

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Foster W2986 Sarah Baker VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 26 Sep 2017.

[Part of the following is very faded.]

State of Kentucky

Clarke [sic: Clark] County Sct

On this 22nd day of June 1818 before me the Subscriber, one of the Judges of the circuit court of the State aforesaid, personally appears William Foster aged seventy one years resident in said County of Clarke in s'd. state who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary war. That he the said Foster enlisted in Prince William County State of Virginia in the company commanded by Capt John Green [see endnote] of the 1st Reg't of Artillery Commanded by Col Charles Harrison [VAS1411] on the 8th day of February 1777 & continued to serve in said Corps three years then reenlisted in [two lines illegible] 1st day of May 1783 when he was discharged – James Island near Charleston South Carolina, that he was in the Battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781] & in several Smaller skirmises – And that he is in reduced circumstances & stands in need of the assistance of his country for support, and that he has no other evidence than the accompanying [one or two illegible words] a discharge having long since lost or mislaid it – William hisXmark Foster
Sworn to & subscribed before me the day & year aforesaid Jos. Clark

Clarke County Sct

I do certify that [undeciphered word] were acquainted with the above named William Foster during the Revolutionary war, when he was in Service for several years as stated by him. June 22nd 1818
Benj hisXmark Grigsley [Benjamin Grigsley]

DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY, SS.

Clarke Circuit. Sct

ON this [blank] day of [blank] 1821, personally appeared, in open court, being a court of record for the said district, and circuit of Clarke county, William Foster aged 73 years, resident in Clarke county in said district, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, declare, that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows:

I enlisted on the 8 day of Febuary in the year 1777 with Lieutenant John Green for three years in [blank] Regiment of [blank] – I served the above named 3 years & then enlisted for during the war & served till the war closed in [blank] Regiment of [blank] & was honorable discharged I was in the battle of Monmouth & was at the battle of little York when Cornwallis was taken [siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781; see endnote] & at the battle of the Uwtaw springs & at the battle at ninety six in south Carolina [siege of Ninety Six SC, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781] also at Charlestown Virginia [sic] but had no fighting at this last place No of my present certificate is 6882.

And 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.

A Claim for 9 negroes which are in North Carolina and which claim originated in 1778 and he does not know whether he will ever get any thing for said Claim or not

One hundred acres of poor land worth perhaps with all its improvements	\$200.00
Horses worth altogether	40 —
Cattle worth altogether	30 —
Sheep worth altogether	11
Hogs & pigs worth altogether	25
Household & Kitchen furniture except on bed	30
Farming Utensils worth	<u>12</u>
Total amt \$	338

He owes no debts nor is any due him

His family consists of his wife aged about 54 years & Five children Four of whom are daughters – Polly aged 11 years Nancy aged seventeen years Sally aged Eighteen years Susan aged twenty two years ~~Peggy aged — years~~ & Leonard aged fourteen years His occupation is farming, which however he cannot pursue himself owing to having rec'd two wounds in his right arm, at the battle of — which entirely disabled it. He is otherwise very infirm & so is his wife.

Sworn to, and declared, on the 6 day of October 1821 William hisXmark Foster

[Among the [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) is the following which was filed with a document pertaining to William Foster S38706 but more likely pertains to the present William Foster.]

I certify that Wm. Foster has been a soldier for the War, & still continued such in this V. Reg. Art'y. [Artillery] ever since the spring of 1779, previous to which time he was in the Reg't for a term of three years from 1777. [Edward Carrington W6635]

Lt Col Arty

Octo. 15 1783 [last digit unclear]



NOTES:

“A Muster Roll of Capt. Jacob Walkers Company under Command of Colo. Charles Harrison – Mustered October 25th 1777” lists “Capt. Lt. Jno. Green resig’d 20th Inst” (i.e. John Green, resigned 20 Oct 1777). Listed among the Privates (Matrosses) is William Foster, enlisted 8 Feb 1777 for three years, “fit for Duty.” Capt. Jacob Walker died on 5 Feb 1778 and was succeeded on the same day by Capt. Thomas Baytop. Baytop resigned on 11 Dec 1779 and was succeeded by Capt. Lt. William Fleming Gaines (BLWt880-300). (F. B. Heitman, *Historical Record of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution.*)

There are rolls for the artillery company of Capt. Thomas Baytop and Capt. Lt. William Fleming Gaines in the 1st Regiment of Continental Artillery from October 1778 through March 1780, and they list many of the same names that are on the October 1777 roll of Capt. Jacob Walker’s company, including that of William Foster. According to these rolls William Foster was appointed Bombardier on 8 Feb 1777, and he was on furlough in Virginia from December 1779 to at least March 1780.

