

TUSCANIA

Bell, Wayne Simpson 1890 PA – 1975 FL

BELL WAYNE SIMPSON		C 19584818	
Sgt 1c 16 Co 20 Engrs		K	
S Main St Marion S C		A 2 650 543	
Sn 250 258	Died	T 518 055	
Born 12/13/90		R	
Enl 12/19/17	Dis 6/10/19	Cl 1 266 659	

U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
MAIL AND RECORDS
Form 7202

INDEX CARD

GPO 2-13969

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1Q-2BWP?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQP84-153B&action=view>

Florida Death Index, 1877-1998

[View record](#)

Name	Wayne Simpson Bell
Race	White
Age at Death	84
Birth Date	13 Dec 1890
Death Date	11 Apr 1975
Death Place	Polk, Florida, United States

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/157267896/person/222065730530/facts>

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

(Former address: Charleston, Illinois)
February 5, 1921

(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, 1918 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, Illinois; 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 someone 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, the boys began to return to their apartments. Those who ate supper first had finished about 5 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

U.S., Lists of Men Ordered to Report to Local Board for Military Duty, 1917-1918									
South Carolina > 14									
Form 164-A.						Inside List Sheet.			
ENTRIES BY LOCAL BOARD.						ENTRIES AT MOBILIZATION CAMP.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Order No.	Name.	Red ink No.	Date ordered to report.	Date and hour person reported. See Mobilization Reg., sec. 9.	Date actually forwarded to mobilization camp. See sec. 12, Mobilization Reg.	Date actually reported at mobilization camp.	Failed to report at mobilization camp. Enter X.	Date rejected at mobilization camp.	Date of final acceptance at mobilization camp.
62	Wayne Simpson Bell	433	12/13						

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/87212:4906?tid=157267896&pid=222065730530&queryId=e317dc8b-964a-44e4-8b14-8fe1bb56cce1&phsrc=cPx5901&phstart=successSource>

Lawrence Bell – Tuscania, Cont:

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 to 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 boat-less. 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 squadrons 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 lifeboats 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 have 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.

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 for 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

Page 2 – darkened portion is on the original - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/190318784/person/202464682662/media/7da0d8a4-904f-4f08-827f-7f25f53cf743?queryId=d48f6538-7eeb-47f4-8379-5c545570de54&phsrc=cPx5900&phstart=successSource>

Polk

BAIN, Robert Lee, 40, Auburndale, a commercial fisherman, died Sunday.

BEALL, Roby E., 69, Lakeland, a retired lineman, died yesterday.

BELL, Wayne Simpson, 84, Lakeland, a retired laundry owner, died Friday.

"Tampa (FL) Tribune" Tuesday 15 Apr 1975 p 44

Life:

MEN ARE SELECTED FOR TRAINING CAMP

**List of Those Given Admission to
Second School of Instruction
for Officers Announced at
Charleston.**

Lieut. Harry T. Pillams, examining officer, announced from Charleston Friday night the list of men chosen from South Carolina to attend the second officers' training camp at Fort Oglethorpe. The camp will be open for the second time on August 27 and will close November 24. South Carolina's quota is 333.

The list of successful candidates follows:

Budd S. Allen, Argyle hotel, Charleston.

George Chisolm Blount, Appleton.
William George Bogle, McColl.
John H. Bollin, Jr., Columbia.
Allan Bowen, Greenville.
Marcus B. Boulware, Rion.
William Madison Bomar, Jr., Columbia.

Thomas Crews Bolt, Laurens.
James Earle Bigby, Williamston.
Thomas S. Bethea, Dillon.
Walter Asbury Bigby, Williamston.
Thomas S. Bethea, Dillon.
Wayne S. Bell, Marion.
Edmund C. Bellinger, St. George.
Wallace C. Bethea, Spartanburg.
Gordon M. Baker, Charleston.
Allie G. Baker, Charleston.
Allie G. Barton, Anderson.
James C. Baskin, Bishopville.
Charles P. Barre, Newberry.
William Barfield, Chester.

Excerpt – "Columbia (SC) Record" Saturday 11 Aug 1917 p 3

MARION MEN ARE HELD FOR ARMY

Number Certified for Service Yesterday by the Eastern District Board.

The following men from Marion county were certified for service in the national army yesterday by the eastern district exemption board:

William M. Cummings, Jr., Wayne Simpson Bell, David Herbert Thomas, Dave Davis, James Rufus Gordan, Chancey Lewis, Pete Jacobs, Lish Dixon, Paul Foxworth, John Crossland, Marvin Fulton Coleman, Lennie Preston Baxley, E. P. Donnelly, Willie Nichols, Herbert L. Price, Tracey Nowlin, Thomas Lee, Sam Conyers, Arthur Marion Jones, Jud Mood, J. E. O'Neil.

"Columbia (SC) Record" Sunday 9 Dec 1917 p 12

All Southern Boys Are Reported Saved

Washington, Feb. 11.—Wayne S Bell of Marion, and Albert S. Hucks of Branchville, respectively, sergeant and private in the Twentieth Engineers, and W. J. Stuckey of Lamar, and J. Nelson of Scotland, both sergeants in the 100th aero squadron, were the only South Carolinians officially recorded as having been on board the Tuscania. All except Nelson have been officially reported as rescued and there is a fair chance that Nelson's name may be found on one of the lists of survivors.

There were seven North Carolinians on the Tuscania and all are officially reported among the rescued.

"Columbia (SC) Record" Monday 11 Feb 1918 p 3

Only Four South Carolinians On Board.—Wayne S. Bell of Marion, and Albert S. Hucks of Branchville, respectively, sergeant and private in the Twentieth engineers, and W. J. Stuckey of Lamar, and J. Nelson of Scotland, both sergeants in the 100th aero squadron, were the only South Carolinians officially recorded as having been on board the Tuscania. All except Nelson have been officially reported as rescued and there is a fair chance that Nelson's name may be found on one of the lists of survivors.

There were seven North Carolinians on the Tuscania and all are officially reported among the rescued.

"Yorkville (SC) Enquirer" Tuesday 12 Feb 1918 p 3

LUMBER MILL SUFFERS HEAVY LOSS

**For Second Time Recently Flames do
Serious Damage to Plant of Bell
Company.**

Marion, May 26—Marion suffered another heavy fire Saturday, when the principal mill of the Bell Lumber Company, located in the eastern suburbs of the town, was destroyed by fire. It is not known how the fire originated, but the entire mill was burning in only a few minutes after the fire was first noticed. The fire is still burning but it is thought that the planing mill and most of the lumber sheds will be saved. Owing to insufficient water, and to the rapidity with which the fire burned, it was impossible to save any part of the saw mill.

This is the second heavy loss the Bell Lumber Company has had by fire recently, as their dry kilns and a large amount of lumber was burned about two months ago. It is unknown at present what the amount of loss will be, or the amount of insurance.

"Dillon (SC) Herald" Thursday 29 May 1919 p 1 -
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/354161437/>

**W. S. Bell of Marion was in Colum-
bia Saturday on business.**

"Columbia (SC) Record" Monday 15 Sep 1919 p 3

Mill Starts Again.

Special to The State.

Marion, Jan. 10.—The Bell Lumber company's mill, which has been shut down for several months, due to two disastrous fires, started up again on full time Monday. The Bell Lumber company spared no time or expense in improving their mill and it stands today modern and efficient in every way. They have built anew the entire saw mill, dry kilns and lumber platform. J. Scott Bell, president of the company, states that they are now ready for steady cutting as they have a great quantity of logs. Mr. Bell recently purchased the interests of Charles W. Bell in this big enterprise and has taken his sons, Earl and Wayne Bell, into the organization.

"The State" (Columbia SC) Sunday 11 Jan 1920 p 14

**J. Scott Bell and Wayne S. Bell
were recent visitors in Georgetown.**

"Columbia (SC) Sunday Record" Sunday 29 Jul 1923 p 12

**Mr. and Mrs. J. Scott Bell, Miss
Blanche Bell and Messrs. Wayne
and Earl Bell motored to Magnolia
Gardens Sunday returning Sunday
night.**

"Florence (SC) Morning News" Sunday 12 Apr 1925 p 7

**Messrs Earl and Wayne Bell of
Tarboro, N. C., were guest for
Thanksgiving of their mother Mrs.
J. Scott Bell.**

"Florence (SC) Morning News" Sunday 7 Dec 1930 p 9

Mr. Wayne Bell of Tarboro motor-
ed to Marion for the week-end with
his mother, Mrs. J. Scott Bell.

"Florence (SC) Morning News" Sunday 1 Feb 1931 p 10

Mr. Wayne Bell of Tarboro, N. C.,
spent the week-end with his moth-
er, Mrs. J. Scott Bell.

"Florence (SC) Morning News" Monday 20 Apr 1931 p 4

Messrs. Earl and Wayne of Tar-
boro, N. C., spent a few days dur-
ing the holidays with their mo-
ther, Mrs. J. Scott Bell.

"Florence (SC) Morning News" Sunday 10 Jan 1932 p 5

Mr. Wayne Bell, of Tarboro, N.
C., spent the week-end with his
mother, Mrs. J. Scott Bell, South
Main street.

Marion SC news: "Florence (SC) Morning News" Sunday 20 Aug 1933 p 5

Wayne Bell, of Tarboro, N. C.,
spent the week-end with his moth-
er, Mrs. J. Scott Bell, South Main
street.

"Florence (SC) Morning News" Sunday 19 Aug 1934 p 10

6-A—The Missoulian, Sunday, January 31, 1965



MARCUS COOK, who lost his life in the sinking of the S.S. Tuscania in 1918 was a student of Montana State University when he enlisted in the Army in World War I. In his memory, one of the wooden buildings erected at MSU during the war as a barracks was named Marcus Cook Hall. It served for many years as home of the School of Journalism. The building was torn down two years ago.



ALBERT C. TILLMAN of Florence, who tells the story of the sinking of the Tuscania 47 years ago, posed in his doughboy uniform before leaving for overseas in World War I.

Feb. 5 — Anniversary of Disaster!

U-Boat Sinks the Tuscania

(Editor's Note: To most people the night of Feb. 5 holds no particular significance this year, but to Albert C. Tillman of Florence it will bring back unpleasant memories, as it will mark the 47th anniversary of the sinking of the troop transport Tuscania off the coast of Scotland in the north channel of the Irish Sea in World War I. It was a tragic night, when Tillman came close to losing his life. Almost 50 of his Army buddies did lose theirs. This is his story in his own words.)

By ALBERT C. TILLMAN

"It is now almost 47 years since the torpedoing of the British troop ship Tuscania during World War I and many of the details have been dimmed by the march of time, and many of the men who were fortunate enough to survive along with myself, have long since crossed the Great Divide.

In the latter part of 1917 the War Department had organized a unit of the American Expeditionary Forces to be designated as the 20th Engineers Forestry Regiment to be used for the purpose of cutting and milling of lumber and timber in the Pyrenees mountains of southern France. Timbers and wood products for the war effort were in short supply at that time.

Almost 20,000

This 20th Engineers consisted of almost 20,000 men who were recruited on a volunteer basis from all parts of the USA. A small detachment from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana had enlisted in December and was sent to Ft. George Wright to be sworn in. We were sent immediately to Washington, D.C. My company consisted of four other boys from the Bitter Root: Elmer Cowan, James Babbitt and Lawrence Watters of Victor, and Marcus Cook of Como, after whom Cook Hall at Montana State University later was named.

Also in our company was George Frisbie of Spokane who in later years became a well known manufacturer of food products in Spokane.

We arrived in Washington, D.C., Dec. 19 and were quartered at Ft. Meyer Va., for a short period before embarking on the Tuscania Jan. 24, 1918. From New York Harbor we sailed to Halifax, Nova Scotia, arriving there early the next

morning. All troops were kept aboard ship in the harbor where a convoy was being organized for the trip overseas. On Jan. 26 we sailed for Europe in a convoy consisting of another troop ship, the Baltic, which was also loaded with troops of the 20th Engineers Regiment, a battleship and eight destroyers surrounding us headed for Liverpool, England.

British Vessel

The Tuscania was a British ship manned by a British crew; a fine ship, double stacker and carrying 3,000 American troops. The shortest route to Liverpool was south of Ireland and through the south channel of the Irish Sea but in an effort to fool the U boats we took the long way around and came in through the north channel of the Irish Sea. The same formation of convoy held constant all the way with the Baltic a quarter mile to our right and somewhat in advance of the Tuscania, with the battle wagon in front and the destroyers riding to port, starboard, and rear. During the trip across the Atlantic a British fireman on the ship came up topside to visit with us several times after he got off shift and he told us he had been working on ships between Liverpool and New York ever since the war began and had been aboard five different ships

that had been sunk by German U Boats but had been lucky enough to escape with his life each time. He said that the average ship hit by a torpedo went down in from three to 15 minutes. He said the English Channel had been a favorite place for German U Boats to lay in wait for Allied ships and recently had been taking a heavy toll of them. He said Fritz was after the Tuscania particularly because it had managed to elude them so often. We had boat drill each day learning to launch the lifeboats which were conveniently placed along the upper deck and each squad of men knew where their boat was located. A stairway led down to the waterline floor in the long hallway that led to the mess halls toward the front of the ship.

It was now the 13th day that we had been aboard ship and we had expected to reach Liverpool the next morning and all seemed to be going fine on this evening of Feb. 5; it was the hour of 5:45 p.m. and darkness

had set in around the decks and out over the sea.

Mess time had arrived for the 3,000 men aboard ship. All had come up on deck to await their turn in the mess hall. Hundreds were standing in the hallways on the waterline floor waiting for the second bell to signal them into the mess hall. About this time someone spoke to me and as I was turning to answer them, but never did for at that instant old Fritz cut loose and there was no mistake about what had happened, for all the lights went out instantly amid what sounded like the crashing of a thousand glass windows or bottles along with the terrific sound of an explosion which seemed to come from the starboard side of the ship.

I can remember seeing men who were halfway up on their feet before the lights went out, and you may be sure that we did not stay for supper. Everyone was groping in the dark trying to find that stairway leading up to the boat deck and everyone seemed to be saying "Take it easy now and don't crowd." Then someone asked for a flashlight and several seemed to flash on to help us find our way up to our appointed stations at the lifeboat deck.

Tangle of Gear

But what a mess. About half the boats had gone up in the air with the force of the explosion and had come to rest upside down and crosswise in their moorings with rigging tangled and broken. We tried launching some of them by hand but this proved to be almost impossible with the limited space we had to work in.

By this time several British trawlers had received our ship's distress signal and some were already alongside giving us a helping hand with our troubles. Those British seamen were certainly well trained in their work and soon they had evacuated several hundred men from the decks of the Tuscania, but when one of the trawlers accidentally got too close to the big ship and bumped her sides the old captain ordered it moved further away for safety.

Someone had tied a rope to the rail on the starboard side of the Tuscania which dropped down to a lifeboat on the water and a sergeant from my company by the name of Wayne Bell hollered across the deck

for us to come and get in this boat.

One by one we went over the side and slid down the rope and into the lifeboat which was already full of men, some of whom were being transferred from the boat to the deck of the trawler. Soon the captain of the trawler shouted "We have a load but we'll be back after you," and pulled away from the stricken ship.

As the *Tuscania* was by this time listing heavily to starboard and looked like she was about to take her last heave to the bottom and we had a full load of men in the lifeboat we decided to row out to sea and away from the big ship before it went down and took us along with it. We were near Rathlin Island about 10 miles off the Irish Coast and 18 miles off the Scottish Coast. None of the men aboard our boat had any sea experience but we did have a couple of boys from Oregon who had worked on fishing boats, and they knew enough to keep the bow of the boat toward the waves and let her drift.

Lucky Miss

We could see a light in the distance and we were all hoping that we could manage some way to reach the area of that light. We found out afterward that this was a lighthouse for the purpose of keeping all ships away from a rocky coastline, and lucky it was that we were late in getting away from the sinking ship and hadn't time to reach that light before we were picked up and taken aboard the English trawler "*Elf King*" from Larne, Ireland. Our fate otherwise most certainly would have been the same as was that of 46 men out of my company who did reach the rocky coast of Scotland in another lifeboat, only to be dashed to death on the rocks by the turbulent waves in the darkness.

Beside Marcus Cook and Elmer Cowan whom I knew so well since we were kids together in the Bitter Root there were many other faces from my outfit that I never saw again. We learned that the dead were all picked up later along the coast as their bodies washed ashore and were buried on the Isle of Islay, a small island near Port Ellen, Scotland. These were since moved back to the States.

My choppy unchartered cruise in the lifeboat that night is one I shall never forget. We had some 40 men aboard a leaky craft and nothing with which to bail out water but our felt campaign hats that were a component of the Army uniform at that time. The water seemed to come in and stay about half knee deep at that level despite our efforts to bail it out, for it looked like a case of bail water or sink, so bail we did and when the hat I was using became soft and disintegrated from the salt water I found no trouble in borrowing another one from one of my fellow passengers.

Drain Plug Out

After a couple of hours of this a fellow named Perry said he thought there must be a hole in the boat and asked some of the men to move their feet so he could feel around and sure enough the drain plug was out of the bottom of the boat, then he borrowed several handkerchiefs, wadded them up together and stuffed them into the hole and put his foot over the hole and this made a wonderful difference in the bailing situation.

tion.

British trawlers from ports along the Irish coast proved to be on the job cruising quietly on the inky water looking for lifeboats while using no lights of any kind in their search. They seemed to have an uncanny way of detecting their presence in the darkness. Finally one of them quietly slipped up beside our lifeboat from apparently nowhere; called to us in the darkness telling us not to be alarmed, that they were British seamen and had come to rescue us. Someone in our boat had cried out "Submarine" but the crew of the trawler soon allayed our fears and they immediately tossed a rope to each end of our boat pulling it directly up against the side of the trawler and the English sailors began reaching down over the rail, grabbing hands and pulling men up on to the deck.

When I first hit that deck I could hardly walk for the first few steps as I seemed to have no feet under me from being in the cold water for so long but soon got going again and we learned from the ship's crew that the Tuscania had gone down at 8:30 that night.

In the account of Albert C. Tillman – "The Missoulian" (Missoula MT) Sunday 31 Jan 1965 p 26 - <https://www.newspapers.com/image/349397150/>

Father:

JOHN SCOTT BELL.

Tarboro. — John Scott Bell, 85, died Monday morning at 3:30 o'clock in Edgecombe General Hospital after a short illness.

Mr. Bell was a member of the Presbyterian Church and the Masonic Lodge.

Surviving are one daughter, Miss Blanche Bell, and two sons, Earl and Wayne Bell, all of Tarboro; four sisters and two brothers.

Mr. Bell was in the lumber business for 45 years in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and South Carolina, and for the past two years had made his home in Tarboro.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock from the residence, 804 St. Patrick St. with interment in Greenwood Cemetery. The Rev. Robert S. Hough will officiate.

John Scott Bell – "Raleigh (NC) News & Observer" Tuesday 13 Jun 1944 p 7 and Find A Grave 183806619

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

JUL 6 1944

12159

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. PLACE OF DEATH:

(a) County Edgecombe

(b) Township _____ (If in town limits, leave blank)

(c) City or town Tarboro, N.C. (If outside city or town limits, write RURAL.)

(d) Street, hospital or institution Edgecombe Gen Hosp.

(e) Length of stay in hospital or institution 1 day (Yrs., mos., days)

In this community 2 yrs. (Yrs., mos., days)

2. HOME (USUAL RESIDENCE) OF DECEASED:

(a) State N.C. (b) County Edgecombe

(c) City or town Tarboro, N.C.

(d) Street or road 204 St Patrick St.

(e) Is place of residence in corporate limits? Yes

(f) If foreign born, how long in U.S.A.? _____ years

3(a) FULL NAME John Scott Bell

3(b) If veteran, name war _____ 3(c) Social Security No. _____

4. Sex Male 5. Color or race White 6(a) Single, married, widowed or divorced Widowed

6(b) Name of husband or wife May E. Simpson

(a) Age of husband or wife if alive _____ years

7. Birth date of deceased March 27-1889 (month, day and year)

8. AGE: Years 55 Months 2 Days 15 If less than one day _____ hrs. _____ min.

9. Birthplace Allen Roch Ga. (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

10. Usual occupation None

11. Industry or business _____

FATHER

12. Name Boyd Bell

13. Birthplace Ga.

MOTHER

14. Maiden Name Lavinia Grapp

15. Birthplace Ga.

16(a) Informant's Signature W. S. Bell

(b) Address Tarboro N.C.

17(a) Burial (b) Date thereof 6-15-44 (Burial, cremation, or removal) (Month, day, year)

(c) Cemetery Greenwood

(d) Location Tarboro, N.C.

18(a) Funeral director Carline Funeral Home

(b) Address Tarboro, N.C.

19(a) 7-3 18 44 R. H. P. Smith Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

20. Date of death June 12 19 44 at 3:30 A.M.

21. I certify that death occurred on the date above stated; that I attended deceased from June 11 19 44 to June 12 19 44 and that I last saw him alive on June 12 19 44

Immediate cause of death Fractured hip (never recovered from this shock)

Due to 186-1

Other conditions (Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)

Major findings: Of operations _____

Of autopsy _____

22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:

(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) _____

(b) Date of occurrence _____

(c) Where did injury occur? (City or town) (County) (State)

(d) Did injury occur about home, on farm, in industrial place, in a public place? _____ (Specify type of place)

While at work? _____

(e) Means of injury Fall

23. Signature M. W. Hatch M.D. Address Tarboro N.C. Date signed 6-30-44

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. The correct age is especially important. PHYSICIANS: Please write the cause of death clearly and legibly.

NC death record of John Scott Bell -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1121/images/S123_1273-0169?pid=1551256

Mother:

B. V. S. Form 8

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

115

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. PLACE OF DEATH:

(a) County Wayne

(b) Township Liberty (If in town limits, leave blank)

(c) City or town Liberty (If outside city or town limits, write RURAL)

(d) Street, hospital or institution Liberty St. Hospital

(e) Length of stay in hospital or institution 10 days (Yrs., mos., or days)

In this community Liberty (Yrs., mos., or days)

2. HOME (USUAL RESIDENCE) OF DECEASED:

(a) State NC (b) County Wayne

(c) City or town Liberty

(d) Street or R.F.D. Liberty St.

(e) Is place of residence in corporate limits? Yes

(f) If foreign born, how long in U.S.A.? 10 years

3(a) FULL NAME Mary Elizabeth Simpson Bell

3(b) If veteran, name war None 3(c) Social Security No. None

4. Sex Female 5. Color or Race White 6(a) Single, married, widowed, or divorced? Married

6(b) Name of husband or wife Robert Simpson Bell

(c) Age of husband or wife if alive 42 years.

7. Birth date of deceased 25, 1918 (month, day and year)

8. AGE: Years 25 Months 3 Days 25 If less than one day hrs. 0 min. 0

9. Birthplace West Freedom, Pa. (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

10. Usual occupation Domestic

11. Industry or business None

12. Name Paul William Simpson

13. Birthplace West Freedom, Pa.

14. Maiden Name Elizabeth Boyd

15. Birthplace Pa.

16(a) Informant's Signature Mrs. Wayne Bell

(b) Address Liberty, N.C.

17(a) Physician (b) Date thereof July 21, 1943 (Month, day, year)

(c) Cemetery Liberty

(d) Location Liberty, N.C.

18(a) Funeral director Liberty

(b) Address Liberty, N.C.

19(a) July 21, 1943 (b) W. K. M. Samuel Registrar

20. Date of death July 21, 1943

21. I certify that death occurred on the date above stated; that I attended deceased from July 19, 1943 to July 21, 1943 and that I last saw him alive on July 19, 1943

Immediate cause of death Septicemia - septic Duration 2 days

Due to Septicemia - septic

Due to Septicemia - septic

Other conditions None (Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)

Major findings: Of operations None Of autopsy None

22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:

(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) None

(b) Date of occurrence None

(c) Where did injury occur? (City or town) (County) (State) None

(d) Did injury occur about home, on farm, in industrial place, in a public place? None (Specify type of place)

While at work? None

(e) Means of injury None

Address Liberty, N.C. Date signed July 29, 1943

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

WHITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. The correct age is especially important. PHYSICIANS: Please write the causes of death clearly and legibly.

PA death record of mother Mary Elizabeth Simpson Bell -
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1121/images/S123_1246-0545?pId=1279176

Mrs. J. Scott Ball Succumbs in Tarboro

TARBORO, July 23.—Mrs. J. Scott Bell, 84, died Tuesday afternoon at her residence here after an illness of several days.

She was a native of Pennsylvania, but had made her home in Marion, South Carolina, for 27 years coming to Tarboro 18 months ago.

She is survived by her husband J. Scott Bell, of Tarboro; one daughter Miss Blanche Bell of Tarboro, two sons: Wayne Bell and Earl Bell, both of Tarboro.

Funeral services were held

Thursday morning at 11 a.m. at the home funeral in Greenwood Cemetery, with the Rev. Chester Alexander, pastor of the Howard Memorial Presbyterian church, officiating.

Obituary of mother – “Rocky Mount (NC) Telegram” Thursday 23 Jul 1942 p 7

station.
Mrs. J. Scott Bell has come home
after several months with friends in
Pennsylvania.

Marion SC news: “The State” (Columbia SC) Sunday 22 Sep 1918 p 19

JUDGES DECIDE PUZZLE CONTEST

Mrs. J. S. Bell of Marion
Gets First Money.

MANY ANSWER RIGHT

Necessary to Take Into Consid-
eration Letters to
Break Tie.

In an advertisement in this issue of The State are announced the winners of the prizes in the building puzzle contest recently conducted by this newspaper. Mrs. J. Scott Bell of Marion won first place.

The number of numbers on the building totalled 6337. The judges found that there were more correct answers than there were prizes and that therefore it was necessary to take into consideration the accompanying letters to break the tie.

A. C. Flora, principal of Columbia high school; J. H. Hope, state superintendent of education; and F. H. McMaster of the Carolina Life Insurance company were the judges.

The prizes, totaling \$750, were awarded as follows:

First prize: Mrs. J. Scott Bell, Marion.

Article continues – "Columbia (SC) State" Wednesday 4 May 1927 p 7

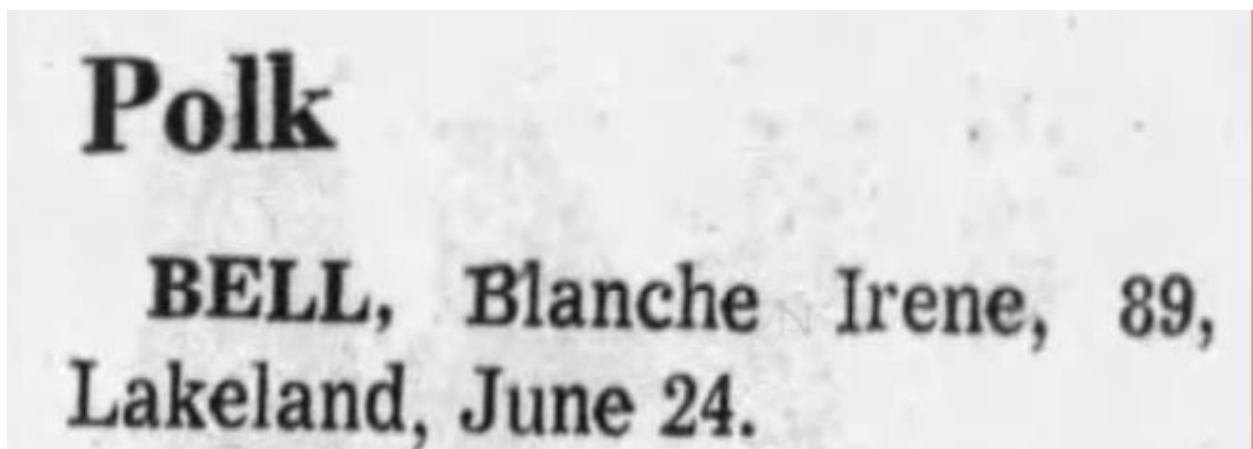
Siblings:

Florida, U.S., Death Index, 1877-1998

View record

Name Blanche Irene Bell
 Race White
 Age at Death 89
 Birth Date 14 Aug 1883
 Death Date 24 Jun 1973
 Death Place Polk, Florida, United States

Sister Blanche Irene Bell (1883-1973) - <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/190318784/person/202464682660/facts>



“Tampa (FL) Tribune” Tuesday 26 Jun 1973 p 25

Blanche Bell

in the U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014



Request copy of original application

Add or update information

Report a problem

Detail Source

Name	Blanche Bell
Social Security Number	247-16-4170
Birth Date	14 Aug 1883
Issue year	Before 1951
Issue State	South Carolina
Last Residence	33801, Lakeland, Polk, Florida, USA
Death Date	Jun 1973

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/3955532:3693>

HYN 20001-50M-3 44 10

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

Primary
Dist No. 16-09-81

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

File No. 105737
Registered No. 24

1. PLACE OF DEATH: Bellevue (Allen Park)
(a) County
(b) City, town, or township
(c) Name of hospital or institution: Richland
(If not in hospital or institution write street number or location)
(d) Length of stay: In hospital or institution
(Specify whether)

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:
(a) State N. C. (b) County
(c) City or town Tarboro.
(If outside city or town limits, write RURAL)
(d) Street No.
(If rural give location)
(e) If foreign born, how long in U.S.A.? years

3. (a) FULL NAME SCOTT E. BELL
3. (b) If U.S. Veteran, complete reverse side of certificate. No. 3. (c) Social Security No.

4. Sex M 5. Color or race W 6. (e) Single, widowed, married, divorced Single
6. (b) Name of husband or wife 6. (c) Age of husband or wife if alive years
7. Birth date of deceased July 15 1886
(Month) (Day) (Year)
8. AGE: Years 62 Months 5 Days 7 If less than one day hr. min.
9. Birthplace Penn. (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)
10. Usual occupation Merchant
11. Industry or business Retired
12. Name John Bell
13. Birthplace Penn. (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)
14. Maiden name Mary Simpson
15. Birthplace Penn. (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

16. (a) Informant's own signature W. S. Bell
(b) Address Tarboro, N. C.
17. (a) Removal (b) Date thereof Dec. 20/48
(Burial, cremation, or removal) (Month) (Day) (Year)
(c) Place: burial or cremation Tarboro, N. C.
18. (a) Signature of funeral director W. S. Whitfill
(b) Address Hunt, Pa.
19. (a) 12-20-48 (b) Thompson
(Date received local registrar) (Registrar's signature)

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION
20. Date of death: Month Dec. day 18 year 1948 hour 7 minute A.M.
21. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That an inquest was held upon the body of the above named deceased on the day of giving the cause of death as follows:
Immediate cause of death Suicide
Due to Overdose of sleeping capsules
Due to (Removal)
Other conditions (Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)
Major findings: 163B
Of operations
Of autopsy

22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:
(a) (Probably) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify suicide)
(b) Date of occurrence Dec. 18, 1948
(c) Where did injury occur? (City or town) (County) (State)
(d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? home
(Specify type of place)
(e) Means of injury
23. Signature W. S. Whitfill Coroner
Address St. Petersburg, Va. Date signed 12/18/48

WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD
OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact Statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH.

PA death record of brother Scott Earl Bell (1886-1948) – suicide -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/5164/images/42410_2421406272_0864-01581?pld=607557648

Form 1 **434** REGISTRATION CARD **10**

1	Name in full <u>Levi Earl Bell</u>	Age in yrs <u>30</u>
2	Home address <u>Marion South Carolina</u>	
3	Date of birth <u>July 15 1886</u>	
4	Are you: (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared? (specify (specify which)? <u>natural born</u>	
5	Where were you born? <u>Marionville Pa U.S.</u>	
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?	
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office? <u>Treasurer Bell Lumber Co</u>	
8	By whom employed? <u>Bell Lumber Co</u>	
9	Where employed? <u>Marion S. C.</u>	
10	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? <u>no</u>	
11	Married or single (which)? <u>single</u> Race (specify which)? <u>Caucasian</u>	
12	What military service have you in? <u>none</u> branch	
13	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify ground)? <u>no</u>	

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Levi Earl Bell
(Signature of registrant)

If person is of legal drinking age

REGISTRAR'S REPORT **39-1-25, A**

1	Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? <u>Medium</u> Slender, medium, or stout (which)? <u>Medium</u>
2	Color of eyes? <u>Blue</u> Color of hair? <u>Light Brown</u> Bald? <u>no</u>
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? <u>no</u>

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Bethay Brown
(Signature of registrar)

Precinct Marion
City or County Marion
State South Carolina

June 5th 1917
(Date of registration)

WWI draft registration of Scott Earl Bell -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6482/images/005152317_03932?pld=24975990

SCOTT E. BELL.
Tarboro. — Funeral services for Scott Earl Bell, 62, who died in Allum Rock, Pa. Saturday, will be held Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock from Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Robert Huff will officiate. Interment will be in Greenwood Cemetery. Survivors include one sister, Blanche Bell, and one brother, Wayne S. Bell, both of Tarboro.

Obituary of Scott Earl Bell – “Raleigh (NC) News & Observer” Tuesday 13 Jun 1944 p 7 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/651901760/>

Business Notes

Buy Cleaning Plant.

TARBORO, May 12--Bell's Cleaners in Tarboro has been purchased by E. Guy Bunn of Leggett and Bennett Bunn of Rocky Mount, who also operate the Rocky Mount Laundry and Dry Cleaners.

The Bunn brothers have already taken over operation of the plant here, which is managed by Guy Bunn.

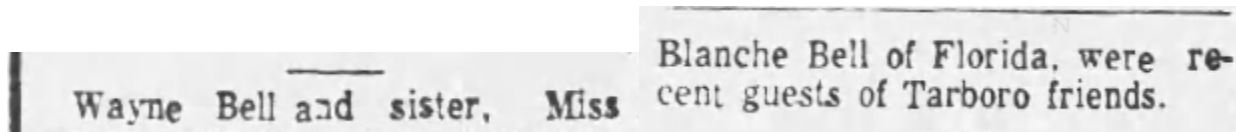
Bell's was established 23 years ago by Wayne Bell, now living in Florida, and the late Carl Bell.

“Raleigh (NC) News & Observer” Friday 13 May 1955 p 37



Wayne Bell, a former Tarboro-an, has returned to his home in Florida after a visit with Tarboro friends.

"Rocky Mount (NC) Telegram" Sunday 28 Oct 1956 p 22



Wayne Bell and sister, Miss Blanche Bell of Florida, were recent guests of Tarboro friends.

"Rocky Mount (NC) Telegram" Tuesday 24 Sep 1957 p 6

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

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

NOK = next-of-kin

Name: Wayne Simpson Bell

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 20th Eng. 16th/Co. D - sergeant

Serial number: 250,258

Entered service from: Marion, Marion SC

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Wayne S. Bell

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": father J.S. Bell, Marion SC

Returned from war on: on "Santa Paula" May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Wayne S. Bell

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father J. Scott Bell, Marion SC (sgt 1st class, 16th Co., 20th Engrs, Forestry)

World War I draft registration (1917): as Wayne Simpson Bell - b. 13 Dec 1890 Marienville PA; res: Marion SC. Single. Secretary, Bell Lumber Co., Marion SC. Medium height & build.

National Tuscania Survivors Association 1939 roster: Marion SC

World War II draft registration (1942): cannot locate

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted 19 Dec 1917

Discharged 10 Jun 1919

Address: S. Main St., Marion SC

Rank/unit: sergeant 1st class, 16th Co., 20th Engineers

Birth & death:

Born: 13 Dec 1890 Marienville, Forest PA

Died: 11 Apr 1975 Polk Co. FL

Find A Grave record: 183807216 - presence on Tuscania noted in flower

Burial location: Tarboro, Edgecombe NC

Cemetery: Greenwood

Tombstone:

Father: John Scott Bell, 27 Mar 1859 Alum Rock, Clarion Co. PA – 12 Jun 1944 Tarboro, Edgecombe NC. Son of Boyd Jones Bell & Louisa Graff. Buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Tarboro, Edgecombe NC.

Find A Grave: 183806619

Mother: Mary Elizabeth Simpson Bell, 28 Jan 1858 PA – 21 Jul 1942 Tarboro, Edgecombe NC. Daughter of Robert Fleming Simpson & Elizabeth (Betty) Boyd. Buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Tarboro, Edgecombe NC.

Find A Grave: 183806830

Parents' marriage: 1882

Spouse:

Spouse Find A Grave:

Children:

Siblings:

- Blanche Irene Bell, 14 Aug 1883 PA – 24 Jun 1973 Polk Co. FL. Buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Tarboro, Edgecombe NC. F: 183806455.
- Scott Earl Bell, 15 Jul 1886 Marienville, Forest PA – 18 Dec 1948 Clarion Co. PA. Partner with brother Wayne in the Bell Lumber Co. Commits suicide with an overdose of sleeping pills (Nembutal). Buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Tarboro, Edgecombe NC. F: 183807063

Notes:

Apparently neither Wayne nor his sister or brother married.

War-time:

Post-war:

Bell Lumber Co., Marion SC, was his employer in 1917.

In the "Florence (SC) Morning News" 27 Apr 1949 p 2 – the death of Charles Wesley Bell, age 72, d. 26 Apr 1949, 1 of the pioneer lumbermen in Marion, where he moved in 1914 & founded Bell Lumber Co., in which he was actively involved until his death.

Obituary:

Social Security Number: 273-50-7521

Censuses:

1900 Jenks, Forest PA

John S. Bell, 41 PA, Mar 1859, parents b. PA, married 18 years, oil producer

Mary E., 42 PA, Jan 1858, parents b. PA, gave birth to 3 children, 3 are living

Blanch I., 17 PA, Aug 1883, at school

Scott E., 14 PA, Jul 1886, at school

Wayne S., 10 PA, Dec 1890, at school

1910 cannot locate

1920 Marion, Marion SC

John S. Bell, 61 PA, parents b. PA

Mary E., 61 PA, parents b. PA

Blanch I., 36 PA, single

Earl S., 33 PA, single

Wayne S., 29 PA, single

No one has an occupation

1930 Tarboro, Edgecombe NC

Wayne S. Bell, 35 PA, parents b. PA, single, dry cleaner, pressing store, WWI veteran
& his brother

S. Earl Bell, 38 PA, parents b. PA, single, dry cleaner, pressing store

Lodgers with Willie & Lottie Wagner

1930 Marion, Marion SC – his father is double-counted – conducted 5 Apr 1930

Scott J. Bell, 71 PA, parents b. PA, age 23 at 1st marriage

Mary E., 72 PA, parents b. PA, age 24 at 1st marriage

Blanch I., 42 PA, single

1930 Richland, Clarion PA – for his father, who is double-counted

J. Scott Bell, 71 PA, married, married 22 years, parents b. PA living with his sister Margie L.
McCleery, 62 PA

1940 Tarboro, Edgecombe NC

S. Wayon/Wayne Bell/Ball, 42 NC [state, which should read PA, is blurry], single, roomer, in
1935 in same place, occupation is illegible, elect---- pr---

1940 Richland, Clarion PA – for his father – same place in 1935

J. Scott Bell, 81 PA, living with sister Margie McCleery, 72 PA

1950 cannot locate