

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Forster (Foster) W647
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Mary Forster

VA

[Capitalization partly corrected.]

State of No. Carolina } Court of Pleas and Quarter Session
Buncombe County } October term 1832

On this 17th day of October personally appeared in Open Court before the justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Session of Buncombe County State of North Carolina Now Sitting. Thomas Forster a resident of said County and states his age 82 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in Order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress pass'd June 7th 1832 – To wit that he was born on the 22nd day of Jayn. in the year 1751 in the State of Pennsylvania. his Parents removed to Frederick County in State of Virginia when quite young. He lived in Frederick County untill he was 24 or 25 years old. He moved thence to Augusta County in said State. He here enlisted in the year 1777 for the term of three years under Leftenant [Thomas] Bell in the continental army. He marched us to Winchester where He joined his Capt. John McGuire. His Capt march'd to Dumfries where they joined Col. [William] Grayson 16th Virginia Regiment he commanded. He marched to Potomac River and crossed at George Town [Georgetown]. He then march'd to Baltimore remained there a few days and took shipping and landed in Philadelphia and sailed up to Trenton. He march'd to head quarters in New Jersey and joined the main army commanded by Gen'l. Geo. Washington. He was here under the French decipline by Stuband [sic: Gen. Baron von Steuben]. He march'd to Trenton back and thence to Philadelphia and crossed the Schuylkill River on a floating Bridge. He went on the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] and he was here in the battle. He march'd then back to Philadelphia or in 5 or 6 miles of Philadelphia and was there in battle at German Town [Germantown, 4 Oct 1777]. He stayed here and went to the Valley Forge winter Quarters. He next went after (winter Quarters) to the Battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] He was here detached from his regiment and joined the Lt infantry commanded by Gen'l. [Charles] Scott. He next day joined the same company Capt. McGuire. He march'd and cross'd the North River and was made Wagon master and was in that station untill he received his discharge. He received his discharge in Philadelphia after serving his 3 years from Gen'l Mhulenburg at the Barax [sic: Peter Muhlenberg in the barracks]. Here it was enjoined to march some British prisoners to Maryland which he did and returned home to Virginia where he lived untill 40 years old and moved to So. Carolina Stayed 8 or 10 years thence to Buncombe County State of No. Caro where he resides now and has for 30 years. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state and that the only evidence he has of his services are contained in the office of the war department. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Thos. hisXmark Forster

[The following is from [bounty-warrant records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I do certify that the Bearer hereof Thomas Foster served as a Soldier in the Reg't of Infantry commanded by Colo. Wm Grayson on continental Establishment for the Term of three years. Given under my hand this 15th day of April 1784.

[Thomas Bell] Capt. Colo. Graysons Reg't.
To whom it concerns



NOTE: On 15 Feb 1853 Mary Foster (as the name was written), 66, applied for a pension stating that she married Thomas Foster on 23 May 1814, and he died on 12 Sep 1839 at Turkey Creek in Buncombe

County. On 12 July 1853 the date of marriage was given as 23 May 1815. On an application for bounty land dated 7 Sep 1855, Polly Foster was said to be 70. The file includes a copy of a bond signed on 16 May 1815 by Thomas Forster and Robert Brank for the marriage of Forster to Polly Robertson.