

Pension Application for William Foster

W.19282 (Widow: Phebe Witman) Married November 1, 1792.

State of New York

Steuben County SS.

On the 17th day of October in the year 1832 personally appeared before the Court of Common Pleas of said County now sitting William Foster aged sixty six years, a resident of the Town of Pulteney in the said county who being first sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he enlisted into the Army of the United States and as he thinks in the year 1780 but what season of the year, or whether in that year, he cannot say as he was then but a youth, at Bedford in Westchester County and State of New York, where he then resided into Company of Dragoons commanded by Capt Zebulon Pike, at which time he received from said Pike one dollar.

He either enlisted for three years or during the war, but which he cannot remember. He at first undertook to learn to blow the trumpet but had not wind enough; was then taken by Captain Pike as a waiter, don't remember the names of the company officers, except the Captain. The company belonged to a Regiment of Dragoons commanded by Col. Milan—remembers the names of Capt Craig, Lieut Overton, Lieut Payton—Riding Master, Thompson.

The first winter after he entered the service they quartered at Colchester in New England—he cannot recollect any other event distinctly until the summer of 1782—laid that summer at Lancaster in Pennsylvania and remained there during the winter and was discharged in June 1783 at Lancaster in Pennsylvania, Don't recollect who signed his discharge; has lost it. Don't recollect of ever being in an engagement. Was frequently employed to attend upon the sick. The trumpet man's name was Christian Coon—

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. (Signed with his mark) William Foster

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. M. S. Rumsey Dep Clk.
Steuben County

Letter in folder written June 21, 1932, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of William Foster a pensioner of Steuben County, New York.

The data which follow are found in the papers on file in pension claim, W.19282, based upon service of William Foster in the Revolutionary War. William Foster, while a resident of Bedford, Westchester County, New York, enlisted sometime in 1780, then only a youth, in Captain Zebulon Pike's company, Colonel Milan's (probably meant for Meylan's) regiment of Dragoons and was discharged from service in June 1783; at the beginning of this service, he tried to "learn to blow the trumpet" but had not enough wind, then became a waiter to said Zebulon Pike, was

stationed first at Colchester in New England, then Lancaster Pennsylvania, in the summer of 1782 and was discharged from service there. His entire service amounted to at least two years.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 17, 1832, at which time he resided in Pultney, Steuben County, New York. The soldier was aged then sixty-six years; the date and place of his birth and the names of his parents are not shown.

William Foster died December 31, 1841, in Steuben County, New York. He had made his home for about nine years with his daughter, Rachel, and her husband Daniel Taylor.

The soldier married November 1, 1792, in Sparta, Sussex County, New Jersey, Phebe Whitman (Witman); they lived for some years after their marriage in Sparta, New Jersey.

Phebe Foster, the soldier's widow, was allowed pension on her application executed May 4, 1844, at which time she resided in Wheeler, Steuben County, New York. She was aged then seventy-two years; the date and place of her birth and names of her parents are not shown. She was living there in 1848.

The following data are shown pertaining to the children of William Foster and his wife, Phebe:

Sally Foster, 1st child born early in 1794, died at 3 months

_____ Foster 2nd children born early in 1796, died in infancy.

John W. Foster born July 24, 1799, died Oct 18, 1829.

Rachel Foster born June 15, 1801.

Lindley Foster born August 30, 1803.

Sally Foster born July 2, 1806, died Aug. 20, 1806.

William Foster Jur. Born July 25, 1807.

Hannah Foster born May 10, 1809.

George Foster born September 6, 1810 or 1811 (faded).

In 1844, Rachel Taylor, the daughter noted above, had been married to her husband, Daniel Taylor, about twenty-one years; they had always lived near her parents, or with them.

In 1844, Jonathan Cooley, aged seventy-five years, resided in Steuben County, New York; he had married at Christmas 1793, in Sparta, New Jersey, Mary Whitman (Witman), the sister of Phebe who married the soldier, William Foster. Said Jonathan Cooley had lived in New Jersey until about 1800, after which he had resided in Steuben County, New York.