The present William Foster may be confused with a different William Foster of Culpeper County VA whose widow filed pension application W4674 in 1840. Documents in that application indicate that that William Foster also enlisted under a Capt. John Green and was later a Matross in the artillery. That John Green was not, however, the Capt. Lt. John Green in the 1st Regiment of Continental Artillery. That John Green (BLWt866-500) was from Culpeper County and was a Captain first in the Culpeper District Battalion of Minute Men and then in the 1st Virginia Regiment of Foot until his promotion to Major on 13 August 1776. Green was promoted to Colonel of the 10th Virginia Regiment on 26 January 1778.

William Foster’s second declaration claims that he was at the siege of Yorktown after the Battle of Eutaw Springs and then returned to continue with the Southern Army under Gen. Nathanael Greene in the area around Charleston SC. The following artillerymen from other states also claimed to have served at both Eutaw Springs and Yorktown: William Scott S41144, Robert Livingston S42874, and John Smith

W4070. William Scott's claim is clearly erroneous, because it states that the battle of Eutaw Springs occurred after the siege of Yorktown. In order for soldiers to have served in both battles, they would have to have received orders to go to Virginia, prepared for the journey, and traveled from Eutaw Springs some time after 8 Sep and arrived at Yorktown in time for the siege (28 Sep - 19 Oct). For comparison, it took Col. Abraham Buford's detachment 28 days, from 29 March until 25 April 1780, to travel from Petersburg VA to Camden SC, a distance about 70 miles less than that from Eutaw Springs to Yorktown. William Foster is the only one on Baytop's rolls whose pension application claimed service at Yorktown.

The only known company of the 1st Continental Artillery Regiment at the siege of Yorktown was commanded by Capt. Whitehead Coleman (BLWt467-300), who was not at the battle of Eutaw Springs. At Eutaw Springs there were two companies from the 1st Continental Artillery Regiment: one from Maryland under the command of Capt. William Brown (BLWt230-400) and the other from Virginia commanded by Capt. Lt. William Fleming Gaines. Capt. Lt. Thomas Fenn (BLWt767-200) of Virginia was also present and wounded. The two companies lost all four of their cannons at the battle. They captured one small cannon from the British, which would hardly have been worth transporting to Yorktown.

A declaration of property valued at more than \$200 under the act of 1820 generally resulted in termination of a pension. A note on the pension certificate reads, "Discontinued Dec'r 3^d 1821 and sent to Leslie Combs."

On 9 July 1844 Sarah Baker, 78, of Montgomery County KY, applied for a pension stating that she married William Foster in Prince William County on 6 March 1783, and he died on 7 Feb 1824. She stated that she married Moses Baker on 6 July 1826, and he died on 31 Jan 1844. She stated that her family record was "destroyed by the water leaking through the roof of the house where the record was," that she had 11 children while married to William Foster, and that she was unable to give their ages, but that "her eldest child Milly Hart resides in the County of Fayette Kentucky she was borne in seventeen hundred and eighty five on the twentieth of April."

On 31 July 1844 Ann T. Mallory, 68, of Bourbon County KY, made the following statement: "That she was borned in Pri william County State of Virginia and was raised there untill she was 10 years of age and one of her Close neighbors Leonard Hart had A daughter By the name of Sarah Hart who married to one William Foster, in the fall of 1784 she thinks." In that statement and on 12 July 1844 she added that 12 or 18 months after Sarah Foster was married she had a child named Mildred Foster, who married Minor Hart, and that other children lived in Kentucky and Missouri. She also stated that the families of William Foster and her father, Timothy Peyton, left Prince William County for Bourbon County KY on 2 June 1785, and after having five or six children the Fosters moved to Clark County. She also stated that her father was killed by Indians.

On 31 July 1844 Sarah D. Scott, about 67, of Bourbon County, stated that "she lived with her farther Wm James in his Station where William Foster A Revolutionary solder and his wife Sarah Foster came to her farthers station about the year 1785 or 1786 and in the station she had her first born Mildred Foster and another befor they left the said station, and they move to T. Patons."

On 22 August 1844 Polly M. Hulst (or Hulse), about 33, stated that she was the youngest child of William and Sarah Foster.

On 30 June 1848 Sarah Baker was said to be 77, and on an application for bounty land dated 2 Aug 1855 she was said to be 87.