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BELL, JAMES MADISON- Born in Hardeman County, Tennessee, July 18, 1817, a son of William and Julia (Johnson) Bell, who came to Texas in January, 1834 with their family and settled near the present town of New Ulm, Austin, County. Their children in order of birth were: Thomas H., William, Granville, Jackson, John, James Madison, Joseph, Adeline and Frank Bell. William Bell, the father, died within a year after arriving in Texas. His widow died in 1846.

At the outbreak of the revolution, James Madison Bell and five of his brothers - Thomas H., William, Granville, Jackson and John promptly enlisted in the army, leaving their widowed mother with Joseph, aged thirteen, and Adeline and Frank. Thomas H., William, and James Madison served in the company of Captain John York in the Storming and Capture of Bexar, December 5 to 10, 1835. James Madison and Thomas H. participated in the battle of San Jacinto as members of Captain Moseley Baker's "San Felipe Company", James M. being first corporal.

In Comptroller's Military Service Record No. 1505 it is certified that James Madison Bell served in the army from February 29 to May 29, 1836. On July 11, 1838 he was issued Donation Certificate No. 448 for having participated in the battle of San Jacinto. In the Head-right Certificate issued to him in 1838 for one-third of a league of land by the Austin County Board of Land Commissioners, the statement that he came to Texas in January, 1834 is verified.

In October, 1848 two bands of Lipan Indians left their camps in

the State of Coahuila, Mexico and entered Texas as a marauding expedition. One band killed George W. Barnett, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, fifteen miles west of Gonzales. On October 9th. The other band killed a Mr. Lockhart and Young Mr. Vivian. The latter band crossed from the west to the east side of the San Antonio River and joined forces with the first band.

When news of the raids reached the settlers of DeWitt County a Company of thirty-two volunteers was raised and the old veteran, Captain John York, was chosen to command them. Richard H. Chisolm was elected lieutenant and Joseph Tumlinson was chosen as the guide. The volunteers then left to pursue the red men. On the night of October 10th they camped on the head waters of the Cabeza, twenty-five miles above Goliad. On the following day they struck the trail of the Indians and pressed forward rapidly. Captain York and others in advance on the banks of the Escondido, a tributary of the San Antonio River, fifteen miles west of Yorktown in Karnes County, were fired upon from ambush by the Indians. Some of the volunteers in the rear became panicky and rendered no assistance. James H. Sykes was the first volunteer to fall. Then James Madison Bell was shot down and killed, and Captain York rushed to the assistance of his son-in-law and while stooping to raise him up was shot through the kidneys and killed. James York, Captain York's son, was shot through the cheeks from side to side. Joseph Tumlinson and Hugh R. Young were also wounded. There were thirty-five or thirty warriors and it was thought that six of them were killed. The bodies of Captain York and Mr.

Bell were buried in a single hand made oak coffin in the York family cemetery eight miles east of Yorktown, DeWitt County, just off the Meyersville-Yorktown road, formerly the Indianola Trail. Mrs. Bell was born in August 1822 and died in January, 1898. She is buried in the Hillside cemetery at Cuero.

Children of Mr. and Mrs. Bell, all of whom are deceased, were Sarah Jane and Julia Bell, who were never married; John York Bell, who married Annie Wofford, and James Robert Bell, who married Mary Eliza Pullen.

Surviving grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. James Madison Bell are: John York Bell, Cuero; Mrs. Myrtle Black, 7639 Luella Avenue, Chicago; ~~John and Albert Bell, Elacide~~; Hodge and James Robert Bell, Cotulla; Frank C. and Miss Sarah Bell, Cuero.