

# Harry Bell

## Born

21 September 1860  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

## Entered Service

Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota

## Rank and Organization

Captain  
U.S. Army, 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Volunteers

## War

Philippine Insurrection

## Action Date:

17 October 1899

## Action Location

Porac, Luzon, Philippines

## Died

6 November 1938  
Proviso Township, Cook County, Illinois

## Buried

8 November 1938  
Section R, Site 168  
Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery  
Kansas

## Presentation Date

8 March 1902



Find A Grave  
Photo taken by  
Cheryl Behrned 2007

## Early Years

Harry Bell was born 21 September 1859 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to parents Adam Bell and Katherina Matilda (Boettinger) Bell. His father was born in England and his mother in Germany.<sup>1</sup>

## The War Years

1900 US Military and Naval Population Federal Census shows that Captain Harry Bell was living "in the field" at the Manilla Headquarters, District Department of Southern Luzon, Philippines.<sup>2</sup>

## Medal of Valor

After the Spanish-American War (1898) the Philippines came under the control of the United States. Many Filipinos wanted independence. On 4 February 1899, armed hostilities began between the Americans and the Filipinos. On 24 November 1899 U.S. troops secured control of central Luzon, the major island of the Philippines. Captain Harry Bell was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the battle for Luzon. On 17 October 1899, Captain Bell "led a successful charge against a superior force, capturing and dispersing the enemy and relieving other members of his regiment from a perilous position."

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<sup>1</sup> "Illinois Deaths and Stillbirths, 1916-1947," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N3V6-35R> : accessed 31 May 2016), Harry Bell, 06 Nov 1938; Public Board of Health, Archives, Springfield; Family History Library (FHL) microfilm 1,818,998.

<sup>2</sup> "United States Census, 1900," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M318-TLG> : accessed 31 May 2016), Harry Bell, Manilla Hdqtrs, # District Dept of Southern Luzon, Luzon, Philippines; citing sheet 10A, family , NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,241,839.

## Post War Years

Harry was 43 years old when he married 29-year-old Kate Reimers on 3 August 1904 in Davenport, Scott County, Iowa<sup>3</sup>. The couple's first child, John Morris Bell, was born 17 Jun 1905 in Davenport.<sup>4</sup> Harry moved his young family from Iowa to Kansas about 1906. In 1910 Harry was living on base at Fort Leavenworth with wife Kate and sons John M. age four, Harry F. age three and Walter H. age one.<sup>5</sup> He worked as a "Master Signal Electrician" in the Army Service School. He retired from the military on 7 July 1915.<sup>6</sup>

In 1920 the Harry Bell, his wife and three sons were still living on base, where Harry was employed as a Chief Clerk at the Fort Leavenworth Military Prison.<sup>7</sup>

By 1930 Harry was living apart from his wife and children. He was a roomer in the household of 60-year-old widow Elizabeth Ertley in Columbus City, Franklin County, Ohio. He was employed as a civil service clerk for the U.S. government.<sup>8</sup> The 1930 US census listed Harry as a widower, even though his wife Kate did not die until 11 July 1954.<sup>9</sup> In 1930, Kate Bell was living with 19-year-old son Walter, at 1104 Spruce, Leavenworth Kansas. She too was listed as widowed in the census. Apparently the couple had experienced marital problems and, as was usual for the time, lived apart and declared that their spouse was deceased. Youngest son Walter was employed as a carpenter at this time and he likely provided support for his mother.<sup>10</sup>

## Death and Burial

Harry Bell died 6 November 1938, Proviso Township, Cook County, Illinois.<sup>11</sup> He was buried 8 November 1938, Section R, Lot 168, Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery. Even though Harry and Kate Bell experienced several years of separation, when Kate died in 1954, she was buried next to her husband in Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery in Lot 168.<sup>12</sup>

**Compiled by Shirleen Ann Hoffman  
Lake Minnetonka Chapter DAR**

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<sup>3</sup> "Iowa, County Marriages, 1838-1934", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKJQ-NFJP> : 8 March 2016), Harry Bell and Kate Reimers, 1904.

<sup>4</sup> "Iowa, County Births, 1880-1935," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XVDJ-87L> : accessed 31 May 2016), Harry Bell in entry for John Morris Bell, 17 Jun 1905; citing Davenport, Scott, Iowa, United States; county district courts, Iowa; FHL microfilm 1,004,410.

<sup>5</sup> 1910 U. S. census, Leavenworth County, Kansas, population schedule, Fort Leavenworth Military Reservation, Enumeration District (ED) 91, sheet 28-A, family 109, line 37, Harry Bell; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 June 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 444.

<sup>6</sup> "U.S. National Cemetery Interment Control Forms, 1928-1962," database, *Ancestry* (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 31 May 2016), Harry Bell; citing Interment Control Forms, 1928-1962, Interment Control Forms, A1 2110-B, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, 1774-1985, Record Group 92. The National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.

<sup>7</sup> 1920 U. S. census, Leavenworth County, Kansas, population schedule, Fort Leavenworth, (ED) 95, sheet 2-A, dwelling 38, family 38, Harry Bell; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 June 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 537.

<sup>8</sup> 1930 U. S. census, Franklin County, Ohio, pop. sch., Columbus City, p. 8-B, (ED) 25-115, dwelling 92, family 171, Elizabeth Ertley; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 June 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 1799.

<sup>9</sup> "U.S. National Cemetery Interment Control Forms, 1928-1962," database, *Ancestry* (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 31 May 2016), Kate Bell wife of Harry Bell; citing Interment Control Forms, 1928-1962, Interment Control Forms, A1 2110-B, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, 1774-1985, Record Group 92. The National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.

<sup>10</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Leavenworth County, Kansas, pop. sch., Leavenworth City Ward 3, p. 8-A (ED) 23, dwelling 204, family 204, Kate Bell; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 June 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 708.

<sup>11</sup> "Illinois Deaths and Stillbirths, 1916-1947," database, *FamilySearch*, Harry Bell, 06 Nov 1938.

<sup>12</sup> "U.S. National Cemetery Interment Control Forms, 1928-1962," database, *Ancestry* (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 31 May 2016), Kate Bell wife of Harry Bell.