Bernard Doetsch, 331 North Frances street, corresponding secretary; Mrs. George M. Shumaker, 808

Harrison avenue; Mrs. Sylvia Nelson, 121 East Pendle street, Roseland, chaplain; Mrs. Charles E. French, 312 East Wenger street, and Mrs. Lucien O. Faulkner, 1522 East Hildreth street, color bearers, and Mrs. Lawrence C. Bell, 2501 South Michigan street, historian.

Mrs. Daniel Painter, of Fort Wayne, Ind., national president of the organization, assisted in the organization of the chapter and explained that the objective of MOM's is to assist marines everywhere in every way possible, during the war and after the end of hostilities. The local group decided to hold the charter open for a short time.

"South Bend (IN) Tribune" Friday 25 Feb 1944 p 17

Mrs. Lawrence Bell

Mrs. Esther E. Bell, 71, of 224 N. St. Peter St., died in St. Joseph's Hospital today. Born on Jan. 21, 1893, in Vermillion County, Ind., she is survived by her husband, Lawrence. Also surviving are a son, Allen E. Bell of South Bend; two grandchildren; four sisters, Miss Blanche Hobbs of Paris, Ill., Mrs. Clara Henry of Richmond, Mrs. Myrtle Pacot of Mansfield, Ohio, and Mrs. Rachel Hamilton of South Bend and two brothers, Wilbur Hobbs of Tucson, Ariz., and Oscar Hobbs of Danville, Ill. Friends may call after noon Wednesday at the Forest G. Hay Funeral Home. Mrs. Bell was a past national president of the Mothers of World War II, a past president of the Gold Star Mothers, a member of the Mother of Marines, past president of the James Monroe PTA and a member of the South Bend Civic Plannig Assn.

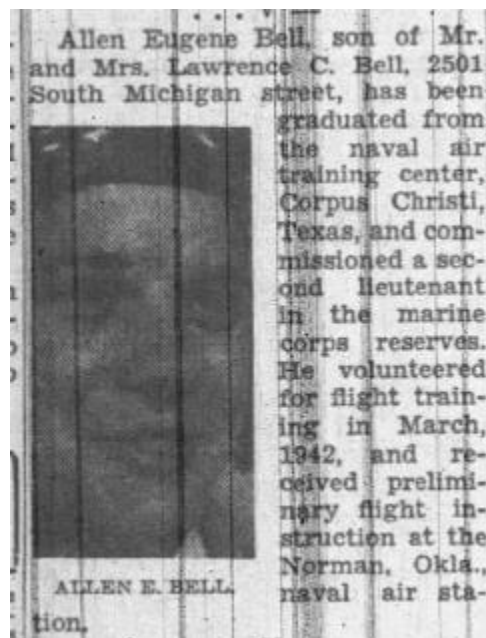
Esther Hobbs Bell – Tuesday 7 Apr 1964 p 26

Children:

Name	Allen E Bell
Residence Place	So Bend, Ind
Birth Date	29 Mar 1921
Birthplace	Charleston, Illinois
Race	White
Number of Previous Marriages	1
Father's Name	Lawrence C Bell
Father's Sex	Male
Mother's Name	Esther Hobbs
Mother's Sex	Female
Spouse's Sex	Unknown
Certifier's Name	Frank J Bruggner
Event Type	Marriage
Event Date	5 Nov 1943
Event Place	St. Joseph, Indiana, United States

Son Allen Eugene Bell (1921-2000) -

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/sources/LX7C-LVS>



"South Bend (IN) Tribune" Thursday 20 May 1943 p 14

Allen E. Bell

March 29, 1921 – Nov. 21, 2000

Danville — Allen Eugene Bell, 79, of Danville, Ill., formerly of South Bend, Ind., passed away at 4:55 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 21, in the Danville Care South.

He was born on March 29, 1921 in Paris, Ill. He was the son of Lawrence and Esther Hobbs Bell. He married Bernice Bowen on Dec. 16, 1967 in Anaheim, Calif. She preceded him in death on Oct. 17, 1998. He was also preceded in death by his parents and a brother.

He is survived by a son, Ken (Gail) Bell of South Bend; a daughter, Karen (Steve) Berg of Kokomo, Ind.; six grandchildren, Kimberly, Ashley and Cassie Bell, Kristi (Berg) Smith, Stephen and Kevin Berg; three great-grandchildren, Gavin and Carmen Smith and Foster Bell; and by seven step-grandchildren.

Allen graduated from Riley High School in South Bend and attended Kalamazoo College. He served with the Marine Air Force as a pilot during World War II. He was employed at LaSalle Liquor Corporation for over 20 years.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 25, in Sunset Funeral Home and Cremation Center. Officiating will be Drew Mentzer. Burial will be in Sunset Memorial Park.

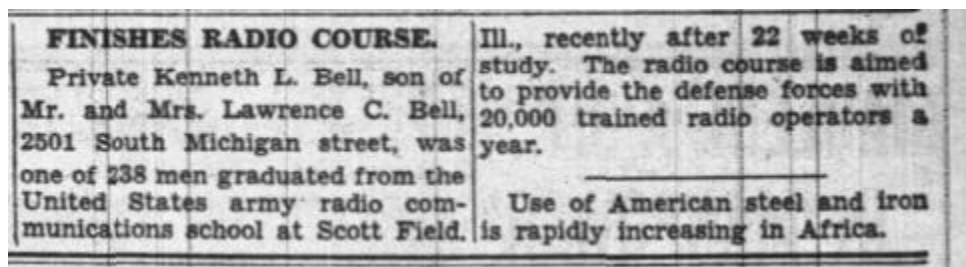
Visitation will be one hour prior to the services on Saturday in the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to the American Lung Association.

Obituary of Allen Eugene Bell – "South Bend (IN) Tribune" Friday 24 Nov 2000 p 39



Son Kenneth L. Bell (1922-1943) – Find A Grave 56306444



"South Bend (IN) Tribune" Friday 22 Aug 1941 p 17

SIX NEARLY READY FOR AIR FORCE.



KENNETH L. BELL.



CARLOS W. MOSS.



JOHN C. SMITH, JR.



HENRY D. BRUNDYDGE.



PHOCIAN B. HATTEN.



NATHANIEL G. EARLY.

Five St. Joseph county men and another from Goshen in adjacent Elkhart county are nearly ready to take their places in Uncle Sam's growing army air force. Nathaniel G. Early, 708½ East South street, received his coveted silver wings and rating as staff sergeant pilot recently at Luke Field, Ariz. Scheduled for graduation today from advanced flying schools of the gulf coast army air force training center are John C. Smith, Jr., 1917 North Johnson street; Kenneth L. Bell, 2501 South Michigan street; Henry Harold Brundyge, 224 East Third street, Mishawaka; Carlos W. Moss, 178 East Brick road in Clay township, and Phocian B. Hatten, 109 Huron street, Goshen. All but Cadet Brundyge, who will be commissioned a second lieutenant, will be rated staff sergeant pilots like Sergt. Early. Cadet Brundyge is graduating from the Foster Field, Texas, fighter plane school. Cadets Moss and Hatten are graduating from the Ellington Field, Texas, bomber plane schools and Cadets Smith and Bell are winding up their training at the multi-engine plane schools at Lubbock and Kelly Fields, respectively, both in Texas. Seventeen Hoosiers are in the gulf coast training center class graduating today. The class is the eighth to graduate since Pearl Harbor and is the largest ever turned out. Officers pointed out significantly that 492 Texans alone are in the class.

"South Bend (IN) Tribune" Sunday 6 Sep 1942 p 22

BELATED HONOR



KENNETH L. BELL.

Second Lieut. Kenneth L. Bell has been awarded, posthumously, a third bronze oak leaf cluster to the air medal, according to a war department announcement made through the Associated Press.

Lieut. Bell, a bomber pilot with the army air forces in North Africa, was killed in action Sept. 9, 1943, after taking a major part in the Tunisian and Sicilian campaigns.

His parents are Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Bell, 2501 South Michigan street.

"South Bend (IN) Tribune" Sunday 5 Dec 1943 p 17

Dies in Action.



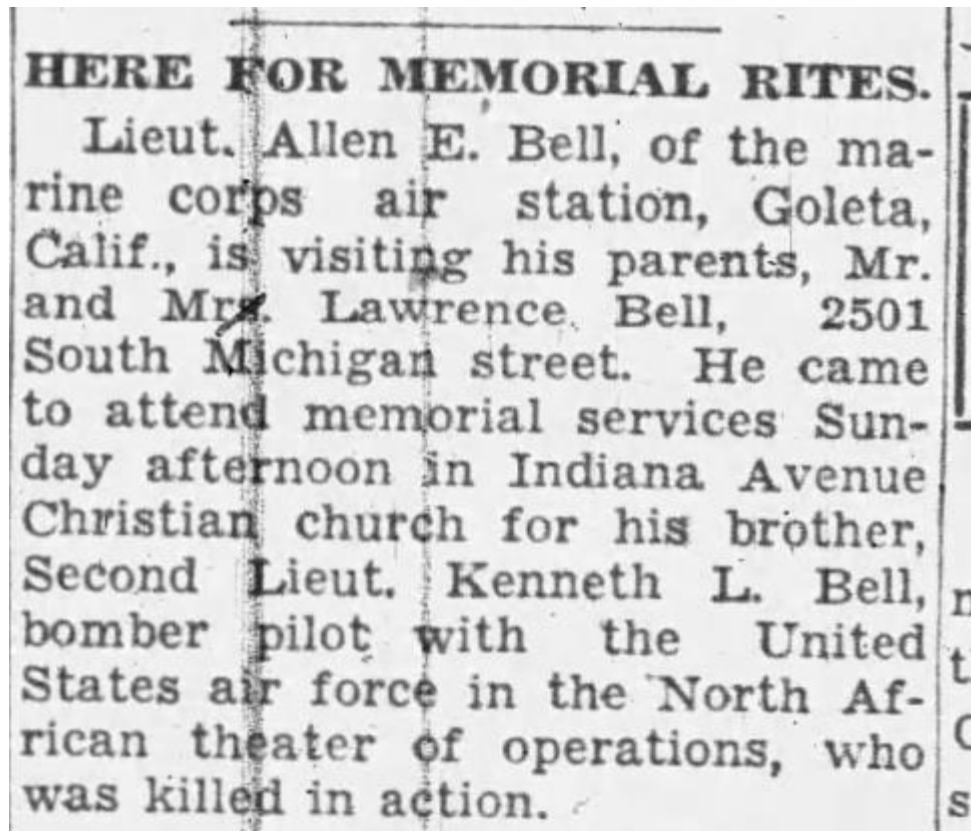
KENNETH L. BELL.

Second Lieut. Kenneth L. Bell, bomber pilot with the United States army air forces in North Africa, was killed in action Sept. 9, according to word received this morning from the war department by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Bell, 2501 South Michigan street. Details were not revealed.

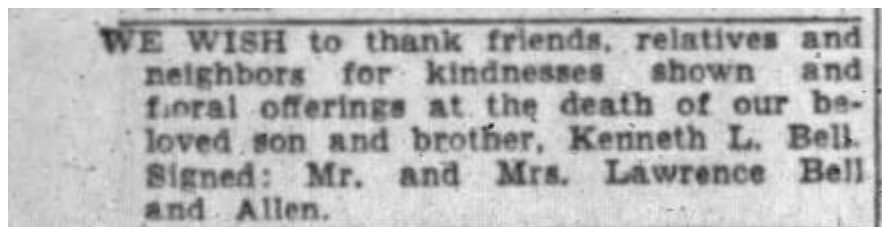
Lieut. Bell had been in the North African theater since last March and had taken part in the Tunisian and Sicilian campaigns. He was graduated from Riley High school in 1940, and entered the army air corps in January, 1941. He received his wings in 1942 at Kelly field, San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Bell have another son, Alan Bell, who is soon to complete pilot training at Santa Barbara, Calif.

"South Bend (IN) Tribune" Wednesday 27 Oct 1943 p 15



"South Bend (IN) Tribune" Monday 1 Nov 1943 p 6



"South Bend (IN) Tribune" Tuesday 16 Nov 1943 p 16

Father:

"South Bend Tribune" 6 Apr 1958 p 20 – photo – Mr. & Mrs. George Bell of Charleston IL, whose 2 sons live in South Bend, celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary today. George is 92; his wife is 90. Their sons are Russell Bell, 55348 Moss Rd., South Bend IN & Lawrence C. Bell, 910 W. Mishawaka Ave., Mishawaka IN. Their daughter is Mrs. Melvin Branham of Tuscola IL.

George & wife Mary celebrated their 79th wedding anniversary on Easter 1964 (on 29 Mar 1964) – their last anniversary together.

“South Bend Tribune” 25 Mar 1964 p 30 – photo – Mr. & Mrs. George Bell of Vienna IL celebrated their 79th anniversary on Easter Sunday. George is 98; she is 96. Local relatives are Mr. & Mrs. Russell Bell, 55348 Moss Rd. & Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence C. Bell, 224 N. St. Peter St.

“Decatur (IL) Herald” 23 Mar 1964 p 7 – Mr. & Mrs. George Bell, former Tuscola residents, celebrated their 79th anniversary in the Hillview Nursing Home in Vienna, where they have lived the past 2 years. They lived with their daughter & son-in-law Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Branham & moved with them when Melvin purchased a farm near Vienna 3 years ago. Mrs. Bell is the former Mary Harmon. The couple married on Easter Sunday, 5 Apr 1885, in Georgetown IL, and always celebrate their anniversary on Easter (which in 1964 was on 29 Mar). George is 98; Mary is 96 years old. He was employed by the Nickleplate Railroad for many years. They have 3 children: Mrs. Melvin Branham, Lawrence Bell (South Bend IN) & Russell Bell (South Bend IN).

“Southern Illinoisian” (Carbondale IL) Sunday 26 Jun 1946 p 24 – Mr. & Mrs. Bell received a card of congratulations on their 79th wedding anniversary by President Lyndon Baines Johnson. His was among the 230 messages they received, plus gifts. They were married on Easter Sunday in Georgetown IN. George, age 98, who voted for Grover Cleveland & been a Democrat ever since, has already sent in his absentee ballot for LBJ in the Democratic Primary from the Hillview Nursing Home where the couple lives. Nursing home staff said George kept holding onto the President’s card & repeating: “Now isn’t that something?”

Also story in “Chicago Tribune” 24 Mar 1964 p 7 with photo. Mary Harmon Bell turned 96 years old on 12 Mar 1964.

Arbendale—Herrin—Murphysboro



Mr. and Mrs. George Bell, Vienna — she has worn her wedding ring for 79 years

For Vienna Couple

It's 79th Anniversary

By Ben Gelman

Of The Southern Illinoisan

A Vienna couple, Mr. and Mrs. George Bell, whose ages total 194, will celebrate their 79th wedding anniversary a week from today on Easter Sunday.

George Bell was born Sept. 15, 1865 in Martinsville, Ind. He will be 90 this fall.

His wife, the former Mary Harmon, just celebrated her 96th birthday March 12. She was born in Georgetown, Ind.

They were married March 29, 1885 in Georgetown, Ind. by a neighbor, "Squire" Keller, a Justice of The Peace.

"We liked him and we thought we would just as well give him the job as a stranger," Mrs. Bell said.

Both have remarkably sharp memories.

George recalls his 10 years working for the Nickel Plate railroad and farming, raising cows and chickens.

George and Mary Bell moved to Charleston shortly after they were married and kept house until 1960.

Then they came to live with Mrs. Melvin Branhan, their daughter, near Vienna. Mrs. Branhan is one of three surviving children. Two sons live in Indiana. Five other children have died.

Nursing Home

Since 1962, the Bells have lived at the Hillview Nursing Home, Vienna. They are the oldest of 49 residents whose average age is 82.

Staunch Democrats both, the Bells have already voted in the Democratic primary for President Lyndon B. Johnston.

George recalls proudly that the first presidential candidate he voted for was Grover Cleveland.

Friends say the couple engage in lively political discussions with fellow residents at the nursing home. A large majority of Johnson County residents are Republican.

However, they have as a friend a well-known Democrat in the county, former Speaker of the House Paul H. Powell, who is now running for Illinois Secretary of State.

Powell sent Mrs. Bell congratulations on her 96th birthday last week and best wishes for their anniversary next Sunday.

Mrs. Bell was asked if she had any special suggestions for young brides.

"No," she answered firmly.

"If you had it to do over again, would you marry George?"

"Certainly," she said. "I never saw another man I cared for."

"How about after you were married?"

"Awww — go on," she said.

George was asked the same questions.

He remained silent.

But there was a mischievous twinkle in his eye.

The Bells have 9 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren living. The oldest great-grandchild is 16.

The nursing home will hold an open house for the Bells Easter Sunday afternoon.

"Southern Illinoisan" (Carbondale IL) Sunday 22 Mar 1964 p 5 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/86727006/> - also on Find A Grave 102435820

30 The South Bend Tribune, Wednesday, March 25, 1964



COUPLE TO MARK 79 YEARS OF MARRIAGE — Mr. and Mrs. George Bell of Vienna, Ill., who have two sons living in South Bend, will celebrate 79 years of marriage Easter Sunday. Mr. Bell is 98. His wife is 96. The local relatives of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bell, 55348 Moss Rd., and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence C. Bell, 224 N. St. Peter. The couple also has ten grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

—Associated Press Wirephoto

“South Bend (IN) Tribune” Wednesday 25 Mar 1964 p 30 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/517506727/>

Decatur, Illinois, Monday, March 23, 1964.



Mr. and Mrs. George Bell

Celebrations Planned

Couples Mark 79th, 50th Anniversaries

Tuscola, March 22 (Special) Mr. and Mrs. George Bell, former Tuscola residents, will celebrate their 79th wedding anniversary on Easter Sunday at Hillview Nursing Home in Vienna, where they have lived for two years.

The couple made their home for several years with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Branham and moved with the family when Mr. Branham purchased a farm near Vienna three years ago.

The former Mary Harmon and Mr. Bell were married Easter Sunday, April 5, 1885, in George-

town. They have always celebrated their anniversary on Easter Sunday.

Mr. Bell is 98 and Mrs. Bell is 96. He was employed by the Nickleplate Railroad for many years.

The couple has three children, Mrs. Branham of Vienna, Lawrence Bell and Russell Bell, both of South Bend, Ind.

The couple's two granddaughters, Mrs. Andrew Flanigar and Mrs. Arthur Haley, both of Tuscola, will attend the celebration, as will the couple's grandson, Michael Branham, who lives in Vienna.

Rev. and Mrs. Grigg Plan Open House

Fillmore, March 22 (Special) The Rev. and Mrs. Newton Grigg of Fillmore will observe their 50th wedding anniversary Easter Sunday with a reception from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Baptist Aid Building in Fillmore.

The former Lyda L. Smith and the Rev. Mr. Grigg were married March 24, 1914, in Taylorville.

On Jan. 20, 1915, the Rev. Mr. Grigg was ordained a Baptist minister and became pastor

of Fillmore Baptist Church in November of 1916. After 25 years as minister, he is retired. The couple are the parents of six children:

Marion N. Grigg of Charleston
Lowell V. Griff of Pekin
Mrs. Leta E. Sullivan of Milwaukee, Wis.

Mrs. Margie L. Lappin of Chicago

Mrs. Nelda E. Beville of Washington

Mrs. Carolyn Lovelace of Hillsboro.

Two sons, Charles D. Grigg and Staff Sgt. Kenneth D. Grigg, are deceased.

There are 13 grandchildren.

"Decatur (IL) Herald" Monday 23 Mar 1964 p 7 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/90964808/>

Bells To Observe 70th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. George Bell of Charleston, the parents of Mrs. Melvin Branham of Tuscola, will observe their 70th wedding anniversary Easter Sunday.

A family dinner will be served at noon in the Bell home. Friends may call from two to four in the afternoon.

Guests at the dinner will be Mr. and Mrs. Branham, Lyodene, Vonda and Mike, and Mr. Branham's mother, Mrs. Charles Branham, all of Tuscola; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bell and family and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bell and family, South Bend, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Bell are both enjoying fair health considering that Mr. Bell is 89 and Mrs. Bell is 87. He has planted a small garden, which he hopes to tend this summer. She does a portion of her housework.

Mary Harmon and George Bell, both of Georgetown, Indiana, were married April 10, 1885 in Georgetown, where they lived for about five years following their marriage. They moved to Charleston where they have continued to live. Mr. Bell is a retired railroad car inspector.

"Tuscola (IL) Journal" Thursday 7 Apr 1955 p 4 -
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/898221207/>



Left: "Decatur (IL) Daily Review" Wednesday 1 Apr 1955 p 19 and right: "Decatur (IL) Herald" Wednesday 4 Apr 1962 p 26 – both from Find A Grave 102435906



“Chicago Tribune” Tuesday 24 Mar 1964 p 7 -
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/374720125/>

Mother:

Indiana, Marriage Index, 1800-1941

[View record](#)

Name	Mary Harmon
Marriage Date	5 Apr 1885
Marriage Place	Floyd, Indiana, USA
Spouse Name	Geo. Bell

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/83196274/person/38473087080/facts>

Siblings:

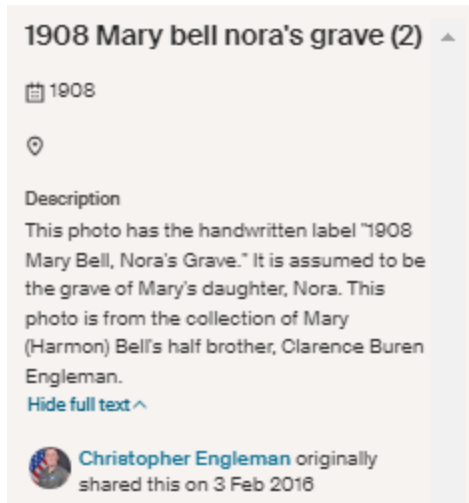
CHARLESTON WOMAN CALLED BY DEATH

Special to Journal Gazette.

Charleston, Ill., Feb. 17.—Mrs. Nora Warren, wife of Herbert L. Warren, died Saturday night, aged 21 years. She had been ill three months. The funeral was held at 10 o'clock this morning.

Sister Nora May Bell Warren (1887-1908) – “Mattoon (IL) Journal Gazette” Sunday 16 Feb 1908 p 6





Written on the back: Mary Bell, Nora's grave" (presumably one of the women is Nora Bell Warren's mother Mary Harmon Bell) - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/73398515/person/40535015519/media/32176e62-f581-4872-b051-f6f964f74c44>

Nora May Bell in the Illinois, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1800-1940	
Name	Nora May Bell
Gender	Female
Age	21
Birth Year	abt 1886
Marriage Date	1907
Marriage Place	Coles, Illinois, USA
Father	George Bell
Mother	Mary Harmond
Spouse	Charles H Warren

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/900575732:61370>

WARREN-BELL

Mr. Herbert Warren, who has made his home in Mattoon for some time, coming hither from Charleston returned to the county seat Thursday evening and took unto himself a wife—Miss Nora Bell. The ceremony was performed at the bride's home by Rev. George H. Brown, pastor of the First Christian church of Charleston. Mr. and Mrs. Warren will make Charleston their home.

County, Floyd INDIANA 223
 Township, Georgetown STATE BOARD OF HEALTH. Health Officer's
 Town or City, } Record Number:
Certificate and Record of Death.

Decedent's full Name Raymond C. Bell Date of Death, May 13 1900

This Blank to be filled by the Physician, if any; otherwise by Health Officer or Coroner.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from April 29 to May 13, that I last saw him alive on May 13, that he died on May 13 about 7 o'clock P. M., and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the CAUSE OF DEATH was as hereunder written.

Disease causing death? Meningitis Duration 5 days

Immediate cause of death? _____ Duration _____

Contributory causes or complications, if any? _____ Duration _____

Post-mortem none

In case of a Violent Death, state (1) mode of injury and whether accidental, suicidal or homicidal; (2) what was the nature of the injury and the immediate cause of death; (3) contributory causes or conditions, e. g., septicemia. Also whether operation was performed, etc.

WITNESS my hand this 13th day of May 1900.
 Signature of Physician, } Q. C. Davis
 Coroner or Health Officer, } Address, Galena Ind.

This Blank to be filled by householder or any competent person.

RECORD OF DEATH. Age, 4 X 20
 Full Name of Deceased Raymond C. Bell Sex, Male Color, White
 Residence, Georgetown Township Single, Married Widow
 Occupation? None Birthplace? Indiana
 Place of Death? Georgetown Township Father's name in full? George Bell
 Father's Birthplace? Indiana Mother's maiden name in full? Mary Harmon
 Mother's Birthplace? Indiana Date of Burial? May 14 - 1900
 Place of Burial? Hoff's Graveyard Signature of Undertaker, H. W. Kraft
 Reported by George Bell Address of Undertaker, 1100 Albion Ind.
 Address, Georgetown Ind.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
 No. 182 1900
 City of Georgetown
 Section 10 of the Health Law, as Amended by an Act Approved Feb. 7, 1899.

Brother Raymond C. Bell (1896-1900) - https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1734043:60716?tid=13803590&pid=422274749834&queryId=bd46b83f-3d0d-4cb1-b18b-29083fc64e68&_phsrc=cPx5863&_phstart=successSource

252

County, Steyd INDIANA
 STATE BOARD OF HEALTH. Health Officer's }
 Record Number. }

Township, Georgetown Certificate and Record of Death.
 Town of Georgetown
 Decedent's full Name Charles H. Bell Date of Death, Mar 30 1901

This Blank to be filled by the Physician, if any; otherwise by Health Officer or Coroner.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from Mar 27 to Mar 28, that I last saw him alive on Mar 28, that he died on Mar 30 about 4 o'clock P.M., and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the CAUSE OF DEATH was as hereunder written:

Disease causing death? Capillary Bronchitis Duration _____
 Immediate cause of death? _____ Duration _____
 Contributory causes or complications, if any? _____ Duration _____

Post-mortem _____

In case of a Violent Death, state (1) mode of injury and whether accidental, suicidal or homicidal; (2) what was the nature of the injury and the immediate cause of death; (3) contributory causes or conditions, e. g., septicaemia. Also whether operation was performed, etc.

WITNESS my hand this 30 day of March
 Signature of Physician, Coroner or Health Officer, H. J. Jaggard M.D.
 Address, Georgetown Ind

This Blank to be filled by household, or any competent person.

RECORD OF DEATH. Age, _____ Years, _____ Months, _____ Days.

Full Name of Deceased Charles H. Bell Sex, Male Color, White
 Residence, Georgetown Ind Single, Married Widow
 If in a city give ward, street and number.
 Occupation? _____ Birthplace? Georgetown Indiana
 Place of Death? Georgetown Father's name in full? George Bell
 Father's Birthplace? Indiana Mother's maiden name in full? Mary Harmon
 Mother's Birthplace? Indiana Date of Burial? Mar. 31
 Place of Burial? Georgetown Cemetery Signature of Undertaker, Griffin & Day
 Reported by George Bell Address of Undertaker, Georgetown Ind
 Address, Georgetown

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
 No. 1086 1901
 NEW ALBANY, of NEW ALBANY,
 Township, Town of IND.
 FLOYD, County.
 Filed in the office of the local Health Officer

Section 10 of the Health Law, as Amended by an Act Approved Feb. 7, 1899.

Sec. 10. It shall be the duty of all physicians and accouchers in the State to report to the Secretary of the Board of Health of the town, City or County in which they may occur, all births and deaths and shall immediately re-

IN death record of brother Charles H. Bell (d. 30 Mar 1901 at age 1 month 5 days) -
https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2410274:60716?tid=13803590&pid=422274749967&queryId=736a2814-cd74-4677-951f-1117eace865e&_phsrc=cPx5869&_phstart=successSource

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH				92-043844	
Local No.		2031		State No.	
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH					
TYPE/PRINT IN PERMANENT BLACK INK	1 DECEASED—NAME (First, Middle, Last) RUSSELL C. BELL		2 SEX MALE	3a TIME OF DEATH 10:30A M	3b DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Yr) NOVEMBER 2, 1992
	4 SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 87		5a AGE—Last Birthday (Years) 87	5b UNDER 1 YEAR Months Days	5c UNDER 1 DAY Hours Minutes
	6 DATE OF BIRTH (Mo, Day, Yr) FEBRUARY 26, 1905		7 BIRTHPLACE (City and State or Foreign Country) Fair Grange, Illinois		
	8a WAS DECEDENT A U.S. VETERAN? NO				
DECEDENT	8b YEAR LAST SERVED IN U.S. ARMED FORCES		9a PLACE OF DEATH (Check only one. See instructions.) <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Inpatient <input type="checkbox"/> ER/Outpatient <input type="checkbox"/> DCA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Home <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
	9b FACILITY NAME (If not institution, give street and number) St. Paul's Retirement Community		9c CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION OF DEATH South Bend		9d COUNTY OF DEATH St. Joseph
	10 MARITAL STATUS (Specify) Widowed	11 SURVIVING SPOUSE (If wife, give maiden name)	12a DECEDENT'S USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life. Do not use retired) Factory Worker		12b KIND OF BUSINESS/INDUSTRY Automotive-Brake
	13a RESIDENCE—STATE Indiana	13b COUNTY St. Joseph	13c CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION South Bend	13d STREET AND NUMBER 3602 South Ironwood Drive	
PARENTS	13e ZIP CODE 46614	13f INSIDE CITY LIMITS <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	14 CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? U.S.A.	15 WAS DECEDENT OF HISPANIC ORIGIN? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (If yes, specify Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, etc.)	16 RACE—American Indian, Black, White, etc. (Specify) White
	17 DECEDENT'S EDUCATION (Specify only highest grade completed) Elementary/Secondary (0-12) College (14 or 5+) 8				
	18 FATHER'S NAME (First, Middle, Last) George Bell		19 MOTHER'S NAME (First, Middle, Maiden Surname) Mary Engleman		
	20a INFORMANT'S NAME (Type/Print) Phyllis B. Rozanski		20b MAILING ADDRESS (Street and Number or Rural Route Number, City or Town, State, Zip Code) 4822 Craig Rd; South Bend, IN 46614		20c Relationship Daughter
DISPOSITION	21a METHOD OF DISPOSITION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Burial <input type="checkbox"/> Entombment <input type="checkbox"/> Cremation <input type="checkbox"/> Removal from State <input type="checkbox"/> Donation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		21b DATE AND PLACE OF DISPOSITION (Name of cemetery, crematory, or other place) November 5, 1992 Highland Cemetery		21c LOCATION—City or Town, State South Bend, Indiana
	22a EMBALMER'S NAME Robert B. Kaniewski		22b EMBALMER'S LICENSE NO FD: 01002388		23 WAS DEATH REPORTED TO CORONER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	24a SIGNATURE OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR <i>Kenneth V. Kaniewski</i>		24b LICENSE NUMBER (of Licensee) FD: 01014210		25 NAME, ADDRESS, AND LICENSE NUMBER OF FUNERAL HOME Kaniewski & Sons Funeral Homes 83006376 3402 Lincolnway W; South Bend, IN 46628
	26 PART I Enter the diseases, injuries, or complications that caused the death. Do not enter nonspecific terms, such as cardiac or respiratory arrest, shock, or heart failure. List only one cause on each line.				
CAUSE OF DEATH	IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Final disease or condition resulting in death) Lung Cancer		a DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF)		Approximate Interval Between Onset and Death 1yr
	b DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF)				
	c DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF)				
	d DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF)				
PART II Other significant conditions - Conditions contributing to death but not previously stated in Part I					
CERTIFIER	27 WAS DECEDENT PREGNANT OR 90 DAYS POSTPARTUM? NO		28a WAS AN AUTOPSY PERFORMED? NO		28b WERE AUTOPSY FINDINGS AVAILABLE PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF CAUSE OF DEATH? (Yes or no)
	29a CERTIFIER (Check only one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CERTIFYING PHYSICIAN To the best of my knowledge, death occurred at the time, date, and place and due to the cause(s) as stated. <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH OFFICER On the basis of examination and/or investigation, in my opinion, death occurred at the time, date, and place and due to the cause(s) as stated. <input type="checkbox"/> CORONER On the basis of examination and/or investigation, in my opinion, death occurred at the time, date, and place and due to the cause(s) and manner as stated.				
	29b SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF CERTIFIER <i>Thomas Barbour</i>		29c MEDICAL LICENSE NO 0102746		29d DATE SIGNED (Month, Day, Year) 11/5/92
	30 NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO COMPLETED CAUSE OF DEATH (ITEM 28) (Type/Print) Thomas Barbour, M.D. 211 North Eddy; South Bend, Indiana 46617				
HEALTH OFFICER	31 HEALTH OFFICER'S SIGNATURE <i>George Plain, M.D.</i>				32 DATE FILED (Month, Day, Year) NOVEMBER 5, 1992
CORONER USE ONLY	33 MANNER OF DEATH <input type="checkbox"/> Natural <input type="checkbox"/> Pending Investigation <input type="checkbox"/> Accident <input type="checkbox"/> Suicide <input type="checkbox"/> Could not be Determined <input type="checkbox"/> Homicide		34a DATE OF INJURY (Month, Day, Year)	34b TIME OF INJURY	34c INJURY AT WORK? (Yes or no)
	34d DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED		34e PLACE OF INJURY—At home, farm, street, factory, office, building, etc. (Specify)		
	34f LOCATION (Street and Number or Rural Route Number, City or Town, State)				
	34g DATE PRONOUNCED DEAD (Month, Day, Year)		34h MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT? (Yes or no) If yes, specify driver, passenger, pedestrian, etc.		

SBH06 004

State Form 10110 (R2/3-89)

DEA CERT/PO 1

IN death record of brother Russell Carroll Bell (1905-1992) -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/60716/images/44494_351620-01404?pld=751839926



Russell Carroll Bell - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/73398515/person/40535017471/media/87c6b228-3050-4e9d-9118-d21b286d68f4>

Russell Bell

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Russell C. Bell, 87, of South Bend, Ind., formerly of Charleston, died at 10:30 a.m. Monday (Nov. 2, 1992) at St. Paul's Retirement Community in South Bend, Ind.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday in the Kaniewski and Sons Funeral Home in South Bend, Ind. Burial will be in the Highland Cemetery. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

He was born Feb. 26, 1905, in Fairgrange. He married Venice E. Burrus in 1925; she died March 21, 1992.

Surviving are two sons, Gary Bell of South Bend, Ind. and Terry Bell of Baton Rouge, La.; three daughters, Phyllis Rozanski and Carole Ruff both of South Bend, Ind. and Jo Ann Bowers of Fort Wayne, Ind.; a sister, Virginia Branham of Atlanta, Ga.; 16 grandchildren seven great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a grandson and a great-grandson.

Mr. Bell retired after 35 years with the Bendix Corporation. He was a member of the Epworth Memorial United Methodist Church in South Bend.

Memorials may be made to the church.

Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Branham and son, Melvin, of Tuscola, and Mrs. Branham's brother, Wm. Ehrmin and wife of Garrett; I. T. Branham, Emory Greene and Wanda Smith, Tuscola and Virginia Bell of Charleston, drove to a point near Cowden, Sunday where a family reunion was held at the home of Mrs. Branham's uncle, Albert Nigh. Other relatives from St. Louis joined them there. There were about thirty present. They also decorated the graves of relatives in Center cemetery near Cowden.

Sister Virginia Beatrice Bell (1911-2004 but 2007 on tombstone) with future husband Melvin Ehrmin Branham – note Ehrmin was the maiden name of Melvin's mother - "Tuscola (IL) Journal" Thursday 28 May 1931 p 4



Virginia Beatrice Bell Branham - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/13803590/person/422274747649/media/4c2c26bf-b002-40e0-9f3d-05a5f6111563>



IMG_20170816_151305119_TOP ▲



Description

Melvin and Virginia Branham with Vonda,
Michael, and Lyodene

[Hide full text](#) ^



Trina Summins originally shared this
on 16 Aug 2017

https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/79485150/person/30403837112/media/13c4b2f7-d411-47c5-a4ee-76afbf273814?queryId=e7cf14db-75dc-47f6-bfff-be20be9f6284&_phsrc=cPx5878&_phstart=successSource

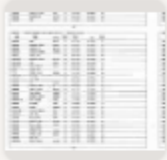
U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

[View record](#)

Name	Virginia B Branham
Gender	Female
Race	White
Birth Date	11 Feb 1912
Birth Place	Charleston C, Illinois
Death Date	18 Feb 2004
Father	George Bell
Mother	Mary Harmon
SSN	322486821
Notes	Dec 1968: Name listed as VIRGINIA B BRANHAM

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/73398515/person/40535017574/facts>

Oregon Death Index, 1903-98



[View image](#)

[View record](#)

Name	Virginia B Branham
Age	92
Birth Date	1912
Death Date	18 Feb 2004
Death Place	Washington
Spouse	Melvin

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/13803590/person/422274747649/facts>

Virginia A Bell Branham's Obituary (1912-2004)

Posted Oct 31, 2012 by tahardwick1

Virginia B. Branham

Virginia B. Branham died Feb. 18, 2004, at age 92.

Virginia Bell was born Feb. 11, 1912, in Charleston, Ill., where she was raised. She owned a fabric shop in Vienna, Ill. She moved to Portland from Atlanta four years ago. In 1933, she married Melvin E.; he died in 1993.

Survivors include her son, Michael; daughters, Lyodene Haley and Vonda Flanigan; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Remembrances to Washington County Hospice. Arrangements by Omega.

https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/7558783/person/6847280036/media/0556d8c1-518d-44d3-b42d-aec2f8720e65?queryId=11fc04d1-23ef-4e6d-bf6b-49dbc069b085&_phsrc=cPx5876&_phstart=successSource

United States Obituary Collection	
View record	
Name	Virginia B. Branham
Gender	Female
Death Age	92
Birth Date	11 Feb 1912
Birth Place	Charleston, Ill.
Marriage Date	1933
Residence Place	Atlanta, Portland
Death Date	18 Feb 2004
Obituary Date	23 Apr 2004
Obituary Place	Vienna, Grundy, Illinois, USA
Spouse	Melvin E.
Child	Vonda Flanigan; Lyodene Haley; Michael

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/13803590/person/422274747649/facts>

Miss Wanda Smith had as dinner guests Sunday, Miss Virginia Bell, of Charleston, Emory Green and Melvin Branham.

"Tuscola (IL) Journal" Thursday 12 Nov 1931 p 4

Melvin Branham, Emory Green and Virginia Bell and Coral Anderson, of Charleston, visited Turkey Run on Sunday.

"Tuscola (IL) Journal" Thursday 6 Jul 1933 p 4

MISS VIRGINIA BELL BECOMES BRIDE OF MELVIN BRANHAM

Mr. Melvin Branham of this city and Miss Virginia Bell of Charleston went to St. Louis last Saturday, December 30, where they were happily married by Rev. Paul Press, pastor of the Evangelical church of St. Louis. After a short honeymoon in that city they returned to Tuscola.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Branham and a young man of fine character and good habits. He holds a responsible position as mail messenger in the local post office. He is well educated, being a graduate of the Tuscola Community high school of Tuscola.

Miss Bell is a graduate of the Charleston high school and has held a good position with the Charleston Shoe Company. She will continue in her position until her place can be filled. She is a young lady capable of presiding over the home which they will soon establish in Tuscola.

The young couple have the best wishes of a large circle of friends for their success and happiness.

Marriage of Virginia Bell to Melvin Branham on 30 Dec 1937 in St. Louis MO – “Tuscola (IL) Journal” Thursday 4 Jan 1934 p 1

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Branham have leased the six room apartment in the Harrison Knapp residence at 500 E. Scott St., and will make their home in Tuscola. Mr. Branham has the contract for the delivery of the mail to and from the trains, and the couple have been living for a few months with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. T. Branham, west of Tuscola. Mrs. Branham is the former Miss Virginia Bell of Charleston.

"Tuscola (IL) Journal" Thursday 3 May 1934 p 5

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)

NOK = next-of-kin

Name: Lawrence Cleveland Bell

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 158th Aero Squadron - private

Serial number: 249,950

Entered service from: South Bend, St. Joseph IN

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Lawrence C. Bell

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": father George Bell, 346 N. 7th St., Georgetown IN.

Returned from war on: "Mexican" Feb 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Lawrence C. Bell

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father George Bell, 546 N. 7th St., Charleston IL (PFC, 158th Aero Sq)

World War I draft registration (1917): as Lawrence C. Bell - b. 9 Jun 1889 Georgetown IN; res: 546 N. 1st, Charleston IL. Single. Auto mechanic, Dodge Bros., Detroit MI. Medium height & build.

National Tuscania Survivors Association 1939 roster: 112 W. Victoria St., South Bend IN

World War II draft registration (1942): as Lawrence Cleveland Bell - b. 9 Jun 1889 Georgetown IN; res: 2501 S. Michigan St., South Bend IN. NOK Esther E. Bell of the same address. Employed at Studebaker Aviation Division, South Bend IN. Signed L.C. Bell. Height: 5'5" – 128 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted 21 Nov 1917

Discharged 21 Mar 1919

Address: 1925 Van Buren, Charleston, Coles IL

Rank/unit: private, Dem Co.

