

Foster
family

Retracing a VERMONT FAMILY'S MIGRATION *to the* HOLLAND PURCHASE

by Julie Foster Van Camp

IN 1997, AFTER YEARS OF RESEARCHING MY FOSTER ancestry, I found a cousin through the Internet. Like me, she was a great-great-granddaughter of Albro Foster (1785–1874), a Vermont native who moved west. My new-found cousin stunned me with the news that she owned a journal written by Albro's father, Ichabod Foster (1740–1813) of Whiting and Middletown, Vermont. Her portion of the journal covered March 1785 to December 1809; other portions had been lost. Soon afterward, we arranged to meet at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, where my cousin, to my great surprise, gave me the diary — to keep.

I was thrilled, and I learned a great deal about Ichabod's world by studying the journal. Entries were sparse and spare — usually just a line or two per day — and the diary ended a few days after his sixty-eighth birthday. I wondered what happened to Ichabod after the entries ceased. Fortunately, I soon enjoyed more genealogical good fortune. In January 2001, a different cousin contacted me. She had diary pages too — from 1809 to 1813 — and offered to send copies. Excited at the prospect of continuing Ichabod's story, I began reading the entries as soon as they arrived while standing next to my mailbox. This portion of the journal provided the final puzzle piece, and explained why I had not found death records for Ichabod and his wife, Susannah, in Vermont. Without the entries of those last years, I never would have known that Ichabod migrated to western New York in 1811.

At the time, Vermont was undergoing an economic crisis. Area residents had long sold most of their extra produce in Canada. Suddenly, this practice ended with President Jefferson's 1808 embargo. Farm prices tum-

bled. People tried to collect debts when no one had cash.^[1] An 1811 flood destroyed the businesses in Middletown, where Ichabod Foster then lived. The same year the Vermont State Bank, center of the state's financial system, collapsed.

In contrast, western lands seemed to beckon. Newspapers advertised New York land as well-timbered, well-watered, easily accessible, undeniably fertile, and available on long-term payment for only two or three dollars per acre. Letters from former Vermonters sang New York's praises. Whenever a group of young men undertook the wide-ranging tour of a thousand miles or more to discover the truth of all these glowing reports, usually the men came back satisfied and prepared to relocate permanently.^[2] As Ichabod's journal records, his Whiting neighbors had been moving west



Above: A view of the road leading away from the Foster farm in Whiting, Vermont.



A granary on the farm in Whiting, Vermont, which dates to Ichabod Foster's time.

for more than twenty years, going back and forth, investigating the land, and eventually, resettling.

11 February 1791

Aron Beach and Mr. Sawyer set out with there familys for Genesees ("Genesee Country" was a term for Western New York.)

7 June 1807

Benjamin Carr & Moses Munger came to our house on their way to the Holland Purchase

11 July 1807

Moses Munger was at our house on his return home from Lake Eare

27 May 1810

Benj & Gideon Walker set out for Holland Purches

Ichabod's sons — Benjamin, Albro, Samuel, John, and Ichabod Jr. — also began moving to western New York in the early 1800s. The sons followed their father's example, selling settled lands for a profit to purchase cheap farmland elsewhere. Ichabod had likewise left Rhode Island for the wilds of Vermont in 1770, accompanied by his father, Benjamin Foster, age fifty-four.

13 March 1811

Ichabod [Jr.] got home from Welink [Willink] near Lake Erie

29 June 1811

I received a letter that Benj Foster sent to S. Beach receiving date June the 5 1811 in which he informed him of the safe arrival of himself and family in Holland Purchase

Upon Ichabod Jr.'s return, the older generation of Fosters must have decided — or been persuaded — to relocate as well.

17 October 1811

I set out from Whiting with my family and effects for the Holland Purchase in York state

Four members of the Foster family made this journey. I imagined Ichabod, age seventy-one, helping his wife Susannah, age sixty-six, crawl into the wagon. She pulls a wool shawl over her shoulders and cuddles eleven-year-old Susanna in her lap. (While this child is clearly a family member, young Susanna's parentage has not been determined.) Ichabod Jr. loads the wagon. Two years after their 1768 marriage, Ichabod and Susannah (Carr) Foster, and their son, James Otis Foster (b. 1769), had left Rhode Island. Vermont had been the couple's home for forty years. Now Ichabod and Susannah were leaving their cultivated fields, clapboard house, church, friends, and family — including

some children and grandchildren — to begin new lives in the untamed forests of the Holland Purchase. The journey to Willink in western New York would be long and arduous, over rutted trails, rocks, and single-track plank roads, across streams without bridges, through drizzle, rain, and snow. Winter was fast approaching; when the Fosters departed in October, the first snow had already fallen. Their destination was the one-room log cabin of Ichabod and Susannah's oldest living son, Benjamin, who had arrived in Willink in June.

After leaving Whiting, Ichabod listed twenty-six communities where the party stopped for the night or to "lay over" if snow was falling or rain made the trail impassable. I longed to retrace Ichabod's five-week journey to the Holland Purchase, and in October 2003, I traveled from my home in Washington State to begin my own journey, which in a car lasted five days rather than five weeks. Ichabod's

journal would be my guide. On October 24, after several days in Middletown, thirty miles from Whiting, the Fosters

"I longed to retrace Ichabod's five-week journey to the Holland Purchase, and in October 2003, I traveled from my home in Washington State to begin my own journey, which in a car lasted five days rather than five weeks."

journeyed to Poultney, their last stop in Vermont, then continued to Hartford and "Argile Force" in New York State.

26 October 1811

Went to Argile Force

I couldn't find it. Instead, I followed Route 40 to Argyle, a town swallowed by suburban sprawl. I made my first of many wrong turns before finding the back road to Saratoga.

27 October 1811

We drove to Saratoga

28 October 1811

Drove to Saratoga Springs

I also drove to Saratoga Springs, where I spent my first night. The Fosters had been traveling for twelve days when they arrived here. I had traveled one.

Frosty air chilled me as I unlocked my car door the next morning. Walking beside the wagon, Ichabod would have felt every raindrop and snowflake. I yearned to know what he experienced on his journey. But Ichabod's diary revealed nothing about his thoughts. He only noted the weather and where the family stopped. My imagination painted the pictures.

29 October 1811

Drove to North Galway

I located old Route 29 leading to North Galway, Broadalbin, and Johnstown. Ichabod walked fifteen miles from Saratoga Springs to North Galway, and an amazing thirty-two miles in rain and wind the next day to Johnstown.

30 October 1811

We drove to Mr. Avedon's in Johnstown & in rain in the night

31 October 1811

Rain all day & we lay by all day

I couldn't find North Galway, so I continued a few miles to Broadalbin and reached Johnstown by mid-afternoon. The fertile Mohawk River valley stretched before me, like a landscape painting overflowing with silvery water, crystal skies, and verdant fields. Why didn't Ichabod and his children settle here? Why did they travel hundreds of miles further to reach Willink? I passed a yellow clapboard building beside the road with a sign proclaiming "Nellie Tavern

1741." I realized this valley had been claimed long before Ichabod passed through it.

As David Dearborn wrote in an earlier issue of NEW ENGLAND ANCESTORS:

... one of the principal motivators for their leaving was the allure of free or cheap land. Thus, as they [New Englanders] migrated, they tended to skip over areas that were already settled, because the choicest lands, along rivers and major routes, were claimed by the earlier arrivals. When New Englanders started moving west in large numbers beginning in the 1790s, most passed right through the Hudson and Mohawk valleys, in favor of unclaimed lands further west.^[1]

A short way past Johnstown I connected with Route 10, then headed west again on Route 67, which soon became Route 5. The country was rolling; the road was straight, bordered by farmland when not con-

Nov. 30 Days 1811

1	Wed	1	We drove to Mr. Cook's in Johnstown
2	Wed	2	We drove to Mr. Carr's in Johnstown
3	Wed	3	We drove to Mr. Croun's in Johnstown
4	Wed	4	We drove to Mr. Clark's in Johnstown
5	Wed	5	We drove to Mr. Leach's in Johnstown
6	Wed	6	We drove to Mr. Sullivan's in Johnstown
7	Wed	7	We drove to Mr. Gray's in Johnstown
8	Wed	8	We drove to Mr. Branch's in Johnstown
9	Wed	9	We drove to Mr. Phelps's in Johnstown
10	Wed	10	We drove to Mr. Miller's in Johnstown
11	Wed	11	We drove to Mr. Baker's in Johnstown
12	Wed	12	We drove to Mr. Smith's in Johnstown
13	Wed	13	We drove to Mr. Johnson's in Johnstown
14	Wed	14	We drove to Mr. King's in Johnstown
15	Wed	15	We drove to Mr. Davis's in Johnstown
16	Wed	16	We drove to Mr. Ward's in Johnstown
17	Wed	17	We drove to Mr. Richardson's in Johnstown
18	Wed	18	We drove to Mr. Green's in Johnstown
19	Wed	19	We drove to Mr. Spaulding's in Johnstown
20	Wed	20	We drove to Mr. Miller's in Johnstown
21	Wed	21	We drove to Mr. Leach's in Johnstown
22	Wed	22	We drove to Mr. King's in Johnstown
23	Wed	23	We drove to Mr. Right's in Johnstown
24	Wed	24	We drove to Mr. Stone's in Johnstown
25	Wed	25	We drove to Mr. Stone's in Johnstown
26	Wed	26	We drove to Mr. Stone's in Johnstown
27	Wed	27	We drove to Mr. Stone's in Johnstown
28	Wed	28	We drove to Mr. Stone's in Johnstown
29	Wed	29	We drove to Mr. Stone's in Johnstown
30	Wed	30	We drove to Mr. Stone's in Johnstown
1	Thurs	1	Rain
2	Thurs	2	Rain
3	Thurs	3	Rain
4	Thurs	4	Rain
5	Thurs	5	Rain
6	Thurs	6	Rain
7	Thurs	7	Rain
8	Thurs	8	Rain
9	Thurs	9	Rain
10	Thurs	10	Rain
11	Thurs	11	Rain
12	Thurs	12	Rain
13	Thurs	13	Rain
14	Thurs	14	Rain
15	Thurs	15	Rain
16	Thurs	16	Rain
17	Thurs	17	Rain
18	Thurs	18	Rain
19	Thurs	19	Rain
20	Thurs	20	Rain
21	Thurs	21	Rain
22	Thurs	22	Rain
23	Thurs	23	Rain
24	Thurs	24	Rain
25	Thurs	25	Rain
26	Thurs	26	Rain
27	Thurs	27	Rain
28	Thurs	28	Rain
29	Thurs	29	Rain
30	Thurs	30	Rain

Ichabod Foster's diary entries from November 1811.



The Phelps cabin, where the Foster family spent the night. By Olyve Dutchman, ca. late 1950s; the painting is based on a sketch then held by her neighbor, Lucille Faulkner of Auburn, N.Y., a descendant of Ebenezer Phelps who built the cabin in the early 1800s. The painting is owned by the Old Brutus Historical Society, Weedsport, New York.

Image courtesy of John H. Conlin.

sumed by urban sprawl. I saw the New York Thruway on the other side of the Mohawk River. I vowed not to resort to this fast track.

1 November 1811

We drove to Mr. Cook in Bingham

I couldn't find Bingham either.

2 November 1811

We drove to Wm Carr in Herkimer

From Herkimer to Schuyler, Route 5 was straight and flat along the Mohawk River. Ichabod probably paid a barge fee to cross the river here. He was now on the well-traveled Mohawk-Genesee trail. In 1794 a road from Old Fort Schuyler (now Utica) through Canandaigua to the Genesee River was laid out. This route, an old Indian trail, eventually formed the connection between the Hudson and Niagara Rivers. The road was completed in 1809, two years before Ichabod's journey.

9 November 1811

Mr. Phelps in Brutus

Today Brutus isn't on the map. With the help of an innkeeper, I located the Brutus Historical Society in Weedsport. When I arrived and shared the details of my journey, I discovered that the previous day some of Mr. Phelps's descendants had donated a painting of the log home in which Ichabod had spent the night. I felt a mysterious serendipity, and shared a copy of Ichabod's diary page. After I left Brutus, I spent the remainder of that day driving through the small towns of Lima, Avon, Caledonia, and Stafford.

14 November 1811

Drive Mr. Sterling Lima

15 November 1811

Mr. Davie Caledonia

Some of the people who extended hospitality to the Fosters were family members or friends of friends, names given to Ichabod before he left Whiting. Doors in the wilderness were often open to families from far away. James Sterling and Samuel Carr, who gave Ichabod's family a meal and a place to sleep, were former Vermonters — and Samuel Carr may have been related to Ichabod's wife. Western New York settlers, most of New England origin, faced many challenges, including wild beasts; harsh weather; the "Genesee Fever" (a form of malaria) and other illnesses; want; and loneliness.¹⁴

16 November

Mr. