

**THE FOSTER FAMILY STORY**  
**Including the Lawhon Family**

by Sue Ward

March 22, 2021

[www.trustygenealogist.com](http://www.trustygenealogist.com)

# The Foster Family Migration

1636-London, England to  
James City Colony, VA to  
James City County, VA to  
Surry County, VA to  
Granville County, NC which became Franklin County, NC to  
Rutherford County, TN to  
Lawrence County, AR to  
Independence County, AR to  
Izard County, AR

## Introduction

John Foster was born in 1847 at Izard County, Arkansas. He married Minerva Moore who was born 1848 in Yalobusha County, Mississippi. Minerva was the daughter of Carney Moore born 1809 in South Carolina and Lucinda unknown. John and Minerva were the parents of fourteen children. Their son, Virgil Foster, married Dorothy McAnally. They were the parents of four children, including Trude and Edward Foster. John Foster and Minerva's daughter, Emma, married Finis Brackenridge "F.B." Williams, the parents of Roy Williams, this author's grandfather. Roy, Trude and Edward (who performed the DNA test) were first cousins. After Izard County records were burned on three separate occasions, Trude did his best to retain his memories in hopes that a family member would one day contact him and record the family stories. He hoped his memory was comparable to that of his uncle, F.B. Williams, who was known for his incredible memory. They both understood the importance of preserving family heritage. Census records, vital statistics, wills, land records, tax records and more confirm the accuracy of information provided by Trude. Inconsistencies in his recollections are minimal. Knowing of the loss of records, local historian Vera Reeves kept an index card file of Izard County deaths for decades. Her records are invaluable and are now a part of the Izard County Historical Society. In 2012, Karr Shannon wrote the book, *A History of Izard County, Arkansas*, but unfortunately, the Fosters were omitted. In the words of Trude Foster:

"As the family story was told, the Foster family came to this country from Ireland. They lived was Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky. In about the early 1800's they left Kentucky for Middle Tennessee. My great-great grandfather was born in Kentucky. In 1830, my great-great grandparents, and all of their children (two boys and four girls) left Franklin or Williamson County, Middle Tennessee, headed towards Arkansas. The area they left was close to Knoxville. Their son, my great-grandfather was Tom Foster born in 1815 in North Carolina, who married Polly Lawhon (sometimes spelled Lawhorn) born in 1819 in Tennessee. Great Grandpa Tom remembered making this trip. The Foster family traveled with the Lawhons to Arkansas. There were a lot of family who left Tennessee together.

"They took a large boat south to the White River. The river got too shallow for the big boats to go any further so they got off at Wild Hawes Landing in Guion, Izard County. Guion is a town on the river and the river is the southwest border of Izard County. The family stayed in Guion for a little while until they all got sick from the mosquitoes. I think it was malaria. They moved up into the mountains at Zion, Izard County, Arkansas, and lived there for a long time. They were all farmers."

They settled at Franklin Township, Izard County by 1850. Franklin Township was renamed Pleasant Hill and later renamed Strawberry Township.

Trude Foster shared the above and more. We communicated for years via phone calls and letters. I regret we were never able to meet. He could recall no names of family before his great grandparents, Thomas and Polly (Lawhon) Foster, but he believed the father of Thomas Foster to be either John or Thomas. According to the 1850 census, Thomas' wife was listed as Nancy. His mother was living with them. Her name was also Nancy. She was born 1786. After the death of Thomas' mother, his widow used the legal name Mary with a nickname of Polly, which is common. This suggests there may have been a census error, that his wife's name in 1850 is incorrect. We know that he didn't remarry. Mary/Polly had a sister named Nancy who married Green Hill, who lived as a neighbor to the Foster plantation.

Mary "Polly" Lawhon was the daughter of Axum Lawhon and Mary "Polly" England who married on 28 October 1815 at Roane County, TN. She was named after her mother. When the Fosters lived in Rutherford, TN, the Lawhons married at nearby Roane, TN, the area where these two families met. In 1840, Axum/Axham lived in Wayne Co., Missouri. By 1850 he lived in Butler Co., Missouri, where he died in 1852. Butler County borders Izard Co., Arkansas. Several of Axum's children lived near one another in Izard.

Trude stated, "Great-grandpa Tom homesteaded 160 acres of land, the most allowed, and Grandpa John Foster homesteaded 160 acres of land next to his property, so together they had 360 acres. They called it, 'Jordan Farms.' (*The Jordans are a collateral family in earlier generations. The original land was acquired by Bernard Jordan in 1820 according to the Arkansas Homestead Patents. His son, James, inherited the land upon Bernard's death in 1825.*) All the Fosters lived on the farm and there was plenty of land for all the families. Mom and Dad and I lived on the old homestead for a long time until they were not able to take care of the farm any longer and moved to town in Batesville, Arkansas. "

A partial Foster family tree is located on page 51. The partial Lawhon tree is found on page 59.

Research beyond 1815 was at a standstill for over ten years. Finding such common names felt impossible. Just recently, a notation on the find-a-grave website was made regarding Elizabeth Foster born 1812 in Tennessee. She was widowed and lived in Izard in 1850. The notation statement confirmed what Trude had told me about the Fosters having come from Middle Tennessee. Elizabeth Foster was from Rutherford Co., TN, the neighboring county to Williamson Co., TN. The town of Franklin is located in Williamson-the same information Trude Foster had shared. A new search was made for the Fosters in the census, but this time, census for 1830, 1820 and 1810 were explored. It was not logical to look for the Fosters in Arkansas since Thomas was born in 1815 at North Carolina. However, surprisingly, the 1810 Rutherford County census included four men by the name of Foster, all aged 26-44 years old. There was no man old enough to be their father. Looking for ancestors in North Carolina with a common name again felt hopeless, but there was much more to discover.

## PART I

### THE FOSTER FAMILY STORY

Up until now, little was known about the Foster family of Izard County, Arkansas, prior to the birth of Thomas Foster in 1815, in North Carolina. There were many Foster immigrants arriving in Virginia in the 1600's, but there was not sufficient information to connect to any of them. William L. Foster of Asheville, North Carolina, has done an in-depth study of the Fosters for several decades, becoming an authority on the family and their origins. He is a retired justice and continued to research until early 2017. He collaborated with the author of the book, *The Foster family: of Flanders, England, and America*, Billy Glen Foster, 1990, B.F. Foster and Institute Publishing. William had used findings of another researcher who had acquired ancient records from Europe, but was concerned with some of the dates in that research. He asked my opinion about changing his source to the book *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in 1623*, Treswell, Robert; Vincent, Augustine, ca. 1584-1626; Camden, William, 1551-1623; Grazebrook, George, 1831-1917 ed; Rylands, J. Paul (John Paul), b. 1846 joint ed; College of Arms (Great Britain), 1889, London. The Visitation is similar to a census. We concluded it would be best to use the Visitation, known for its accuracy, and he revised his findings and website accordingly. William L. Foster has also studied DNA findings, comparing them with the extensive material he holds. Critical documents are posted online. William's website is: "Genealogy Pages of William L. Foster, Jr.". William L. Foster wanted to make it clear that this line has no connections whatsoever to the Fosters of Wilkes County, North Carolina.

Further research shows that John Foster of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, who is often mistaken as our direct ancestor, is a descendant of Christopher Foster who died in 1735. Christopher had a younger brother, John, who is in fact our direct ancestor.

After studying the DNA findings of Edward Bryant Foster, first cousin to my grandfather, Roy Earnest Williams, William L. Foster was able to determine our **immigrant ancestor is Philip Foster**.

#### Generation One

**Philip Foster<sup>1</sup>**. (1592-c.1671) The first record of Philip Foster is on the Visitation of Hunsdon, Hertfordshire, England, taken in 1623. His estimated birth year is c.1593. There was only one man born by that name in the correct time period who could be this person. He married Elizabeth unknown. Philip died before 6 February 1671 when probate documents were recorded. He was the son of Thomas Foster and Mary Ann Baskerville. (See **Attachment 1**.) The records of William L. Foster and DNA testing identify direct immigrant ancestor to be Capt. Philip Forster of Hunsdon, Hertfordshire, England. Philip was a merchant who had extensive business agents or factors many of whom settled in York, VA. Philip supposedly attained the title "Captain" after having made many voyages across the ocean.

## ARRIVALS FROM VIRGINIA IN 1656.

ADD. M. SS. 34015, VOL. II., BRITISH MUSEUM.

*(Continued from QUARTERLY, XX., 186.)*Communicated by LOTHROP WITHINGTON, ESQ., 30 Little Russell  
St. W. C., London, England.

5TH OF MAY, 1656.

Mark Warkman of London, Merchant, landed at Dover ye 4th present out of ye Honor of London John Price Comander from Virginia and came this day to London and lodgeth at ye house of Francis Cannfeild ——— at ye Kinges Armes in ye old Change in ye parish of Augustines and saith his voyage being ended he intendeth to remayn here.

5TH OF MAY.

Thomas Fenton, Servant to Phillip Fostir<sup>1</sup> of Ratcliffe in ye parish of Stepney in ye Countie of Middlesex landed at Dover ye third present out of the golden Lyon of London, Rogir Heminge Comander from Virginia and came to London on ye 4th and is in ye Service of his said Mastir.

<sup>1</sup> Philip Foster had extensive dealings with Virginia, and had, during his business, many agents or factors there, several of whom settled in Virginia. He is generally spoken of as "Captain," and had probably performed several voyages on his own account to this side of the water. In 1671, John Bracegirdle, who died in York County, Virginia, was factor of "Capt. Philip Foster of South Lambeth in County Surry, England." In 1675, "Samuel Weldon of London Merchant," was sent over by him to dispose of his servants, goods, and other merchandize, in case his "present factor, Samuel Hill, in Virginia should be disabled by sickness or death." Samuel Weldon came over and was the founder of the family of that name in the South. In 1676, Foster sent over Samuel Deane. In 1682, he sent a power of attorney to William Sherwood, a well-known lawyer in Virginia. At the time he was still residing at Lambeth, in Surry.

Source: "The William and Mary Quarterly, Volume 21" edited by Lyon Gardiner Tyler, Richard Lee Morton, 1912, William and Mary College, p. 258. Pages one and two of this document, give several other sources documenting the arrival of Philip Foster in the colonies by 6 March 1636. His wife Eliza, arrived by 11 June 1636.

For clarity and continuity, Philip Foster dealings as a merchant will not be discussed in great detail in this chapter, but will be addressed in Part III of this document. The Library of Virginia holds very interesting records. Those pages further identify some of the merchants in Virginia whom he was also associated with in London.

The following website provides us more information about Philip Foster at:  
<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C3928300>

From this following estate information, we can ascertain that Philip Foster was married to Elizabeth unknown. He died at Middlesex, England. Record of the National Archives in the United Kingdom, Reference No. C 5/606/37 in Philip Foster v. Elizabeth Foster, widow, filed 1672; money matters,

Middlesex, Document type: Bill only. There is record of a Philip Foster who died in 1669, which is unproven to be the same person. Namesake son, Philip, sued his mother, Elizabeth Foster, widow, regarding matters of the estate.

Philip Foster petitions the court for permission to provide money for his brother, Henry, also a merchant, to migrate to Virginia and provide necessities to settle comfortably.

"English Origins of American Colonists From the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record", Henry B. Hoff, 1991, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., p. 96. This record states:

February the Six and Twentieth, 1671-2, **Elizabeth Foster, widow, late wife of Henry Foster** in Virginia, late deceased, did make her last will, and is to say, shee did nominate and appoint her **mother Elizabeth Higgison, widow, late wife of Humfrey Higgison**, to be her only Executrix, and did give and bequeath vnto her all her whole estate. Witnesses: Thomas Hasellwood, Mary Higgison, John Betts. Proved 14 March, 1673-4, by the executrix. (P.C.C. Bunce, 35.)

During the process of writing our book, "Early Virginia Colonial Families", Wanda Tucker and I learned that Humfrey Higgison married an Elizabeth Foster, but finding her connected to this Foster family was quite a surprise! See page 70 of our book for more information.

Philip Foster (Jr.) signed a power of attorney to William Sherwood in Virginia in 1682. He too, had an interest in the merchant business:

In 1692-3, Mrs. Sarah Weldon "widow of Major Samuel Weldon," brought an action of ejectment by Poynes Weldon, her attorney. Her husband, Major Samuel Weldon, of London, came to Virginia in 1675 as factor for **Philip Foster**, of London, merchant, and settled in James City county.

Source: Virginia Gleanings in England, Lathrop Withington, 1980, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, MD, p. 125.

Another record at the Norfolk Record Office is found at:

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/9fc6eb07-4ab4-4803-a9bc-39736e6e959f>

Release and Marriage Settlement; Reference SF314/11 302 x 4

1. Clement Towers of Thetford, gent.
2. Thomas Neary of the Inner Temple, gent., and Mary Fletcher, spinster, daughter of Walter Fletcher, late of London, merchant, dec'd., granddaughter of Clement Towers.
3. Philip Foster of South Lambeth, Surrey, merchant, and Henry Towers of Downham, Norfolk, gent.

Lands as 7/17 May 1679.

Date: 8/18 May 1679

On March 6, 1636, Richard Cocke was granted land for transporting several people, including Philip Foster. Source: *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia land patents and grants, 1623-1800*, p. 54. Page 208 states that in 1650, Thomas Vaus was granted land for transporting ten persons, including Philip Foster to Virginia.

On 11 June 1636, William Farrar was awarded land for transporting several persons, including Eliza Foster.

Hen. Foster was transported to Virginia by Toby Smith on 6 Oct. 1652. Source: *Virginia Colonial Abstracts 1632-1810*, p. 16.

From this, we can determine that Philip Foster, Sr., his wife, Elizabeth, son Philip and son Henry all arrived in Virginia. Minor children were frequently not named on early passenger lists which would account for names missing.

Philip Foster had at least two sons. Phillip Foster was born in 1622 in England. He married Anne Dawson (born 1635) on 20 August 1655 at Stepney, Middlesex, England. Philip was about age fourteen when his family migrated to Virginia, but he later returned to London. About 1669, Philip Foster, Jr., was in London and was involved in the father's estate and appears to have taken over his father's merchant business after his father's death. Another son of Philip Foster, Sr., Christopher Foster was born 1621, baptized as Christofer Foster at St. Clement Danes, Middlesex, England, who arrived with his father in the colonies and lived in Virginia.

Source: "England Marriages, 1538–1973," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NK5Q-JXX> : 10 December 2014), Phillip Foster and Anne Dawson, 20 Aug 1655; citing Stepney, Middlesex, England, reference , index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; FHL microfilm 597,246).

Source: "England, Middlesex, Westminster, Parish Registers, 1538-1912," database with Images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KCCP-H5J> : 24 December 2014), Christofer Foster, 1621, Baptism; from "Parish registers 1539-1945," database and images, *findmypast* (<http://www.findmypast.com> : n.d.); citing St Clement Danes, Middlesex, England, City of Westminster Archives Centre, London; FHL microfilm 574,263.

(See Surry County, Virginia Tax record.)

Philip Foster was tied to well-known people in the Colonies. "The Colonial Virginia Register", William G. and Mary Newton Stanard, 1989, Clearfield Publishing Company, Baltimore, MD, p. 86 abstracts state:

1688, Assembled April 19:  
Warwick: Miles Cary  
James City County: Philip Ludwell, James Bray  
James City: William Sherwood  
Surry: Arthur Allen, Samuel Swan

"The Ludwell list is one among the Ludwell Papers, Virginia Historical Society."

Source: The Colonial Virginia Register, Mary G. and Mary Newton Stanard, 1989, Clearfield Publishing Company, MD, p. 86.

- William Sherwood was the attorney for Philip Ludwell since his merchant business required him to be in London frequently.
- Arthur Allen had a strong role in Bacon's Rebellion.
- Philip Ludwell and Miles Carey (another merchant of many we are aware of) are again, a part of our book, "Early Virginia Colonial Families."
- Philip Foster (the younger) who was in Lambeth, Surry, England, gave power of attorney to William Sherwood, his attorney in Virginia in 1682. John Barker was one of several who took possession of Arthur Allen's castle during Bacon's Rebellion. John Barker, Jr. and wife Grace's daughter, Elizabeth, married the older Philip Foster's son, Christopher, per John Barker's will. A "Wm. Foster" whose relationship is yet to be determined was transported by Barker.

"John Barker, Jr., 60 acs. Surry Co., 15 Oct. 1657, p. 122, (182). On S. side of James Riv. about 7 or 8 mi. from the head of upper Chipoakes Cr., Trans. of 12 pers: Edmond Jeneck (?), Tho. Wakefeild, Jno. Fairepoint, Anna De Wild, Roger Wmson, (Williamson), **Wm. Foster**, Petronella Jackson, Tho. Good, Rich. Bidolph, Arthur Patience, Jno. Staples, Fran Lattur (?)." Source: Early Virginia Families Along the James River: Their Deep roots and Tangled Branches, Vol. III, James City County & Surry County, Virginia, Virginia Pledge Heath Foley, 1990, \_\_\_\_\_publishing, p. 86.

## Generation Two

**Christopher Foster**<sup>2</sup> [*Philip Foster*<sup>1</sup>] Christopher was born in 1621 at St. Clement Danes, Middlesex, England. His death date is unproven, but he is not found in Surry Co., VA records with his son by 1679, suggesting he died quite young. Christopher Foster married Mary Jordan. Mary's father was George Jordan as proven through his will. George married widow Mary (Jordan) Bailey before 1649.



The other half of my personal Estate, as also all my lands in Virginia I give and bequeath unto my Nephew Thomas Jordan & to his heirs forever, He or they performing the above said Sermon, & in case of his decease before this will be proved, then all that I have given to him I give to my Brother Arthur Jordan To be Equally divided amongst Seaven Nephews and my Niece Eliza. Jordan, only Mourning Ring to himself, but still the above said sermon to be preached yearly by a lawful Minister, unto the end of the world. It is also my will that my Negro Woman Judith shall serve Seaven years after my decease and then to be free, and unto this my Consent and advised Act and deed I have and doe declare to be my lawful & last Will and Testament Revolving all others & I do desire that if I shall hereafter add anything after sealing it may be taken of equal force with this which I now subscribe, & praying God Almighty to bless this poore Collyen & this County, Especially wherein I now live above 43 years. I doe herewith put my hand and seal this 25th day of Febr, 1667/8 that is One thousand six hundred Seaventy & seaven.

Signed, George Jordan.

Acknowledged and witnessed in the presence of us.

Since the making of this my Will above written I have given to my Nephew, Edward Bayley a seate of land (above written) forever called the White Marsh & I doe therefore take back the six hundred pounds of tobo. I mentioned in my above will & doe give it Equally between Christer Foster, Walter Flood. I give unto Dantt Roone five hundred pounds of tobo. I give also unto Kathrine Madison five hundred pounds of tobo for the Cure of her Legg if she be not sent out of this parish by the Vestry before the Cure be Effected. I give unto Tho. Andrews & Dorothy, his wife, six hundred pounds of tobo. & Caske which also is meant to all the aforesaid sums which I have subscribed this 28th day of May 1678.

Signed George Jordan, sealered wax.

Acknowledged & Witnessed in the presence of us.

Will Browne,  
Wm. Thompson,

Source: The Descendants of Francis Muncy I: With Allied Families, Mary Edith Bullock Shaw, 1948, Rockford, Illinois, p. 81-82.

James<sup>2</sup>Anderson, who married Mary Jordan, daughter of Mary (Browne) and George Jordan (1657-1718), describes himself in 1718 as "of Prince George County" when he sold to Joshua Meachem of Surry County, for a consideration of L. 4, 104 acres

Source: Southside Virginia Families, Volume 1, John Bennett Boddie, Boddie, 2009, Genealogical Publishing, p. 296.

The book, "Early Virginia Families Along the James River: Their Deep Roots and Tangled Branches, Vol. III, Abstracts of Land Patents-Surry County", p. 106 reads:

"Edward Bayly, 220 acs, Up. Par. of Surry Co., no N. side of the Cypress Sw., 20 Apr. 1687, p. 575. Adj. Mr. Christopher Foster; near Francis Soresby, on the middle Marsh; by the White Marsh; to his own land, formerly Lt. George Jordan's & c. Trans. of 5 pers: David Scot, Luke Robinson."

<http://files.usgwarchives.net/va/schools/wmmmary/quarterly/v11n2/pg79-87.txt>

Extracts from p. 81:

make in ye late troubles, noe said he when Coll Swann sent a note to Mr Busby by Christopher ffoster to

rase men & come down wth them to stop ye Governors men, & yt ye Horses bridles & sadles of ours had not beene taken, had it not bin for Coll Swann, Katherine Witherington made answere againe that hee might hold his tongue for his sadle was saved by her sister & further yor depont did heare ye said Thomas High say yt ye sd Col Swann did send for a boate loade of Apples from mr masons for that he thought Mr Mason would never come again, with severall other base expressions wch yor depont cannot remember, further yor depont doe very well call to remembrance yt ye sd Thomas High did say yt Coll Swann did sitt in ye council of war bor burneing ye town & when ye Governr went away from towne he sent to Coll Swann but he would not come to him, but as soone Bacon came to towne he could take a boate & goe over to him & yt he hoped & believed yt Coll Swann would be pulled bare.

MILITIA IN 1687.

At a meeting of his Majties Justices of the Peace for the county of Surry Xber 19, 1687.

Prest Major Samll Swann Mr Robert Ruffin Mr Francis Mason Mr Robert Randall.

In obedience to an ordr of Councill dated 8br ye 24th 1687 requiring that the Collonells & Justices of every county doe

p. 82

take an accot of all the ablest Freeholders and Inhabitants in their respective counties that are Quallified either in Estate of pson to finde & maintaine a Man & Horse to be Listed in a Troope for that country or go themselves when occation shall require, and likewise an accot of all other Freeholders & Inhabitants that are fitt to be Listed per ffoot and returne the same to his Excellency with all convenient speede. This Court having considered the Capacitie & abilities of the severall Freeholders and

Inhabitants of this county doe most humbly present his Excellency the following persons for horse and ffoott as they are here severall set downe (vizt)

For Horse.

<b>Col: Phill: Ludwell</b>	Wm. Rose
a man and horse	Tho: Bage
2 John Thompson	<b>Xto Foster (Christopher)</b>
Tho: Collier	4 Ni: Meriwether
Walter Flood	Antho. Hardwicke
Tho Flood	Tho: Busby
John Watkins	Jos: Ford
Capt: Roger Potter	Hen: Tucker
Wm. Foreman	Tho: Drew
Tho: Binns	Robert Lancaster
Tho: Warren	Tho: Jarrett
Geo: Williams	Tim: Walker
Tho: High	Ni: Sessorms
Samll: Thompson	Wm: Gwathney
Jno: Edwards	Math: Swann
<b>James Jordan</b>	Wm: Chambers
<b>River Jordan</b>	Wm: Gray
Jno: King	Wm: Newsume
Wm: Simons	Wm: Newit

Tim: Essell junr:	Jno. Holt
Tho: Bentley junr.	Wm. Hancock
Tho: Jolly	Rogr. Delke
Wm: Carpinter	Charles Jarret
<b>Jno: Barker</b>	Wm. Seward a Quaker
Tho: Tias	Tho: Partridge a Quaker
23 Wm Hunt	Walter Bartlet a Quaker
23	Jno. Barnes a Quaker

p. 83 extracts

by foot

**Geo. Jordan**

others

In 1679, a census was taken at Surry County, Virginia. Christopher Foster and collateral families, the Jordans and Barkers, are counted. Philip Foster, both senior and junior, returned to London where Philip Sr. died before 23 November 1672, as previously discussed.

Source: <http://files.usgwarchives.net/va/surry/census/1679ty.txt>

*Findings: A relationship has now established between Philip Foster, Eliza Foster, Philip Foster, Jr., Henry Foster, Thomas Vaus, Philip Ludwell, Sr., Philip Ludwell, Jr., William Sherwood, Thomas Fenton, Samuel and Sarah Weldon, Richard Cocke, William Farrar, John Barker, Arthur Allen, and others.*

This is a Christopher of an *undetermined* family line, since his birth year is estimated at 1610:

"As given in Hotten's list, Christopher Foster, Frances, his wife, aged twenty-five, children: Rebecca, aged five; Nathaniel, aged two and James, aged one year, came to Virginia in 1635, before the New England contingent arrived. James, aged twenty-one, probably brother of Christopher, came in the same year, as also Richard, aged sixteen."

Source: Makers of America: Biographies of Leading Men of Thought and ..., Volume 3, Leonard Wilson, 1917, B.F. Johnson, Inc. Publishing, p. 440

The will of John Barker, Jr., proves Christopher Foster and Mary Jordan to be the parents of Christopher Foster:

Elizabeth, probable eldest child of John and Grace----? Barker, m. (1) Christopher Foster: (2) Thomas Andrews. Christopher Foster was the son of Mary (Jordan), sister of Lt. Col. George Jordan of Surry County. Mary Jordan m. (1) Arthur Bailey, (2) -----Foster, first name unknown. However, we know from the will (1678, Surry Co.) of Lt. Col. Jordan that among seven nephews one was Christopher Foster (See Jordan).

Christopher Foster, nephew of Lt. Col. Jordan, was born 1649 (Surry Co. depositions), place unknown. He died after March 27, 1711 (will) and before July 18, 1711: m. between 1689 and 1696, Elizabeth, daughter of John and Grace----Barker. John Foster was named in his will as the eldest son and was probably the eldest child. On the 20th Feb. 1711/12, John Foster appeared in Court (Surry Co. Orders, 1691-1713, p.388) and "made choice of Edward Bailey for his guardian". Thus we know that his parents were married by 1696.

Source: Southside Virginia Families, Volume 2, John Bennett Boddie, Boddie, 1991, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, MD., p. 32

Christopher Foster, Sr., (born 1649) died in 1711 at Surry County, VA. This will names his oldest son, John, and youngest son, Christopher.

**FOSTER, Christopher:** Leg.- To my Eldest son, John Foster, my Plantation which I now live one, with all land thereto belonging. To my youngest son, Christopher Foster, my Plantation which I bought of Abraham Evans near the Blackwater Swamp. All the rest of my estate in general to be divided between and among my wife and four children, Jno. Foster, Christopher Foster, Faith Foster, and Eliza Foster. Wife, Elizabeth Foster, and her Father, Mr. John Barker, Exers., jointly of my Will and Test. Whereas the Upper part of this Will hath been long made and it hath pleased God to Bless me with three children, more or less: Grace, Robert, and Fortune Foster. They to have equal part with my wife and four children above named for personall estate and gives Robert Foster all that part of land above given to son, Christopher, which lyeth on East side of the Branch Called Cattail Branch to Robert Foster, it having been given to son, Christopher, not with standing. To Wife, Elizabeth Foster, bed I die on and rest of will as written. Son, John, have all rest of land on Nottoway River and he pay charges out of his own part. 27 Mar., 1710/11. Prob.: 18 July, 1718. Wit: Edward Bagley, Thos. Andrews. Book 6, p. 72.

Source: Wills and Administrations of Surry County, Virginia, 1671-1750, Eliza Timberlake Davis, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, MD, p. 55.

### Generation Three

**Christopher Foster<sup>3</sup>** [*Christopher Foster<sup>2</sup> Philip Foster<sup>1</sup>*] Christopher's birth year of 1649 was confirmed per the above court records at James City, Virginia. However, there is a discrepancy in Surry Co., VA Records Book II, March 1671 to 5 July 1684, page 104:

Page 150. 15 Sept. 1679. Christopher Foster, aged 27, makes deposition that he was at Coll. Swann's house the same day ye late Gov. Sr. Wm. Berkeley sallied out of towne; Coll. Swann, thinking ye county in some danger, sent Deponent to Mr. Busby's to see if any Guards were kept there and wanted to speak to Busby, but found only Mrs. Busby at home, a woman, two men, and Wm. Pickerell, a lame nan, etc.

However, another record at that same place, page 121 reads:

The above entries in the Record Book are of two different men. Our line's Christopher Foster's will is dated 27 Mar 1710/11. He married Elizabeth Barker, born 1657 at Chippokes Creek, Surry Co., VA. Elizabeth was the daughter of John Barker, Jr. and according to many, Grace Busby. Their oldest son, **John, was born 1698**. John married Mary Fort. John's brother, Christopher married her sister, Alice Fort. Their father was Elias Fort III. The Library of Virginia holds Virginia Colonial Land Patents 1623-1774. Land grants were made to Christopher on 10 September 1755 in Southampton Co., VA. That deed contains the name of John Fort. A second deed is dated 15 Dec. 1749, at Isle of Wight, VA, and a third deed is dated 5 Sept. 1749 at Isle of Wight, VA. Christopher born 1649 is listed on 1711 tax records at Surry Co., VA where he died immediately following.

**John Barker Jr.** of Surry Co., Va. on Oct. 5, 1657 patented 600 acres on Upper Chippokes Creek (C.P. 415). The dates of his birth and marriage are unknown. He married Grace, probable daughter of Thomas Busby and probable granddaughter of Francis (Capt.) Grey and his wife, Grace, about 1680. Since **John Barker Jr.** executed a deed in 1673, he was born by or before 1652. It appears that Thomas Busby and **John Barker** were among the "Rebels" who took possession of "Bacon's Castle" (Arthur Allen's home) during the Rebellion, for "Bacon's Lieutenant, Thomas Busby, at whose house no guard was found during the critical days of Mid-September, along with a number of Bacon's men (among whom was **JOHN BARKER**) agreed to pay Arthur Allen damages, Nov. 15, 1677" (Co.Surry 138-9).

Southside Virginia Families, Volume 2, John Bennett Boddie, Boddie, 2009, Genealogical Publishing Co., p. 31.

This abstract of a will was found for John Foster, the *brother of Christopher Foster*, of our direct line. "Wills and Administrations of Isle of Wight County Virginia 1647-1800 Books 1-3, Blanche Adams Chapman, 2006, Heritage Books, p. 141:

FOSTER, JOHN: Leg-eldest son **Christopher**, son **John**, land adjoining Charles Barham and Thomas Phillips; son **Arthur**, wife **Mary**; daughter **Elizabeth**; daughter **Faith**; daughter **Mary**; daughter **Lucy**; daughter **Sarah**. Exs., wife and **my brother Christopher Foster**. D. Feb 23, 1735. R. Sept. 28, 1736. Wit: Richard Griffith, Christopher Foster, Faith Emry, Fortune Foster. p. 141 Source: "Wills and Administrations of Isle of Wight County Virginia 1647-1800, Books 1-3, by Blanche Adams Chapman, 2006, Heritage Books, page 126.

A land grant is found at the Library of Virginia in Surry County for John Hatley, grantee, on 5 June 1736, for property bounding John Foster.

Several land grants are found at the Library of Virginia for Christopher Foster, grantee, on:

10 September 1755, Southampton County

15 December 1749, Isle of Wight County

5 September 1749, Wight County (Christopher Foster, Jr.)

**Generation Four**

**John Foster**<sup>4</sup> [*Christopher Foster*<sup>3</sup>, *Christopher Foster*<sup>2</sup>, *Philip Foster*<sup>1</sup>] born 1698 at Isle of Wight Co., VA; death 23 Feb. 1775, Isle of Wight; married Mary Fort born 1699 at Surry Co., VA; daughter of Elias Fort.

The information below is taken from *Southside Virginia Families, Volume 2*, by John Bennett Boddie, 1995, Redwood City, Calif., Pacific Coast Publishers, pp. 31-33.

"Whereas my son John Barker Junior, did convey unto me, John Barker, Senior, both then of Surry County----75 acres lying in Martins Brandon in Charles City County--- John Barker (No wits) (Id. 1671-84, pp. 43, 68)

On Aug. 10, 1678, John Barker, Senr. of Martins Brandon in Charles City County, planter, with the approbation and consent of Ann, his wife, for 16000# of good merchantable Toba conveyed unto Benjamin Harrison---of that part of Devident of land in Surry County above the head of Upper Chippokes Creek whereon I formerly lived---patent granted unto me 18 Dec. 1662 being in quantity 1800 acres.

Wits: Elias Osborne	John Barker
Jethro <sup>his</sup> Barker	Ann Barker
mark	
Samuel <sup>his</sup> Newell	(Id-185)
mark	

Letitia Barker, probably mother of John Barker Jr. witnessed the following deed in 1671:-----that I Vincent Inge doe constitute ---my loving friend, Isaac Watson To be my ---lawful attorney to sue---from any person in James City County or Surry County in Virg<sup>a</sup>

Wits: <u>Letitia Barker</u>	Vincent Inge
Hen: Knight	

John Barker, the Elder, had two sons other than John Barker, his son and heir, as proven by the following Court order: (Charles City County Orders 1687-1695, p. 328, Date 5 January 1690)

"Judgement is granted Joel Barker ag<sup>st</sup> John Good of Martins Brandon for 8000 pounds of Tobo & casq which appears from y<sup>e</sup> sd Good to the sd Barker by ye will and testament of John Barker father to the said Joel. He the said (Good) having intermarried with the Adm<sup>tr</sup> of the said decedent & it is ordered y<sup>e</sup> upon receipt of the said Tobacco both ye sd Joel and Jethro Barker signe a sufficient discharge therefor & allsoe allow in discount from this judgement what tobo: already received from ye Goods on this account----".

John Barker Jr. of Surry Co., Va. on Oct. 5, 1657 patented 600 acres on Upper Chippokes Creek (C.P. 415). The dates of his birth and marriage are unknown. He married Grace, probable daughter of Thomas Busby and probable granddaughter of Francis (Capt.) Grey and his wife, Grace, about 1680. Since John Barker Jr. executed a deed in 1673, he was born by or before 1652. It appears that Thomas Busby and John Barker were among the "Rebels" who took possession of "Bacon's Castle" (Arthur Allen's home) during the Rebellion, for "Bacon's Lieutenant, Thomas Busby, at whose house no guard was found during the critical days of Mid-September, along with a number of Bacon's men (among whom was JOHN BARKER) agreed to pay Arthur Allen damages, Nov. 15, 1677" (Co. Surry 138-9).

John Barker Jr. died in Surry County, after the 9th Oct. 1713 and before 19th May 1714. His will was recorded in Surry County

Deeds No. 5, 1709-1715. Abstract follows:

Daughter, Elizabeth Andrews, 5 shillings (m. (1) **Christopher Foster**; (2) Thomas Anderson.  
 Daughter, Sarah Lanier, 10 shillings, (m. Robert ? Lanier)  
 Daughter, Hannah Lashley, 20 shillings, (m. Walter Lashley)  
 Grandson, Robert **Foster**, 40 acres  
 Son, John Barker, 400 acres (See later)  
 Son, John Barker, 222 acres  
 Son, Josiah Barker, 400 acres (See later)  
 Son, Josiah Barker, 222 acres  
 wife, Grace Barker, 300 acres  
 Daughter, Grace Barker, the 300 acres plantation after her mother's death.  
 "My son Josiah Barker to take into his possession the Estates of **Christopher**, Grace and Robert **Foster** and not to be appraised and to pay them as they shall come of age" ---I do constitute and appoint my loving wife Grace Barker my Executrix & my son Josiah Barker Ex<sup>f</sup>. with her of this my last Will and Testament  
 Wits.: Thomas Cotten, John Johnson, Elizabeth Figures  
 Dated Oct.9, 1713, probated May 19, 1714.

Elizabeth, probable eldest child of John and Grace----? Barker, m. (1) **Christopher Foster**; (2) Thomas Andrews. **Christopher Foster** was the son of Mary (Jordan), sister of Lt. Col. George Jordan of **Surry** County. Mary Jordan m. (1) Arthur Bailey, (2) -----**Foster**, first name unknown. However, we know from the will (1678, **Surry** Co.) of Lt. Col. Jordan that among seven nephews one was **Christopher Foster** (See Jordan).

**Christopher Foster**, nephew of Lt. Col. Jordan, was born 1649 (**Surry** Co. depositions), place unknown. He died after March 27, 1711 (will) and before July 18, 1711: m. between 1689 and 1696, Elizabeth, daughter of John and Grace-----Barker. John **Foster** was named in his will as the eldest son and was probably the eldest child. On the 20th Feb. 1711/12, John **Foster** appeared in Court (**Surry** Co. Orders, 1691-1713, p.388) and "made choice of Edward Bailey for his guardian". Thus we know that his parents were married by 1696.

The will of **Christopher Foster** was recorded in **Surry** County Deeds, etc. No.5, 1709-1715. Abstract:

my eldest son John **Foster**----  
 my youngest son **Christopher Foster**----  
 Rest of the estate divided between wife and four children, John **Foster**, **Christopher Foster**, Faith **Foster** and Elizabeth **Foster**.  
 "and I do also nominate and appoint my loving wife Elizabeth **Foster** and her father, Mr. Jn<sup>o</sup> Barker Execut<sup>x</sup> and Execut<sup>f</sup> Joyntly----  
 "Whereas the upper part of this will hath been Long made and it hath pleased God to bless me with three children more since to say Grace Robert and Fortune"----  
 Dated 27 March 1710/11; Proved July 18th, 1711  
 Teste **Christopher Foster** Sealed  
 Edward Bayley by C mark - with red wax  
 Tho; Ho; Andrews



**Christopher Foster** of Isle of Wight and Southampton, son of **Christopher** and Elizabeth (Barker) **Foster**, was born about 1700; died Southampton Co., Va., before March 12, 1767; married before 1738 Alice, daughter of Elias Fort III. (His older brother, John **Foster**, married Mary, sister of Alice, see will of Elias Fort III, **Surry Co.**, 1739). (See Fort in Vol. I)

The will of the above **Christopher Foster** is of record in Southampton Co. Will Book 2, p.191; date Nov.17, 1766; Rec. Mar. 12, 1767. Abstract:

Son, John **Foster**---

Grandson Richard, son of Elias **Foster**---

Son, Moses **Foster**---

dau. Amy **Foster** ---

wife, Alice **Foster**---

son, Newit **Foster**---

"I likewise resign the guardianship of the orphans of Jno Westbrook, decd, to them my exors."---

Exs: sons Newit and Moses **Foster**.

Wit: Arthur **Foster**, John Fort, John Westbrook.

Alice (Fort) **Foster** survived her husband six years. Her will was recorded in Southampton Co. Will Book 3, p.24; Dated Aug. 7, 1770, Rec. Feb.11, 1773. Abstract:

Son Moses; daughter Amey **Foster**; grandson Elias Westbrook.

Ex. son Moses **Foster**.

Wit. Arthur **Foster**, Joshua Fort.

John Westbrook, son of John Westbrook and "beloved wife" (Will Book 3, p 357, l. of W) married (1) daughter of **Christopher** and Alice (Fort) **Foster**, as proved by the court records of Southampton County. There was born to them sons, John, William, Moses, James, and Elias. After the death of his first wife, ---- (**Foster**) Westbrook, he married Honour Ramsey by whom there were sons, Burwell and Gray. John Westbrook's will is of record in Southampton Will Book One, p 391; Dated Apr. 7, 1761; rec. Aug. 13, 1761. Wit. John Person, Joshua Cland, Richard Taylor Jr. John Westbrook predeceased his father-in-law, **Christopher Foster** who became guardian of John Westbrook's children by his first wife, the daughter of **Christopher Foster**, viz., John, William, Moses, James, and Elias. All of the children, including Gray and Burwell by the second wife, removed to No. Carolina. (For descendants see Westbrook). (Compiled from records furnished by Mr. William Blair Jones of Pell City, Alabama)

John<sup>3</sup> Barker, son of Grace and John<sup>2</sup> Barker, Jr., was bequeathed by his father "400 acres where he now lves joining the plantation I live on", and "my plantation on the Nottaway River, 222 acres on Indian Cabin branch after his mother's decease." On June 16, 1721, John Barker and Mary, his wife, of Southwark Parish sold Thomas Peters 223 acres on Cabbin Branch adjoining William Hunt. Wits.: Benj. Chap. Donaldson, John Mitchel, Gerald Green (BK 8-p.367) This land, consisting of 446 acres, had been patented by his father, July 12, 1718, "on the north side of the Nottaway River adjoining Wm. Hunt". (PB 10, -390)

John Barker made his will may 21, 1725; probated April 21, 1742. He gave his son, JOHN BARKER land between Reedy Branch

Notice Christopher Foster names his wife, Elizabeth (Barker) and her father, John Barker, Jr., as executors of his estate.

Findings: John Barker, Sr. and Jr., both of Charles City Co., sold 75 acres land which had been acquired by land grant 18 Dec. 1662, to Benjamin Harrison for 16000 pounds of "good merchantable tobacco". Another land grant for 1,000 acres was acquired by the Fosters on 5 Oct. 1657. During Bacon's Rebellion, John Barker and Thomas Busby were two of several Rebels who took over Bacon's Castle, Arthur Allen's home. John Barker was married to Grace, believed by many to be the daughter of Thomas Busby. Also, Benjamin Harrison, the ancestor of the President, has family ties in our book, "Early Virginia Colonial Families."

John Barker's will provides a death date 1713-14. It names minors Christopher, Grace and Robert Foster under the care of Josiah Barker.

Both the will of Christopher Foster and the will of John Barker, Jr., confirm Christopher Foster born 1649 married Elizabeth Barker and their children were:

**John (oldest)**

- Faith
- Elizabeth
- Grace
- Robert
- Fortune
- Christopher (youngest)

John Foster, born about 1698, appeared in court, a minor, on 20 Feb. 1711-12 and made a choice of Edward Bailey as his guardian. These abstracts confirm that his parents, Christopher Foster and Mary Fort, married before 1696.

The will of Christopher Foster was made at Surry Co., VA. Surry borders Granville Co., NC, which became Franklin Co., NC, where our direct line is found.

Source: Ancestry.com. *Southside Virginia Families Vol I* , p. 31-33

**Generation Five**

**John Foster<sup>5</sup>** [*John Foster<sup>4</sup>, Christopher Foster<sup>3</sup>, Christopher Foster<sup>2</sup>, Philip Foster<sup>1</sup>*] John's estimated birth year is 1730. He died in 1803 at Surry Co., VA, which became Granville Co. then Franklin Co., NC. His death record was found in Franklin Co., NC.

North Carolina Probate records name people who died in Franklin Co., NC from 1785-1817, the appropriate time period for the deaths of Revolutionary War Veterans who lived full lives. Some given names on this list were recognizable compared to information provided by William L. Foster.

The North Carolina Probate Records, 1735-1970, Franklin County, Wills 1785-1964, Vol. A-L Index lists:

John Foster (I) born c.1698 at Isle of Wight County

John Foster (II), born about 1730, who died in 1803, Surry County

John Foster (III/or Jr.) born about 1771 and died in 1815, Franklin County

73

**Index to WILLS—Franklin County, N. C.—DEVISEE**

18<sup>th</sup> LOCATE NAME BY REFERENCE TO ENTRY IN FRONT OF THIS SECTION FROM 1785

Probate Index No. 1. Made by Hall & McChesney Ins. Survivors, N. Y.

Sold by The Henry Publishing Company, Charleston, N. C.

FAMILY NAME	DEVISEE			DEVISOR	DATE OF PROBATE			RECORDED	
	Given Names A B C D E F G H	Given Names I J K L M N O	Given Names P Q R S T U V W X Y Z		MONTH	DAY	YEAR	BOOK	PAGE
FOSTER		IREDEL		Robert Hill				B	93
FOSTER	ELIZABETH			John Foster				B	151
FOSTER	CHRISTOPHER			John Foster				B	151
FOSTER	DANIEL			John Foster				B	151
FOSTER		JOHN		John Foster				B	151
FOSTER	ARTHUR			John Foster				B	151
FOSTER		J RIAL		Robert Hill				B	167
FOSTER		NARCISSEY		John Pinnell				D	72
FOSTER	ARTHUR			Daniel Foster	3		1817	E	133
FOSTER	CHRISTOPHER			Daniel Foster	3		1817	E	133
FOSTER		JOHN		Daniel Foster	3		1817	E	133
FOSTER			REBECCA	Rebecca Hill				G	9
FOSTER	ELIZABETH			Peter Foster				L	230
FOSTER			PETER S.	Peter Foster				L	230
FOSTER			WM. B.	Peter Foster				L	230
FOSTER		LOUISA		Peter Foster				L	230
FOSTER		LUCY E.		Peter Foster				L	230
FOSTER		OMEGA		Peter Foster				L	230
FOSTER	AUGUSTUS I.			Peter Foster				L	230
FOSTER			WILBUR F.	Jacob Jones	6		1851	N	341

<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-LGHL-4KC?mode=g&i=125&wc=3211-2JM%3A169768401%2C170833801&cc=1867501>

Dates of death:

Christopher d. 1827 (undetermined)

Daniel (younger one) d. 1817 (2 Daniel's are listed, the second died after 1817)

John (III/Jr.) d. 1815

Source: <https://www.scribd.com/doc/148104431/Franklin-County-NC-Loose-Estates-Index>

**Generation Six**

**John Foster<sup>7</sup>** [John Foster<sup>6</sup>, John Foster<sup>5</sup>, John Foster<sup>4</sup>, Christopher Foster<sup>3</sup>, Christopher Foster<sup>2</sup>, Philip Foster<sup>1</sup>] John Foster born about 1771 (+/- 10 years) died in 1815, Franklin Co., NC. He is referred to sometimes as John Jr., but he is the third generation of "John."

Granville Co., NC:

Several years later, a map was drawn and named, "Map: - showing locations of the home-sites of Colonial families in Granville County, North Carolina" found at:  
<http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/3419>

This Granville map is a valuable tool since Franklin was formed from Granville. At the northeast corner of this map you can see William Christmas' property. He plays an important role in identifying our ancestors.

After the war, many veterans who attained high rank and were well respected became public servants in high government positions. After John Foster served as a Captain during the Revolutionary War, he held several positions including serving in the Legislature of the General Assembly, County of Franklin, North Carolina. In 1811, William Hill, Esq., (son of a Patriot) was appointed Secretary of State and continued to be reelected for more than four continuous decades until he died. William Christmas served during the Revolutionary War as an Ensign, and was promoted to Quartermaster of the Halifax Military District (in Franklin, NC). He was a Senator serving in the General Assembly, County of Franklin, North Carolina. This shows the association of John Foster with these people on a professional level, but they were also neighbors and friends. Descendants of these people migrated to Rutherford Co., Tennessee together and some continued moving further into Arkansas.

William Hill is counted in 1780 at Granville, which later became Franklin Co., NC.

See the census spreadsheet, **Attachment 2**, for a better understanding of the migration.

According to the map referred to above, William Christmas' residence is in the county seat, Louisburg, Franklin Co., North Carolina. This is also where both John Foster and William Christmas are counted in the 1790 census.

*These were the categories on 1790 census:*  
*1-free white males 16 year upwards and head of families*  
*2-free white males under 16 years*  
*3-free white females and head of families*  
*4-all other free persons*  
*5-slaves*

(only Foster on this census)  
Foster, John.....4-1-3-0-9

Census breakdown:  
first entry "4" is John (father), son: William, George W. John, Jr., Asa-one is grown  
second entry "1" is Richard  
third entry "3" females are unknown  
fifth entry is for 9 slaves

Christmas, William.....1-0-5-0-11

Source: Ancestry.com. 1790 United States Federal Census

The service records of Capt. John Foster (1757-1803) are contained in the files of other veterans:

Source: NC Patriots 1775-1783: Their Own Words, Volume 2, Part 2  
By J.D. Lewis

p. 169

Name	County	Year / Rank / Served Under / Notes	Known Battles
		under Capt. <b>John Foster</b> and Col. Robert Irwin (Mecklenburg County Regiment). 1780, a Private under Capt. James Henderson and Col. Benjamin Cleveland. 1781, a Private under Capt. <b>John Cleveland</b> and Col. Benjamin Cleveland. Born 10/23/1750 in Henrico County, VA.	

p. 225

Curry, Edward	Mecklenburg	First in SC unit. 1780, a Private under Capt. <b>John Foster</b> and Lt. Col. <b>John William Hagan</b> .	Hanging Rock (SC).
---------------	-------------	---	--------------------

p. 323

<b>Foster, John</b>	Mecklenburg	(under Mecklenburg County Regiment). 1778, a Captain under Col. Adam Alexander. 1779-1781, a Captain under Col. Robert Irwin. This man served back and forth between <b>NC</b> and SC units from '79 to '82. At the battle of Hanging Rock (SC) under Maj. William Richardson Davie. 1781, a Captain under Lt. Col. Henry Hampton (SC).	Hanging Rock (SC).
---------------------	-------------	---	--------------------

p. 372

Gray, Shared	Mecklenburg	1776, a Private under Capt. <b>John William Hagan</b> and Col. Adam Alexander. 1780, a Private under Capt. <b>John White</b> and Lt. Col. <b>John William Hagan</b> . 1780, also a Private under Capt. <b>John Foster</b> and Col. Robert Irwin. 1781, a Private under Col. Caleb Phifer, Captain's name not recalled. Born 6/11/1758 in <b>Granville County, NC</b> .	Cherokee Expedition 1776.
--------------	-------------	--	---------------------------

p.491

Howey, George	Mecklenburg	1780, a Private under Capt. John Foster and Col. Robert Irwin. Served again under Commissary Gilbraith (?) and went to SC. Born on 7/10/1762 in PA.	
---------------	-------------	---	--

p. 606

Lynn, James	Mecklenburg	LOCKE. 1779, a Private under Capt. Summers and Col. Francois DeMalmedy in the NC Light Dragoons Regiment. 1780, a Private under Capt. Simmerson and Maj. Ben Heannis. POW at the Fall of Charleston, SC, paroled. 1780, also a Private under Capt. John Foster and Maj. William Richardson Davie in the Independent Corps of Light Horse. 1780, also a Private under Capt. Francis Miller attached to Col. Elijah Issacs (Wilkes County Regiment). 1780, also a Private under Capt. John Foster and Col. William Richardson Davie in the NC State Cavalry-Western District. Spring of 1781 in SC unit. Born on 10/1/1764 in Mecklenburg County, NC.	Siege of Charleston (SC), Hanging Rock (SC), Fishing Creek (SC), Rugeley's Mill #2 (SC), Hobkirk's Hill (SC), Eutaw Springs (SC).
-------------	-------------	--	---

p. 667

**The State Records of North Carolina, Volume 28**

Name	County	Year / Rank / Served Under / Notes	Known Battles
		attached to Col. William Moore (Caswell County Regiment). Born 1/16/1750 in Rowan County, NC. R6818.	
McWhorter, Aaron	Mecklenburg	1780, a Private under Capt. John Foster and Col. William Richardson Davie in the NC State Cavalry-Western District. Served in both SC and NC units.	

*To avoid confusion, as a side note:*

*There is an application to "The Maryland Society Sons of the American Revolution" No. 27866 for another cousin, Patriot John Foster, approved for applicant Walter Dudley Seed. It is from documentation such as this that we were able to determine the relationship between our Fosters to those of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. This John Foster served as a Sergeant in Benjamin Spillman's*

*Company Second Virginia Regiment a.k.a. Captain Augustine Tabb's Company commanded successfully by Colonels Gregory Smith and William Brent. He enlisted for three years.*

*He was the great-great grandson of John Foster born 1761 and Elizabeth Savage (of Alabama) and the great-great-great grandson of Arthur Foster born 1732 and Martha Collier. Notice in the proceeding pages of the Index of Wills of Franklin Co., NC, that Arthur Foster is listed.*

These are the only Fosters in **1800** Louisburg, Franklin, NC:

Christopher Foster 26-44 Louisburg, Franklin, NC	3	5
John Foster (Jr.)26-44	"	10 14 (will 1803, probate 1806)*
John Foster (Sr.) 45+	"	10 15 (died 1815)*
May Foster (male) 26-44	"	9 (unknown)

\*Source:

NC Probate Records, 1735-1970, Franklin, Wills 1785-1964, Vol. A-L. Book B, p. 151, Franklin Co., NC

All of John, Jr.'s sons eventually made their way to Rutherford, TN. What was their motivation?

### **Land Grants!**

After the Revolutionary War, our new government was broke and had no funds to pay the veterans. As compensation, land was awarded for their service. Some of those warrants were issued by the Registrar of Western Tennessee to **William Christmas**, Surveyor of the First District, according to those land warrants. Christmas received eight grants from Davidson and Rutherford County, TN, totaling 473 acres. He and brother, Thomas, are counted in the 1800 census at Halifax, Warren Co., VA. William died at Williamson County, TN in 1811. See more for William Christmas at:

<http://www.ncpedia.org/biography/christmas-william>

William Foster received four pieces of land:

#1-Warrant 694: 9 Dec. 1808, 200 acres, Rutherford County, TN, assigned by William Christmas. This land was a neighboring border to that of **William Christmas**. The certificate was signed by **William Hill**, Secretary of State.

#2-Warrant 4369: 7 Nov. 1812, 50 acres, Rutherford County, TN, assigned by Andrew M. Lush.

#3-Warrant 10613: 16 Dec. 1828, 38 acres at one cent per acre, Rutherford County, TN. It states, this land is "South West corner of said Fosters 200 acre occupant survey."

#4-Warrant 10614: 1 Mar. 1828, William Foster Sr., 25 acres

James Foster (unidentified) received Grant No. 117 for 640 acres on 17 April 1786 in Davidson Co., (later became Rutherford Co.) TN.

### **1800 census, Louisburg, Franklin, NC:**

**John Sr.**

Name:	John Foster
Home in 1800 (City, County, State):	Louisburg, Franklin, North Carolina
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over:	1
Number of Slaves:	10
Number of Household Members Over 25:	3
Number of Household Members:	15

**John Jr.**

Name:	John Foster
Home in 1800 (City, County, State):	Louisburg, Franklin, North Carolina
Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44:	1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25:	1
Number of Slaves:	10
Number of Household Members Under 16:	2
Number of Household Members Over 25:	1
Number of Household Members:	14

**Christopher** (unidentified brother?)

Name:	Christopher Foster
Home in 1800 (City, County, State):	Louisburg, Franklin, North Carolina
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44:	1
Number of Slaves:	3
Number of Household Members Over 25:	1
Number of Household Members:	5

Most of the early Tennessee censuses were destroyed during the War of 1812. We are very fortunate to have access to one of the few surviving records in Rutherford County.

