

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Foster S1515

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 21 Feb 2014.

Virginia, county of Charlotte towit:

On this 1st day of October 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of Charlotte, now sitting John Foster, a resident of the said County and State of Virginia aged Seventy nine years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7 1832.

That he served one year as a regular Soldier in the army of the United States in the Revolutionary war. He enlisted for the term of two years in the County of Prince Edward (where he then resided) under Capt John Morton [VAS765] in the Spring of the year 1776, and marched to Portsmouth in Virginia, & was attached to the 4th Virginia Regiment Commanded by Col [Robert] Lawson, and to the Brigade Commanded by Genl Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens]. they remained at Portsmouth until some time in the fall of the same year, they then took shipping and sailed to somewhere in the neighbourhood of the head of Elk River [now Elkton MD] and landed, & marched on foot through several villages or small Towns Wilmington, Christeens [possibly Christiana DE], to Chester, in Pensylvania, at the last place they remained something like a month, from thence they marched through Philadelphia to Trenton in New Jersey, here they made a short stay, from thence they marched through Princeton and Brunswick to a small place called Amboy, here they also remained a short time. they received orders to join Genl Washington in his retreat from near New York, they accordingly marched back to Trenton & crossed the [Delaware] river into Pensylvania. the army was scattered up and down the River to prevent the enemy from crossing. The Brigade to which the applicant belonged was stationed about 12 miles up the river & continued there until the 24th december of the same year the army then recrossed the river & made an attack upon Trenton [26 Dec 1776] then in possession of the enemy, the enemy were defeated, few or none escaped we also took six cannon from the enemy. during the battle the applicant received a wound in the leg from a shot. after the battle the whole army again recrossed the river into Pensylvania and encamped upon the ground they had formerly occupied. in a short time however they were again ordered over into the Jersey side. they accordingly crossed the river again. The applicant owing to the wound in the leg very unable to continue with the army, he was reported unfit for duty, and sent to Philadelphia with the sick where he remained the greater part of the Winter. from there he was sent back with the other sick to Chester where he was taken with the small pox from which he did not recover until about February of the year 1777. he then hired one James McDearman as a substitute who was accepted. The applicant accordingly left the army. he was discharged by Col Lawson & the discharge he has lost he has no written evidence of his service, but expects to prove it by Majr James Morton [pension application S9035]

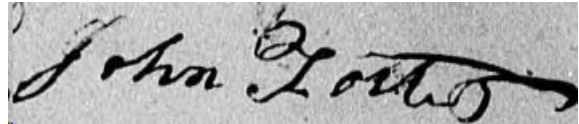
That he also served four tours of duty as a Soldier in the Militia of Virginia
1st. In the latter part of the Summer or early in the fall of the year 1777 he volunteered to serve a tour of duty of 3 months under Capt Thomas Flournoy of the County of Prince Edward, Thomas Moore Lieutenant they marched to Williamsburg on James River, from thence to Little York where they remained until the expiration of the 3 months – he does not recollect the whole of the officers in Command, he however recollects Genl [Thomas] Nelson & Major Walker [probably George Walker] from P Edward, – he received no written discharge & has no documentary evidence of his service, but expects to prove it by Henry Dawson [S10549] of the County of Prince Edward
2^d. Something above a year after the expiration of the former service he was drafted from the County of Prince Edward to serve another tour of six weeks. he accordingly marched to Petersburg in Virga under Capt John Clark and Lieutenant Benjamin Allen. the enemy had appeared on the Coast of Virginia & were expected to land, and the militia were called out to resist the invasion, the enemy however soon disappeared & the the militia were discharged after a service of six weeks. they were never embodied. he

received no written discharge, & has no documentary evidence to prove this service, nor does he at present recollect any person now living by whom he can prove it.

3^d. After the last term of service had expired he returned home to the County of Prince Edward and shortly afterward removed to the County of Charlotte (an adjoining County) and was again drafted to serve another tour in the militia and accordingly marched under Capt Richard Gaines from the County of Charlotte to the Neighbourhood of Portsmouth (which was then in possession of the enemy) the applicant was taken from Capt Gaines's company & attached to a Company of light infantry commanded by Capt Jesse Saunders. Col Alexander Dick was the Commander of the light infantry – there was another Company of light infantry commanded by Capt Long or Lom or some such name – he was in no regular battle but was frequently in slight skirmishes – he continued in this service for three months, and was then discharged, but received no written discharge, nor has he any documentary evidence of his service, but expects to prove it by Wilcher Cardwell [Wiltshire Cardwell W6632] of this county who served with him

4th. Shortly previous to the end of the war, he was again drafted into the militia and marched from the County of Charlotte under capt Gedeon Spencer [Gideon Spencer] to the Siege of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], his Company was attached to the Regiment Commanded by Col. [St. George] Tucker, and continued there until the Surrender of the British army under Lord Cornwallis to Genl Washington – in this service he was engaged three months – he received no written discharge, but expects to prove this service by Wilcher Cardwell, James Pugh [W5588], & David Bartee [S6586] or some on of them who served with him.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an 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 & year aforesaid

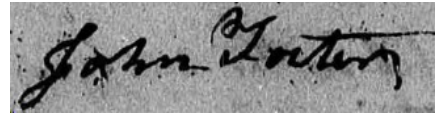
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Foster". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

State of Virginia, Charlotte County SS.

Personally appeared before the subscriber James P Marshall a justice of the peace in and for the said county of Charlotte John Foster the applicant on this 25th day of October 1833 and who being first duly sworn according to law doth make the following amendment to his original declaration containing answers to the objections of the War department to the admission of his claim to a pension under the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 which objections are marked in red Ink in the brief accompanying the return of his original declaration and referred to by the Letters D, E, M, In answer to the objection marked D, the applicant sayeth that it was in the year 1780 he served the tour of one month and twelve days and that in 1781 he served the tour of three months the period not satisfactorily stated in his original declaration – 2^{dly} In answer to the objection marked E relative to the precise length of his service the applicant deposes and sayeth that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades 1st tour that for one year he served as a private in the regular army. 2^d tour, that for three months he served as second seargeant which the certificate of Henry Dawson will prove 3^d Tour that for one month and twelve days he served as an orderly seargeant of which he has no proof Documentary or living 4th tour that for three months he served as an orderly Seargeant which is proved by the certificate of James Pugh who served with him 5th tour that for three months he served as a private

In answer to the objection marked M he sayeth that he was born in the county of Amelia State of Virginia in the year 1753 he further states that he has no record of his age but he copied it from his fathers family Bible into one of his own and was torn out by some of his children. The applicant deems it proper for

him to say that at the time his original declaration was drafted he did not know there was any grade below commissioned officers or he would have stated his grade at that time.

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "John Foster".

NOTE: On 3 July 1837 John Foster applied to have his pension transferred to Tennessee, having moved to Jackson in Henderson County because “the most of his Children emigrated from the State of Virginia to The State of Tennessee, and he felt desirous to spend the remainder of his days as near them as he could conveniently settle, and also beleived that he could make a support for himself and family, with more ease than he could have done in Virginia.”

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Foster John
Transcription by Fred Weyler

VA

S1515
10Oct2013

[p2] Virginia certificate 23.191
Transferred to Jackson Tennessee
Charlotte County VA
Private under Captain Morton, Colonel Lawson
22 months and 12 days
Issued 29Nov1833 @ \$74.66/annum

[p3] Virginia, County of Charlotte Court:

On this 1st day of October 1832, personally appeared in open court before the County Court of Charlotte, now sitting John Foster, a resident of the said county and State of Virginia aged seventy nine years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7 1832.

