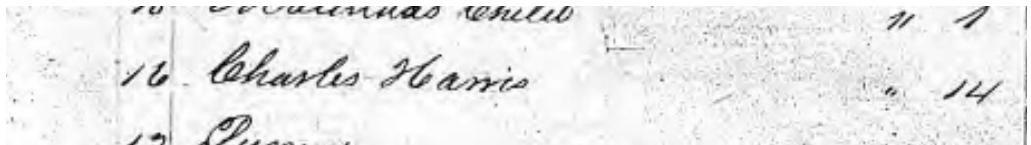


Charley Harris
Enslaved by Evalina Bell
Served Alexander Hamilton Bell
11th TN Infantry

1842 (abt) Charley was born in Dickson County, TN.¹

1856 Fourteen year old Charles Harris was mentioned in Montgomery Bell's will. The following public auction of Montgomery's slaves was to take place Tuesday February 19th. An interesting note, slave traders were prohibited to purchase slaves. Charles must have been purchased by Montgomery's nephew James Luckie Bell.



Executors' Sale.
ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY
Iron Works Negroes,
FORGEMEN, FURNACEMEN, COLLIERS, & Me-
chanics of all kinds,
TO BE SOLD AT AUCTION.

THE undersigned Executors of Montgomery Bell, dec'd., will offer for sale at Public Auction, at VALLEY FORGE in Dickson County, Tennessee, 8 miles south-east of Charlotte, commencing on TUESDAY, the 19th day of February, 1856, One hundred and Forty Negroes, consisting of Men, Women and Children, many of them skilled in every department of the Iron business—Forgemen, Keepers, Fillers, Founders, Moulders, Colliers, Blacksmiths, Waggoners and Engineers, and the majority of the Women and Children excellent farm hands.

The said slaves will be sold on twelve months credit, and in families as far as practicable. Negro Traders and non-residents of the State of Tennessee, (except the legatees of the Testator, who will be permitted to purchase and carry out of the State) are prohibited by the will from purchasing any of said slaves.

Bond with undoubted security, payable at the Bank of Tennessee at Nashville, will in every case be required before delivery.

WM. E. WATKINS,
O. P. McROBERTS,
JAS. L. BELL,
Executors of M. B. B., dec'd.

NOTE.—The Memphis Appeal, St. Louis Republican, Louisville Journal and National Intelligencer will publish till day of sale in their daily issues—forward a copy of their paper, containing the advertisement to each of the Executors, addressed to Nashville, Tennessee, and send account to office of Republican Banner.

Jan. 6—td&wt.

¹ Tennessee, Confederate Pensions, 1891-1965, (accessed familysearch.org)

² Bell, Montgomery, Tennessee, U.S. Wills and Probate Records, 1779-2008 (accessed ancestry.com)

³ Republican Banner, Nashville, TN, Sunday, 6 Jan 1856, pg. 2 (accessed newspapers.com)

1860 February 9: James L. Bell committed suicide, when the census was enumerated just a few months later his wife Evalina Deadrick Bell was listed as owning 126 slaves. Five males age approximately 18-years-old fit Charley's age.

October:

Trustee's Sale of Valuable Negroes.

BY VIRTUE OF A DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED by James L. Bell, deceased, to the undersigned as Trustee, on the 28th day of April, 1859, and registered in the Register's Office of Cheatham county, in book A, page 424, and in Dickson county in Register's Office, in book L, pages 145 and 146. I will offer for sale, before the Court House door, in the city of Nashville, on Saturday, the 10th day of November next, so many of the slaves mentioned in said deed, (consisting of men, women and children,) as will satisfy the debt for which said deed was executed.

Terms of Sale, Cash.

oct19-dtd O. P. McROBERTS, Trustee.

4

November: A sale of James Bell's property took place at the court house.

Low Price for Negroes.—At a sale of negroes, yesterday, at the Court House, in this city, belonging to the estate of James L. Bell, deceased, of Cheatham county, the following was the result: John, aged 21 years, black, weighing 165 lbs., \$955; Ben, aged 20 years, black, weighing 165 lbs., \$985; Hiram, aged 22 years, weighing 165 lbs., \$1,090; Jake, aged 30 years, weighing 165 lbs., \$775; Ann, aged 40 years, a cook, \$400.—*Gazette, of yesterday.*

5

⁴ Republican Banner, Nashville, TN, Friday, 26 Oct 1860, pg. 2 (accessed newspapers.com)

⁵ Republican Banner, Nashville, TN, Tuesday, 13 Nov 1860, pg. 2 (accessed newspapers.com)

Administrator's Sale.

ON THURSDAY, the 15th day of November, 1860, I will offer for sale to the highest bidder, at Patterson Iron Works (Narrows of Harpeth, and late residence of Maj. James L. Bell in Cheatham county, Tennessee.

From sixty to seventy head of Mules;
 " seventy to seventy-five head of Cattle;
 " seventy to seventy-five head of Sheep;
 Seven Yoke of Oxen;
 Carts, Wagons, Plows, &c., &c.;
 Two Sets Blacksmith Tools, Carpenter Tools, &c., &c.;
 1,000 Barrels Corn, in the Field;
 25 Stacks of Millet Hay.
 And various other articles, too tedious to mention.

Terms of Sale.--For all sums of \$10 and under, cash in hand; over that sum a credit of nine months will be given Bonds with approved security in all cases will be required before removal of the property. A. C. STOKARD, Adm'r.
 Patterson Iron Works, Oct. 19, '60-dtd B

Trustee's Sale of Valuable Negroes.

