

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Foster Robert	VA (Elizabeth)	W19270
Transcription by F A Weyler		14Oct2013

[p2] Virginia certificate 5937
Elizabeth Foster dec^d widow of
Robert Foster
Who died 22May1789 of
Charlotte County Virginia
Lieutenant in the Continental line 2 years
Issued 02Dec1840 @ \$320/annum

[p4] Declaration
In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th July 1838 entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows"

State of Virginia: Charlotte County to wit:

On this 1st day of June 1840 personally appeared in open court before the county court of Charlotte, now sitting, Maria Osborne, one of the children of Elizabeth Foster, deceased (late widow of Robert Foster, deceased of Amelia) a resident of Charlotte County, State of Virginia, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled "An Act granting pay and pensions to certain widows"

She declares that she is one of the children of Elizabeth Foster, deceased, widow of Robert Foster, deceased, late of Amelia County, who was a lieutenant in the Virginia Continental line in the war of the Revolution. That her mother, the said Elizabeth Foster, departed this life in the County of Charlotte, on the 25th day of June 1839 aged about 78 years. That previous to her death, finding that she was entitled to a pension under the Act of Congress of the 7th July 1838, she had commenced pursuing the necessary evidence in order to establish the same, but was taken sick and finally died before it was accomplished.

She further declares that she knows no [p5] thing of the military service of said Robert Foster (her father) except from hearsay and therefore refers to certificates of Lieutenant John Crute, Hon. Louis Jones, and others for more particular information on the subject, all of which accompany this her declaration and prayed to be considered part thereof. She does not know how long said Robert Foster was in service altogether but would suppose much longer than two years.

She further declares that she always understood from her mother the said Elizabeth Foster in her life time that she the said Elizabeth and Robert Foster were married by publication of bonds in the County of Amelia on the 5th day of April 1781 by parson Craig or Brumshill (she forgets which) of the old Episcopal Church according to rites and ceremonies of that church. That her husband, the aforesaid Robert Foster died on the 22nd day of May 1789 at Amelia Ct House. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794, to wit at the time above states."

She further declares that said Elizabeth Foster never intermarried but she continued to the day of her death the widow of said Robert Foster.

That said Elizabeth Foster at the time of her death left six children all of whom are alive, to wit: Daniel Foster, Peter B Foster, Patrick H Foster, Maria Osborne, Nelson K Foster and Martha A. Noble: all of which will more readily appear by reference to the proof accompanying this declaration. In conclusion, she declares that the foregoing declaration is presented for the purpose of receiving the amount of pension that her mother would have been entitled to, if alive and in accordance with instructions from the War Department.

Maria Osborne

[county certification, Winslow Robinson, clerk]

[p14]

State of Virginia, Prince Edward County, to wit:

I John Crute late a lieutenant of the state line of Virginia on Continental establishment in the War of the Revolution, do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Robert Foster late of Amelia County in the war of the Revolution. I cannot state how long he was in service, being frequently detached to various regiments but recollect that he ranked as a Lieutenant in the Virginia Continental line and served a long time. John Crute, Lt. late of _____

March 24th 1840

[p16 excerpt from letter of A.D.Hiller, pension administrator]

Robert Foster served as Ensign in the Virginia line from April 20 1777 until April 20 1778 and as Lieutenant of Infantry from April 20 1778 until December 21 1781. He enlisted in the company of his brother Captain James Foster and was a prisoner on parole in 1780.

He married in Amelia County Virginia April 5 1781, Elizabeth, maiden name not given. He received 2666 2/3 acres of bounty land from the state of Virginia in 1783.]

[p61]

Nottoway County April 2^d 1840
(Thursday)

Sir-

Your letter dated March 19th did not get here till the 27th of that month, and in less than 48 hours after its reception I was prostrate by attack of a severe fever which prevented my writing until today. I had intended at any rate to wait till today ___ is out court day in expectation that I might see and consort with some one who might know something of Mr James Foster. But I am hindered from attending court on account of extreme weakness.

