

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Foster Abner

VA
(Judy)

W8823

Transcription by FA Weyler

16Sep2013

[p2] ~~West Tennessee~~ Illinois certificate 29.965
Abner Foster of Henderson Co TN
Private under Captain Gaston, Col. Meriwether 6 months
Issued 16June1835 @ \$20/annum

[p3] Illinois certificate 4146
Judy Foster, widow of Abner Foster
Issued 16May1854 @ \$20/annum

[p4] Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the of Congress of the 7th June 1832
State of Tennessee
Henderson County
Court of Pleas and
Quarter Sessions
November term 1834

On this 14th day of November 1834 personally appeared in open court before the justices of the same it being the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions ____ in and for the said county of Henderson in the state aforesaid Abner Foster a resident of the said county and state aged seventy five years in December next. Who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States from the County of Amelia in the State of Virginia (it being the place of his residence) as a private drafted soldier for the period of three months in the month of December (some five days before Christmas) in the year 1779 in the Virginia militia regiment from the said county of Amelia in the regiment commanded by Col ____ Meriwethers or Merrywithers [probably Thomas Meriwether], his major was by the name of ____ Garland in the company commanded by Captain ____ Garland, brother of the major. His lieutenant was also by the name of ____ Garland

[p5] and also a brother to the major. His ensign was the name of Thomas Elmore. This regiment marched on to the city of Petersburg in the state of Virginia, from thence on by Smithfield to James River and then down that river to its junction with Chesapeake Bay and there crossed a Nansimond [sic] River at the town of the same name [sic] which had previously been burnt by the British and from thence marched on to the ~~north~~ south side of the Dismal Swamp but ____ we completed our march we encamped for a short period in Edmund's Hill about three quarters of a mile from long bridge fort where we had a small skirmish with the British whom we rep__d and drove back into the fort having three of our men killed and five wounded. Then this regiment continued its march on to the south side of the Dismal Swamp and from there turned to the north. This regiment was at no time stationary for any length of time at any place, marching and countermarching from place to place as the exigency of the service required. This declarant states this regiment was discharged in the latter part of the month of March 1780 in a little old field about one day and half's march from Petersburg. The soldiers of this regiment received their discharges in writing under the signature of Colonel Garland, the colonel of the same (and

which discharge this declarant has long since lost) having faithfully served out three months tour, thus ends the first tour of service. This declarant states that this regiment was with no other regiment Continental Regular

[p6] or Militia consequently he cannot designate any of these regiments or the officers thereof.

Second Tour of Service: This declarant states that he again entered the service of the United States from the County of Amelia in the state of Virginia as a private drafted soldier in the Virginia Regiment of militia ~~commanded~~ for three months commanded by his original Colonel Garland. This tour commenced in the latter part of the month of May 1780. The captain was by the name of Pleasant Roberts. Thomas Elmore his former ensign was the lieutenant. The ensign's name not now recollected. The company to which this declarant belonged was detailed off from the main body of the regiment (his former regiment in the first tour of his service) to act as a guard to the county of Amelia and to watch the movements of Colonel Tartlton [Banastre Tarleton] who was there with his legion hovering on the borders of Amelia County. This declarant states that he faithfully served out the tour of service of three months as a private soldier (as he did the former as a private soldier) and was discharged in writing by his captain Pleasant Roberts in the latter part of August of the same year which discharge he has lost never supposing that either of these would have been of any benefit to him. This company or the regiment to which he belonged never left the county of Amelia during the last tour. Consequently it did not set with any regular Continental or militia regiments. Therefore he unable to say of them or the officers thereof. There and the second tour of three months.

[p7]

In this second tour this declarant was in no engagement with the enemy.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present. And he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. There being no clergyman residing his neighborhood at this time to whom he can refer he begs to refer to William H Burton Esquire, Chairman of the County Court of Henderson County and Hugh W Wormsby Esqr, Counsellor at Law.

Abner Foster x his mark

s/W H Burton

s/Hugh W Wormsby

Clerk

[answers to questions by the court]

1st In the County of Amelia Virginia in the month of December 1759.

2nd-I have no record of my age. The same was recorded in my grandfather's Bible but what has become of it I know not.

3rd-In both my first and second tours of service as stated in the body of my declaration I lived in the County of Amelia in the State of Virginia. Afterwards in Bedford County in the same. Then to Warren County in the State of Kentucky and from thence

[p8] removed into the County of Henderson my present place of residence.

4th-In both my tours of service I was drafted.

5th-I cannot state the regular or Continental or militia regiments or the officers thereof having never with them in relation to the general circumstances of my service you are referred to the same contained in the body of my declaration.

7th-[sic] The persons to whom I can refer for my character (and who are known to me in my neighborhood) for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution are William H Burton Esqr. Chairman of the County Court of Henderson County, Hugh W

Wormsby, Alexander T Caruthers, William D Carrington Esquire, justice of the peace of Henderson and many others if required. Abner Foster x his mark

Sworn and subscribed to in open court the day and year aforesaid

John A Wilson clerk

[p9-10 county certification

William H Burton, chairman of the court of pleas and quarter sessions

Hugh W Wormsby, attorney

John A Wilson, clerk

James McAdess Small, [?] JP

John Adams, JP]

[p13-ff contain the widow's deposition by Judy Foster, age 71, on 11Jun1853 in Hamilton County Illinois. Therein stated:

Jody married Abner Foster in Pittsylvania County Virginia 18Mar1799

Marriage performed by John Black, Baptist minister

Abner Foster died 27Feb1848

The only military detail she vaguely recalled was Abner Foster's Dismal Swamp expedition

Witnesses: Hiram Braun and Nancy Zegler

Alfred Moore, JP

Pittsylvania County marriage bond transcription shows 15Mar1802, Abner Foster to Judith Lane, witness John A Neal, before Wm S Harrison. By Langhorne Scruggs, clerk. 12Apr1854

A letter of explanation for variation of year of marriage was that the widow guessed it base on the age of the oldest child.

[p21] William Foster of Allen County KY deposition 24Apr1854 that his father Abner Foster married Judith Lane in Pittsylvania County when he (William) was 14 years old. Now being age 65, he calculates the marriage to his step mother as 1802 or 1803.

James W Foster, JP

Samuel Swearingen, clerk

[p26] 23May1835 letter from Lexington, Henderson County TN to JL Edwards, pension commissioner by Hugh W Wormsby to satisfy objections to applications of George Grimsley and Abner Foster which had improper county seal applied.

R4333 George Grimsley of Dobbs (Green) County NC militia in Henderson County TN 24Apr1835

[p29] 13Aug1839 Abner Foster pension agency transfer to Illinois

[p30] 02Sep1839, Union Bank of Tennessee, Nashville, John M Bass, President, S. Cantrell, Teller: Payment to Abner Foster was made through 04Mar1835.

[The 63 page file contains various other covers, letters of process, repeat filings, and additional certifications.]