



HowHos-13-009

NOMINATION FORM  
HALF MILE OF HISTORY

**Section A: Nomination Information**

Name of Nominated person, place or event: F.M. (Frank) Bell

The nominee is being honored for outstanding contributions in the area(s) of (please check all that apply):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Government/Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Aviation	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention/Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil/Gas	

**Section B: Nominator's Information**

Name of person making nomination: Henry Bell III

Address: 608 Green Lane

City: Tyler State: Tx Zip: 75701

Daytime telephone: 903-360-2927 Email: hbell@tylertexas.com

Relationship to nominated individual: great grandson

Nominated Individual's year of birth: 1854 Nominated Individual's year of death: 1988

**Section C: Narrative**

The narrative section of the application is the most important. It is the primary source of information judges use to make their selection of new inductees. The two-page narrative submittal must utilize size 12 Times New Roman font and be double spaced. Please include a recommended 25-30 word marker caption at the end of the narrative. Any additional material will be referred to only for verification of accuracy of the nomination. No submitted materials will be returned.

The narrative section must contain an explanation of the nominee's enduring contribution that make this person/place/event worthy of the honor. Please describe the impact the nominee has had on the community, county, region, nation and/or world. For Individuals, please include any honors earned by the nominee as well as a list of organizations in which the nominee has been involved. Also, please indicate their educational background as well as the length of time the individual has lived in Smith County. Inclusion of photos is preferred but optional. Do not send original photos. All submitted materials will become property of the City of Tyler and its Historical Preservation Board.

Please submit nominations to:  
City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board  
Attention: Half Mile of History  
P.O. Box 2039  
Tyler, Texas 75710

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APR 11 2013

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## City of Tyler: Half Mile of History

### **F. M. (Frank) Bell**

Francis (Frank) M. Bell, Jr. was born in 1854 to Francis Marion and Martha Marsh Bell. He was considered at one time to be one of the oldest Tylerites to live in Smith County. Frank was a farmer, grocery store owner and was the essence of American pioneer life. His close connections with those very early days in Tyler made a conversation with him seem like a living history of Tyler/Smith County.(see attached). Bell continued the development of the Tyler area his father and mother had begun at Front and Broadway to Houston and Broadway and west to Vine Street. He and his mother subdivided the property eventually naming streets for family members such as Bryan which still runs east to west on the property. The north-south streets which today are College, Bois 'd Arc and Bonner were aligned to a city plan but later the plan changed. Today traveling north or south of those streets requires sharp dog-leg turns crossing Houston and Front Streets. Frank married Sallie Swann and had 5 children including Frank who was Tyler's postmaster for many years and Henry, a long time community leader. Frank and Sallie were staunch supporters and leaders of the Tyler community. They pushed for many years expansion of Front Street to 4 lanes as they believed it would someday be a part of a major highway through Tyler. The Bells also strongly believed the community should all come together on Sunday no matter what part of town they lived in and opened their property each Sunday for a community picnic. Frank died in 1938 and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Tyler. He left his family, who for many generations have been instrumental in leading and helping Tyler grow, including Henry Bell Sr., Henry Bell Jr., Henry Bell 111 and Allen Bell.