

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Joel Foster W11008

Mary Foster

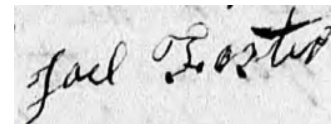
VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 20 Feb 2014.

The State of Louisiana } S.S.

Parish of St Helena }

On this twentieth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty three, personally appeared in open Court before Burlin Childress Parish Judge of the Parish Court of said parish now sitting Joel Foster a resident of the State of Louisiana [illegible word] Parish of St Helina [sic] aged Seventy years & going in his Seventy first year who being first duly Sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the united States under the following named officers, & served as herein stated, viz I was first enrolled under Captain Josiah Foster, as a Militia man, about the year 1777 sometime in the fall of the year in the State of Virginia – Gloucester County now called Matthews [sic: Mathews] County, he continued in the service under Captain Josiah Foster about two years, he was in no engagements, only the British Ships fired on our Guards several terms but, no engagements. Isaac Foster was the Lieuftenant of said Company; he never was drafted, and this deponent was a resident of Glouster [sic: Gloucester] county, Kingston Parish, on the Banks of the Chesapeak [sic: Chesapeake] Bay. he was not a Substitute for any person at the end of two years Captain Josiah Foster resigned, and Isaac Foster being the Senior officer in said Company the Captaincy then devolved on him, and Joshuah Foster [Joshua Foster] was then appointed 1st Lieutenant, Henry Forest 2^d d[itt]o, he doesnt recollect to what regiment he belonged but was commanded by Colonels John Peyton and Lieutenant Colonel John Page, Major John Dixon, he does not recollect the names of the other officers, he never marched to any place out of the county but once, then Captain Peter Barnett made a call for Volunteers to go on to Richmond in said State, at the time General [Benedict] Arnold burnt Richmond, in January 1781, and this deponent volunteered his services under the command of said Captain Barnett, we then had orders to march to Richmond but after marching on that route one day our orders were countermanded & we then received orders to march for Williams Burgh [sic: Williamsburg] in said State, we then marched on to Williamsburgh, where we remained near about two weeks, & then we received orders to march under Captain Barnett & Colonel Page who also took Command at Williams Burgh, to Mulberry island or Mulberry Landing he does not recollect which when it was thought the English intended to Land whilst we remained at this Island or Landing General [Thomas] Nelson joined us & the British Fleet passed this place the same day without calling, & on the same evening we marched back into Williamsburgh, said Landing or Island being also in the State of Virginia, we there remained only one night at Williamsburgh where we received orders to march for Little York, also in said State, and after arriving at that place in the evening & on the next morning we were Paraded – Reviewed & discharged with orders to join our respective Companies, which we did on the next day – Colonel Ennis [sic: James Innes] had the command of the Regular Troops at Williams Burgh. he also knew the commander of the regulars at little york but at this time he has forgotten his name, but he was a Major, he then remained under the command of Isaac Foster as Captain until the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. our Quarters was at the Court house of said County, and during the Siege of Little York we were under the command of General Laffayette [sic: Lafayette]. and after the Surrender of Cornwallis we were then discharged but we did not receive any written discharge, which was in the month of October in the year 1781. he thinks that his name can be found on the pay Roll of Captain Isaac Foster & also on the Company Roll of Captain Peter Barnett. And he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present – he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State



Eighth District Court – State of Louisiana, holding Sessions in the Parish of St. Helena, 12th March, 1834.

This day came personally into open Court Joel Foster, residing in the State and Parish aforesaid, who being sworn according to Law, did declare and say, that he has had the declaration made by him before the Honb. Burlin Childress, then Parish Judge of the Parish of St. Helena aforesaid, on the 20th day of May, 1833, carefully read to him this day. That in addition to the declaration which he then made in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed on the 7th June 1832, [several illegible words] the soldiers of the revolution, He now says That he is certain he entered the service in the year 1777, but cannot recollect the month, he believes in the month of November. He was then turned of his 15th year, having been born, according to the family register in August 1762. About two months after the appearer was enrolled, the company was marched down to New Point Comfort, to relieve a guard then stationed there – he was stationed there for two weeks, when the company was relieved for three weeks, when it was again called on the same duty, and so was off and on duty for upwards of two years, and he thinks near three years. During this kind of service, the appearer was called to Gloucester Court House several times in the company, but the number he cannot recollect, but as often as an enemy was expected there, or when the British came down the Bay to the mouth of York River. Appearer after the close of the war, in the year 1785, left the State of Virginia and went in to North Carolina – from North Carolina appearer removed to the State of Georgia in the year 1816, and from Georgia he removed to where he now resides in 1821 – that he knows of no living person who has any knowledge of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. Appearer also says from the fact of his having no written discharge, he supposes he was not in what was called the State troops – but he always drew rations when on duty. For his character for truth and veracity, appearer refers to all his neighbours, and particularly to the Hon. Samuel Leonard, now the Parish Judge of the Parish of St. Helena aforesaid; to William Collinsworth, John Matthews, Meredith Reno, William Venables and Stanley N. Viers, Clergymen of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Interrogatories put to Joel Foster by the Court, and his answers to the same.

1. Where, and in what year were you born?

Answer. In Gloucester County, State of Virginia, August 15th 1762, according to the family Register.

2. Have you a Record of your age, and if so, where is it?

Answer. I have – it is written the family Bible, now in my possession.

3. Where were you living when called into the service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer. When called into service I was living in Gloucester County, Virginia. Afterwards I removed to North Carolina, then to Georgia, and lastly to Louisiana, where I now reside, as I have particularly set out in the preceding declaration.

4. How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? and if a substitute, for whom?

Answer. I was called into service by my captain – and as I understood on the call of my country. I never was drafted – my services were voluntary. My father was a true Whig, and taught his children to believe that his country had a right to their services. I never was a substitute.

5 State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you recollect, and the general circumstances of your services.

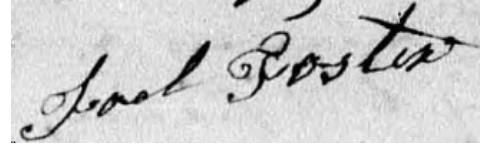
Answer. I never was quartered with Regular troops. I was once under command of Gen. Laffayette, who I have seen – he was then very young, with sandy, or rather flaxen hair. My youth and the great time since my service prevents my remembering many things. I received about two months pay. The facts attending my service, I have set out in the preceding declaration, and the one I made before Judge Childress my signature to which I now see and recognise.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer. I never received a written discharge. After the capture of Cornwallis my commanding officer told me that there was no farther use for my services, and I went home.

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution?

Answer. In addition to the names I have set out in my previous declaration, I add, Dempsy Kemp, Wm. Kendrick, Thos. Crittenden, Lawrence Miller, who has obtained a pension, Abner Womack Jacob Womack, Isaac Kemp, Doct. Thos. Webb and John Glascock. I am not personally acquainted with Gen. Thomas, our representative in Congress, but I have good reason to believe he knows my character sufficiently well to testify to it for truth and veracity.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joel Foster". The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured paper.

NOTES:

A typed transcription of Joel Foster's first pension application is with the Virginia bounty-land claim of a different Joel Foster (VAS1402) inscribed, "Presented by Dr. L. S. Foster of Williamsburg, 4/16/23."

On 3 Dec 1856 Mary Foster, about 80, applied for bounty land stating that as Mary Staples she married Joel Foster in North Carolina on 4 Nov 1810, and her husband died on 12 Aug 1851. On 21 July 1857 she applied for a pension.

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Foster Joel

VA
(Mary)

W11008
BLWt77533
04Sep2013

Transcribed by FA Weyler

[p2] Louisiana certificate 6313
Mary Foster widow of
Joel Foster, private of Virginia
Issued 05Jan1858 @ \$80/annum

[p3] Louisiana certificate 26.237
Joel Foster of St. Helena
Private under Captain Foster 2 years
Issued 08Apr1834 @ \$80/annum