Birth & death:

Born: 9 Jun 1889 Georgetown, Floyd IN

Died: 13 Mar 1975 South Bend, St. Joseph IN (St. Joseph's Hospital)

Find A Grave record: 95345659 - presence on Tuscania noted in flower

Burial location: Mishawaka, St. Joseph IN

Cemetery: St. Joseph Valley Memorial Park

Tombstone: bronze veteran insignia on flat tombstone

Father: George A. Bell, 15 Sep 1865 Martinsville, Morgan IN (or Borden, Clark IN) – 24 Sep 1964 Vienna, Johnson IL. Son of Alexander Bell & Elizabeth Ford. Elizabeth Ford (1834-1911, F; 90752027) had married George W. Cook, then Alexander Bell, then Hardin Edwards (in 1870) & then William Logue (in 1886).

Buried in Tuscola Township Cemetery, Tuscola, Douglas IL.

Find A Grave: 102435820

Mother: Mary I. Harmon Bell, 12 Mar 1867 Georgetown, Floyd IN – 28 May 1965 Vienna, Johnson IL. Daughter of Jeremiah Harmon & Nancy Jane Loughmiller (1846-1935).

Ancestry.com family trees list her birth surname as Engleman, but that was the name of her stepfather, Joseph R. Engleman (1826-1910).

Buried in Tuscola Township Cemetery, Tuscola, Douglas IL.

Find A Grave: 102435906

Parents' marriage: 5 Apr 1885 Floyd Co. IN.

Spouse: Esther E. Hobbs Bell, 21 Jan 1893 Vermillion Co. IN - 7 Apr 1964 South Bend, St. Joseph IN.

Obituary: "South Bend (IN) Tribune" 7 Apr 1964 p 26 – age 72, of 224 N. St. Peter St., survived by husband Lawrence & son Allan E., both South Bend IN. Past national president of Mothers of World War II, past president of Gold Star Mothers, member of Mother of

Marines, past president James Monroe PTA, member South Bend Civic Planning Association. Buried in Saint Joseph Valley Memorial Park, Mishawaka, St. Joseph IN.
Spouse Find A Grave: 95345682

Marriage: Laurence C. Bell married 24 Dec 1919 in Champaign Co. IL to Esther E. Hobbs.

Children:

- Allen Eugene Bell. 29 Mar 1921 Paris, Edgar IL – 21 Nov 2000 Danville, Vermillion IL. In World War II, was a US Navy aviation cadet in Aug 1942. Commissioned 2nd lieutenant in US Marine Corps Reserve in May 1943. Graduate US Navy Air Training Center, Corpus Christi TX. Obituary: South Bend Tribune” 24 Nov 2000 p 39. Resident Danville IL, formerly of South Bend. Married Irene Bernice Bowen (1916-1998, F: 31943560) on 16 Dec 1967 Anaheim CA; she died 17 Oct 1998. Preceded in death by parents & a brother. – Bernice was earlier married to Lawrence H. Schafer (1938-1967). - “South Bend Tribune” 1 Nov 1943 p 6 – Lt. Allen E. Bell of the US Marine Corps Air Station, Goleta CA, visited his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Bell, 2501 S. Michigan St., to attend memorial services 31 Oct in the Indiana Avenue Christian Church for his brother, 2nd Lt. Kenneth L. Bell, a bomber pilot in the US Air Force in North Africa who was killed in action. – Married to Burial Sunset Memorial Park. Danville, Vermillion IL. F: 113243400.
- Kenneth L. Bell, 1922 IL - 9 Sep 1943 in WWII (North Africa/Sicily/Italy campaign) - as a bomber pilot in the North Africa theater of operations. Entered service 29 Jan 1941 at Chanute Field IL. “South Bend Tribune” 8 Feb 1943 p 11 – Flight Officer Kenneth L. Bell of Battle Creek MI visited his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence C. Bell, 2501 S. Michigan St. “South Bend Tribune” 27 Oct 1943 p 15 – photo – 2nd Lt. Kenneth L. Bell, bomber pilot in the US Army Air Force in North Africa, killed in action 9 Sep 1943. The War Dept. informed his parents, Mr. & Mrs. L.O. [sic] Bell, 2501 S. Michigan St., this morning. He has been in North Africa since last March. He participated in the Tunisian & Sicilian campaigns. He was a 1940 graduate of Riley High School. Entered the Army Air Corps Jan 1941. Received his wings 1942 at Kelly Field, San Antonio TX. The couple’s other son, Alan, soon to complete pilot training at Santa Barbara CA. “South Bend Tribune” 5 Dec 1943 p 17 – photo – 2nd Lt. Bell was posthumously awarded the 3rd bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the air medal, according to the War Department announcement made through the Associated Press. A bomber pilot in North Africa killed in action 9 Sep 1943 after a major part in the Tunisian & Sicilian campaigns. His parents are Mr. & Mrs. L.O. [sic] Bell of 2501 S. Michigan. “Indianapolis Star” 16 Nov 1943 p 9 – 2nd Lt. Kenneth L. Bell, son of Mrs. Esther E. Bell, South Bend, in the Mediterranean area. F: 56306444. Buried in Sicily-Rome American Cemetery & Memorial, Nettuno, Citta Metropolitana di Roma Capitale, Lazio, Italy. A Kenneth L. Bell married 14 Feb 1942 in Lake Co. IN to Mildred C. Luebeke. – Buried in Sicily-Rome American Cemetery & Memorial, Nettuno, Citta Metropolitana di Roma Capitale, Lazio, Italy. F: 56306444

Siblings: Two siblings had died prior to the 1900 census. His mother Mary reported she had given birth to 4 children, 2 of whom had died. In the 1910 census, she reported giving birth

to 7 children, 2 of whom were living. Since Nora died 1908, that means two more children had died 1900-1910.

- Nora May Bell Warren, Jan 1887 IN - 15 Feb 1908 Charleston, Coles IL. Wife of Charles Herbert Warren (1886-1940, F: 198538800) whom she married 16 May 1907 Coles Co. IL. Buried in Roselawn Cemetery, Charleston, Coles IL. F: 198538786
- Raymond C. Bell, 23 Apr 1896 IN – 13 May 1900 Georgetown, Floyd IN. Died of meningitis; he became ill 29 Apr 1900. Family tree at: https://www.ancestry.com/search/?name=Raymond+C._Bell&birth=1896_indiana-usa_17&death=1900_georgetown-floyd-indiana-usa_39554&father=George+A._Bell&gender=m&mother=Mary_Harmond&searchType=t&sibling=Charles+H._Bell&sibling2=Virginia++Beatrice_Bell&sibling3=Lawrence+Cleveland_Bell&sibling4=Nora+May_Ball&sibling5=Russell+Carroll_Bell&treePerson=13803590_422274749834. Buried in Wolfe Cemetery, Georgetown, Floyd IN. F: 128882493
- Charles H. Bell, ca. Feb 1901 IN - d. 30 Mar 1901 Georgetown, Floyd IN at the age of 1 month, 5 days, placing his birthday in Feb 1901. Died of bronchitis. Buried in the “Georgetown” (Floyd Co. IN) Cemetery. Not on Find A Grave as of 16 Dec 2023. There are 18 cemeteries in Georgetown, Floyd IN; his brother Raymond is buried in Wolfe Cemetery there.
- Russell Carroll Bell, 26 Feb 1905 Fairgrange, Coles IL – 2 Nov 1992 South Bend, St. Joseph IN. – Married in Charleston, Coles IL on 17 Dec 1925 to Venice Elsie Burrus (1908-1992, F: 190870216). Died of lung cancer. Obituary: “Mattoon (IL) Journal Gazette” 3 Nov 1992 p 8 – age 87, of South Bend IN, from Charleston IL. Survived by sister Virginia Branham of Atlanta GA. – Buried in Highland Cemetery, South Bend, St. Joseph IN. F: 190870030
- Virginia Beatrice Bell Branham, 11 Feb 1911 Charleston, Coles IL – 18 Feb 2004 Portland, Washington Co. OR. Wife of Melvin Ehrmin Branham (1912-1993, F: 102473384) whom she married 30 Dec 1937 in St. Louis MO. Ehrmin was Melvin’s mother Kathryn Ehrmin Branham’s maiden name. - Her tombstone is inscribed with the death year of 2007 but Social Security, her OR death record & her obituary indicate 2004. Buried in Tuscola Township Cemetery, Tuscola, Douglas IL. F: 102473499

Notes:

Wartime:

From a 5 Feb 1921 interview with the “Courier” copied above – son of Mr. & Mrs. George W. Bell of Charleston IL. Now employed at McArthur Sales & residing at 112 W. Victoria St., South Bend IN. Remembered 3 years ago this afternoon that men were perched anywhere they could on the deck of the Tuscania to watch boxing bouts given by the officers. There were 3 or 4 matches when someone spied land, Scotland on the left & Ireland on the right, and everyone yelled, as they’d been at sea 13 days. The water was calm, and 8 destroyers

had met them 3 days out. The first supper seating was over at 5 p.m. Men in the 2nd seating (Lawrence's) were waiting at the top of the stairs when there was a loud explosion at 5:45 p.m. & the lights went out. "Take your time!" was yelled several times. His lifebelt was hanging on his shoulder. He didn't move for a few moments as too many men were rushing. His lifeboat (#9) had met with a mishap so that left 50 boatless. They were under strict orders not to go in another lifeboat. Sgt. Skinner brought the squadron records on deck [158th Aero] & asked Bell if he could help save them. "We brought them to the deck but saw no chance of saving them and not much of a chance for ourselves to escape." Lifeboats were smashed upon lowering, and one was let down on top of men in another lifeboat. Sgt. Skinner called Bell & said we had as much right as anyone to get in a boat, so he climbed over the railing & slid down a rope to a boat. That was the last Bell saw of him, as he did not follow or look over the railing. [Skinner would die that night & be buried on Islay.] The ship was listing badly when a destroyer pulled up 50 to 75 feet away and threw a rope. "Men slid so fast that the rope was kept warm." Three destroyers rescued men from the ship. About midnight he landed in Ireland. "The only thing I got wet was when we unloaded from the destroyer to a tugboat and a large wave dashed over the top and gave us a good ducking." They marched to a British camp with a big kitchen where they dried their clothes & ate a good hot meal. Over 200 men drowned, one of whom was the sergeant. He was buried in Scotland; the bodies were sent home a short time ago. He spent 5 days in Ireland, then took a boat to Holyhead, Wales, protected by an American destroyer. He took a train to England, where he spent 7 months. He was sent to France for 5 months & returned to the US on the "SS Mexican." The flag of his squadron (158th Aero Squadron) was the only one saved from the ship.

Post-war:

"South Bend (IN) Tribune" 8 Nov 1934 p 9 – photo - VFW Post 1167 Auxiliary new officers. One of those pictured is Mrs. Lawrence Ce. Bell of the state department officers. In 1968, Lawrence was living at 224 N. St. Peter St., South Bend IN when his granddaughter Karen Annette Bell's engagement party was held. His son Allen E. Bell was living in Costa Mesa CA. Allen's wife had remarried & was now Mrs. Fred H. Raynor of Mishiwaka IN. Karen & Stephen Allen Berg were married 10 May 1969; by then, Allen was living in Huntington Beach CA.

Obituary:

Social Security Number: 313-10-8005

Censuses:

1900 Georgetown, Floyd IN

George Bell, 34 IN, Sep 1865, parents b. IN, married 17 years, farmer

Mary, 33 IN, Mar 1867, parents b. IN, gave birth to 4 children, 2 are living

Norah, 13 IN, Jan 1887, at school
Lawrence, 10 IN, Jun 1889, at school

1910 Charleston, Coles IL – 534 N. 7th St.

George Bell, 45 IN, parents b. IN, in 1st marriage, married 24 years, foreman, coal dock

Mary, 42 IN, parents b. IN, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 7 children, 2 are living

Lawrence C., 20 IN, single, lineman, telephone

Russell A., 5 IL

1920 Charleston, Coles IL – 525 N. 7th St.

George Bell, 52 IN, parents b. IN, car inspector, railroad

Mary, 51 IN, parents b. IN

Lawrence, 30 IN, married, mechanic, garage [he had married in 1919]

Russell, 14 IL

Virginia, 7 IL

1930 South Bend, St. Joseph IN – 112 Victoria – conducted 15 Apr 1930

Lawrence C. Bell, 40 IN, parents b. IN, age 30 at 1st marriage, janitor. S. Memorial M.E.,
WWI veteran

Esther, 37 IN, parents b. IL, age 27 at 1st marriage

Allen E., 9 years 11 months IL

Kenneth L, 8 years 7 months IL

Rachel W.M. Hobbs, 24 IL, parents b. IL, single [sister-in-law]

1930 Charles, Coles IL – 525 N. 7th St.,

George Bell, 63 IN, parents b. IN, age 20 at 1st marriage, shoemaker, shoe factory

Marry, 61 IN, parents b. IN, age 17 at 1st marriage [wife]

Russel, 25 IL, married, age 20 at 1st marriage, machinist, machine shop [son]

Venice, 21 IL, married, age 16 at 1st marriage [daughter-in-law]

Virginia, 18 IL, shoemaker, shoe factory [daughter]

1940 South Bend, St. Joseph IN – 112 W. Victoria - same house in 1935

Lawrence Bell, 50 IN, assembler, automobile

Esther, 47 IN

Allen, 19 IL, machine operator, automobile

Kenneth, 17 IL

1950 Mishawaka, St. Joseph IN – 910 W. Mishawaka

Lawrence C. Bell, 60 IN, assembly, automobile factory

Esther, 57 IN