That he served one year as a regular soldier in the army of the United States in the Revolutionary war. He enlisted for the term of two years in the County of Prince Edward, where he resided, under Capt John Morton in the Spring of the year 1776 and marched to Portsmouth in Virginia. _____ Marched with 4th Virginia Regiment commanded by Col Lawson and to the Brigade commanded by Genl Stephens. They remained at Portsmouth until some time in the fall of the same year. They then took shipping and sailed to somewhere in the neighborhood of the head of Elk River and landed & marched on foot through several villages or small towns Wilmington, Christeans, to Chester, in Pennsylvania [?]. At the last place they remained some thing like a month. From thence they marched through Philadelphia to Trenton in New Jersey. Here they made a short stay. From thence they marched through Princeton and New Brunswick to a small place called Amboy. Here they also remained a short time. They received orders to join Genl Washington in his retreat from near New York. They accordingly marched back to Trenton & crossed the river into Pennsylvania. The army soon scattered up and down the river to prevent the enemy from crossing. The brigade to which the applicant belonged was stationed about 12 miles up the river stationed there until the 24th December of the same year. Then the army then recrossed the river & made an attack upon Trenton then in possession of the enemy. The enemy was defeated, few or none escaped. We also took six cannon from the enemy. During the battle the applicant received a wound in the leg from a shot. After the battle the whole army again recrossed the river into Pennsylvania and encamped upon the ground they had formerly occupied. In a short time however they were again ordered over into the Jersey side. They accordingly crossed the river again. The applicant owing to the wound in the leg was unable to continue with the army. He now reported unfit for duty & was sent to Philadelphia with the sick where he remained the greater

[p4] part of the winter. Xxxx from there he was sent back with the other sick to Chester where he was taken with the small pox from which he did not recover until about February of the year 1777. He then hired one James M Dearmon as a substitute who was accepted. The applicant accordingly left the army. He was discharged by Col Lawson, the discharge he has lost. He has no written evidence of his service, but expects to prove it by Major James Morton of the County of Prince Edward.

That he also served four tours of duty as a soldier in the militia of Virginia.

1st In the latter part of the Summer or early in the fall of the year 1777 he volunteered to serve a tour of duty of 3 months under Capt Thomas Flournoy of the County of Prince Edward, Thomas Moore Lieutenant. They marched to Williamsburg on James River. From thence to Little York where they remained until the expiration of the 3 months. He does not recollect the whole of the officers in command. He however recollects Genl Nelson & Major Washer from P Edward. He received no written discharge thus no documentary evidence, but expects to prove it by Henry Dawson of the County of Prince Edward.

2nd Something above a year after the expiration of the prior service he was drafted from the County of Prince Edward to serve another tour of six months. He accordingly marched to Petersburg in Virginia under Capt John Clark and Lieutenant Benjamin Allen. The enemy had appeared on the coast of Virginia & were expected to land and the militia were called on to resist the invasion. The enemy however soon disappeared & the Va Militia were discharged after a service of six weeks. They were never embodied. He received no written discharge, thus no documentary evidence to prove this service, nor does he at present recollect any person now living by whom he can prove it.

3rd After the last tour of service had expired he returned home to the County of Prince Edward and shortly removed to the County of Charlotte (an adjoining county) and was again drafted to serve another tour in the militia and accordingly marched under Capt Richard Gaines from the County of Charlotte to the neighborhood of Portsmouth (which was then in possession of the enemy). The applicant was taken from Capt Gaines' Company & attached to a company of light infantry commanded by Capt Jesse Saunders, Col Alexander Dick was

[p5 county court certification

David Ball, neighbor

Lindsay B Tarpley, neighbor

Winslow Robinson, clerk]

I do hereby certify that John Foster now a resident of the county of Charlotte enlisted in the Company of Capt John Morton in the County of Prince Edward in the beginning of the year 1776 who belonged to the 4th Virginia Regiment of the Virginia line for the term of two years. He marched to Norfolk and Portsmouth and from thence to the north. He was at the battle of Trenton on the 26th December 1776, was there slightly wounded and was sent down to Philadelphia to the hospital. I was an officer in the same company to which he was attached and believe that he served in the same twelve months or more at which time he hired a substitute by the name of Jas McDearmon. Given under my hand this 29th September 1832.