By virtue of a Deed of Trust executed by James L. Bell, deceased, to the undersigned as Trustee, on the 23rd day of April, 1859, and registered in the Register's Office of Cheatham county, in book A, page 424, and in Dietson county in Register's Office, in book L, pages 145 and 146. I will offer for sale, before the Court House door, in the city of Nashville, on Saturday, the 10th day of November next, so many of the slaves mentioned in said deed, (consisting of men, women and children,) as will satisfy the debt for which said deed was executed.

Terms of Sale, Cash.
 O. P. McROBERTS, Trustee.
 Nashville, Tenn. Oct. 19, '60-dtd B

6

1861 May 25: Twenty-year-old Alexander Bell, Evalina's son enlisted in the C.S. Army in Nashville. He mustered into the 11th TN Infantry. He took to war with him one of his family slaves, Charley. Charley's job was to cook and clean and take care of Alex's needs.

1864 July 3: Alex Bell was captured near Marietta, GA by General Sherman's forces and forwarded to Louisville, KY. All witness accounts state that Charley stayed with the 11th TN till the surrender.

"Charley Harris was a cook for his Master, Alex Bell, and that this applicant, Charley Bell, alias Charley Harris remained with us from the time his Master joined the army in the fall of 1862 until the surrender. This applicant was present at the time of the surrender and had been with the army all the time, and did his work well, and he came home with us after the surrender. I have known him ever since the war, and lived you might say in the same neighborhood. Charley Harris, was a cook and servant in the same company and was always present and did his part well, never absent from the time he joined until the surrender."-Moses Garton⁷

⁶ Nashville Union and American, Nashville, TN, Saturday, 10 Nov 1860, pg. 2 (accessed newspapers.com)

⁷ Tennessee, Confederate Pensions, 1891-1965, (accessed familysearch.org)

“Alex Bell had with him Charley Bell, as a cook, and servant, and after the war was over, this applicant, the said Charley Bell took the name of his father Charley Harris, And affiant further says that he served continuously in the Confederate army in the same Regiment and Company from the time he joined in November 1862 until the surrender at Greensboro, N.C. in April 1865.”-J.K. Clifton

November 30: Although Alex had been captured and was a prisoner of war, Charley was still serving soldiers in the 11th TN Infantry. He would have been present during the Battle of Franklin.

- 1868 December 13: Charley Harris married Rutha Chase in Cheatham County, TN. Rutha was the daughter of Hanna Oakley and Tom Chase.
- 1870 June 1: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in District 10, Cheatham County, TN showed Charles Harris, a farmer, and Rutha living with their 8 month old daughter Mary. Alex Bell and his family lived very close by.
- 1880 June 17: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Dickson County, TN showed Charles Harris, a railroad worker, and Ruthy Jane living with their children: Joanna, 12, Mary Jane, 10, Lucy Ann, 7, Elizabeth 6, Vernon, 5 and Charles 11 months. Charley was also farming. The Agriculture Census enumerated him as farming five acres of land and producing 50 bushels of Indian Corn.
- 1920 January 20: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Dickson County, TN showed Charlie and Ruthie, both laborers living with their daughter Lessie and two grandchildren.
- 1921 July 14: Charley applied for and was granted a servant’s pension for his service to soldier Alex Bell during the Civil War. On his application Charley described his circumstances: “I work at little odd jobs and make \$5.00 or \$6.00 per month, and my children give me about \$6.00 per month. I live in a little shack of a house that belongs to my children.”⁸

⁸ Tennessee, Confederate Pensions, 1891-1965, (accessed familysearch.org)

1925 May 14: Charles Harris died in Dickson County, TN. He was over 80 years old.

IV. 25.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE 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.

1 PLACE OF DEATH			STATE OF TENNESSEE		280
County <u>Dickson</u>			STATE BOARD OF HEALTH		<u>Albe</u>
Civil Dist. <u>5</u>			Bureau of Vital Statistics		
OR			CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		
Village			Registration District No. <u>221</u>	File No. <u>184</u>	
OR			Primary Registration District No. <u>5</u>	Registered No. <u>184</u>	
City			(No. _____ St.; _____ Ward)	[If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.]	
2 FULL NAME <u>Chas. Harris</u>					
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		
3 SEX <u>M</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>C.</u>	5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR <u>Divorced</u>	16 DATE OF DEATH <u>May 14 1925</u>		
6 DATE OF BIRTH			17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>May 1st 1925</u> to <u>May 1st 1925</u> , that I last saw him live on <u>May 1st 1925</u> and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <u>10:45</u> M. The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>Not known</u>		
7 AGE <u>80</u> yrs. mos. ds.			[Duration] _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.		
8 OCCUPATION <u>None</u>			Contributory [SECONDARY] <u>None</u>		
9 BIRTHPLACE [State or country] <u>Tenn.</u>			Signed <u>J. H. Slater</u> M. D. <u>May 14 1925</u> Address <u>Dickson</u>		
10 NAME OF FATHER <u>Unknown</u>			* State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS OF INJURY; and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL.		
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER [State or country] <u>11</u>			18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE [FOR HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS TRANSIENTS, OR RECENT RESIDENTS]		
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Unknown</u>			At place of death _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. In the State _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.		
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER [State or country] <u>Tenn.</u>			Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death? _____ Former or usual residence? _____		
14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE					
[Informant] <u>James Harris</u>					
[Address] <u>Dickson</u>					
15 Filed <u>June 7 1925</u> <u>W. J. Sugg</u> REGISTRY			19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Dickson</u> DATE OF BURIAL <u>5/16 1925</u>		
			20 UNDERTAKER <u>W. J. Sugg</u> ADDRESS <u>Dickson</u>		

⁹ Tennessee, U.S., Death Records, 1908-1965, image 70 (accessed ancestry.com)