

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to Peter Foster VAS3620  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

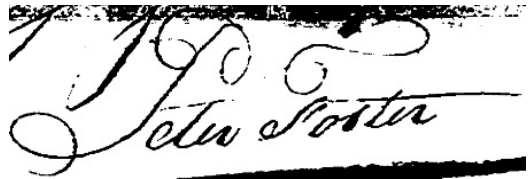
[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) in two files.]

This is to Certify that Peter Foster enlisted on board the Henry Galley the 17<sup>th</sup> may in the year 1777 and served his time out until 17<sup>th</sup> may 1780  
Joshua Singleton Lt [S7510]  
a Copy/ J. Pendleton Jr  
Del'd Mr M Anderson

July 26<sup>th</sup> 1783

Sir I shou'd be very much oblige to you to give Griffith a Certificate of my [several illegible words] and you will greatly oblige your [illegible] Peter Foster

Colo. Meriwether

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Foster". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

To His Excellency the Governor of Virginia [9 July 1835]

The memorial of Peter Foster William Foster Wm. H Foster & Ann Debnam representatives of Peter Foster respectfully states that they have Always been told that their ancestor entered the Navy of Virginia as a Carpenters Mate very early after the Commencement of the War of the Revolution. In a short time he was promoted to the rank of midshipman as they are informed the Journals of the Navy board on file in the office of the Auditor of Virginia fully proved continued to serve his country faithfully until the Navy was reduced or he was discharged. of these statements your memorialists know nothing of their own knowledge they are derived from the record & tradition of the family.

Your memorialists beg leave to state that they are residents of the State of North Carolina and are unacquainted with any person who can prove positively the rank of their ancestor, except that he was a Midshipman. the records they are informed prove that fact, but do not designate whether he was the first or second Midshipman. He is reputed to have been a meritorious officer and has frequently related to your memorialists, the particular engagements in which he rendered his Country service. They hope that the quantity of Land (Viz 2666 $\frac{2}{3}$ ) heretofore allowed to Midshipmen, may be allowed to them now Your memorialists would ask the attention of the Governor & Council to the report of Mr Smith Doct. No 33 in which their Ancestor is reported to be entitled to Land Bounty as Midshipman for 3 years service and as in duty bound &c &c &c [signed] P Foster W. Foster Wm. H. Foster Ann herXmark Debnam Test S. Patterson as to Ann Debnam

Report upon the claim of the heirs of Peter Foster midshipman, in the State Navy, for bounty land for his services.

To the Governor/ Sir,

Peter Fosters name is on a list of officers and men of the Henry Galley, sign'd by Ro. Tompkins Captain [Robert Tompkins R102]. (See Vol. 1 navy Papers – Henry Galley &c) There is no date to this list; but it must have been made out before April 8, 1778. at that time Lieut. Joshua Singleton took command of the Henry Galley. (See Journal of the navy of that date. \_ on this list Peter Foster is nam'd as Carpenters mate.

There were sundry orders of the Navy Board, extending from the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 1778 to Sept. 29, 1778, for the delivery from the public store &c of articles for his own use. These orders prove that he was

in service in the Henry and the Hero Gallies. (see large Navy Journal, pages 383 - 436 - 415 - 478. one entry in the smaller navy Journal shews him in service May 12, 1779. (See Journal N. B. p. 36)

It does not appear in any of the Navy Journals, that he left the service. These Journals were faithful records of the resignations of officers.

I have heretofore reported Peter Foster intitled to bounty land, for a service of 3 years as Midshipman. (see No. 5 a list of officers of the navy &c &c doc. no. 33 page 5. Journals of the House of Delegates Session 1833-34) I must then have seen some proof of his being Midshipman, but now I can find none. I presum'd in favor of the claim, and reported it good.

The claimants have not produc'd any proof; but have submitted their claim on the evidence of public documents.

Respectfully submitted/ John H Smith Comr. &c

July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1835

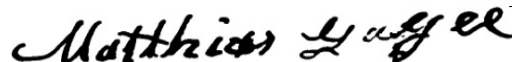
[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

The deposition of Isaac Smith [S11427] who is 75 years of age

who says he was well and intimately acquainted with Peter Foster of Kingston Parish then a part of Gloucester County now constituting Mathews County that said Peter Foster enlisted in the year 1776 under Capt Robert Tompkins on board the Henry Galley the sid Peter Foster as I believe was a midshipman on board the said galley that I saw him ofttimes whilst he was attached to sid vessel the sid Peter Foster served in the virginia navy in the Revolutionary war untill the end of it. Given under my hand and seal this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July in the year 1835



The deposition of Matthias Gayle [S16818] who says he is 74 years of age. I Matthias Gayle of the County of Mathews and state of virginia do hereby Certify that I was well acquainted with Peter Foster formerly of that part of Gloucester County caled Kingston parish now constituting Mathews County the said Peter Foster enlisted under Capt Robert Tompkins in the year 1776 or 77 in the virginia State navy on board the Henry galley as a midshipman for the term of three years but continued in the virginia navy untill the end of the war by frequently seeing the said Foster whilst he was attached to said navy. Given under my hand and seal this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July in the year 1835



Richmond July 31 1835

To His Excellency the Governor of Virginia,

The heirs of Mr peter Foster have desired me to ask a reconsideration of their claim upon the evidence herewith enclosed viz. the affidavit of Matthias Gayle and Isaac Smith two respectable citizens of Mathews who knew him well and testify to his rank. He entered the Navy as a Carpenters mate but was afterwards promoted to the rank of Midshipman

Mr Smith in his report on the claim states that he thinks he must have seen his name mentioned as midshipman but could not then refer to it in the record. The evidence now submitted is clear on that point and they pray that the former allowance to him as a Carpenters mate may be rescinded & annulled and the same bounty allowed to other Midshipmen may be allowed to him. And as in duty bound &c.

[undeciphered signature]

NOTE: See Robert Hall R40 for reference to the heirs of Peter Foster.