

Company C, 120th OVI



Photo Credit: Bill Miller at [Find a Grave](#)

BELL, Eli 12 Aug 1862

Private Bell was age 24 when he entered service. He was transferred to Co. H 114th OVI on 27 Nov 1864.

Mustered out 1 Aug 1865 at Galveston TX by order of War Dept.

Father: William BELL

Mother: Ann [Nancy] McCELVY

Birth: 25 Sep 1838

Marriage: Elizabeth BUDD, 14 Aug 1862, Ashland OH

Death: 8 Aug 1877

Relationship: Eli's wife, Elizabeth BUDD, may have been the sister of Samuel and William BUDD, Co C 120th OVI.

Cemetery: Hayesville-Vermillion Cem, Ashland Co OH

Pension Index: Eli BELL, H 114th and C 120th OH Inf. Widow, Elizabeth Bell, filed 1890 July 24, Application 452913, Certificate 382338, filed in OH.

Son of Eli in the [The Biographical Record of DeWitt County, Illinois](#), Illustrated. Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1901:

DAVID BELL. (Volume 1, Page 36)

David Bell, whose home is one section 28, Creek township, is one of the oldest and best-known citizens of that locality. He was born on the 30th of November, 1829, in Wayne county, Ohio, and is a son of William L. and Nancy Ann (McCelvy) Bell, both of whom were natives of Ireland, where their marriage was celebrated. By trade the father was a weaver, and he followed that occupation until his emigration to America in 1821. He first located in Wayne county, Ohio, and later removed to Ashland county, that state, where he spent the remainder of his life upon a farm, his time and attention being devoted to agricultural pursuits. His wife died in 1865 at the age of sixty-one years, while he long survived her, passing away in 1882, at the age of eighty-three years and six months, the remains of both being interred at Haysville, Ohio. They were the parents of nine children, of whom three died in infancy. The others were Samuel, now deceased; John, a resident of Ashland county, Ohio; David, our subject; Mary, wife of George McClure, of Haysville, Ohio; Joseph, deceased; and Eli, deceased, who was a member of Company E, One hundred and Twentieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and took part in many engagements, including the battle of Gettysburg. [Note: I have no evidence that he went to Gettysburg. Eli's regiments would have been in the Mississippi River area during the fighting.]

1850 Census, Vermillion, Ashland Co OH, Dwelling 386, Family 394: William BELL, age 51 Ireland, farmer; Ann, age 50 Ireland; David, age 20 OH, farmer; Mary Ann, age 16 OH; Joseph, age 14 OH; Eli, age 11 OH.

1860 Census Vermillion Township, Ashland County OH, page 140: Wm BELL, age 60 Ireland; Annie, age 59 Ireland; Eli, age 21 OH, a carpenter.

Family Search, Ohio, Marriages 1800-1958: Eli BELL married Elizabeth BUDD, 14 Aug 1862, Ashland OH

1870 Census Putnam Twp, Fulton County IL, page 233: Eli BELL, age 29 OH, carpenter; Elizabeth, age 27 OH; Ulysus Grant, age 4 OH.

Daily Illinois State Journal [Springfield, IL], 2 Aug 1877, page 2

"Carved with a Scythe. A Sanguinary Mowing Affair Near Clinton. Bloomington Pantagraph*: On last Saturday Creek township, in DeWitt county, was the scene of a sad catastrophe, which resulted from a quarrel over a little money. It seems that one Ely Bell had a small sum of money coming to him from a fellow by the name of Davenport, and on Saturday Bell saw him and requested that Davenport pay the amount, but he said he did not have it, whereupon Bell became furious and began to use rather hard epithets

towards Davenport, and dared him to fight with him. Davenport thought it best to go on and not have any fuss, and had not proceeded very far when Bell walked up to him and gave him a welt over the back with a club. It seems that Davenport had a scythe in his hand that he was taking somewhere to get sharpened, and when Bell hit him, he in his fury hit Bell on the side of the head with the sythe [sic], inflicting a serious wound, from which Bell now lies in a dangerous condition, and when last heard from it was thought that it would be impossible for him to live. Davenport went to Clinton in the afternoon, where he was arrested and tried before justice and bound over to the Circuit Court in the sum of \$1,000, and upon his giving bail he was released from custody."

Daily Illinois State Journal [Springfield, IL], 5 Aug 1877, page 4:

"Correspondence State Journal. Clinton, Aug. 2, 1877. E. G. Bell, the man of whom I spoke in my former communication as being cut in the head with a scythe, is very low, and it is expected that his death will be announced every hour. The affair seems to be of a very strange and complicated nature, and the result, should he die, would be hard to determine, as at the time of the fracas there was no one present except those who indulged in the melee. The amount quarreled over was only \$2.50 and the Davenport had paid \$2 of it, and it seems from his conversation that Bell thought he did not intend to pay the remaining fifty cents and became infuriated and was unable to control his temper and struck Davenport. But Bell's friends deny that portion of the story, and say that Bell was a peaceable citizen and always attended to his business. However that may be, he now suffers from the wound in his head made by Davenport's scythe. It will be a bad go for Davenport if Bell dies, though he seems to think that he can make his case appear clear before the tribunal of justice."

[Hayesville-Vermillion Cem, Ashland County](#): Eli BELL 1838 – 1877.

Daily Inter Ocean [Chicago IL], 9 Aug 1877, page 5:

"Special Telegram to the Inter Ocean. Clinton, Ill., Aug. 8.--A week ago last Saturday Eli Bell and W. W. Davenport, both farmers in Creek township, Dewitt County, had an altercation about two dollars which Davenport owed Bell for work done on a barn. Davenport finally struck Bell across the back of the head with a scythe he had in his hand. The blow cut through the skull bone, leaving the brain exposed. Bell died today. He was unconscious from the time the fatal blow was struck till he died. Davenport was out on bail for the assault, and this afternoon he was rearrested and is now in jail. Bell leaves a wife and five children. He was a peaceable and industrious man. He served over three years as a soldier during the war."

Daily Illinois State Journal [Springfield, IL], 11 Aug 1877, page 3:

From Clinton. Death from an affray – The Homicide in Jail. Clinton, Ill., Aug. 9, 1877. Special Correspondence State Journal. Eli Bell, after suffering for more than a week, from a severe wound received in the back of his head, by a scythe, from the hands of W. W. Davenport, finally died on Wednesday, and was thus relieved from the great pain and suffering. It was expected from the first that the wound would cause his death, so the news did not cause much surprise. It is a sad affair, as he leaves a wife and several children.

When the news was known that he was dead, Davenport came to Clinton and gave himself up to the proper authorities, and was committed to jail, where he will remain till court sits. It is a bad job all around, inasmuch that the two men were well-known and of good repute heretofore. The affair has cast a cloud over the county generally, and especially in the neighborhood where it occurred and the parties resided. The case will be a peculiar one, as there were no witnesses present when the affray occurred."

1880 Census Vermillion Twp, Ashland County OH, page 250: Elizabeth BELL, age 37 OH, a widow, keeping house, parents born PA; W Grant, son, age 14 OH; Sherman, son, age 9 OH; Minnie, daughter, age 7 OH; Cennah M, daughter, age 5 OH; Rebecca, daughter, age 3 OH; David BUDD, brother, age 32 OH, parents born PA. [The father of all the children was born in OH.]

1890 Veterans Schedule: Vermillion Twp, Ashland Co OH: Line 28, House 252, Family 254: Elizabeth widow of Eli BELL, Pvt Co C 120th OH Inf. Post Office Hayesville, OH.

Sons of Union Veterans: Born 25 Sep 1838. Died 8 Aug 1877. Burial Vermillion Cem, SR60, Hayesville, Vermillion Twp, Ashland County OH.

Elizabeth died 10 Aug 1903.

Daughter's death record, Ohio, Deaths, 1908-1953: Minnie NEELY died 12 Jan 1947, age 75, at Mansfield, OH. Born 1 May 1871 IL. Residence 146 E. Liberty St, Ashland, OH. Parents: Eli BELL, born IL and Elizabeth BUDD, born Ashland Co OH. Spouse: James W. NEELY. Burial Hayesville Cem. Informant Mrs. Herman STRINE of 146 E. Liberty St, Ashland Co OH.

Daughter, Ohio, Deaths, 1908-1953:, Louisa Rebecca Byerly, died 30 Oct 1945. Age 69. Born 21 Jun 1876 at Macon Co IL. Father Eli BELL, BORN IL. Mother Elizabeth BUDD, BORN oh. Widow of Frank BYERLY. Informant E. Dean? BYERLY of Lucas, OH. Burial Hayesville Cem.