James Morton

[p6] certification of James Morton statement by Henry Thweatt, JP

Prince Edward County to wit:

Henry Dawson personally appeared before me Lillious D Womack, a justice of the peace for the county aforesaid & made oath that he was with John Foster in the service of the revolution in the militia service under Capt Thomas Flournoy & Lieut. More & that said John Foster did at York Town serve a tour of 3 months. Given under my had & seal this 7 day of September 1832.

Lillious D Womack

Virginia, Charlotte County to wit:

Wiltshire Cardwell personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for the aforesaid county and made oath that he was in the service of the Revolution with John Foster.

That they marched from Charlotte County in the militia under Capt Richard Gaines to Portsmouth and then the said Foster was transferred to the light infantry and served the balance of the three months under what Capt he does not recollect, but Col Dick was the commander of the light infantry. Also he made oath that he served with the said John Foster from Charlotte under Capt Gideon Spencer a tour of duty at the siege of York and was there when the British army under Lord Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington. Given under my hand this 27th Sept 1832.

Wm B Watkins

[p7] the commander of the light infantry. There was another company of light infantry commanded by Capt Long or Lom or some such name. He was in no regular battle but was frequently in slight skirmishes. He continued in this service for three months and was then discharged but received no written discharge nor has he any documentary evidence of his service but expects to prove it by Wilsher Cardwell of this county who served with him.

4th Shortly previous to the end of the war he was again drafted into the militia and marched from the County of Charlotte under Capt Gideon Spencer to the siege of York. His company was attached to the regiment commanded by Col Tucker and continued there until the surrender of the British army under Lord Cornwallis to Genl Washington. On this service he was engaged three months. He received no written discharge, but expects to prove this service by Wilsher Cardwell, James Pugh, & David Bartee or some one of them who served with him.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an 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 & year aforesaid.

John Foster

[routine county supporting statements and certification

David Bell, neighbor

Lindsay B Tarpley, neighbor

Henry Dawson, James Morton, Wiltshire Cardwell fellow soldiers

William B Watkins, JP

Branch J Worsham, clerk

Lillious D Womack, JP

[p9] amended declaration 25Oct1833, Charlotte County, before James P Marshall JP by John Foster to answer objections by the War Department:

Served a month and 12 days in 1780

Served three months in 1781

1st tour a year

2nd tour three months as sergeant

3^d tour one month and 112 days as sergeant

4th tour of 3 months as sergeant

Born in Amelia County Virginia in 1753

[certification by Winslow Robinson, clerk

William B Watkins, JP]

Virginia, Charlotte County

This is to certify that James Price of the county aforesaid a respectful and creditable man about 73 years old personally appeared before me William B Watkins, a justice of the piece [sic] for the said county aforesaid and made oath that he was well acquainted with John Foster a soldier

of the Revolutionary War and that the said J Foster was orderly sergeant in Capt Jesse Sanders company of light infantry and served 3 months from the 9th Jany until the 9th April 1781 in Majr Duke battalion Col Fleming Regiment & Genl Muhlenburg commander and that the said John Foster was then a residents of Charlotte County and is still a resident of the said county.

James Pugh

Sworn to and subscribed before this 25th day October 1833. Given under my hand &&

Wm B Watkins JP

[p31]

State of Virginia, Prince Edwards County: S.S.

On this 12th day of October 1833 personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for the county aforesaid Mr Henry Dawson who made oath according to law that he was acquainted with John Foster during the revolutionary war and that he served with the said Foster in the year 1777 under Captain Flournoy and knew that the said John Foster served as second sergeant in said Flournoy's company of militia for the space of three months during the whole of which time he served in the capacity of second sergeant and he also states that the said Foster is now a resident of Charlotte County.

Henry Dawson

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day & year above written

J H Wilson JP