**1810 census, Rutherford, TN**

William Foster, p. 6

Asa Foster, p. 6

George W. Foster, p. 22

John Foster, Jr. (named in Rutherford 1820)

Richard Foster (not found until 1830 Rutherford, TN widow Lucy)

Name:	<b>Wm Foster</b>
-------	------------------



Home in 1810 (City, County, State):	Nashville, Rutherford, Tennessee
Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:	2
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 :	1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:	3
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:	1
Numbers of Slaves:	1
Number of Household Members Under 16:	6
Number of Household Members Over 25:	2
Number of Household Members:	9

Name:	<b>Asa Foster</b>
Home in 1810 (City, County, State):	Nashville, Rutherford, Tennessee
Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:	2
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 :	1
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25:	1
Number of Household Members Under 16:	2
Number of Household Members Over 25:	1
Number of Household Members:	4

Trude Foster recalled some Fosters in Arkansas having lived in KY. Another "Asa Foster" born circa 1740 is counted in 1800, Montgomery Co., KY; 1810, 1820 and 1830 (age 60-69) at Bourbon Co., KY. Asa married Mary Pullen there 22 Dec 1791. He was a private in the Revolutionary War.

Name:	<b>Geo W Foster</b>
Home in 1810 (City, County, State):	Nashville, Rutherford, Tennessee
Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:	2
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 :	1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:	1
Numbers of Slaves:	1
Number of Household Members Under 16:	3
Number of Household Members Over 25:	2
Number of Household Members:	6

On that same page with Wm. is George W., both age 26-44, plus some Jones and Hills. In 1810, there were *nine* Hill families and *nine* Jones Families living in Rutherford amongst the Fosters. There were 15 Jones households in Granville (Franklin) Co., NC in 1790.

### **1820 census, Rutherford , TN**

Name:	William Foster
Home in 1820 (City, County, State):	Rutherford, Rutherford, Tennessee
Enumeration Date:	August 7, 1820
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15:	2
Free White Persons - Males - <b>45 and over</b> :	1

Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:	1
Slaves - Males - Under 14:	1
Foreigners not Naturalized:	1
Free White Persons - Under 16:	3
Free White Persons - Over 25:	2
Total Free White Persons:	5
Total Slaves:	1
Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other:	6

Name:	George Foster
Home in 1820 (City, County, State):	Franklin, Tennessee
Enumeration Date:	August 7, 1820
Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15:	2
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 18:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44:	2
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:	2
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15:	2
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:	1
Slaves - Males - Under 14:	1
Slaves - Females - Under 14:	1
Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture:	4
Free White Persons - Under 16:	7
Free White Persons - Over 25:	3
Total Free White Persons:	11
Total Slaves:	2
Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other:	

### **Critical Document!**

This next census contains the most critical information since it is cumulative for the census of 1790 through 1850. They are identified by name, census place and approximate birth year, all supportive of their migration from NC to TN to AR.

### **1820 United States Federal Census**

#### **John Foster, (IV)**

Name:	John Foster
-------	-------------

Home in 1820 (City, County, State):	Rutherford, Rutherford, Tennessee
Enumeration Date:	August 7, 1820
Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:	4 <b>Thomas b. 1815</b>
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15:	1 <b>William b. 1805</b>
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 18:	2 <b>Thomas (I.D. unk.) b. 1780-1790- his dau. Nancy 1800-1810</b>
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25:	2 <b>John 1790-1800; James 1790-1800 In 1840- (mother Nancy with him) ; James' widow Elizabeth counted in 1850, b.1810-12, TN</b>
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44:	1 <b>John</b>
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:	1
Slaves - Males - Under 14:	3
Slaves - Males - 14 thru 25:	2
Slaves - Males - 26 thru 44:	1
Slaves - Females - Under 14:	2
Slaves - Females - 14 thru 25:	2
Slaves - Females - 26 thru 44:	1
Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture:	8
Free White Persons - Under 16:	5
Free White Persons - Over 25:	2
Total Free White Persons:	9
Total Slaves:	11
Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other:	20

**(Richard's widow) Lucy Foster:**

Name:	Lucy Foster
Home in 1820 (City, County, State):	Murfreesboro, Rutherford, Tennessee
Enumeration Date:	August 7, 1820
Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:	1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25:	1
Free White Persons - Under 16:	3
Total Free White Persons:	4
Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other:	4

**Censuses for George W. Foster from 1830-1860, Franklin Co., TN**

Name:	George W Foster
Home in 1830 (City, County, State):	Franklin, Tennessee
Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29:	2
Free White Persons - Males - 50 thru 59:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 50 thru 59:	1

Free White Persons - Females - 80 thru 89:	1
Slaves - Males - Under 10:	3
Slaves - Males - 10 thru 23:	1
Slaves - Females - 10 thru 23:	1
Free White Persons - Under 20:	3
Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:	2
Total Free White Persons:	8
Total Slaves:	5
Total - All Persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored):	13

Name:	George Foster
Home in 1840 (City, County, State):	Franklin, Tennessee
Free White Persons - Males - Under 5:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 60 thru 69:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 60 thru 69:	1
Slaves - Males - Under 10:	2
Slaves - Males - 10 thru 23:	3
Slaves - Females - Under 10:	2
Slaves - Females - 10 thru 23:	1
Slaves - Females - 24 thru 35:	1
Persons Employed in Agriculture:	5
Free White Persons - Under 20:	1
Total Free White Persons:	3
Total Slaves:	9
Total All Persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves:	12

Name:	George Foster	
Age:	71	
Birth Year:	abt 1779	
Birthplace:	Virginia	
Home in 1850:	District 5, Franklin, Tennessee, USA	
Gender:	Male	
Family Number:	539	
Household Members:	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>
	George Foster	71
	Elizabeth Foster	70
	Pheby Foster	30

Name:	George Foster
Age:	82
Birth Year:	abt 1778
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Virginia
Home in 1860:	District 5, Franklin, Tennessee

Post Office: Winchester

Family Number: 631

Value of real estate: [View image](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	George Foster	82
	Phoebe Foster	40
	Pearce Wilhoit	53
	Mary Wilhoit	43

The below entry is a descendant of William Hill, Secretary of State, again establishing the migration of these groups from Franklin, NC, to Rutherford/Williamson Counties in TN.

Name: Wm D Hill

[William D Hill]

Home in 1810 (City, County, State): Jefferson, Rutherford, Tennessee

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10: 2

Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25: 2

Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15: 1

Number of Household Members Under 16: 3

Number of Household Members:

Arkansas did not become a state until 1836, about eight years after the Foster's arrival. In fact, John J. Crittenden became the first governor of Arkansas. He is a part of the Crittenden family who are the family of the wife of Edward Williams, ancestor of F.B. Williams. For more information, please see *The Life and Times of Patriot Edward Williams*, 2014, by Sue Ward, and *Early Virginia Colonial Families, The Crittendens, Downs, Lees, Ludwell, Taylors and Collateral Families*, 2017, by Wanda Tucker and Sue Ward.

Migration:

Thomas was born in 1815 in North Carolina. His mother, Nancy, was born in North Carolina in 1786. We can identify the names of the sons enumerated in the 1810 census to the census for their father, John, Jr., in 1790.

Arkansas Tax List Indexes 1819-1829 and 1830-1839:

William Foster:

1833 Spring River Township, Lawrence Co.

1835 Black River Township, Independence Co.

1836 Independence Co.

1838 Independence Co.

Thomas Foster:

1828 Arkansas Territory  
 1830 Arkansas Territory/Lawrence Co.  
 1831 Lawrence Co.  
 1832 Lawrence Co.  
 1833 Lawrence Co.  
 1834 Lawrence Co.  
 1835 Lawrence Co.

Trude Foster was told by his grandfather there were two sons and two daughters who came to Arkansas from Tennessee. I would expect those two men to be William Foster and John Foster, Jr., even though there are no census records in 1820 and 1830 naming him, since he was born in 1815 before minors were named in the records.

**1830 census, Lawrence, Arkansas Territory**

Name: Thomas Poster

[Thomas Foster]

Home in 1830 (City, County, State):	Lawrence, Arkansas Territory
Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49:	1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 5:	2
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14:	2
Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29:	1
Free White Persons - Under 20:	6
Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:	2
Total Free White Persons:	8
Total - All Persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored):	8

**1840 census, Ruddle, Independence, AR**

Name: James Foster p. 209

Home in 1840 (City, County, State):

Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49:

Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9:

Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29:

Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49:

Ruddle, Independence, Arkansas

1 b. 1790-1800 d. 1848-1849

1

1 wife Elizabeth b. abt 1810

1 probably mother Nancy b. 1786

Free White Persons - Females - 60 thru 69:	1
Persons Employed in Agriculture:	1
No. White Persons over 20 Who Cannot Read and Write:	4
Free White Persons - Under 20:	1
Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:	3
Total Free White Persons:	5
Total All Persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves:	5

Name:

Nancy Foster p. 209

Home in 1840 (City, County, State): Ruddle, Independence, Arkansas

Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39:	1 Nancy b. 1800-1810 widow of Thomas(?) b. 1780-1790

Persons Employed in Agriculture: 3

No. White Persons over 20 Who Cannot Read and Write: 3

Free White Persons - Under 20:	2
Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:	3
Total Free White Persons:	5
Total All Persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves:	5

Thomas shown in the 1830 census was born much earlier than the Thomas in the 1840 census. His identity is unknown.

### Generation Seven

**Thomas Foster**<sup>8</sup> [*John Foster*<sup>7</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>6</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>5</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>4</sup>, *Christopher Foster*<sup>3</sup>, *Christopher Foster*<sup>2</sup>, *Philip Foster*<sup>1</sup>]. He was born 1815 in North Carolina and died in 1851 at Izard County, Arkansas. He married Mary "Polly" Lawhon who was born 1819 in probably Roane Co., TN. Polly was the daughter of Axum Lawhon and Mary England.

Name: Thomas Foster p. 209

Home in 1840 (City, County, State): Ruddle, Independence, Arkansas

Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29:	1 b. 1810-1820
Free White Persons - Females - Under 5:	2
Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29:	1 b. 1810-1820
Persons Employed in Agriculture:	1
Free White Persons - Under 20:	2
Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:	2

Total Free White Persons: 4  
 Total All Persons -: 4

Name: William Foster, p. 208  
 Home in 1840 (City, County, State): Ruddle, Independence, Arkansas  
 Free White Persons - Males - Under 5: 2  
 Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14: 1  
 Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39: 1 b. 1800-1810  
 Free White Persons - Females - Under 5: 2  
 Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14: 1  
 Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39: 1  
 Persons Employed in Agriculture: 1  
 Free White Persons - Under 20: 6  
 Free White Persons - 20 thru 49: 2  
 Total Free White Persons: 8  
 Total All Persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves: 8

**1850 census, Ruddell, Independence, AR**

Name: William Foster  
 Age: 50  
 Birth Year: abt 1800  
 Birthplace: Virginia (some say Portsmouth, VA/Norfolk Navy Shipyard neighboring Surry Co.)  
 Home in 1850: Ruddell, Independence, Arkansas, USA  
 Gender: Male  
 Family Number: 996

Household Members:	Name	Age
	William Foster	50
	Susan Foster	44
	Joseph L Foster	21
	Elizabeth Foster	22
	Sarah Foster	16
	William W Foster	14
	Jane Foster	12
	Julia A Foster	9
	Washington G Foster	6
	George Foster	2

**Generation Eight**

**John Foster**<sup>9</sup> [*Thomas Foster*<sup>8</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>7</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>6</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>5</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>4</sup>, *Christopher Foster*<sup>3</sup>, *Christopher Foster*<sup>2</sup>, *Philip Foster*<sup>1</sup>] He was born 1 March 1847 at IZARD Co., AR. He died 18 July 1935 at IZARD Co., AR. He married Minerva Moore born 10 February 1848 at Yalobusha Co., Mississippi. Minerva was the daughter of Carney Moore and Lucinda unknown.

1850 United States Federal Census



Name: Thomas Foster  
Age: 35  
Birth Year: abt 1815  
Birthplace: North Carolina  
Home in 1850: Franklin, Izard, Arkansas, USA  
Gender: Male  
Family Number: 473

Household Members: **Name** **Age**  
Thomas Foster 35  
Nancy Foster 31  
Mary A Foster 11  
Sarah Foster 9  
Nancy Foster 7  
Thomas Foster 6  
**John Foster 5**  
Eliza Foster 2  
Nancy Foster 64

This may be the first land acquired by Thomas Foster:

Name: Thomas Foster  
Land Office: Batesville  
Document Number: 2414  
Total Acres: 40  
Signature: Yes  
Canceled Document: No  
Issue Date: 10 Jul 1844  
Mineral Rights Reserved: No  
Metes and Bounds: No  
Statutory Reference: 3 Stat. 566  
Multiple Warantee Names: No  
Act or Treaty: April 24, 1820  
Multiple Patentee Names: No  
Entry Classification: Sale-Cash Entries  
Land Description: 1 SWSW 5TH PM No 20N 1E 15

Source: United States, Bureau of Land Management. *Arkansas, Homestead and Cash Entry Patents, Pre-1908*[database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1997.

This is land was homesteaded by son John Foster:

Name: John Foster  
Land Office: Little Rock  
Document Number: 4909  
Total Acres: 122.16

Misc. Doc. Nr.: 12446  
 Signature: Yes  
 Canceled Document: No  
 Issue Date: 17 Sep 1889  
 Mineral Rights Reserved: No  
 Metes and Bounds: No  
 Statutory Reference: 12 Stat. 392  
 Multiple Warantee Names: No  
 Act or Treaty: May 20, 1862  
 Multiple Patentee Names: No  
 Entry Classification: Homestead Entry Original  
 Land Description: 1 W½NE 5TH PM No 17N 7W 28; 2 SENW 5TH PM No 17N 7W 28

Source: United States, Bureau of Land Management. *Arkansas, Homestead and Cash Entry Patents, Pre-1908* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1997.

More land records can be found in the book, "*Izard County, Arkansas From the Beginning: Original Land Ownership Maps*", Roger Harvell, 2005, Arkansas Research, Inc. That book includes an entry for widow Mary Foster (mother of John), acquiring land in 1861 which was deeded to her eldest and only other son, Thomas, who was two years older than John.

Listed in the 1850 Census below is Elizabeth Foster, whose descendants made notes on the find-a-grave website. Those comments led to much more discovery as discussed in the Introduction. Elizabeth was the only other Foster contemporary of Thomas (born 1815) in Izard County counted in the 1850 census.

Name: Elizabeth Foster (probably the widow of James Foster)  
 Age: 38  
 Birth Year: abt 1812  
 Birthplace: Tennessee  
 Home in 1850: Franklin, Izard, Arkansas, USA  
 Gender: Female  
 Family Number: 458

Household Members:	Name	Age
	John Jones	25
	Sarah E Jones	2
	Elizabeth Foster	38
	Rachael Foster	17
	John W Foster	15
	Nancy Foster	13
	Dempey Foster	12
	Isaac Foster	9
	Charles Foster	6
	Thomas Foster	4

Residents of NE Arkansas traveled to Missouri frequently due to its proximity and the easy route. Some of Elizabeth's children were born in Arkansas, others in Missouri. It is not surprising to see the Jones

name in this census with a widowed Elizabeth Foster with so many Jones families in Rutherford, TN. Her maiden name is unknown.

Another suspicion was raised, that the Hill family was related to the Foster family. In 1833, William Hill married Elizabeth Brown at Rutherford Co., TN. In 1840 he lived in Bedford, TN (near Williamson and Rutherford) before moving into Izard, AR. Some researchers say he was married to Elizabeth Foster. It is unclear whether he was married to both women. He had at least two daughters, Sarah Jane and Narcissa Tabitha. In the early Foster NC Wills, "Narcissy Foster" is listed. Since the families knew each other a very long time, this leads us to believe they actually were related.

Another "Hill" man, Green Hill was born 1815 in Kentucky. He married Nancy Lawhon, sister of Polly Lawhon. As far as we know, he is not of the William Hill family of North Carolina.

### **1860 census, Franklin, Izard, AR:**

Name:	John Foster	
Age:	13	
Birth Year:	abt 1847	
Gender:	Male	
Birth Place:	Arkansas	
Home in 1860:	Franklin, Izard, Arkansas	
Post Office:	Big Spring	
Family Number:	203	
Value of real estate:	View image	
Household Members:	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>
	Mary Foster	40
	Sarah Foster	18
	Nancy Foster	16
	Thomas Foster	15
	John Foster	13
	Louisa Foster	11
	Catharine Foster	9

### **John Foster's service during the Civil War:**

John Foster dictated his recollections about his service during the Civil War to his granddaughter, Eula H. Tomlinson, 1 September 1931, at Zion, Izard Co., AR. **See page 46.** The story recants his life from the time he was born until the time he returned home from the War. He was captured at Helena and held as a prisoner of war at Leavenworth, KS, Indianapolis and Fort Delaware. It was a miracle he survived deplorable conditions after being near death several times. His service ended in 10 March 1865, two months before the war ended on 9 May 1865.

The manuscript was found tucked in a book at a yard sale in Melbourne by Rayburn Richardson (a distant relative) about 1970. F.B. Williams visited his son's family in California about 1967 and told us, his grandchildren, of its existence. We wanted to get a copy or at least be able to read it, but there was only one original and F.B. did not know who possessed that copy. We hoped one day it would surface.

Rayburn found it at his home about 1997, some thirty years later, while going through old belongings. He donated it to the Old Regional Museum in Batesville. Realizing that Rayburn Richardson was still possibly living, this writer contacted him about 2007 and asked to retell his story. He reiterated what we already knew. I thanked him for his part in making sure the document found its appropriate home, the local museum. The invaluable historical document is recorded at several places including the book, "Down Memory Lane" Volume III, Betty McCollum and Sue Crisco, 2001, [chaydensr@juno.com](mailto:chaydensr@juno.com) Print, p. 1-9. A copy of his manuscript is also held at the National Archives and Records Administration and is used as a teaching tool in classrooms.

**1870 census, Franklin, Izard, AR**

Name: John Foster  
 Age in 1870: 23  
 Birth Year: abt 1847  
 Birthplace: Arkansas  
 Home in 1870: Franklin, Izard, Arkansas  
 Race: White  
 Gender: Male  
 Post Office: Lacrosse  
 Value of real estate: [View image](#)  
 Household Members:

Name	Age
John Foster	23
Manerva Foster	18
William Foster	3
Sarah C Foster	2
Thomas C Foster	4/12

**1880 census, Franklin, Izard, AR**

Name: John Foster  
 Age: 32  
 Birth Year: abt 1848  
 Birthplace: Arkansas  
 Home in 1880: Pleasant Hill, Izard, Arkansas  
 Race: White  
 Gender: Male  
 Relation to Head of House: Self (Head)  
 Marital Status: Married  
 Father's Birthplace: Kentucky (or NC)  
 Mother's Birthplace: Tennessee  
 Neighbors: [View others on page](#)  
 Occupation: Farmer  
 Cannot read/write:  
 Blind:  
 Deaf and dumb:

Otherwise disabled:

Idiotic or insane:

Household Members:	Name	Age
	John Foster	32
	Minerva Foster	31
	Sarah C. Foster	12
	Thomas C. Foster	10
	Mary L. Foster	8
	Elmira E. Foster	6
	Rebecca J. Foster	4
	John M. Foster	2

### Generation Nine

**Emma Agnes Foster**<sup>10</sup> [*John Foster*<sup>9</sup>, *Thomas Foster*<sup>8</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>7</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>6</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>5</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>4</sup>, *Christopher Foster*<sup>3</sup>, *Christopher Foster*<sup>2</sup>, *Philip Foster*<sup>1</sup>] Emma Agnes Foster was born 3 Nov 1889 at Strawberry, Izard Co., AR. She died 4 May 1967 at Batesville, Independence Co., AR, Antioch Cem. She married Finis Brackenridge "F.B." Williams 3 December 1905, at Batesville, Independence Co., AR. "F.B." was born 26 Mar 1881 at Sidney, Izard Co., AR. He died 26 Oct 1979 at Batesville, Independence Co. AR. F.B. was the son of Tilman Williams and Nancy Elizabeth Taylor.

### 1900 census, Strawberry, Izard, AR

Name:	John Foster												
Age:	52												
Birth Date:	Mar 1848												
Birthplace:	Arkansas												
Home in 1900:	Strawberry, Izard, Arkansas												
Race:	White												
Gender:	Male												
Relation to Head of House:	Head												
Marital Status:	Married												
Spouse's Name:	Minerva Foster												
Marriage Year:	1865												
Years Married:	35												
Father's Birthplace:	Tennessee												
Mother's Birthplace:	Tennessee												
Occupation:	<a href="#">View on Image</a>												
Neighbors:	<a href="#">View others on page</a>												
Household Members:	<table><thead><tr><th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>John Foster</td><td>52</td></tr><tr><td>Minerva Foster</td><td>52</td></tr><tr><td>Leona F Foster</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>Mandy Foster</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>Samuel M Foster</td><td>15</td></tr></tbody></table>	Name	Age	John Foster	52	Minerva Foster	52	Leona F Foster	19	Mandy Foster	17	Samuel M Foster	15
Name	Age												
John Foster	52												
Minerva Foster	52												
Leona F Foster	19												
Mandy Foster	17												
Samuel M Foster	15												

Alice Foster	13
<b>Ermma (Emma) Foster</b>	<b>11</b>
Virgil M Foster	8

### Generation Ten

**Roy Earnest Williams**<sup>11</sup> [*Emma Agnes Foster*<sup>10</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>9</sup>, *Thomas Foster*<sup>8</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>7</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>6</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>5</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>4</sup>, *Christopher Foster*<sup>3</sup>, *Christopher Foster*<sup>2</sup>, *Philip Foster*<sup>1</sup>] Roy was born 27 October 1906 at Strawberry, Izard Co., AR. He died 3 Aug 1974 at Fresno Co., CA. He married Fannie Adeline Hotchkiss on 24 December 1925 at Sharp Co., AR. Fannie was born 28 June 1909, Ash Flat, Sharp Co., AR. She died 6 Feb 1979, Fresno, CA. Fannie was the daughter of Butler Benjamin Cleveland Hotchkiss and Mary Pearl Fowler.

#### 1910 census, Strawberry, Izard, AR

Name: Emma Williams  
[Emma William]  
Age in 1910: 20  
Birth Year: abt 1890  
Birthplace: Arkansas  
Home in 1910: Strawberry, Izard, Arkansas  
Race: White  
Gender: Female  
Relation to Head of House: Wife  
Marital Status: Married  
Spouse's Name: Bracken Williams  
Father's Birthplace: Arkansas  
Mother's Birthplace: Mississippi  
Native Tongue: English  
Able to Read: Yes  
Able to Write: Yes  
Years Married: 4  
Number of Children Born: 1  
Number of Children Living: 1  
Neighbors: View others on page

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Bracken Williams	29
	Emma Williams	20
	Roy E Williams	3

#### 1920 census, Strawberry, Izard, AR

Name: Emma Williams  
Age: 30  
Birth Year: abt 1890

Birthplace: Arkansas  
 Home in 1920: Strawberry, Iazard, Arkansas  
 Race: White  
 Gender: Female  
 Relation to Head of House: Wife  
 Marital Status: Married  
 Spouse's Name: Finis B Williams  
 Father's Birthplace: Arkansas  
 Mother's Birthplace: Arkansas  
 Able to Speak English: Yes  
 Occupation: None  
 Able to Read: Yes  
 Able to Write: Yes  
 Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Finis B Williams	38
	Emma Williams	30
	Roy Williams	13
	Vena Williams	6

### 1930 census, Richwood, Sharp, AR

Name: Emma A Williams  
 Birth Year: abt 1890  
 Gender: Female  
 Race: White  
 Birthplace: Arkansas  
 Marital Status: Married  
 Relation to Head of House: Wife  
 Homemaker: Yes  
 Home in 1930: Richwoods, Sharp, Arkansas  
 Map of Home: [View Map](#)  
 Dwelling Number: 17  
 Family Number: 18  
 Age at First Marriage: 16  
 Attended School: No  
 Able to Read and Write: Yes  
 Father's Birthplace: Arkansas  
 Mother's Birthplace: Tennessee  
 Able to Speak English: Yes

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Bracken F Williams	49
	Emma A Williams	40
	Vena Williams	16
	Ina Mae Williams	3

## Generation Eleven

**Sederal Leland Williams**<sup>12</sup> [*Roy Earnest Williams*<sup>11</sup>, *Emma Agnes Foster*<sup>10</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>9</sup>, *Thomas Foster*<sup>8</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>7</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>6</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>5</sup>, *John Foster*<sup>4</sup>, *Christopher Foster*<sup>3</sup>, *Christopher Foster*<sup>2</sup>, *Philip Foster*<sup>1</sup>] He was born 22 April 1933 at Hanford, Kings Co., CA. He died 22 April 1995 at Fresno, CA. He was married.

### 1940 census, Fresno Co., CA

Name: Roy E Williams  
 Age: 33  
 Estimated birth year: abt 1907  
 Gender: Male  
 Race: White  
 Birthplace: Arkansas  
 Marital Status: Married  
 Relation to Head of House: Head  
 Home in 1940: Fresno, California  
 Map of Home in 1940: [View Map](#)  
 Street: Shields  
 House Number: 102  
 Farm: Yes  
 Inferred Residence in 1935: Same House, Fresno, California  
 Residence in 1935: Same House  
 Sheet Number: 5B  
 Number of Household in Order of Visitation: 103  
 Occupation: Truck Driver  
 House Owned or Rented: Rented  
 Value of Home or Monthly Rental if Rented: 20  
 Attended School or College: No  
 Highest Grade Completed: High School, 1st year  
 Hours Worked Week Prior to Census: 54  
 Class of Worker: Working on own account  
 Weeks Worked in 1939: 52  
 Income: 0  
 Income Other Sources: Yes  
 Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members:	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>
	Roy E Williams	33
	Fannie Williams	30
	Wanda Faye Williams	11
	Sederal Williams	8
	Clois Fowler (Fannie's cousin)	20
	Luther Bristow	36

## PART II



## **JOHN FOSTER'S STORY IN HIS OWN WORDS**

The following is a copy of the original John Foster story he dictated on 1 September 1931 to granddaughter Eula H. Tomlinson. The original is held at the Old Independence Regional Museum, Batesville, AR.

<b>LCCN</b>		<b>Category</b>	8: Communication Artifact
<b>ISBN</b>		<b>Subcategory</b>	Documentary Artifact
<b>ISSN</b>		<b>Call#</b>	CW 973.7 Fos
<b>Accession#</b>	2001.034	<b>Control#</b>	
<b>Received as</b>	Gift	<b>Accession date</b>	02/10/2001
<b>Source</b>	Nancy Britton		
<b>Creditline</b>			
<b>Home loc</b>	Civil War shelf		
<b>Author</b>	John Foster		
<b>Title</b>	Memoirs of John Foster		
<b>Subjects</b>	Five page narrative of the Memoirs of John Foster, who served in Company G, Freeman's Regiment, Batesville, Arkansas, from Feb. 1863 through Mar. 1885, Confederate States of America. Subjects: Civil War, Health, Military prison.		
<b>Summary</b>	Memoirs of John Foster		
<b>Collection</b>	Britton, Nancy		
<b>Physdesc</b>	5 pages, stapled and placed in red jacket		
<b>Event</b>			
<b>Publisher</b>			
<b>Pub place</b>			
<b>Pub date</b>		<b>Other#</b>	<b>Old#</b>
<b>Publications</b>		<b>Language</b>	<b>Copy#</b> 0
<b>Series</b>			
<b>Edition</b>			
<b>Catdate</b>	02/10/2001	<b>Status date</b>	
<b>Catby</b>	tw	<b>Status by</b>	
<b>Display value</b>		<b>Status</b>	Shelf
<b>Condition</b>	Stable	<b>Cond date</b>	
<b>Condition by</b>		<b>Cond notes</b>	
<b>Appraisor</b>		<b>Acq value</b>	<b>Old#</b>
<b>App notes</b>		<b>Current value</b>	<b>Value date</b>
<b>Ins policy#</b>		<b>Ins phone#</b>	
<b>Ins company</b>		<b>Ins premium</b>	
<b>Ins rep</b>		<b>Ins value</b>	<b>Policy exp date</b>
<b>Temp loc</b>			
<b>Date</b>		<b>By/Until</b>	
<b>Invn date</b>		<b>Invn by</b>	
<b>Provenance</b>		<b>Classification</b>	
<b>Search terms</b>		<b>People</b>	
<b>Notes</b>			
<b>Updated/by</b>	02/10/2001 12:09 PM	<b>Dataset</b>	

CW  
973.7  
Fos

2001.034.001

MEMOIRS  
of  
JOHN FOSTER

Company G, Freeman's Regiment  
February 1863 -- March 1885  
G..S. A.

I was born in IZARD County, Arkansas, in 1847. My father died when I was only four years old, leaving my mother with seven small children. We were very poor and had to work hard, so I had no chance to get an education.

When I was sixteen years old I enlisted in Col. Freeman's Regiment at Batesville, Independence County, Arkansas. We served under General Price. From there I went to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where I helped fight my first battle. Our next stop was at Irvington, Missouri, where we fought a hard battle. From there we went to Kansas where we fought another hard battle across Big Blue River. Our next battle was across Little Blue River. At another point in Kansas we fought another hard battle which we called "The Big Praire Fight". Here I was captured and was kept at that place two weeks to help bury dead soldiers. One morning a few days after we began our work one of the boys told me that if I would stay in camp and have supper ready when they came in he would go in my stead the next time I was detailed on the burying crew. Of course I agreed to this, for by this time the odor of decaying men and horses was almost unbearable. After they were gone I began my preparations for their supper. I put some beans in a pot and put them on the fire to cook. While I waited for these to cook I made some dough for bread. I was already nearly starved and when I smelled the beans I felt like I would starve if I had to wait for them to get done. I got a stick and, bite at a time I put dough on the end of this stick and held it in the boiling beans until it partly cooked and ate it. I was so nearly starved I ate so much of this that I thought I would die before night, but after several hours I got better but not well. Before we got all the dead buried I was almost dead.

I was then taken to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. We were taken in wagons and I became so sick on the way that I thought I couldn't live to get there, one hundred miles. The weather was so very cold and the ground was so frozen and rough we were nearly jarred to death. We didn't even have straw for bedding. One day while on this miserable journey, I thought if I had some milk to drink it might save my life. Before I left home a little girl, named Margurite gave me a silver ring. I was still wearing it, so I told one of the officers if he would get me some milk I would give him the ring. He galloped off and soon came back with a canteen of milk. He gave it to me and called for the ring. I started to hand it to him when another officer, more kind-hearted, said; "you shall not

Old Independence  
Regional Museum  
Ninth & Vine Streets  
P.O. Box 4506  
Batesville, AR 72503-4506

take the ring. If you can't do that much for a poor sick fellow without pay you are worse than nobody and not fit to live."

When we got to Fort Leavenworth we were put in jail. This was in November. The weather was getting cold. I had no bedding and had to lie on a rock floor with no cover except my oil-cloth I had carried to protect me from the rain. I was kept here two months, sick and starved. I lay on this floor for so long and got so poor that my body was covered with sores. I am still carrying the scars.

A few days before I left Fort Leavenworth I was taken to a hospital. Someone had stolen my clothes so I was given a very light suit of hospital clothes. As soon as I was able to be moved I was taken to Indianapolis where I stayed until March. All this time I wore this light suit of clothes and covered with my oil-cloth. I never even got a clean change of underwear or other clothes all winter.

There were three hundred of us in one barracks, and had only one small wood stove and wood enough furnished to make two fires a day. We got one small loaf of bread about 9:00 AM then about 3:00 PM we got a piece of mule or dog meat, but no bread. Sometimes they would shoot into our barracks and kill some of the men, but we could see no reason for this. One day a dog happened to get into our enclosure and one of the prisoners killed it and he and some of the others ate it. For this he was court-martialed and sentenced to have three hundred lashes on his naked back with a leather strap. They gave him thirty lashes every morning until his back became so sore they discontinued this. Our captors made our own men inflict this punishment. We were ordered to get up at 6:00 AM and had to put on our frozen shoes without a fire to warm us. We were sometimes kept in line until 9:00 AM with the snow and sleet pouring down on us. Here we nearly froze for they wouldn't even let us stamp our feet or move around to keep up circulation. We were kept in this filthy place and had to wear our clothes so long that so many body lice were created we could see them crawling in the dirt around the stove.

We left there on exchange about March 1st and were taken to Baltimore, Maryland. Here we were put on a boat and taken down the Chesapeake Bay to the mouth of the James River. We then went up the James River within twelve miles of Richmond Virginia, and were taken ashore at Eakin's Landing. We walked about two miles up this river where we were met and exchanged. This let me out of captivity and I felt like I was once more a free man. I was still sick and worn out, but we started our twelve mile journey on foot through the rain on to Richmond. Here we met wagons carrying cornbread and bacon for us. I drew my ration but was too sick to eat a bite, so I carried it and gave it to another soldier,

Each state had its house here to accommodate their men. I was taken to the Arkansas house where I lay on the floor all night, rolling and tumbling, too sick and tired to sleep. Next morning when they told us breakfast was ready, we went into a room about sixty feet long where a table was set for us. On this table was cornbread, sorghum, and coffee made of meal. Of course I could not eat anything. After breakfast we were

put on a train and taken to Camp Lee. Here we drew clothes and some money. Then we were paroled.

We stayed around Camp Lee for about a week, then took the train for Danville. From here we started on foot toward the south. We stopped at Salisbury, North Carolina, for a few days. There was a big Yankee prison here so I visited it and found it to be as bad as the one I had been in a few weeks before. We come on to South Carolina and here they were still fighting. The railroads and everything had been so badly torn up by General Grant's armies that it was an awful sight to see. Here the Yankees burned and destroyed the last of the railroad leading to Richmond.

From South Carolina we went on into Georgia. When we got to Atlanta, Georgia, we found the town had been taken and torn up by the Yankees. General Johnson and his men had tried to hold the town but were forced to evacuate.

Still on foot and starving, we drifted south until we came to a river in Alabama. Here we got on a boat and rode to Montgomery, Alabama. Here we stayed all night. Next morning we again boarded the boat and went on down the river several miles, then we got off the boat and started on foot toward Jackson, Mississippi. We had nothing to eat with us so we had to live on whatever we could find and get. When I got to Jackson I went to headquarters and had my furlough extended for thirty days, for I was afraid if the Confederates should find me going away they would take me back to the army, or if the Yankees should find me I would be taken back to prison. We then turned and started north on foot. I don't know how far we traveled but it seemed a long way. On our way we came to a small river but the bridge had been burned and after much difficulty we were ferried across in boats and went on our way until we came to a little town called Pinola. We were following a torn up railroad that I think led to Memphis, so when we thought we had gone far enough in that direction to be on a line for home we turned west and made our way to the Mississippi River. We came to the river fifteen miles above Helena. There was no way to cross. The Feds controlled everything there, even the river. It was a sentence of death to be caught trying to cross the river in any way. There were four of us; Elihu Crowder of Jonesboro, Arkansas; a man by the name of Ward of Batesville, Arkansas; another by the name of Slaughter who lived on Crowley's Ridge; and myself.

At last a young man who was at work on the Mississippi side told us if we would never tell on him he would sell us a boat and we could try crossing if we wanted to. We worked twelve days apiece for this man to pay for the boat. While we worked here we slept at night in an old gin. We suffered some from cold and were tormented by black gnats and mosquitoes, but we got a little something to eat. The river bottom was overflowed so we were seven miles from the main river.

Having our boat paid for we started on our journey on Sunday morning about April 1st. The man gave us directions as far as he could. He told us to go west until we reached the main river and then go up the river until we came to a house where a Mr.

Harris lived. We arrived at that house about noon. This good old man said, "Get out boys and stay until you get your dinner and then I will give you all the information I can." After dinner we went out on the porch and Mr. Harris said, "See those cottonwoods over there? It is just two miles to them. Keep the bow of your little boat up stream and be careful for there is a dangerous place below, and if you get in there you will be gone."

The water was surging and rolling but we were homeward bound so we started across. When we were a little way out we saw a Federal gunboat coming up the river so we turned our boat and went back to land and hid until the boat passed. We started once more and this time had no trouble. Mr. Harris stood on the porch watching us until we went over the levee, then with a piece of paper he waved good-bye. I have never seen him any more but I still love to think of his kindness to us.

