

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Foster R3693

f23VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/18/12

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Indiana Marion County: SS

On this 18th day of November 1836 personally appeared before the Probate Court of Marion County Samuel Foster a resident in the County of Marion aforesaid aged seventy-three years last February who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith and on his oath doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by act of Congress of June 7, 1832.

1st. That he volunteered his service in the spring or summer of the year 1778 under Jesse Pigman Captain, John Miner [John Minor] Colonel, Joseph Vanmater Lieutenant of the officers forgotten at Swansfort [Swan's Fort?] at the Muddy Creek settlement (the place of his residence) near the Monongahela River in what was then disputed whether it was Pennsylvania or Virginia. He continued at the above fort at least four months. His engagement while there was scouting as an Indian Spy working and guarding Fort. He was called out by Captain Jesse Pigman aforesaid – during the time of this service he was not employed in any civil pursuit. Of the above statement he says this must be understood that this service was a settlement arrangement – that the neighbors built the fort – and the object was mutual self-defense from the Indians in the pursuit of their business. He was in no engagement and his company had none.

2nd. He then remained at his above-mentioned home until the spring of the year 1779 when he left home and went down the Ohio [River] in canoes to the falls where Louisville now is – There he volunteered in a company under William Herod Captain and served at least three months under him. Twenty-five or thirty days of this time was taken up and going back to Wheeling in a Keel Boat & from there home. In this going back he was in Colonel Bowman's campaign and stood as Boat Guard and received his part of the spoils taken from the Indians on little Miami [River]. There was an engagement but this applicant was not in it being one (of twenty he thinks) left as above mentioned to guard the Boats and the sick. During this time he attended to no civil pursuit.

3rd. He then remained at his above-mentioned home during the winter of 1779 & '80 and then in seeding time about the last of July or first of August in 1780 he volunteered under William Crawford, Captain, John Miner Colonel, to guard the frontiers, at Jonah Jared's fort or station on Big Whitely Creek (which put into the Monongahela a little above Mud Creek). He remained at this Fort at least one month – had no engagements – his employment was to guard the frontiers from the ravages of the Indians. He was continually on foot for this purpose of guarding more especially the streams. During the time of this service he attended to no civil pursuit. After his term of service expired he returned home which was about ten miles from the Fort.

4th. He then remained at home until sometime in June of 1781 at which time his class on

the muster roll and he with them went to John Anchram's fort on Ten Mile Creek about eight miles from home and under Jesse Pigman Captain and Asariah Davis (he thinks) Ensign he served one month – had no engagements – attended to no civil pursuits except this that some of the men by terms helped to cultivate the soil while the others stood guard and scouted out – the object was to keep the soldiers busy – he then returned home with his class.

5th. He then remained at home until the summer of 1782 and went out about corn hoeing time in that year to the ten mile Creek again. He had no engagements – had the same officers and the same employments as the previous year and after remaining one month returned home and this was the last of his service.

He states he did not apply sooner for his pension in consequence of bodily infirmities arising from age and a want of convenience of a person that he could rely on as being competent – he says his neighbors were often requesting him to apply.

In answer to the interrogatories propounded by the War Department he answers as follows

1st He was born in Prince George County Maryland on the first day of February 1763.

2nd. He has a record of his age taken by himself from his father's Bible showing him to be of the age first stated.

3rd. He was residing in the place named in his foregoing declaration when called into service. After the revolution to wit in the year 1787 he moved to Kentucky where he lived until about 6 years past when he moved to Indiana and Union County where he lived until this fall when he came to Marion County to live with his son where he now resides.

4th. He was called in the service as stated in the full born declaration.

5th. When he descended the River to go to Louisville as above related he salt Continental troops at Fort Pitt and at Fort McIntosh but how many or who commanded them he cannot recollect and that from the frailty of body & mind he is unable to name any other officers or incidents than above stated.

6th. He does not recollect whether he ever received a discharge if so he has lost it.

7th. Since he removed from Kentucky he has formed but very few acquaintances in the State but he is well acquainted with Amos Milner¹ and Jesse Pigman² the son of the Captain above named with whom he served at the forts above named during one or more of the tours above described also Job Preble³ who resided in the neighborhood of his father during the revolution. He has not formed but few acquaintances in the neighborhood where he now resides but is acquainted with Benjamin C. McDuffy who resides about eight miles from his son with whom he now lives who knew this applicant in the State of Kentucky and lived in the same neighborhood with hi for thirty-four years and, also Rice Millner who has known him about twenty years in Kentucky and this State and has lived a close neighbor to him almost all that time – both of whom can state as to his character for veracity as well as their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution – as the said McDuffy's father and this applicant frequently talked over the services of the Revolution in which they had both engaged. This applicant knows of no person except the said Pigman, Milner and Preble who now reside in Fayette & Union Counties Indiana about sixty miles from his present residence who know of his revolutionary services & who are men of good character and whose affidavits are hereto attached. He knows of no clergyman residing in this County who has any knowledge actual or traditional of his

¹ FPA R7252 ½

² FPA R8250

³ FPA R8442

revolutionary services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

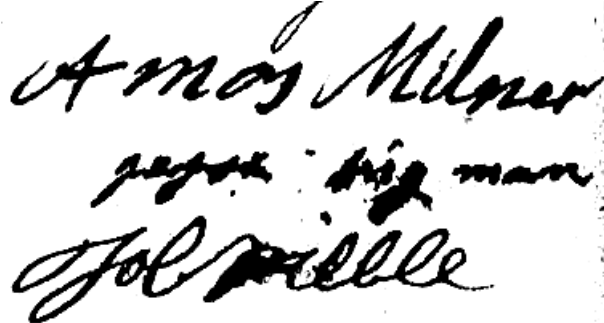
S/ Robert B Duncan, Clerk

S/ Samuel Foster

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel Foster". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted.

[Benjamin C McDuffy and Rice Millner gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The deposition of Amos Milner aged 77 years, and of Jesse Pigman aged 72 years and of Job Preble age 76 years taken before me, George Newland a Justice of the Peace within and for the County of Union and State of Indiana on the 4th day of October 1836. The deponent's being first sworn depose and say that Samuel Foster served as a Soldier in the Revolutionary war about 4 years under Captains Jesse Pigman and Joseph Vanmetre under Colonel John Miner in the Monongahela country in what was then called the Virginia line and further they say not.

Three handwritten signatures in cursive script. The first line reads "Amos Milner", the second line reads "Jesse Pigman", and the third line reads "Job Preble". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted.