

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Peter Foster¹ S46443

f46VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

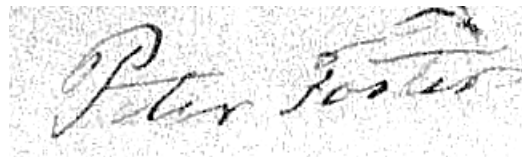
8/17/12 supp'd 5/9/15

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

Revolutionary Claim

For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of an Act entitled "An Act for the relief of certain surviving Officers and soldiers of the Revolution" approved on the 15th May 1828, I Peter Foster of the County of Hanover Virginia do hereby declare that I entered the service of the United States early in the year 1776 as a marine under the command of Thomas Lilly Captain Cpmtd. Of the Brig *Liberty*, where I remained twelve months in service, during which time the brig *Liberty* captured the British ship *Jane*; after which I entered as an orderly Sergeant in the Company of Captain Thomas Meriwether of Gibson's Regiment, first on State and then on Continental establishment, which marched to the North and served with the Continental Army both to the North & South during the whole revolutionary contest. In 1780 I was promoted to the rank of 1st Lieutenant, in which capacity I served in the southern Army until 1781, when I joined the Army under General Lafayette in Virginia and was then appointed an adjutant to Colonel John Pleasants Regiment of mixed Troops of regulars, volunteers and militia. I hereby further declare that in 1783 my father's House was consumed by fire, in which my said Commission as Lieutenant and all the other papers of my military services were consumed and the evidence of all my rights of service entirely lost, which would have established my continuance in service to the end of the Revolutionary War.

S/ Peter Foster



Hanover County to wit

Samuel Tinsley² came before me on the above date and made oath that Peter Foster entered the service during the War of the Revolution in the Brig *Liberty* commanded by Captain Lilly and afterwards he went to the North as Sergeant in Captain Meriwether's Company belonging to the 1st Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Gibson and after he returned from the North he served in the South and that he knows that the said Peter Foster's father's house was burnt. From under my hand this 27th day of February 1829

¹ BLWt1770-200 Va. Half Pay

² [Samuel Tinsley S6243](#)

S/ Reuben Meredith

City of Washington, to wit

John Nicholas³ this 7th day of November 1829 came before me a Magistrate for the County of Washington District of Columbia & made oath, that he knows the within named Peter Foster personally & intimately, & that he was 1st as a Sergeant in Gibson's Regiment in which the affiant was a Captain, & then as Lieutenant as set forth in the within Declaration, & that he is a man of high respectability & honor & that what he asserts upon oath & is unknown & beyond what is here sworn to by the Affiant.

From before

S/ R. S. Briscoe, JP

[p 8]

District of Columbia County of Washington: SS

I Peter Foster Lieutenant aged 73 years, do upon oath testify and declare, that I entered the service of the United States on the __ day of __ in the year 1776 in the term of the war of the Revolution and that I served in the company commanded by Captain T. Meriwether in the Regiment No. 4, commanded by Colonel George Gibson of the Continental line, and was honorably discharged at on the end of the war in the year 1783, from the Regiment commanded by said Gibson.

I further declare, that I have never received a warrant for the Bounty Land promised to me on the part of the United States; nor have I ever assigned or transferred my claim in any manner whatsoever: therefore

[power of attorney language crossed out]

S/ Peter Foster

[acknowledged September 30, 1831]

[f p. 5: Power of attorney dated March 18, 1845, given by Edwin Shelton of Hanover County Virginia as administrator of the estate of Peter Foster, a revolutionary Officer wherein the attorney is authorized to pursue the claim to half pay due the veteran as an officer in Colonel Gibson's Regiment.]

[p 11]

Know you that from special trust and confidence is reposed in your fidelity, Courage, activity, and good Conduct, I do hereby appoint you Adjutant to my Regiment composed of regulars and militia and to take rank as such given under my hand in Camp this 2nd day of March 1781


S/ Jno. Pleasents Col. [John Pleasants, Colonel]

David Whitlock

Lieut.

³ [John Nicholas S46397](#)

Know you that from special trust
and confidence reposed in your
fidelity, courage, activity, and
good conduct, I do hereby appoint
you Adjutant to my Reg^t composed
of ~~Reg~~ regulars and militia and
to take rank as such given
under my hand in Camp this
2^d day of Mar. 1781
David Mitchell
Lieut^t
In^o Presence
Col^l [Signature]



[p 13]

By the request of Captain Peter Foster I do hereby Certify that I was a bare keep [barkeeper?]⁴ to Mr. Thomas Foster of Hanover Town, when his house was consumed by fire in the year 1783 where Captain Peter foster's trunk of papers was launched, which contained his military papers of every description, among them was his Commission as a 1st Lieutenant in Colonel George Gibson Regiment. Given under my hand this 16th day May 1789

Test: S/ George Clarke

S/ Wm Cooper

[p 15]

Being called on by Captain Peter Foster to state what rank he bore in the United States Army, I do hereby certify that we both entered into service in the summer of 1776 in one Company commanded by Captain Thomas Meriwether in Colonel George Gibson's Regiment on the Continental establishment; and when the time of our enlistment expired which was for three years he was a 1st Lieutenant in that Regiment.

Given under my hand this 15th day of June 1790

S/ Wm White,⁵ Lieut.

Bare keep

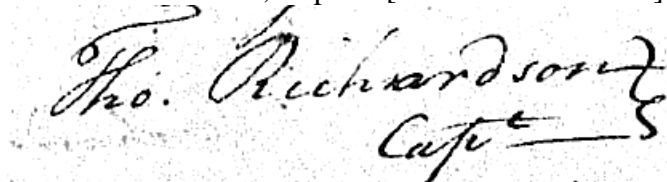
4

⁵ [William White W4099](#)

[p 31]

I do hereby certify that Peter Foster, a Supernumerary officer at a 1st Lieutenant in Colonel George Gibson's Regiment on the Continental establishment joined Colonel John Pleasants Regiment to which I belonged in the winter of 1780 and continued in service as 1st Lieutenant and adjutant until the British troops capitulated at Yorktown Virginia.

S/ Tho. Richardson, Captain [Thomas Richardson]

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tho. Richardson" with "Capt" written below it. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[attested July 10, 1793 in Hanover County Virginia.]

[p 25]

Hanover County Virginia February 25, 1829

The Honorable Richard Rush

Dear Sir

I have sent on my testimonials of my grade in the Continental Army by my friend Colonel John Nicholas, who will take any Communications you may think proper to make me. I am extremely sorry that I could not send you my commission as 1st Lieutenant in Colonel Gibson Regiment, the reason is, it was consumed by fire with a number of my other military papers – the testimony of Captain Richardson & Lieutenant White I suppose will be sufficient to establish my grade in the Army. They were Gentlemen of high respectability should you think it necessary for me to support by on reputation I beg leave to refer you to the following Gentlemen – the is – Colonel John Nicholas, Major Andrew Stevenson, speaker of the house of Congress, and Mr. B. Bassett, a member of Congress from Virginia, those gentlemen know may well be will inform you who I am and what confidence may be placed in me. It would be unnecessary to recount all my transactions in War it remains only to say that I served my Country during the War I fought in six engagements, was wounded and my horse killed under me. Colonel John Nicholas and myself served in the southern Army as well as the northern though in separate corps after the action of Camden, which I was then, our detachment returned to Virginia and joined General Lafayette's troops in Richmond. I was then appointed adjutant to Colonel Pleasants Regiment composed of regulars and militia in which capacity I continued until the British troops capitulated at Yorktown Virginia in which my appointment will show.

Respectfully yours

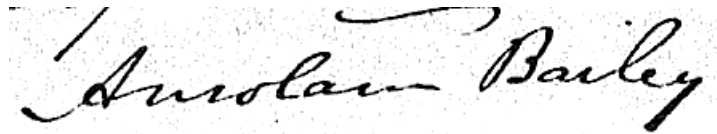
Peter Foster

[p 33]

I do hereby declare that I entered into the Revolutionary Army in the year 1776 in Captain Abner Crump's Company belonging to Colonel George Gibson Regiment 1st on the state and then on the Continental line, I well recollect Peter Foster, he was an orderly Sargeant in Captain Thomas Meriwether's company in 1779, he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in the line he then went to the South and to my certain knowledge he continued in the Continental line to the end of the war.

S/ Ansolam Bailey⁶

⁶ [Ansolem Bailey S37702](#)

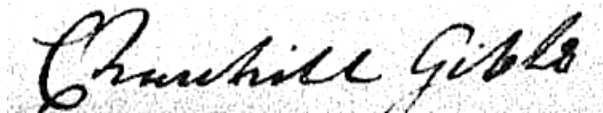


[attested in Hanover County Virginia December 1, 1829]

[p 23]

I Churchill Gibbs⁷ of the County of Madison and State of Virginia, late a Lieutenant in the 1st Virginia State Regiment commanded by Colonel George Gipson [sic] do hereby certify that in the year 1777 I became acquainted with Peter Foster at Alexandria then a Sergeant in said company belonging to Gipson's Regiment, In the latter part of the year 1777 the Regiment marched to the State of Pennsylvania and joined the Continental Army under the immediate command of General Washington. In the year 1778 sometime before the battle of Monmouth [June 28, 1778] Peter Foster was commissioned a Lieutenant, the fact is strongly impressed upon my mind from the circumstance of my being appointed a Lieutenant on the same day and I distinctly recollect his being in the battle at Monmouth, in the month of December 1779 Gibson's Regiment was ordered to Virginia and a number of the officers became supernumeraries and I am under the impression that Peter Foster was one of them, I have often met with him since the Revolutionary war & have had frequent conversations with him on the subject of our marches and countermarches, Given under my hand this 12th day of July 1831

S/ Churchill Gibbs



[p 34]

The Affidavit of John Nicholas of Buckingham County Virginia sets forth that he was a Captain in Colonel George Gibson's Regiment in the revolutionary War – that Peter Foster was first a Sergeant in Captain Thomas Meriwether's Company; & afterwards, in 1778 or 9 was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in the said Regiment & was in it in 1780 when this Affiant was promoted & was ordered & marched to the South.

S/ John Nicholas



Subscribed & sworn to September 10, 1831 before
S/ R. S. Briscoe, JP

⁷ [Churchill Gibbs S46002](#)

The United States D^r

To Peter Foster a Lieutenant of
Infantry in the Revolutionary Army

An amount of the following sums being for
his commutation of five years full pay in lieu of half pay
for life, to be paid with interest thereon, from 15th Nov^r
1783, conformably to an act of Congress for the relief
of said Foster & John Thomas approved 2^d March 1833

This commutation of five years full pay at \$26³/₄ per
month, amounting to \$1600 if funded under the act of 1st
August 1790, would have produced the following stocks, viz:

\$ 1066.67 six per cent stock, bearing interest from 1st Jan 1791
\$ 533.33 do do do do 1801
\$ 684.00 three per cent stock do do 1791

being the interest that would have accrued on the amount
of his commutation of \$1600 from 15th Nov^r 1783 to 31st
Dec^r 1790, on which ^{interest} the following sums would
have been pay^{able}, viz:

Dividends on \$ 1066.67 six per cent stock from 1 st Jan 1791 to 31 st Dec 1799, at 6 per cent.	256		
Dividends on \$ 1066.67 six per cent stock, from 1 st Jan 1791 to 30 th June 1818 at 6 per cent.	2005	34	
Dividends on \$ 1066.67 six per cent stock from 1 st July 1818 to 30 th Sep ^r 1818 at ¹⁰ / ₁₀₀₀	15	92	2277.26
Dividends on \$ 533.33 six per cent stock, from 1 st Jan 1801 to 30 th June 1824, at 8 per cent.	1002	67	
Dividends on \$ 533.33 six per cent stock from 1 st July 1824 to 30 th Sep ^r 1824, at ¹⁰ / ₁₀₀₀ per cent	5	86	1010.63
Interest on \$ 684.00 three per cent stock from 1 st Jan 1791 to 31 st Dec 1832, ^{at 3} / ₁₀₀ per cent	3	m	3861.84
Principal of three per cent stock Deduct interest on \$ 1156 of the three per cent stock being 75 of the said stock redeemable 1 st Oct 1832 per 1 Oct to 31 Dec 1832	42	0	684
			4833.73
			3.42
over			4830.31

Auditor's office 6th March 1833
Wm. Parker

Notes, See copy of the act with Report No 62473 or
act of John Thomas

Comps Office
March 6. 1833

End
J. P. Anderson

No 62.474 Treasury Department

Auditor's Office 6th March 1833

I hereby certify, that I have examined and adjusted an
account between the United States and Peter Foster, a
Lieutenant of Infantry in the Revolutionary army and
find that the sum of four thousand eight hundred &
thirty dollars and thirty cents is due from the
United States to Peter Foster his Attorney being the
amount of dividends of Principal and Interest which
would have accrued to him for his Commutation of five
years full pay (say dollars 1600) in lieu of half pay for
life, had a Certificate been issued for the same and
funded under the act of August 4th 1790 and is
allowed in pursuance of an Act of Congress for the
relief of said Foster & John Thomas approved 2^d
March 1833 as appears from the statement and
Vouchers herewith transmitted for the decision
of the Comp^{ts} of the Treasury thereon

Dollars 4830.31

R. Harrison Aud.

To J. P. Anderson, Esq
Comp^{ts} of the Treasury U. S.

I admit and certify the above balance this 6th
day of March 1833

To H. V. Smith Esq
Register

J. P. Anderson
Comp^{ts}

Warrant: Treasury Department
 Treasury To John Campbell, Treasurer of the United States, Greeting:
 No 6533
 appropriation. Pay to Edwin Shelton Adjt. of Peter Foster a Lieutenant of Infantry in the Revolutionary Army, or order out of the appropriation named in the Margin, four thousand eight hundred & thirty dollars thirty one cents, for the amount of dividends for his commutation of five years full pay (say \$ 1600) and less of half pay for life had a certificate been issued for the said and funded under the act of August 4th 1790 for the relief of John Thomas & Peter Foster approved 2^d March 1833
 agreeably to a Certificate of the Comptroller of the Treasury No 62474 do d^d March 1833 recorded by the Register. For so doing this shall by your Warrant
 Given under my Hand & Seal of the Treasury, the seventh day of March in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty three and of Independence the fifty seventh.
 Lewis M Lane
 Secy of the Treasury
 \$4,830.31
 Countersigned by J. Smith
 Register
 The Comptroller of the Bank of the U. States Washington will pay the above Warrant agreeably to its Tenor
 J. G. Washington
 Acting Treasurer of the United States
 7th March

[p 24: Affidavit dated March 26, 1845 given in Hanover County Virginia by Edwin Shelton that Peter Foster departed this life on or about March 11, 1833 test state and without issue and without leaving a widow.]

[From Digital Library of Virginia] Hanover County Legislative Petitions

To the Honorable Speakers and Members of both houses of the General Assembly of Richmond, now in Session –

The Memorial and Petition of Peter Foster an officer and Soldier of the revolution respectfully represents – That your Memorialist after having faithfully served his Country in various hazardous and arduous conflicts with the enemy and having become from much experience, and a fondness for arms, well disciplined was in the year 1781 called to the Station of Adjutant to a Regiment composed of the Militia of the Counties of Hanover and Henrico, commanded by Colonel John Pleasants. – That he rendered to his beloved Country in the

capacity aforesaid a tour of duty of two months, when the Regiment was discharged from service: – your Memorialist begs leave to inform your Honorable body that for the service thus rendered he has never in any way been paid or compensated, except by the delightful reflection common to us all, of the success of the Cause, in the establishment of liberty. – Pleasing as those reflections are, your Memorialist cannot suppose for a moment, that his Country would have them substituted in place of that pecuniary reward which is also his just due. He therefore prays your Honorable body to the passage of a law appropriating to him a sum equal to the pay of an Adjutant for the term of two months &c – and as in duty bound your petitioner will ever pray &c

S/ Peter Foster
December 8th 1826

[Reverse]

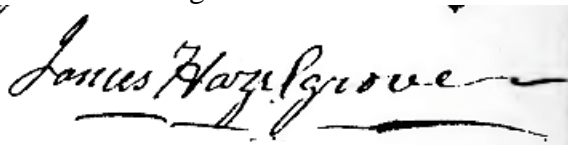
Peter Foster's petition praying to be allowed pay for a tour of duty as Adjutant to a Regiment
December 12th 1826
Referred to Claims
H. Davis
1826 December 30th
rejected
1827 January 1 Reported

[another file: contains another petition substantially identical to the one dated December 8, 1826 and transcribed above. This petition is dated December 19, 1827 and was, as the 1st petition, rejected by the general assembly. The file includes the following additional documents.]

Hanover County to wit

This day James Hazelgrove of the County aforesaid personally appeared before us Justices of the Peace for the County of Hanover in our County aforesaid and made Oath to the following Deposition subscribed by him, That Captain Peter Foster was Adjutant to Colonel John Pleasants' Regiment of Henrico and Hanover Militia in the year 1781 but how long he acted in that capacity I know not. Given under my hand this 15th day of December 1827

S/ James Hazelgrove

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

This is to certify that Captain Peter Foster was Adjutant to Colonel John Pleasants' Regiment of Henrico & Hanover Militia in the year 1780 or 81, (it is probable of the latter date) & as I left the Army some time and summer I do not recollect how long he acted in that capacity. Given under my hand at spring Grove the 2nd day of December 1820

S/ Tho. White [Thomas White]⁸

⁸ Probably the same man whose widow filed for a pension [Thomas White R11409](#)

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Addendum to Peter Foster S46443

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). The file also contains copies of several of the documents filed with the federal pension application.]

To The Executive of Virginia.

The Petition of Peter Foster respectfully states. That your excellency last summer allowed to him the Land Bounty due to a Sergeant of the Virginia Continental Line, who had served to the end of the war.

Your Petitioner has never drawn the warrant because he was a Lieutenant before the close of the war and his drawing the warrant as a Sergeant might seem to be an admission that he was not promoted as above stated.

Your Petitioner begs your Excellency to refer to the vouchers filed herein, and he thinks it will satisfactorily appear that he was a Lieutenant. Since you last examined the papers, your Petitioner has been allowed by the U. S. Government the Pay due to a Lieutenant who served to the end of the war – and the Land Bounty also due by the U. States. The Certificate of the Secretary of the Treasury has been shown to you by your Petitioner, who has agreeably to your suggestion had a copy of it taken by the Assistant Clerk of the Council & filed in your Department

As the U. States Government who furnishes the land due to your Petitioner has been satisfied that your Petitioner was a Lieut. at the end of the War and has had his name Recorded as such – And as the evidence furnished is from the most respectable witnesses, your Petitioner prays that the Land Bounty given to others of his rank may be awarded to him. Peter Foster By T Green his attorney

[The first part of the following is missing.]

in behalf of the within named Peter Foster, to establish his claim as a surviving officer of [the] Revolution. The said John Nicholas further states, [that he] knows the said Foster well; that he was an Officer [in] Gibsons [John Gibson S41578] Reg't as set forth in the said papers; the affiant being a Captain himself at the same time in the same Reg't. & believes from all his present recollections of those times, & what he knows of the integrity & honor of the said Foster, that he continued to hold his Commission & serve to the end of the war as set forth in his Declaration & the aforesaid certificates & affidavits. The aforesaid Reg't. was raised in 1776 & organized early in 1777, & the said Foster was in it from its commencement. This Affiant further states, that he procured an Affidavit from Lt. Churchil Gibbs of Madison County, formerly of the same Reg't. with the said Foster & the Affiant, in which he stated, that the said Foster & himself were promoted to the same rank of Lt. the same day, & that he the said Foster as well as himself served to the end of the war; which affidavit, from some unfortunate accident, were not to be found among the papers in the Treasury Department of the U.S. when the foregoing copies were taken

J M Keldar S.C.R.

N.B. It does not appear that Foster ever received either original or add'l. land Bounties as a Lieutenant therefore he prays for both – by his friend John Nicholas



Since the above was written it appears Foster rec'd. one hundred acres of Land as a Marine under Cap. Lilly & two hundred as a Sergeant which he admits as a reduction from his Lt bounty J.N.