When we got to the levee we got out and pulled our boat over and continued our journey across overflowed farms for about ten miles. The water was so deep we could just see the tops of corn in places. About sundown we rowed up to a man's house and asked if we might stay all night. This man, (I have forgotten his name), said "Yes, tie up your horse to one of those stops and come in." We tied our boat and went up a flight of stops into the house. He was another good man and treated us like friends. Then he said to his wife and Negro servant, "Go and cook these men a good super and make lots of coffee."

Next morning we were preparing to leave but had no money to pay for our nights lodging, so we could only thank him for his kindness. Then he said, "Boys, what are you going to do with your boat when you get to land?" We told him we could do nothing but turn it loose. Then he told us that if we would give him the boat he would go with us to the main land where he knew a farmer who knew the route we wanted to travel, and he would get this man to take us to Crowley's Ridge. This good Samaritan gave the farmer five dollars and told him to take us on and to take his boat back. He landed us on the west bank of the St. Francis River and turned back. Here we found a woman living on a farm, owned by General Forrest, who gave us dinner. After dinner we walked across the farm and up Crowley's Ridge to the town of Marianna. We left Marianna about one o'clock and traveled as far as we could. Sometime that day Slaughter and Ward dropped behind and we left them. That night we stopped at a farm house to stay all night. Here we found a woman who asked about Slaughter and who said she was his wife. We told her he had been with us until that day and had been left behind at some little town but were sure he would be on soon. This woman sat up and cried most all night. We left next morning and I don't know if he ever got home, but suppose he did as he was so close.

There were now only two of us. We traveled together about a day and a half more then we separated, he going to Jonesboro and I to Powhatan. Here I met two old time friends, Alf Prichard and Ben Malone. Imagine my joy for I felt like I was almost home. This was Saturday morning so I stayed with Prichard until Monday, then I continued my journey, but my progress was slow as I had to wade water all the way.

Sometimes the water was up to my waist. That night I came to a little log hut surrounded by water. A woman and some children lived there, but I don't see how they did. I stayed all night there and next morning I started on but before I left I got two logs, borrowed an auger from the woman and with these I made a raft. I traveled on this foot to the end of the levee. There I left my raft for I thought I would not need it. I went up to levee for about a mile when I came to a large gap that had washed out. The current was so swift here that I could not cross so I went down the side of the levee and started down stream, floating and holding to bushes, until I came to where I could cross the current. I crossed over and made my way up the stream until I got back to the levee. Once more on dry land. I walked this levee until I came to Black River. The river had over-flowed its banks and was so wide I could see no way of getting across. There were no men in the country so the women and children had to take care of the farms. I asked one of these women if she could tell of any way of getting across, and she said. "No, not unless my little boy can take you in his little boat." She said if I was not afraid to trust him she would let him take me. I told her I had been in water until I was used to it, so if she wasn't afraid for the little boy I would surely trust him. He ferried me safely across and I stood on the bank and watched him until he got back to the other side. Then I climbed upon the bank and bade mud and water good-bye from there to the Mississippi.

By this time I had gotten back to where I had been before. About three o'clock I came to a house where I had eaten dinner once. The woman and her daughter recognized me. They spoke to me and came out and asked me to stop and eat dinner. They spread a good dinner which I surely enjoyed. That night I stopped at a little hut about two miles from Smithville, Lawrence County. A woman came to the door and I asked her if I could spend the night, she said she and the children were alone and they never kept strangers, besides she had nothing for me to eat. I told her I had dinner but I would be glad if she would furnish me a pallet and shelter. She agreed to this so I slept on a quilt spread on the floor and was thankful. I arose next morning about daylight and started off without breakfast. I soon got to Smithville, but not a bite could I get. I walked on about two miles and there I came to the home of another widow and where I had visited her son. Here I got a good breakfast. Late that afternoon I arrived home, April 28th. We were all together once more.

I had only one brother, Tom. He enlisted in the army before I did and was captured at Helena. He was sent to prison at Fort Delaware where he stayed eighteen months. Soon after we were let out of prison we met near Atlanta, Georgia, but as we were trying to across the river we were separated and I never saw him again until I got home. He had gotten back just one week ahead of me.

The family has all passed on now and I am left behind, but I know I will soon follow on as I am now eight-four years old.

Dictated by John Foster  
to Mrs. Eula H. Tolinson

September 1, 1931  
Zion, Izard County Arkansas

## MEMOIRS

of

## JOHN FOSTER

Company G, Freeman's Regiment, CSA  
February, 1863 - March, 1865

I was born in Izard County, Arkansas, in 1847. My father died when I was only four years old, leaving my mother with seven small children. We were very poor and had to work hard, so I had no chance to get an education.

When I was sixteen years old, I enlisted in Col. Freeman's Regiment at Batesville, Independence County, Arkansas. We served under Gen. Price. From there I went to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where I helped fight my first battle. Our next stop was at Irvington, Missouri, where we fought a hard battle. From there we went to Kansas, where we fought a hard battle across the Big Blue River. Our next battle was across Little Blue River. At another point in Kansas, we fought another hard battle which we called "The Big Prairie Fight." Here I was captured and was kept at that place two weeks to help bury dead soldiers.

One morning, a few days after we began our work, one of the boys told me that if I would stay in camp and have supper ready when they came in, he would go in my stead the next time I was detailed on the burning crew. Of course I agreed to this, for by this time the odor of decaying men and horses was almost unbearable. After they were gone, I began my preparations for their supper. I put some beans in a pot and put them on the fire to cook. While I waited for these to cook, I made some dough for bread. I was already nearly starved and when I smelled the beans, I felt like I would starve if I had to wait for them to get done. I got a stick and, bite at a time, I put dough on the end of this stick and held it in the boiling beans until it partly cooked and ate it. I was so nearly starved, I ate so much of this that I thought I would die before night. But, after several hours, I got better...but not well. Before we got all the dead buried, I was almost dead.

I was then taken to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. We were taken in wagons and I became so sick on the way that I thought I couldn't live to get there, one hundred miles. The weather was so very cold and the ground was so frozen and rough, we were nearly jared to death. We didn't even have straw for bedding.

One day on this miserable journey, I thought if I had some milk to drink it might save my life. Before I left home, a little girl named Marguerite Zack gave me a silver ring; I was still wearing it; so I told one of the officers if he would get me some milk I would give him the ring. He galloped off and soon came back with a can of milk. He gave it to me and called for the ring. I started to hand it to him, when another officer, more kind-hearted, said: "You shall not take the ring. If you can't do that much for a poor, sick fellow without pay, you are worse than nobody and not fit to live."

When we got to Fort Leavenworth, we were put in jail. This was in November. The weather was getting cold. I had no bedding and had to lie on a rock floor with no cover, except my oil-cloth I had carried to protect me from the rain. I was kept here two months, sick and starved. I lay on this floor for so long and got so poor that my body was covered with sores. I am still carrying the scars.

A few days before I left Fort Leavenworth, I was taken to a hospital. Someone had stolen my clothes, so I was given a very light suit of hospital clothes. As soon as I was able to be moved, I was taken to Indianapolis, where I stayed until March. At this time, I wore this light suit of clothes and covered with my oil-cloth. I never even got a clean change of underwear or other clothes all winter.

There were three hundred of us in one barracks, and had only one small wood stove and wood enough furnished to make two fires a day. We got one small loaf of bread about 9 a. m., then about 3 p. m. we got a small piece of mule or dog meat, but no bread. Some-

times they would shoot into our barracks and kill some of the men, but we could see no reason for this. One day a dog happened to get into our enclosure and one of the prisoners killed it and he and some of the others ate it. For this act, he was court martialed and sentenced to have three hundred lashes on his naked back with a leather strap. They gave him thirty lashes every morning until his back became so sore they discontinued this. Our captors made our own man inflict this punishment.

We were ordered to get up at 6 o'clock and had to put on our frozen shoes without a fire to warm us. We were sometimes kept in line until 9 a. m. with the snow and sleet pouring down on us. Here we nearly froze, for they wouldn't even let us stamp our feet or move around to keep up circulation. We were kept in this filthy place and had to wear our old clothes so long that some many body lice were created, we could see them crawling in the dirt around the stove.

We left there, on exchange, about March 1 and were taken to Baltimore, Maryland. Here we were put on a boat and taken down the Chesapeake Bay to the mouth of the James River. We then went up the James River within twelve miles of Richmond, Virginia, and were taken ashore at Eakin's Landing. We walked about two miles up this river where we were met and exchanged. This let me out of captivity and I felt like I was once more a free man.

I was sick and worn out, but we started our twelve mile journey on foot through the rain to Richmond. Here we met wagons carrying cornbread and bacon for us. I drew my ration, but was too sick to eat a bite, so I carried it on and gave it to another soldier.

Each camp had its house here to accommodate their men. I was taken to the Arkansas house, where I lay on the floor all night rolling and tumbling, too sick and tired to sleep. Next morning when they told us breakfast was ready, we went into a room about sixty feet long where a table was set for us. On this table was cornbread, sorghum and coffee made of meal. Of course I could not eat anything. After breakfast, we were put on a train and taken to Fort Lee. Here we drew clothes and some money. Then we were paroled.

We stayed around Camp Lee for about a week, then took the train for Danville. From here we started on foot toward the South. We stopped at Salisbury, North Carolina, for a few days. There was a big Yankee prison here so I visited it and found it to be as sad as the one I had been in a few weeks before. We came on to South Carolina and here they were still fighting. The railroads and everything had been so badly torn up by General Grant's armies that it was an awful sight to see. Here the Yankees burned and destroyed the last of the railroads leading to Richmond.

From South Carolina, we went on into Georgia. When we got to Atlanta, Georgia, we found the town had been taken and torn up by the Yankees. General Johnson and his men had tried to hold the town but were forced to evacuate.

Still on foot and starving, we drifted south until we came to a river in Alabama. Here we got a boat and rode to Montgomery, Alabama. Here we stayed all night. Next morning we again boarded the boat and went on down the river several miles, then we got off the boat and started on foot toward Jackson, Mississippi.

We had nothing to eat with us so we lived on whatever we could find and get. When I got to Jackson, I went to Headquarters and had my furlough extended for thirty days, for I was afraid if the Confederates should find me going away they would take me back to the army, or if the Yankees should find me I would be taken back to prison.

We then turned and started north on foot. I don't know how far we traveled but it seemed like a long way. On our way, we came to a small river, but the bridge had been burned and after much difficulty were ferried across on boats and went on our way until we came to a little town called Pinola. We were following a torn-up railroad that I think led to Memphis, so when we thought we had gone far enough in that direction to be on a line for home, we turned west and made our way to the Mississippi River.

## Description

Photocopy of an article: Memoirs of John Foster, Company G., Freeman's Regiment, CSA, Feb. 1863 - March 1865. Memoir was dictated by John Foster to Mrs. Eula H. Tomlinson in 1931. Mr. Foster died in 1935 and was buried at the Antioch Cemetery near Zion, Izard County, Arkansas.



We came to the river fifteen miles above Helena. There was no way to cross. The Feds controlled everything there, even the river. It was a sentence of death to be caught trying to cross the river in any way. There were four of us: Elihu Crowder of Jonesboro, Arkansas; a man by the name of Ward of Batesville, Arkansas; another by the name of Slaughter who lived somewhere on Crowley's Ridge; and myself.

At last, a young man who was at work on the Mississippi side, told us if we would never tell on him, he would sell us a boat and we could try crossing if we wanted to. We worked twelve days a piece for this man to pay for the boat. While we worked here, we slept at night in an old gin. We suffered some from cold and were tormented by back gnats and mosquitoes, but we got a little something to eat. The river bottom was overflowed so we were seven miles from the main river.

Having our boat paid for, we started on our journey on Sunday morning about April 1. The man gave us directions as far as he could. He told us to go west until we reached the main river and then go up the river until we came to a house where a Mr. Harris lived. We arrived at that house about noon. This good old man said, "Get out boys, and stay until you get your dinner and then I will give you all the information I can."

After dinner we went out on the porch and Mr. Harris said, "See those cottonwoods over there? It is just about two miles to them. Keep the bow of your little boat upstream and be careful for there is a dangerous place below, and if you get in there, you will be gone."

The water was surging and rolling, but we were homeward bound so we started across. When we were a little way out, we saw a Federal gunboat coming up the river, so we turned our boat and went back to land and hid until the boat passed. We started once more and this time had no trouble. Mr. Harris stood on the porch watching us until we went over the levee, then with a piece of paper, he waved us goodbye. I have never seen him any more, but I still love to think of his kindness to us.

When we got to the levee, we got out and pulled our boat over and continued our journey across overflowed farms for about ten miles. The water was so deep we could just see the tops of the corn in places. About sundown, we rowed up to a man's house and asked if we might stay all night. This man (I have forgotten his name) said, "Yes, let your horse to one of those staves and come in." We tied our boat and went up a flight of steps into the house. He was another good man and treated us like friends. Then he said to his wife and Negro servant, "Go and cook these men a good supper and make lots of coffee."

Next morning, we were preparing to leave but had no money to pay for our night's lodging, so we could only thank him for his kindness. Then he said, "Boys, what are you going to do with your boat when you get to land?" We told him we could do nothing but turn it loose. Then he told us that if we would give him the boat, he would go with us to the main land where he knew a farmer who knew the route we wanted to travel, and he would get this man to take us to Crowley's Ridge.

This Good Samaritan gave the farmer five dollars and told him to take us on and to take his boat back. He landed us on the west bank of the St. Francis River and turned back. Here we found a woman living on a farm, owned by General Forrest, who gave us dinner. After dinner, we walked across the farm and up Crowley's Ridge to the little town of Marianna. We left Marianna about one o'clock and traveled as far as we could. Sometime that day, Slaughter and Ward dropped behind and we left them. That night, we stopped at a farmhouse to stay all night. Here we found a woman who asked about Slaughter and who said she was his wife. We told her he had been with us until that day and had been left behind at some little town, but were sure he would be on soon. This woman sat up and cried most of the night. We left next morning and I don't know if he ever got home, but suppose he did as he was so close.

There were now only two of us. We traveled together about a day and a half more, then we separated; he going to Jonesboro and I to Powhatan. Here I met two old time friends, Alf Pritchard and Ben Malone. Imagine my joy for I felt like I was almost home. This was Saturday morning, so I stayed with Pritchard until Monday then I continued my journey...but my progress was slow as I had to wade water all the way. Sometimes the water was up to my waist.

That night, I came to a little log hut surrounded by water. A woman and some children lived there, but I don't see how they did. I stayed all night there and next morning I started on, but before I left, I got two logs, borrowed an auger from the woman and with these...I made me a raft. I traveled on this raft to the end of the levee. There I left my raft for I thought I would not need it. I went up the levee for about a mile when I came to a large gap that had been washed out. The current was so swift here that I could not cross, so I went down the side of the levee and started downstream, floating and holding to bushes, until I came to where I could cross the current. I crossed over and made my way up the stream until I got back to the levee. Once more I got on dry land. I walked this levee until I came to Black River.

The river had overflowed its banks and was so wide I could see no way of getting across. There were no men in the country so the women and children had to take care of the farms. I asked one of these women if she could tell me of any way of getting across, and she said, "No, not unless my little boy can take you in his little boat." She said if I was not afraid to trust him, she would let him take me. I told her that I had been in water until I was used to it, so if she wasn't afraid for the little boy, I would surely trust him.

He ferried me safely across and I stood on the bank and watched him until he got back to the other side. Then I climbed upon the bank and gave him water and a water goodbye, from there to Mississippi.

By this time, I had gotten back to where I had been before. About three o'clock, I came to a house where I had eaten dinner once. The woman and her daughter recognized me. They spoke to me and came out and asked me to stop and eat dinner. They spread a good dinner which I surely enjoyed.

That night, I stopped at a little hut about two miles from Smithville, Lawrence County. A woman came to the door and I asked her if I might stop and spend the night. She said she and her children were living alone and they never kept strangers, besides she had nothing for me to eat. I told her I had had dinner, but would be glad if she would furnish me a pallet and shelter. She agreed to do this, so I slept on a quilt spread on the floor and was thankful.

I arose next morning about daylight and started off without breakfast. I soon got to Smithville, but not a bite could I get. I walked on about two miles and there I came to the home of another widow and where I had visited her son. Here I got a good breakfast. Late that afternoon, I arrived home (April 28). We were all together once more.

I had only one brother, Tom. He enlisted in the army before I did and was captured at Helena. He was sent to prison at Fort Delaware, where he stayed eighteen months. Soon after we were let out of prison, we met near Atlanta, Georgia, but as we were trying to cross the river, we were separated and I never saw him again until I got home. He had gotten back just one week ahead of me.

The family has all passed on now and I am left behind. But, I know I will soon follow on as I am now eighty-four years old.

Dictated by John Foster to Mrs. Eula H. Tomlinson on September 1, 1931, at Zion, IZARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

*Mr. Foster died in 1935 and was buried at the Antioch Cemetery, near Zion, IZARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS.*

## Description

Photocopy of an article: Memoirs of John Foster, Company G., Freeman's Regiment, CSA, Feb. 1863 - March 1865. Memoir was dictated by John Foster to Mrs. Eula H. Tomlinson in 1931. Mr. Foster died in 1935 and was buried at the Antioch Cemetery near Zion, IZARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

## John Foster's Civil War Pension Application

John Foster was able to apply for a pension for his war service on 12 Aug. 1907. He was awarded a pension of \$100.00. Statements in that application (**Attachment 3**) read:

"indengency", "refused, na indengency"; "I am unable to perform manual labor"; "Judgment & from the history of the case I believe that he is now suffering from diabetes which he contracted while in the Confederate Service. I have been acquainted with John Foster for 7 yrs & do not know that he has any vicious habits of any kind. He is totally disabled to perform manual labor of any kind & compelled to rely on work for a livelyhood. William H. Dillard"; "Has no wounds of any importance"; "In my judgment I believe that his incapacity for manual labor is from Explosion while in the Army & his long term of Service renders him an almost Invalid to Rheumatism & a slight Pulmonary trouble. I have been personally well acquainted with John Foster for 8 yrs and do know that he has no Important or vicious habits of any kind. He is unable to provide a support for himself & those that are depending upon him. W.J. Dillard. 1 July 1908."