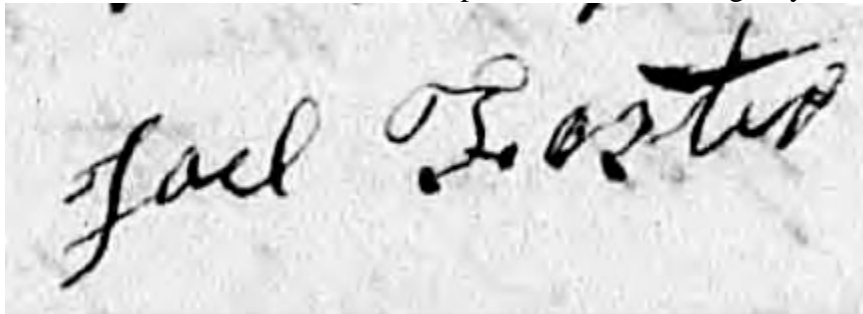
[p5]
The State of Louisiana
Parish of St Helena

On this twentieth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred * thirty three personally appeared in open court before Burlin Childress Parish Judge of the Parish Court of said parish now sitting, Joel Foster, a resident of the State of Louisiana and parish of St Helena aged seventy years & going in his seventy first year. Who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein state viz: I was first enrolled under Captain Josiah Foster as a militia man about the year 1777. Sometime in the fall of the year in the State of Virginia, Gloucester County now called Matthews County. He continued in the service under Captain Josiah Foster about two years. He was in no engagements only the British ships fired on our guards several times but no engagements. Isaac Foster was the Lieutenant of said company. He now was drafted and this deponent was a resident of Gloucester County, Kingston Parish on the banks of Chesapeake Bay. He was not a substitute for any person/ At the end of two years Captain Josiah Foster resigned and Isaac Foster being the senior officer in said company the captaincy then devolved on him and Joshua Foster was then appointed 1st Lieutenant. Henry Forest 2^d do. He does not recollect to what regiment he belonged but was commanded by Colonels John Peyton, Lieutenant Colonel John Page, Major John Dixon. He does not recollect the names of the other officers. He was marched to any place out of the county but once. Then Captain Peter Barnett made a call for volunteers to go on to Richmond in said state. At the time General Arnold burnt Richmond in January 1781 and this deponent volunteered his services under the command of said Captain Barnett. We then had orders to march to Richmond but after marching t__ that route one day our orders were countermanded & we then received orders to march

[p6] for Williams Burgh in said state. We then marched on to Williamsburgh where we remained about two weeks & then received orders to march under Captain Barnett * Colonel Page who also took command at Williams Burgh to Mulberry Island or Mulberry Landing, he does not recollect which where it was thought the English intended to land. Whilst we remained at this

Island or Landing, General Nelson joined us & the British fleet passed this place the same day without calling & on the same _____ we marched back to Williamsburgh, said Landing or Island being also in the State of Virginia. We there remained only one night at Williamsburgh when we received orders to march for Little York also in said state. And after arrival at that place in the morning & on the next morning we were paraded & received discharges with orders to join our respective companies which we did on the next day. Colonel Ennis had the command of the regular troops at Williams Burgh. He also knew the commander of the regular troops at Little York but at this time has forgotten his name. But he was a Major. He then remained under the command of Isaac Foster as Captain until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. Our quarters was at the court house of said county and during the siege of Little York we were under the command of General Lafayette and after the surrender of Cornwallis we were then discharged but we did not receive any written discharge which was the month of October in the year 1671. He thinks that his name can be found on the pay roll of Captain Isaac Foster also on the company roll of Captain Peter Barnett.

And he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present. He declares that his name is not on the pension rolls of the agency in any state.

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Joel Foster". The ink is dark and the background is light and slightly textured.

Sworn to & subscribed this 20th day of May AD 1832
Burlin Childress, PJ

[p8-9] widow's declaration and documents

21 July 1857 before Julius E Wilson, judge of eighth judicial district court

Mary Foster, age about eighty

Mary Staples married Joel Foster in North Carolina in 1810.

Joel Foster departed this life in St Helena Parish 12 Aug 1851.

Certification James A Williams, clerk

[p10-12] bounty land claim by widow

Among the 87 pages in this file are various repeat copies for both the soldier's and the widow's claims with power of attorney and letters to satisfy deficiencies of form.