

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Foster S8504

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 21 June 2011.

State of Virginia } S.S.

Monroe County }

For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of An act entitled An act for the relief of certain surviving Officers and soldiers of the army of the Revolution approved the 15th of May 1828. I John Foster of the County of Monroe and state of Virginia, do hereby declare that I was enlisted in the Continental line of the army of the Revolution for three years, and continued in its service until the termination of the war, at which period I was a private soldier in Captain Lamb's [Nathan Lamme's] Company; the number of the regiment I do not now recollect. I also declare that I afterwards received a certificate for the reward of eighty dollars, to which I was entitled under a resolve of Congress passed the 15th of May 1778. And I further declare that I was not on the fifteenth day of march 1828, on the pension list of the United States [signed 10 Sep 1828] John Foster

State of Virginia } SS

Monroe County }

Before me James Hanly a Justice of the peace in & for the said County this day personally appeared John Foster who hath subscribed the within declaration and made oath at the close of the Revolutionary war, he was discharged on the plains near Charleston South Carolina; that he afterwards attended in Richmond & state of Virginia at an Office which was then opened for the purpose of settling with the Revolutionary soldiers, but owing to the press of business then & for some time after, he was not enabled to obtain a settlement, until the Office was closed, as he understood, by the direction of Congress; that he was compelled to dispose of his claim, which he did to a gentleman, he thinks by the name of Picket, & to whom he gave his discharge; that he has not since seen, nor has he heard of his discharge; that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said discharge. given under my hand this 10th day of September 1828 James Hanly J.P.

Virginia: At a Court held for the County of Monroe at the Court House the 16th day of March 1829 & in the 53^d year of the Commonwealth

On this 16th day of March 1828, personally appeared in open Court (being a Court of record for said County) John Foster aged about 70 years, resident in said County, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the Acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818, and the 1st May 1820; that he the said John Foster enlisted for the term of three years under Captain Lamb, as well as he now recollects, whose Company he thinks, was attached to the 10th Virginia Regiment and Commanded by Col [Thomas] Gaskins of Baron Steuben's brigade on Continental establishment; that he remained in the state of Virginia until after the siege of YorkTown [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], at which siege he was; that after the siege of York-Town he was marched to the South, and placed under the Command of Col [Thomas] Posey, and General [Anthony] Wayne's command; that he was in several skirmishes with the enemy near Savanna [sic: Savannah GA], but was in no general engagement; that he remained in the last mentioned service until the year 1783 when peace was proclaimed, and he received his discharge, with the rest of the army on the plains, near Charleston, South Carolina; that some time after the peace was restored, an Office was established in the City of Richmond for the purpose of settling with the Soldiers, but before he was enabled to obtain a settlement the Office was closed; the then gave his discharge to a man (he thinks) by the name of Picket for the purpose of obtaining his land of the agent of the United States, which discharge he has not since

seen; that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present; that his name is not on the roll of any state except the state of Virginia; And that the following is the reason for not making earlier application for a pension; he was told that he was not entitled to the provisions of the aforementioned acts of Congress owing to the amount of his property. And in pursuance of the act of the 1st May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not, since that time, by gift, sale, or in any manner, disposed of my property, or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property or securities contracts or debts due to me; nor have I any income, other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. There is no material change in my property since 1818 except the natural waste, which I cannot recollect. 100 acres of land, four horses, (two old & two young) 3 beds & furniture (old & worth but little) 7 head of cattle (3 grown) 7 head of sheep 20 head of hogs (all young shoats except three) one cupboard (in use 12 years) one loom (common quality in use 30 years) two ploughs (very indifferent) 2 hoes (old and worth but little) 1 chest (small) 1 Trunk (small) 2 axes (old) 1 crow bar 1 wheel & Reels (old) 1 kettle (middle size) 2 pot & oven, 2 pot racks, one rifle gun (old) 1 wagon (very much worn) 3 pair of horse gears (old) 1 Table 6 Chairs, & one old saddle Value of property \$300 [signed] John Foster

Virginia Monroe County towit

I Isaac Hutchison clerk of the Court of the County aforesaid do hereby certify that I am acquainted with the declarant John Foster & family; that he failed to mention his occupation & ability to pursue it, and the number & names of his family &c in his declaration, but I know that the said John Foster has no trade, and is old & not very well able to work; that he has now only one son living with him, who is very hard of hearing, and at best, is not very intelligent, or of very good Understanding, so that he is not well able to support himself; but what labour he does, it is performed upon the old man's plantation; I do further certify that it appears to the satisfaction of the Court that the said John Foster did serve in the Revolutionary war, as stated in the preceding declaration, against the common enemy, for the term of three years under one engagement, on the Continental establishment. I also certify that the foregoing oath, and the schedule thereto annexed, are truly copied from the records of said Court; and I do further certify, that it is the opinion of the said Court that the total amount in value of the property exhibited in the aforesaid schedule is \$300 —

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court, on this 24th day of March 1829 & in the 53^d year of the Commonwealth Isaac Hutchison C.M.C.

State of Virginia } S.S.
 Monroe County }

On this 27th day of September 1832 personally appeared before me Henry Alexander a Justice of the peace in and for said County of Monroe John Foster a resident of s'd. County aged about seventy three years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

That he by his declaration bearing date the 16th of March 1829 under the Act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 set forth and declared as to his Inlistment and discharge in the revolutionary War which declaration and Evidence he believes are filed in the War office. That in addition to the evidence therein set forth he now further declares that he Inlisted in the service of the United States in the month of May or June (as he thinks) 1781 under Capt. Lamb whose Company he thinks was attached to the 10th Virginia regiment and commanded by Col. Gaskins in Baron Stubans brigade that he served in said regiment untill after the seige of York at which place he was at that time he was then marched to the south under the command of Col. Posey and Gen'l. Wayne that he was discharged on the plains near

Charleston South Carolina after the close of the war he thinks in the month of October in the year 1783. – That at the time of making the declaration on the 16th of March 1829 he resided in the said County of Monroe Va and at this present time is a resident of said County. That the reason assigned by the department of war for his not getting a pension under the Act of the 18th of March 1818 was that his property was of a value sufficient for his support. That he gave his discharge to a Mr. Picket (to whom he sold his right to Land) in the City of Richmond Virginia and knows nothing of it unless it is filed in the war office by him when he obtained the warrant for s'd. Land. his declaration before mentioned will more fully set forth his service &c – 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 before me this day and year aforesaid} [signed] John Foster
Henry Alexander J.P.

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111).]

John Foster – 2 yrs. Va. Line – Capt Lamb Col. Gaskin

I the undersigned John Foster in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of War, make the following re-declaration of my services in the war of the Revolution to Wit –

I was 77 yrs. old the 14th of March last. am a native of Prince William County and lived in that county during the war of the Revo. – in March 1780 [sic] there was a draft in Virginia for 18 months men. I substituted for a man who had been drafted for 18 mo. I was attached to Capt Lambs company Col. Ghaskins Regt Gen'l. Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] brigade. Joined the army on the James river above Richmond. we remained there some months and then moved up the river to Pointy fork [see endnote] where we remained until Cornwallis came up. we then retreated before his army toward Carolina then back [two illegible words] to Richmond & Williamsburg now pursuing Cornwallis army. remained at Williamsburg until joined by Gen'l. Washingtons army [14 Sep] when the whole moved down to Yorktown. after the surrender of the British army we went to Albemarl barrack [sic: Albemarle barracks] & then up on Winter quarters. in the Spring our Regt. was marched to Charlotte S. C. [sic: North Carolina] (cant recollect the name of the Col. under we marched) and then Savannah Ga. after the British army left Savannah [23 Jun 1782] we returned to Charlotte and remained in service there until the [two illegible words] left – I was 3 years minus 2 months in actual service – I substituted as before stated for 18 mo. when that time expired I applied for my discharge. instead of getting it I was informed that it appeared from the rolls that I was in the 3 yrs service – “I protested against it but in vain” I was compelled to remain and did remain in the service as above stated. – I proved my service by Richard Neell who served with me. H. Alexander wrote my Declaration the statement now given is in substance the same as given to him – he charged me nothing. John Foster

NOTES:

Point of Fork at the confluence of James and Rivanna rivers was a depot for military stores. Gen. Baron von Steuben arrived there 28 May 1781. On the night of 5 June a small force under Lt. Col. John Simcoe fooled Steuben into fleeing the site. His troops marched southwest as far as Staunton River with the intention of joining the army under Gen. Nathanael Greene, but was called back and joined generals Lafayette and Wayne about the middle of June.

A size roll of noncommissioned officers and privates taken at Albemarle Old Courthouse lists the following: John Foster/ age 17/ height 5' 4¾"/ brown hair/ grey eyes/ dark complexion/ born and residing in Prince William County where he enlisted on 8 Apr 1781 for three years.