



# NO SAY CAN YOU SEE

EARLY WASHINGTON, DC LAW & FAMILY PROJECT

## The Bell Family

The Bell family from Prince George's County, Maryland, and Washington, DC, sued for their freedom between 1835-1850, using various claims to try to secure their liberty. These cases and the family who brought them were important in American history.

- ◆ *Daniel Bell v. John Stephenson* (Washington, DC, 1835)
- ◆ *Ann, Daniel, & David Bell v. Gerard T. Greenfield* (Washington, DC, 1836)
- ◆ *Mary Bell v. Susan Armistead* (Washington, DC, 1844)
- ◆ *Eleanora Bell v. Susan Armistead* (Washington, DC, 1844)
- ◆ *Harriet Bell v. Susan Armistead* (Washington, DC, 1846)
- ◆ *Eleanora Bell v. Susan Armistead* (Washington, DC, 1849)
- ◆ *Caroline Butler v. Fielder Magruder* (Washington, DC, 1850)

If you have any information to contribute to the project about this family, please let us know.

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This abbreviated Bell family tree is based on court records from the National Archives in Washington, DC, as well as Maryland and DC probate files, federal censuses, and Freedman's Bank records available online at *Ancestry* and *FamilySearch*.

- Lucy Bell – b. abt 1763; d. 1862, DC
  - Daniel Bell – b. abt 1802/04; d. 1877, DC – filed freedom suit in 1835 against John Stephenson + Mary – b. abt. 1795/1802; d. 1884, DC – filed freedom suit in 1844 against Susan Armistead
    - Andrew Bell – b. abt 1824
    - Mary Ellen Bell – b. abt 1827 + *Jordan Dawley* (1) + *Alex Robertson/Robinson* (2)
    - Caroline Bell – b. abt 1829 + *John Green*
      - Catherine
      - John
    - George W. Bell – b. abt 1831
    - Daniel Bell – b. abt 1833; d. bef 1900, LA + *Louisa Franklin*
    - Harriet Bell – b. abt 1835; d. bef 1875, DC + *Thomas Snow* – filed freedom suit in 1846 against Susan Armistead
    - Eleanora "Nora" Bell – b. abt 1840, DC; d. bef 1875, DC – filed freedom suits in 1844 and 1849 against Susan Armistead
      - Caroline "Carrie" Bell – b. abt 1861, DC
    - Thomas Bell – b. abt 1845, DC; d. abt 1860-1875 ?
  - Ann Bell – b. abt 1795; d. 1783, DC – filed freedom suit in 1835 against Gerard T. Greenfield
    - Daniel Bell – filed freedom suit in 1835 against Gerard T. Greenfield
    - David Bell – filed freedom suit in 1835 against Gerard T. Greenfield
  - Caroline Bell – b. abt 1811 + *William Butler* – filed freedom suit in 1835 against Fielder Magruder
  - Harriet Bell – d. aft 1871 + *James Ash(e)*
  - Catherine "Kitty" Bell + \_\_\_\_ Carroll
  - Eleanor Bell – d. aft 1871 + \_\_\_\_ Tyler

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