## John Foster Family Stories

This story was told by John Foster's granddaughter, Wanda Williams-Lowery, on September 19, 2002. Husband Earl and son Dan Lowery added their recollections to this story in December, 2002. Earl Lowery referred to John as the "Feisty Irishman."

Dan Lowery was told by his great-grandfather, F.B. Williams, that (his father-in-law) John Foster and his brother, Tom, were approached by the Confederate Army and asked to join to fight on the skirmish line. Tom agreed to do so. John did not volunteer at that time as he was too young, but joined the Army a couple of years later in 1863, at age 16. Tom and John did not fight in the same divisions. It wasn't long before John's unit ran out of ammunition and supplies during a battle called the "Big Prairie Fight" in Kansas. The only defense they had was to roll rocks down the hill towards the Yankees. John, still age 16, was captured as a prisoner of war by the North, during this battle. He was kept in a cell with barely enough food. He had only a small oil cloth to keep him warm from the freezing temperatures.

One night one of the other prisoners in his cell was extremely cold and his body temperature was dropping too low. John shared his small oil cloth blanket with the man and attempted to stay close to him to keep him warm. The fellow froze to death during the night while huddled next to John. Many men froze during their sleep.

## Going Home

When the war was over, the troops were headed home. They were on a very over-crowded train bound for Atlanta, Georgia. John and a friend were inside the train but unbeknownst to them, John's brother, Tom, was riding on top of the train. John's hand extended out the window on the top of the train they were squeezed in so tight. Tom stepped on John's hand which made John look up realizing this was his brother! When the train stopped, Tom anxiously jumped down and landed on another soldier below

crushing his arm. The brothers had not seen each other for probably three years. What a reunion! John and his friend went ahead on their way home. Tom stayed behind because he was so tired.

While on their way home they were very hungry and stopped at an antebellum mansion on a large plantation and asked the owner for some food. He was an older fellow and they expected him to be generous. Instead, they received an order from him to leave the property. They were quite upset with his response and felt that since they had been fighting a war for years, he could at least give them some food. They did not understand he had been asked for food by many soldiers and had little left. They took the man and locked him in a lean to shed, attached to the home. They went to the kitchen and fed themselves. The kitchens in these homes were separate buildings behind the homes to avoid house fires. They went on their way leaving the fellow locked up.

The brother and his friend went further and found an area to camp for the night, caught a big fish, made a fire and cooked it. The next morning, they went on again. When Tom came along behind them on that trail a couple of days later, he was pleased to find the remains of their feast and know that they were safe on their way home. He soon joined them at home and they were all reunited.

## **After the War**

None of the men who fought in this brutal war were ever the same. This was about 120 years before term "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder" was discovered. They suffered from battlefield nightmares. John suffered from shell shock after being near an ammunitions magazine explosion which damaged his nerves. He suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. Much of the Civil War was fought at close range with bayonets face to face, stepping over and around their fallen comrades. From lack of food, he suffered from diabetes.

John did odd things. He would ask his sons to gather branches and brush from the woods and stack it in a pile. When his many children and grandchildren would visit on Sunday, he would leave the house, go out back and set a huge bonfire to a pile of brush. He enjoyed watching it-a little too much.

When his grandson Roy Williams was two years old, his grandfather, Tilman Pierce Williams, built a wagon for the goat to pull Roy around the yard. When the wagon was finished, he put Roy in the wagon for a ride. Grandfather Foster came to visit and came out from the barn behind and purposefully spooked the goat so it ran off scared, taking Roy with him. Roy was not injured, but this could be considered odd behavior for a grandfather.

John Foster was one of last living Civil War veterans. He was asked to participate in a Veteran's parade. They made him a new Confederate uniform which he wore. He continued to participate in this parade for a few years. He was not buried wearing that uniform, but a suit which was provided by the mortuary paid for by the government. His original uniform was taken by the Yankees when he was held prisoner. What happened to the replica is a mystery.

Grandpa John Foster loved a good practical joke and would seldom miss a chance to tease-especially his new grand daughter-in-law, Fannie Williams. He was kind of a crusty old man by these years and he

knew it. When they would visit, John would always ask Fannie to please come over and check his ears as they were plugged. Fannie would humor the old Granddaddy and look into his ears only to find tufts of hair growing from inside both ears. Fannie told this story many times. Fannie never appreciated any teasing, which made it even funnier.

Trude's Grandma Minerva Moore-Foster had a brother, William "Bill" Moore. Bill's wife Mary Jane Hill loved to smoke a corncob pipe. Trude and the other children didn't care for her habit. One day when the pipe was laying down and she wasn't looking, they took a June bug and put it in her pipe along with a little bit of tobacco. When she went to smoke it, the tobacco kept jumping up out of the pipe. Three times or so she kept pushing the tobacco down. Finally, she realized something was wrong. The children really got a kick out of their prank. Trude laughed about this the remainder of his life.

#### Notes:

Thomas Foster and "Polly" Lawhon were buried at the Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery in Melbourne with stone marked graves. Trude expressed concern over the burial sites of his great grandparents not being properly marked and was fearful someone might accidentally dig there. They were buried next to John Foster and Minerva (Moore) Foster, with stone marked graves. The minister of the Antioch Church was contacted in hopes that he could confirm the location of these burial sites which he did. A local funeral home was contracted to make and install the headstones. All of the Fosters buried at the Antioch Cemetery can be found on the find-a-grave website.

## A PARTIAL FOSTER FAMILY TREE BEGINNING WITH THOMAS FOSTER BORN 1815

1. Thomas Foster, b. 1815, Franklin Co., NC; d. Feb 1851, Izard Co., AR, Antioch Cem.  
sp. Nancy Lawhon, b. 1819, TN, d. 10 Nov 1914, Izard Co. AR, Antioch Cem.  
m. abt. 1838; They were only married 12 years and she lived to be 95 years old.
  
2. Mary Ann Foster, b. 1839, Franklin, Izard Co., AR; d. aft 1910, Antioch Cem.  
sp. Robert Bradley Simmons  
m. Abt 1861; Izard Co., AR
  
2. Sarah Foster, b. 1842, Franklin, Izard Co., AR; d. aft 1900, Reed's Creek, Lawrence Co., AR  
sp. Samuel James  
m. Abt 1865, Izard Co., AR

All children born at Izard Co., AR

3. Mary E. James, b. 1866
  3. Thomas O. James, b. 1868
  3. John P. James, b. 1871
  3. William N. James, b. 1873
  3. Martha M. James, b. 1877
  3. Joseph A. James, b. 1880
- 
2. Nancy E. Foster, b. Sept 1843, Franklin, Izard Co., AR; d. 1899, Zion, Izard Co., AR, Campbell Cem.  
sp. Leander Jennings, 14 Apr 1837 NC; d. 5 Mar 1900, Zion, Izard Co., AR, Campbell Cem.  
m. Abt. 1864, Izard Co., AR; Civil War Veteran
3. William Jennings, b. 1862
  3. Preston W. Jennings, b. 1866
  3. Carrie L. Jennings, b. 1868
  3. Mary C. Jennings, b. 1870
  3. Alice C. Jennnings, b. 1875
  3. Fannie E. Jennings, b. 1878
- 
2. Thomas Franklin Foster, b. 29 Apr 1845, Franklin, Izard Co., AR; d. 27 May 1928, Fulton Co., AR,  
Shady Grove Cem., Fulton Co., AR, Civil War Veteran  
sp. Elizabeth "Betsy" Jane Muncy/Muncie, b. 28 Aug 1856, Cannon Co., TN; d. 10 Dec 1942, Fulton  
Co., AR, Shady Grove Cem., Fulton Co., AR  
m. Abt 1873
3. William Lafate Foster, 1874-1948
  3. Mary Matilda Foster, b. 30 Sept 1876, AR; d. 10 Aug 1899, Fulton Co., AR, Shady Grove  
Cemetery, Fulton Co., AR. Never recovered from childbirth; died 5 months later.  
sp. John Light, b. 14 Feb 1872, Lebanon, Laclede Co., MO; d. 13 Feb 1933, AR  
m. Mar 1899, Fulton Co., AR
  4. Edna Matilda Light, b. Mar 1899 Fulton Co., AR. Raised by Foster grandparents
  3. Kate Foster 1800-

3. Nancy Ann "Annie" Foster, 19 Nov 1882, Fulton Co., AR; d. 8 July 1976, Burleson, John Co., TX, Rose Hill Cem., Cleburne, Johnson Co., TX  
 sp. James Richard Grisso, b. 16 Apr 1875, AR; d. 4 Feb 1949, Cleburne, John Co., TX, Rose Hill Cem., Cleburne, Johnson Co., TX  
 m. 13 Dec 1917
  3. Jennie L. Foster, b. 10 Oct 1884, Fulton Co., AR; d. 30 Aug 1900 Fulton Co., AR, Shady Grove Cem., Viola, Fulton Co., AR
  3. Eliza Jane "Lizzie" Foster, b. Oct 1885 in Fulton Co., AR; d. 4 July 1978 Fulton Co., AR  
 sp. Arthur Edmond "Boots" Faulkenberry, b. 29 Jan 1893 Fulton Co., AR; d. 4 Oct 1973 Fulton Co., AR  
 m. Oct 1914
  3. John Barney Foster, b. 3 Dec 1888, Fulton Co., AR; d. 15 Apr 1968, Fulton Co., AR, Shady Grove Cem., Fulton Co., AR  
 sp. Gladys
  3. Thomas Mack Foster, 1888-1940
  3. James Robert Foster, 1892-
  3. Nathan L. Foster 1893-1905
  3. Shelby Levi Foster, 1898-1955
  3. Forrest Columbus Foster, 1900-1985
2. John Foster, b. 1 Mar 1847, Franklin, IZARD Co., AR; d. 18 Jul 1935, Franklin, IZARD Co., AR, Antioch Cem.  
 sp. Minerva Moore, b. 10 Feb 1848, Mississippi, d. 25 Mar 1923, Franklin, IZARD Co., AR, Antioch Cem.  
 m. Abt 1866, IZARD Co., AR
  3. William Joseph Foster, b. 1867, Franklin, IZARD Co., AR; d. bef 1880, IZARD Co., AR
  3. Sarah Catherine "Sis" Foster, b. 7 Feb 1868, Franklin, IZARD Co., AR; d. 6 Apr 1946, Council Hill, Muskogee, OK  
 sp. Gabriel Franklin Herron, b. 9 Sept 1866, Robin's Branch, Sharp Co., AR; d. 15 Nov 1933, Council Hill, Muskogee Co., OK  
 m. 15 Apr 1888, Sharp Co., AR
    4. Ellen Herron, b. abt 1888, AR
    4. Thomas C. Herron, b. Mar 1890, AR  
 m. unk. Kitchen
    4. Frank A. Herron, b. Feb 1892, AR  
 m. Mae unk.
    4. Martin W. Herron, b. Mar 1894, AR  
 Martha unk.
    4. Ransom Wesley Herron, b. 11 Apr 1896, AR; d. 25 Oct 1961, Checotah, McIntosh, Co., OK
    4. Homer Austin Herron, b. May, 1989, AR  
 m. Birdie unk.
    4. Dorothy Lee Herron, b. Mar 1900, AR; d. child
    4. Nora Herron, b. Abt. 1902, OK; d. child
    4. W.J. Herron, b. 11 Sept 1908, OK

- 4. Bryant Herron, b. 1910, OK; d. child
  - 4. Amy Herron, b. abt 1912, OK; d. child
3. Thomas Carney Foster, b. Feb 1870, Franklin, IZARD Co., AR; d. abt 1963, Stone Co., AR  
 sp. Emma D. Elam, b. Feb 1870, TN; d. Aft 1930, Stone Co., AR  
 m. 11 Jan 1892, Sharp Co., AR
- 4. Walter C. Foster, b. 24 Nov 1891, Stone Co. AR; d. Sept 1969, Mt. View, Stone Co., AR;  
 sp. Laura L. Fuller
  - 4. Thurman Thomas Foster, b. 26 Dec 1896, Stone Co., AR; d. Mar 1970, Mt. View Stone Co., AR  
 sp. #1 Laura Leona Talburt  
 sp. #2 Roxie V. unk.
  - 4. Robert Guy Foster, b. 3 Sept 1899, Stone Co., AR; d. June 1892, Pulaski Co., AR;  
 sp. Opal unk.
  - 4. Ollie A. Foster, b. 1903, Stone Co., AR;  
 sp. Joseph Haskins
  - 4. daughter, d. child
3. Mary Lou Foster, b. Feb 1871, Franklin, IZARD Co., AR; d. 25 Oct 1843, Roswell, NM  
 sp. Robert C. Patterson, b. 2 Jul 1867, GA; d. 10 Dec 1842, Roswell, NM  
 m. 1888, Sharp Co., AR
- 4. Cora L. Patterson, b. 1890, Pleasant Hill Co., AR
  - 4. Samuel Oscar Patterson, b. 1892, Pleasant Hill Co., AR
  - 4. John Patterson, b. 1894, Pleasant Hill Co., AR; d. Nov 1981, Tulsa, OK
  - 4. Ada M. Patterson, b. 1896, Pleasant Hill Co., AR  
 sp. unk. Griffin
  - 4. William A. Patterson, b. 1898, Pleasant Hill Co., AR
  - 4. George E. Patterson, b. 1902, AR
  - 4. Thomas L. Patterson, b. 1904, AR
  - 4. Pearl Patterson, b 1907, AR
  - 4. Ruby E. Patterson, b. 1910, AR
  - 4. Bud Patterson, b. 1912, Beck, McIntosh Co., OK
  - 4. Velma Patterson, b. 1914, Beck, McIntosh Co., OK
3. Elmira "Elminie" Foster, b. Feb 1874, Franklin, IZARD Co., AR; d. abt 1905, AR or OK  
 sp. Samuel Sharp, b. Nov 1859, Lawrence Co., AR; d. 1951, CA  
 (#1 wife Clara Russell, #2 Elmira Foster, #3 Alta Pearl Estes  
 m. #2-2 Apr 1896, Sharp Co., AR
- 4. Edward Brian Sharp, b. 27 Jan 1898, Evening Shade, Sharp Co., AR; d. 23 Apr 1945, Seminole Co., OK, Little Cem.  
 sp. Edna L. unk., b. 13 Sept 1898; d. 31 Mar 1989, Seminole Co., OK, Little Cem.  
 m. 1917
  - 4. Ernest Fred Sharp, b. Mar 1900, Evening Shade, Sharp Co., AR; d. 29 July 1902, AR

- 4. Myrtle Lee Sharp, b. 11 Dec 1902, Evening Shade, Sharp Co., AR; d. 18 Nov 1939, Twin Falls, ID
  - 4. Samuel D.L. Sharp, b. 1904, Evening Shade, Sharp Co., AR; d. 15 July 1904, AR
- 3. Rebecca "Beck" J. Foster, b. 1876, Pleasant Hill, IZARD Co., AR; d. 30 Jan 1958, McIntosh, OK
    - sp. Robert A. Phillips, b. 1874, AR; d. McIntosh Co., OK
    - m. 16 Apr 1896, Sharp Co., AR
- 4. Alma Phillips, b. 1898, Strawberry, IZARD Co., AR
    - sp. Clarence Cathey
  - 4. Elmer Phillips, b. 1903, Strawberry, IZARD Co., AR
  - 4. Ewell C. Phillips, b. 1907, Strawberry, IZARD Co., AR
  - 4. Carl Phillips, b. 1916, , Strawberry, IZARD Co., AR
  - 4. Marcus A. Phillips, b. 1923, Turner, McIntosh Co., OK
- 3. John Miller Foster b. 13 Nov 1877, Pleasant Hill, IZARD Co., AR; d. 9 Dec 1964, Tuckerman, AR, Dowell Cem.
    - sp. Josephine Johnson, b. Oct 1879, AR; d. 5 Mar 1967, Tuckerman, AR, Dowell Cem.
    - m. 3 Oct 1896, Sharp Co., AR
- 4. Clarence Foster, b. 1902, Franklin, IZARD Co. AR
    - sp. Carrie unk.
  - 4. Clyde Foster, b. 1905, <Jackson Co.>, AR
    - sp. Essie
  - 4. Alford Foster, b. 1909, <Jackson Co.>, AR
    - sp. Elsie Canard
  - 4. Ruby Foster, b. 1913, <Jackson Co.>, AR
    - sp. Jack Thompson
  - 4. Armelda Foster/Anne CNA, b. 1919, , <Jackson Co.>, AR
    - sp. Jess unk.
  - 4. L.G. Foster, b. 1924, , <Jackson Co.>, AR
- 3. Leonora Foster, b. 1881, Pleasant Hill, IZARD Co., AR; d. 1959, IZARD Co., AR, Yeager Cem.
    - sp. William Marlin; Yeager Cem.
    - m. 4 Nov 1900, Sharp Co., AR
- 4. Leonard E. Marlin, b. 1903, AR
    - sp. Rubie V. Taylor
    - m. 1 Sept 1923
  - 4. Elna "Bob" Marlin, b. 1903, AR; d. 1977
    - sp. Ovella Jane Scribner
  - 4. Alton T. Marlin, b. 1914, AR; d. 1941-45, WWII Casualty
  - 4. Nola May Marlin, b. 1926, AR
  - 4. Winnell Marlin (F) b. 1930, AR
- 3. Amanda Foster, b. 25 Nov 1883, Strawberry, IZARD Co., AR; d. 3 Dec 1956, IZARD Co., AR, Antioch Cem.



- sp. Austin Stewart, b. 1884, AR; d. Izard Co., AR  
 m. 22 Oct 1905, Sharp Co., AR
4. Myrtle Stewart, b. 1902, Strawberry, Izard Co. AR  
 sp. Leland Wallace  
 4. Mona Stewart, b. 1910, Strawberry, Izard Co. AR  
 sp. Homer Ray  
 4. Elbert Stewart, b. 1916, Strawberry, Izard Co. AR  
 sp. Pauline Todd
3. Samuel Marion Foster, b. 15 Feb. 1885, Strawberry, Izard Co., AR; d. 12 Feb. 1973, Izard Co., AR, Antioch Cem.  
 sp. Ellen Soward, b. 10 May 1889, AR; d. Aug 1989 (age 100) Melbourne, Izard Co., AR, Antioch Cem.  
 m. 5 May 1907, Sharp Co., AR
4. Owen W. Foster, b. 1908, Strawberry, Izard Co., AR  
 sp. Cora Scribner  
 4. Fred F. Foster, b. 1912, Strawberry, Izard Co., AR; d. Stone Co., AR;  
 sp. Verlie Gower  
 m. 22 Feb 1917  
 4. Audie Lee Foster, b. 10 Aug 1914, Strawberry, Izard Co., AR; d. 29 Mar 1977, Izard Co., AR, Antioch Cem.  
 sp. Isaac Herndon Frizzell  
 4. Alma Foster, b. 1919, Strawberry, Izard Co., AR  
 sp. Howard Decker
3. Alice Foster, b. 14 June 1887, Strawberry, Izard Co., AR; d. 27 July 1959, Izard Co., AR, Antioch Cem.  
 sp. James L. Johns, b. 26 Oct 1886, AR; d. Mar 1971, Melbourne, Izard Co., AR, Antioch Cem.  
 m. 28 Nov 1909, Sharp Co., AR  
 4. Lillian Johns, b. 6 Mar 1911, Izard Co., AR; d. 28 Aug 1913, Izard Co., AR, Antioch Cem.
3. Emma Agnes Foster, b. 3 Nov 1889, Strawberry, Izard Co., AR; d. 4 May 1967, Batesville, Independence Co., AR, Antioch Cem.  
 sp. Finis Brackenridge "F.B." Williams, b. 26 Mar 1881, Sidney, Izard Co., AR; d. 26 Oct 1979, Batesville, Indep. Co. AR, Antioch Cem.  
 m. 3 Dec 1905, Batesville, Indep. Co., AR
4. Roy Earnest Williams, b. 27 Oct 1906, Strawberry, Izard Co., AR; d. 3 Aug 1974, Fresno Co., CA, Granville Cem., Armona, Kings Co., CA  
 sp. Fannie Adeline Hotchkiss b. 28 June 1909, Ash Flat, Sharp Co., AR; d. 6 Feb 1979, Fresno, CA, Grangeville Cem., Armona, Kings Co., CA  
 m. 24 Dec 1925, Sharp Co. AR
5. Wanda Faye Williams, b. 24 July 1928, Ash Flat, Sharp Co, AR; d. 7 Dec 2002, Fresno, CA, Grangeville Cem., Armona, Kings Co., CA

- sp. Earl Haskell Lowery, 28 May 1927, Lawrenceburg, TN; d. 22 May 2005, Fresno, CA, Grangeville Cem., Armona, Kings Co., CA
  - m. 24 June 1949, Fresno, CA
  - 6. Rebecca Suzanne Lowery, b. 4 Apr 1951, Fresno, CA; d. 29 Mar 2008, Fresno, CA ;
    - no burial
    - sp. #1 living
    - sp. #2 living
    - 7. Living
    - 7. Living
  - 6. Daniel John Lowery, b. 12 Nov 1955, Fresno, CA; d. 31 Oct 2014, Fresno, CA, cremation
    - 6. Living
      - 7. Living
      - 7. Living
      - 7. Living
  
- 5. Sederal Leland Williams, b. 22 Apr 1931, Hanford, Kings Co., CA; d. 22 Apr 1995, Fresno, CA, Clovis Cemetery
  - sp. Living
  - m. NV
  - 6. Living
    - 7. Living
  - 6. Living
    - 7. Living
  
- 5. Mitchell Roy Williams, b. 12 Jan 1950, Fresno, CA; d. 9 Apr 2008, Fresno, CA, cremation
  - sp. #1 Living (div)
  - sp. #2 Deceased
  - 6. Living
  - 6. Living
  
- 4. Vena Alpha Williams, b. 24 Nov 1913, Strawberry, Izard Co., AR; d. 21 Apr 2002, Fresno Co., AR, Belmont Cem.
  - sp. James Alvin Fowler, b. 10 July 1910, Ash Flat, Sharp Co., AR; d. 24 Jan 2014, Fresno, CA, Belmont Cem.
  - m. 18 June 1931, Ash Flat, Sharp Co., AR
    - 5. Living
      - 6. Living
  
- 4. Ina Mae Williams, b. 4 Aug 1926, Ash Flat, Sharp Co., AR; d. 4 Nov 2015, Batesville, Independence Co., AR, Cave City Cem., Sharp Co., AR
  - sp. Naman Landers, b. 29 Mar 1923, Cave City, Sharp Co., AR; d. 14 June 1977, Batesville, Independence Co., AR, Cave City Cem., Sharp Co., AR
  - m. 16 Sept 1950, Batesville, Independence Co., AR
    - 5. Living
      - 6. Living

- 6. Living
- 6. Living
- 5. Donovan Robert Landers, b. 14 Nov 1959, Batesville, Independence Co., AR; d. 24 May 2008, Little Rock, Pulaski Co., AR  
sp. yes
- 6. Living
- 6. Living
- 3. Virgil Martin Foster, b. 11 May 1892, Strawberry IZARD Co., AR; d. 14 Apr 1969, Batesville, Index. Co., AR, Antioch Cem.  
sp. Dorothy McAnally, b. 19 Mar 1894, Franklin, IZARD Co. AR; d. 16 Apr 1993, Batesville, Independence Co., AR, Antioch Cem.  
m. 14 Sept 1914, Sharp Co., AR
- 4. Vera Mae Foster, b. 7 Sept 1915, Strawberry, IZARD Co., AR; d. 7 Apr 2001, AR, Antioch Cem., IZARD Co., AR  
sp. Imon Brown, b. 6 Feb 1918, AR; d. 29 July 2001, Antioch Cem.
- 4. Elda Rae Foster, b. 22 Dec 1919, Strawberry, IZARD Co., AR; d. 5 May 2004, Oak Lawn Cem., Batesville, Independence Co., AR  
sp. Fred Westmoreland; b. 24 Feb 1914; d. Oct 1980, Oak Lawn Cem., Batesville, Indecent. Co., AR
- 4. Edward Bryant Foster, b. 30 Jan 1921, Strawberry, IZARD Co., AR; d. 22 Mar 2014, Batesville, AR, Antioch Cem.  
sp. Darla Dean Finley
- 4. Trude Martin Foster, b. 24 July 1923, Strawberry, IZARD Co., AR; d. 28 July 2009, Batesville, Independence Co., AR, Antioch Cem.; no issue

*Trude stated, "I served in the United States Army, European Theater, during World War II in Italy. My leg was severely wounded which required amputation followed by two years in the hospital. My story is told in another of the books "Down Memory Lane" Volume V, author Sue Crisco. I was engaged once, but never married."*

- 2. Mary Elizabeth "Eliza" Foster, b. 11 Oct 1848-49 Franklin, IZARD Co., AR; d. 26 June 1888 Lawrence Co., AR, Dry Creek Cem.  
sp. Rev. William Mastin Raney, b. 3 Oct 1847, Strawberry, Lawrence Co., AR; d. 19 July 1934, Tuckerman, Jackson Co., AR, Dry Creek Cem.  
m. 10 June 1872, IZARD Co., AR
- 3. James Thomas Raney, 25 Dec 1875, IZARD Co., AR; d. 26 Aug 1943, Black Rock, Lawrence Co., AR, Oak Forest Cemetery  
sp. Ida Lee Raney, 1878-1926, Clover Bend Cemetery, Lawrence Co., AR
- 3. Martha Carolina Raney, b. 15 June 1878, Strawberry, Lawrence Co., AR, Clover Bend Cem.  
sp. Henry Walter Butler, b. 13 May 1875, AL; d. 13 May 1957, Judsonia, White Co., AR, Evergreen Cem.

- 3. Frances Elizabeth Raney, b. 25 Oct 1885, 9 Apr 1965, Lincoln-Ward Cem., Lawrence Co., AR  
sp. David Clinton Huskey, b. 9 Aug 1883; d. 2 Nov 1951, Lincoln-Ward Cem., Lawrence Co., AR
- 3. Pearl Luvelia Raney, 24 Sept 1903, Strawberry, Lawrence Co., AR; d. 30 Apr 2011, age 108,  
Strawberry, Lawrence Co., AR, Ward Cem.  
sp. Otis Princeton Gray, b. 19 Jun 1902; d. 1962, Strawberry, Lawrence Co., AR, Ward Cem.
- 2. Lucinda Catherine Foster, b. Nov 1851, Franklin, Izard Co., AR; d. April 1903, Ballinger Cem., Runnels  
Co., TX  
sp. James Knox Battles, b. 19 Apr 1945, AL; d. 23 June 1938, Sterling City, Sterling Co., TX; Ballinger  
Cem., Runnels Co., TX  
m. 2 Jan 1868, Izard Co., AR

Their children were born in Izard Co. or Fulton Co., AR

- 3. John F. Battles, b. 1870, AR
- 3. Mary E. Battles, b. 1872, AR
- 3. Sarah Lena Battles, b. 1878, AR
- 3. Nannie Nellie Battles, b. 1882, AR
- 3. Samuel Battles, b. 1887, AR
- 3. Elmer Owen Battles, b. 3 May 1892, Izard, AR; d. 27 Oct 1960, Eula, Eula Cem., Callahan Co., TX

## THE LAWHON FAMILY TREE

1. William Lawhon, b. abt. 1722  
sp. Rebecca b. abt. 1729
2. David Lawhon, b. 1748, Johnston Co., NC  
sp. Mary b. 1752
3. Axum Lawhon b. 1780, Johnston Co., NC; d. 1852, Butler Co., Missouri  
#1 sp. Mary Polly Lemmons/Laymance  
#2 sp. Mary "Polly" England b. 1795 Roane Co., TN  
m. 1815, Roane Co., TN
4. Nancy Lawhon. b. 1815, TN  
sp. Green Hill, b. 1815, KY; d. Antioch Cem.
  5. Nancy; d. Antioch Cem.
  5. Evelyn
  5. Margaret
  5. Green Hill, Jr.
4. Nancy Mary "Polly" Lawhon, b. 1819, TN, d. 10 Nov 1914, Izard Co., AR, Antioch Cem.
  - sp. Thomas Foster, b. 1815, NC; d. 1851, Izard Co., TN
  5. John Foster, b. 1847, Zion, Izard Co., AR; d. 18 July 1935, Izard Co., AR, Antioch Cem.
  - sp. Minerva Moore, b. 1849, Tennessee; d. 25 Mar 1923, Izard Co., AR, Antioch Cem.
4. Joseph A. Lawhon, b. 1826, TN; d. 20 Nov 1862, Alton Confederate Prison Camp, Illinois  
sp. Ellen Maize
  5. William Lawhon
  5. Sarah Lawhon
4. Caswell Lawhon b. 1828, Morgan Co., TN; d. 14 Dec 1915, Marion Co., AR  
sp. Mourning Covington, b. 1829, TN; d. 1863, Marion Co., AR  
m. c.1853, Izard Co., AR  
sp. Lucinda Hodges, b. 1818; d. 1819, Marion Co., AR  
m. 6 Apr 1868, Lawrence Co., AR
  5. John Acy Lawhon
  5. Charley Lawhon, lived in Missouri
4. female Lawhon, b.c. 1832, TN; d. bef. 1880  
sp. Lawson, d. bef. 1880
  5. Joe Lawson, b. 1872, MO
  5. Luther Lawson, b. 1872, MO
  5. Annie Lawson, b. 1874, MO
  - sp. Isaac Finley, b. 1862, AR
  5. Mary Lawson, b. 1877, MO
  - sp. Thomas Fudge, b.1872, MO
4. Marion Lawhon, b. 1833, TN  
*Axum Lawhon's Third Wife*  
#3 sp. Sarah Unk.
  4. Washington Lawhon, b. 1840; d. 1865, CW
  4. Carrol Lawhon, b. 1842, Missouri; d. 1865, CW
  4. Thomas Lawhon, b. 1846; d. 1940, St. Louis, MO

Trude: "I don't recall name of the other daughter, who married the Lawson man. Both contacted a terrible flu which killed them both leaving their children as orphans. They had two sons named Joe and Luther. Their aunt, Polly Lawhon Foster, took them in and raised them as her own. Joe stayed around the area, but the story is Luther killed a man and went to prison. We never saw him again. The Lawsons also had two daughters, Annie, who married Isaac Finley and Mary, who married Thomas Fudge.

"I thought I would mention that I was told they gave the Lawsons quinine to try to cure them which instead killed them. Quinine was only really good for treating malaria. There wasn't much medicine back then. You could buy morphine almost anywhere medicines were sold and it was sold over the counter for use as an "easing medicine." My father, Virgil, was given morphine once by one of his sisters to cure his illness and he almost died."

4. Lucinda Lawhon, b.c. 1834; d. Antioch Cem.

Final words to the family from Trude on 10 February 2005:

Nearly all of the Fosters were farmers. My brother, Ed, had a mechanic shop in Batesville. Fred Westmoreland, my brother-in-law, was a Southern Baptist preacher. F.B. Williams was a Landmark Baptist preacher. All of the family members were either Southern or Landmark Baptists.

I am 81 years old now and live by myself. I have always tried my best to remember as much as I could about everybody in the family. I hope it helps anyone who wants to find out about the Fosters and where they came from.

There are lots of Fosters in Arkansas and I have many first cousins. There are six of us left now in Arkansas. I look forward to when we can meet with the Lord and see these people we have enjoyed so much during our lives again.

Trude Foster  
Batesville, Arkansas

## FOSTER FAMILY PICTURES

Provided by Trude Foster

These Foster pictures were all provided by Trude Foster who gave permission to this author to use them however she desired.



The older woman in the center of the photo is Polly Lawhon-Foster. To her left is John Foster. The little boy just behind John Foster is his son Virgil Foster. To the right of Polly is John's wife, Minerva Moore.



John Foster's 86th Birthday, 1 March 1933



John Foster's 86th birthday party on March 1, 1933, at their home in Franklin, IZARD Co., AR. Trude Foster is the little boy on the left front wearing a cap and overalls. John Foster is three people to the right of Trude, wearing a dark hat. F.B. Williams is just to the left of the far left window and wearing a light colored hat. Roy Williams is the fourth man from the far left leaning on something.





Front L to R: Minerva Moore, 2 Phillips children, John Foster;  
 Back L to R: Bill Marlin, Sarah "Sis" Herron, Leona (Foster) Marlin, Beck (Foster) Phillips, Dot Foster, Vera Foster, Verge Foster Emma Foster-Williams, F.B. Williams



Sam Herron, Emma Foster-Williams, John Foster, Mandie Foster-Stewart, Leona Foster-Marlin, Alice Foster-Johns, Virgil Foster



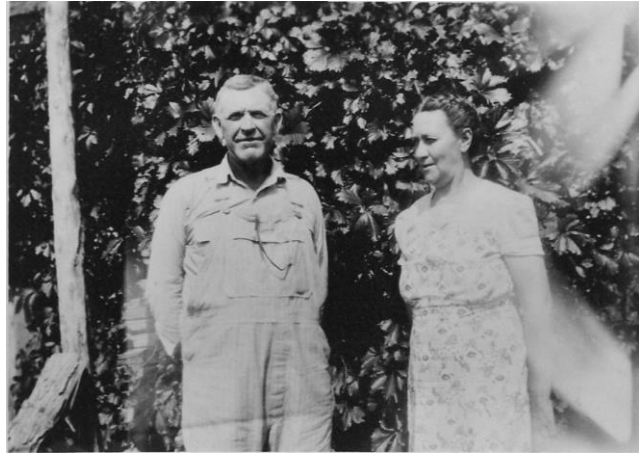
L to R-Sam Foster, Mandie Foster-Stewart, Bill Marlin, Elminie Foster-Sharp, Rebecca Foster-Phillips, Emma Foster-Williams and Virgil Foster



L to R- F.B. Williams, Emma Foster-Williams, Sam Sharp, Ellen Soward-Foster, Virgil Foster and Dorothy McAnally-Foster



Sarah "Sis" Foster-Herron and  
Gabe Herron



John L. Johns and Alice Foster-Johns



John Foster with son Clarence in 1921,  
Kessert, AR



Left-Trude Foster with brother Edward Foster,  
WWII era



Thomas Carney Foster's Family



Front row, L to R-Alice Foster, Sam Foster, John Foster and Leon Foster  
Back row: Thomas Carney Foster, Emma Foster-Williams, Virgil Foster and Mandy Foster-Williams



Austin Stewart and Mandy Foster-Stewart



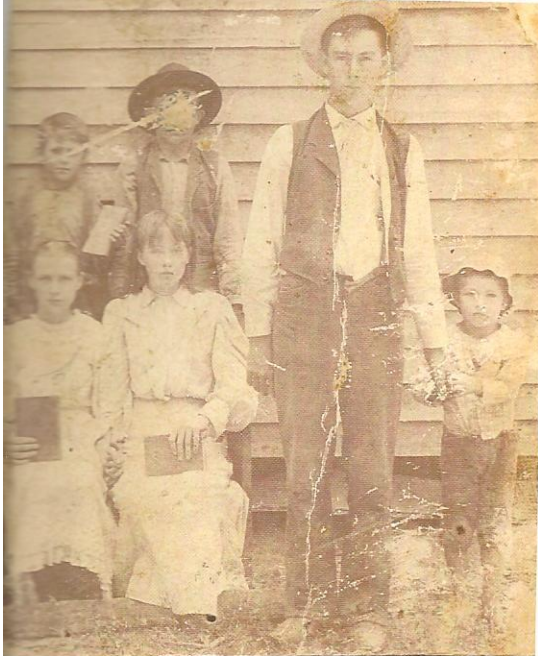
Trude Foster, Dot McAnally Foster (mother), Virgil Foster (father) and Emma Foster-Williams (Virgil's sister)



40th Anniversary-Samuel Marion Foster and Ellen Soward-Foster L to R-Sam, Ellen, with children Owen, Audie, Fred and Alma



Ed Foster with wife Darla Finley-Foster



Virgil Foster on right, holding hand of teacher on the first day of school



Virgil and Dot Foster with daughter, Vera



Virgil Foster and Dot McAnally-Foster

## CONCLUSION

Dear Trude,

I hope this story is all you ever wanted it to be and more. Thank you for sharing even the slightest detail which helped me to discover so much more about our family story.

It was an honor to know you. Thank you for your service in the United States Army during World War II. May you rest in peace my dear cousin. You told me you would be waiting for me at the gates of heaven. I look forward to seeing you face to face.

Sue Williams-Ward