

Pension Application for William Foster

R.3695 (Widow: Susannah)

Sept 1832

State of New York

Saratoga County SS.

William Foster of Milton in the county of Saratoga & State of New York being duly sworn doth depose & say that in the year 1777 at Ticonderoga in the State of New York he enlisted for during the war into a company commanded by Capt. Lathrop Allen in the Second New York Regiment commanded by Col. Goose VanSchaick in the New York line.

That at the Battle at Saratoga at Bemus' Heights in the month of October 1777 he received a wound by a musket ball which carried away a part of his nose, destroyed his right eye which immediately ran out & fractured & carried away a part of his cheek bone near the right eye, also three musket balls in his left leg; that notwithstanding his wounds he continued in service doing such duty as he was able to perform until the end of the war & as honorably discharged in the City of New York in the month of June 1783.

That he was one of the private soldiers ordered to accompany Gove. Clinton to the City of New in that month when he received the Keys of the Castle from the British General & was present on that occasion & saw the ceremony.

That in the year 1796 he appeared at the War Office in the City of Philadelphia & delivered to Gen. Knox then Secretary of War his original discharged, certificate of Col. William B. Whiting, also a certificate of Capt. John Salisbury & Doc. Beach the surgeon who healed his wounds.

Shortly before the Battle at Bemus' Heights when he was wounded as aforesaid, it was agreed between Col. VanSchaick & Col. Whiting to mix the Continentals & Militia together to make the latter more steady, which was done accordingly & this deponent fell in the battle under Col. Whiting & Capt Salisbury who were Militia officers, which was the cause of his having their certificates.

Upon delivering up those certificates & his discharge he received a Pension Certificate signed by Gen. Knox which has since been sent to the Department of War.

That the following is a copy of his present Pension Certificate.

"The name of this pensioner was transferred from Pennsylvania to New York to take effect from the 4th of March 1818 & his allowance was increased from \$3.33 1/3 to \$5 per mo. By the law of the 27th of April 1810 to commence on the 16 Dec'r 1809 & further increased to \$8 per month by the law of the 24th of April 1816 at which last rate William Foster will be paid from the time to which he received his last payment from the Agent in New York.

War Department, Pension Office, Nov'r 27 1819.

War Department

Invalid Pension

I certify that in conformity with the laws of the United States, William Foster late a private in the Army of the United States was inscribed on the Pension List, Roll of the Pennsylvania Agency at the Rate of Three & 33 1/3/100 dollars pension on the % increased &c as above stated. Given at the War Office of the United States this twenty seventh day of November one thousand eight hundred & nineteen. J. C. Calhoun, Secretary of War.

That he did not apply heretofore for the benefit of the act of the relief of certain surviving officers & soldier of the Army of the Revolution approved 15 May 1818 because he was debarred by the proviso to the third section thereof, that he has been recently informed that the said proviso has been repealed by the act of amend the act aforesaid, passed July 14, 1832 & that he is now entitled to the benefits of the said act of May 15, 1828. (Signed) William Foster

Subscribed & sworn the 29th day of August 1832 before me. A. Goodrich, Justice.

Letter in folder dated October [?] written in response to an inquiry. This copy is bad and mostly not legible.

Reference is made to your letter relative to William Foster, a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

It appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, R.3695, that William Foster enlisted, place no stated, in 1777, served in Captain Lathrop Allen's Company, Colonel Goose VanSchaick's New York Regiment, and in Captains Elijah [Bostwick's?] and John Salisbury's Companies, Colonel William B. Whiting's New York Regiment; in the fall of 1777, he was in a severe engagement and was badly wounded by a musket ball which carried away a part of his nose, destroyed his right eye and fractured and carried away a part of his shank bone near the right eye, and also received three musket balls in this left leg; he was taken prisoner, length of imprisonment and hospitalization not shown; he stated that even through wounded, he served to the best of his ability until June 1783, when he was honorably discharged.

He was allowed pension from March 4, 1796, on account of disability resulting from the above named wounds.

In 1818 he was residing at Westerlo, Albany County, New York, and in [?] Milton, Saratoga County, New York.

He died April 8, 1841, place not stated. His age is not given. The place of his birth is not shown.

Soldier married in 1794, in Sussex County, New Jersey, [?] or Susanna Wright. She died July 1, [?] in Albany County, New York. Her age is not stated.

The following children are referred to: Jacob, born December 19, [?] and died December 18, [181?], [Jesse?] born July 4, 17?] Eva, born in 1796; Caroline Cornwall; Anne White; and [?] Fish; all of the above named but Jacob survived their mother.

The following is a family record of Jacob Foster, son of the soldiers.

Jacob Foster born December 19 [?] died December 15 [1819?]

Sophia [?field] born August 1, 1791, died October 8, 1819.

Susan Orella Foster born January 25 180-(torn).

Ira Foster born July 25, 181-torn, died September [?] 1818.

George W. Foster born November 13, 1816.

There are no further family data.