

Private Job K. Bell

COMPANY G, 23RD NEW JERSEY VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

Job K. Bell enrolled in Company G, 23rd New Jersey Volunteer Infantry on August 28, 1862, and was mustered in as a Private on September 13, 1862. He served through the December 1862 Fredericksburg Campaign, and the May 1863 Chancellorsville Campaign, and was honorably discharged with his regiment on June 27, 1863.

Over a year later he returned to service and joined the United States Marine Corps, enlisting on August 9, 1864. He served a full four years, and was honorably discharged on August 9, 1868. Marine Bell served upon the U.S.S. *Vanderbilt* which patrolled the North Atlantic against blockade runners operating out of Halifax and Nova Scotia after extensive repairs in 1863.



“She served on the blockade off Wilmington, North Carolina, beginning in November 1864 and took part in the December 1864 and January 1865 attacks on Wilmington’s Fort Fisher that finally resulted in closing that port to Confederate commerce. In the spring of 1865, *Vanderbilt* carried Sailors to the Gulf of Mexico and towed ironclads between East Coast ports.”(1)

Two Rivertonians, Bvt. Brig. General William Levis James and Marine Job K. Bell, participated in the 1865 Union victory at Fort Fisher, Wilmington, North Carolina. Local history is silent on whether they ever knew one another, despite living in the same town for over thirty years after the war.

“From November 1865 to June 1866 *Vanderbilt* voyaged from the U.S. Atlantic Coast around South America, escorting the ironclad *Monadnock* to San Francisco, California. During October and November 1866 she visited Hawaii, carrying that country’s queen home from the U.S. *Vanderbilt* was laid up at the Mare Island Navy Yard from May 1867 until April 1873, when she was sold to private owners. The ship was subsequently converted to a sailing vessel and renamed *Three Brothers*. Later in the 19th Century she was used as a coal hulk at Gibraltar and was not broken up until 1929.” (1)

Job K. Bell died in January 1923, and was buried in the [Asbury United Methodist Church Cemetery](#), Cinnaminson, NJ.

Reference: (1) SSV*Vanderbilt* (1862-1873) Line engraving by G. Parsons, published in "Harper’s Weekly", 1862, depicting the ship at sea. U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph. <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-v/vanderbt.htm>