I have had no difficulty in recollecting Foster's marriage & death but they are not exactly specific and definite as to dates. I recollect very well that the first time I saw Capⁿ James Foster was at my father's house in the year 1780 on the occasion of a new grist mill being for the first time set into operation. He then wore a military costume and I was told he was a prisoner on his parole. He was then unmarried. The next time I remember to have seen him was at a wedding of an uncle of mine (I think) in 1781 or 2. He was then with his wife who was sister to the lady my uncle married. Capⁿ Foster then, I must think, was married just at the conclusion of the American Revolutionary War. I cannot specify dates more accurately. I have a soldier older by 2 years than myself living at present immediately on the road leading from a place called "The City" not more than a mile from the place in the upper parts of Mecklenburg, in what is called the Finnywood settlement.

[p61]

(Mrs. Bacon formerly the wife of Edward Jones of the same part of that county) who might probably be more specific of respecting dates of that marriage. Her first husband was the brother of Mrs. Foster and was manager of the estate after F's death. Capⁿ Foster died in the year 1789 at Amelia Court house, he being then tenant of the Court House Tavern. I saw him on his death bed. It was in the Spring of the year. In respect to this event I know that if it did not occur that year, it must have been the year before (1788).

This is the amount, sir, of what I believe to be true in relation to the subjects of the inquiry in your letter. I have not given the formality of an oath to it because I am utterly unable to attend the clerk's office today in order to affix the seal of the county to it. I thought it best to send you the letter now for your further guidance. My sister Bacon knows not more ___ the subject than myself. She is the only person who is entitled from circumstances to that knowledge.

Yours respectfully
James Jones

April 11th 1840

At the request of Mr Wm J B Bedford I have received the above letter and find I have written the name of "James Foster" instead of "Robert Foster" as intended. The mistake arose as I now very well recollect, by no mind recurring at the time to his brother Capⁿ James Foster (under whom he enlisted & served in the American Army) and with whom I was well acquainted. Robert was younger than James and received the commission of Lieutenant under James and they both entered the service at once as I was informed.

I was qualified as magistrate of Nottoway County very many years ago but was very shortly after qualifying elected to the state legislature where I served many years. Then to the state souncil from whence I was removed to the office of Chief of the Medical Staff in the militia armt of the state. Then I went into Congress for several years. After which I ___ed to act as Justice of the

[p62]

Peace except on very particular occurrences and suffered the court to make me in the appointment to the sheriff ably in the regular routine. I have not acted at all for many years in any way. I thought at least to say this much.

James Jones

Nottoway County (Va)

Before me Benjⁿ C Jones a justice of the peace for the county aforesaid personally appeared Doct. James Jones of the aforesaid county & made oath that he was well acquainted with Robert Foster who was an officer in the American revolutionary army and held the commission of Lieutenant in the company commanded by his brother Capⁿ James Foster. That this affiant saw the said Robert Foster on or about the year 1780 while he was a prisoner on parole. At that time he was not married but subsequently he well remembers to have in company with said Robert with his wife (who was a relation of this affiant) about the year 1782-3. That after his marriage this affiant was much in his company and he believes the said Foster died in the Spring of the year 1788 or thereabouts at Amelia Old Court House where he had lived a year or more as tenant at the Court House Tavern. This affiant saw him on his death bed and believes he is not for far erring in fixing on the date as given above. Given under my hand and seal this 20th day of November 1840.

Benjⁿ C Jones (seal)

State of Virginia, Nottoway County sct

I Francis Fitzgerald, Clerk of the County Court of the aforesaid county of Nottoway in the state of Virginia do hereby certify that Benjamin C Jones who hath given the preceding certification is and was at the time of signing, an acting justice of the peace for the county of record and that full faith and credit should be given to all his official acts as such under testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name.