

# Exhibit 93

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in the case of:

**People of the Republic of Texas  
and the  
Sovereign Nation of the Republic of Texas**

**v.**

**UNITED NATIONS  
(and all it's Political Subdivisions)  
and  
UNITED STATES  
(and all it's Political Subdivisions)**

**Under Pains and Penalties of perjury and the laws of the Almighty, and being sworn under a vow and oath, I attest that the attached pages are true and correct representations of:**

**Peter Hansborough Bell from: Kenneth Hendrickson, Jr., Chief Executives of Texas, A&M University (Texas).**

**This attestation is made on August 14, 1998.**

*Attest: Coolidge Gordon*  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Ed. Brannum*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
***Witness to source and above signature***

*Jo Helen Brannum*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
***Witness to above signatures***

PETER HANSBOROUGH BELL ☆ 1849-53

Peter H. Bell was a compelling figure. He was tall and slender with a lithe and sinewy body that bespoke strength and vigor; his hair was long and black and his face usually bearded; and his countenance was supple, easily transforming from seriousness to merriment and projecting the image of a polished, cultured gentleman. He was a superb horseman and a crack shot with both pistol and rifle. During his Ranger days, he usually wore two pistols and a Bowie knife in his belt, boots and spurs, a broad sombrero, a hunting shirt of flannel or buckskin, and trousers or leggings of heavy cloth – he looked every inch the rugged frontiersman. In civilian clothes he was always modestly yet stylishly attired, portraying an image of subtle dignity, and the contrast of this image with that of the frontiersman demonstrated the breadth of his lifestyle.

Bell was born in Culpepper County, Virginia, on March 11, 1810. Practically nothing is known about his youth, but he appeared in Texas in March, 1836, and joined Sam Houston's army before the showdown at San Jacinto. There he distinguished himself, and Houston rewarded him with an appointment to his personal staff as adjutant general. Later, in 1839, he served as inspector general of the army, and in 1844, Bell was named commander of the troops in the Corpus Christi district.

The region lying between the Nueces and the Rio Grande was a dangerous and inhospitable place in the 1840s and would remain so for many years. Yet, across this apparently trackless wilderness, there were many trade routes connecting Texas with Mexico. Corpus Christi and Aransas Pass were the entrepôts for most of the goods destined for Mexico; transport across the wilderness from these ports had to be guarded, and this job became the task of the Rangers under Peter H. Bell. His instructions were to expel or exterminate all the outlaws in the region, whether they were Anglos or Mexicans, and he performed his mission with relish and success. When the Mexican War began, Bell's troop joined Wood's regiment and distinguished itself. Bell returned from Mexico in 1847 and resumed his place with the Rangers,

this time on the western frontier. He continued in that capacity until he entered the race for governor.

During the campaign Bell called for a more aggressive policy with respect to the New Mexico question. In December, 1848, shortly after he assumed office, the legislature designated new boundaries for Santa Fe County and created three new counties to the south. Robert S. Neighbors was dispatched to organize these counties, but he encountered substantial hostility; and when his report to Governor Bell was made public in June, 1850, the people demanded action. Bell then called a special session of the legislature to deal with the problem. Meanwhile, the New Mexicans adopted a constitution, President Taylor died, and his successor, Millard Fillmore, made it clear that he favored a peaceful settlement of the issue. Thus, the New Mexico question was linked to several other issues before Congress and was eventually resolved as a part of the Compromise of 1850.

Several plans were considered, including one devised by a congressional committee headed by Henry Clay. With respect to the Texas boundary, Clay's plan provided that Texas would receive ten million dollars in exchange for giving up all claims to land west of a line beginning at the Rio Grande twenty miles above El Paso and ending at the intersection of the one-hundredth meridian and the Red River. This plan failed, but an alternative was soon found that called for the establishment of the Texas boundary as it now stands: Texas was to give up all claims to land beyond this boundary in exchange for ten million dollars, and New Mexico was to become a territory, not a state. At first there was considerable opposition to this proposal in Texas, but it soon withered, and the voters gave their approval in a special election. Governor Bell signed the act of acceptance on November 25, 1850.

This solution to the boundary question still left the issue of the public debt unresolved. By this time the debt had been specifically defined to include claims (by participants in the Revolution and suppliers to the army) designated as ordinary, or nonrevenue debts, and the principal and interest owed to holders of Texas bonds, designated as revenue debt. Texas soon paid the ordinary debt out of funds delivered by the federal government pursuant to the boundary settlement; but the revenue debt proved more difficult to resolve because the federal government insisted on being involved and the state insisted upon scaling it down. Eventually, through agreements made between the state and federal government in 1855 and 1856, the debt was paid

off at about seventy-seven cents on the dollar. Meanwhile, the state made good use of the funds remaining from the boundary settlement. Two million dollars, most of which was subsequently loaned to railroad companies for construction, was set aside for the support of the public schools. From 1852 to 1856, the state also remitted 90 percent of its tax revenues to the counties, which used the tax remission funds for the construction of public buildings, and set aside the other 10 percent for the development of the schools. Hence, Texas was able to develop its public schools, promote internal improvements, and construct public facilities, while at the same time maintaining a low tax rate. Unfortunately, this precedent, set long before the allegedly corrupt Reconstruction era, has carried over into modern times. Texans have always believed that somehow public obligations can and should be met without adequate taxation.

In 1851, Bell was elected to a second term over John A. Greer, Mat T. Johnson, Thomas J. Chambers, and Whig candidate B. H. Epperson. Bell won largely because he was the most pro-Southern of all the candidates and because many Texans applauded his aggressive policies, even if those policies were not always completely successful. The second term was highlighted by the reduction and retirement of the public debt, the settlement of several land claims put forth by former empresarios and their colonists, and frontier defense. Shortly before his term expired, Bell resigned to take the seat in Congress that had been vacated by the death of David S. Kaufman.

Reelected to Congress in 1855, Bell was a favorite of the Pierce administration and a close friend of Secy. of War Jefferson Davis. While serving in Washington, Bell met and married Ella Rives Eaton, the daughter of a wealthy North Carolina planter. When his term expired they settled in North Carolina, and Bell never returned to Texas. During the Civil War and its aftermath, Bell and his wife lost everything and were left impoverished. For years thereafter, their only income was his minuscule pension as a veteran of the Mexican War.

Late in his life, the Texas legislature awarded Bell 1,280 acres of land and an annual pension of \$150.00. This was not a princely sum by any means, but it was an important symbolic gesture recognizing his gallant services to the state so many years before. It did not induce him to come home, however, for he remained in North Carolina until his death on March 8, 1898. In 1929, his body was exhumed and reburied in Austin with appropriate honors.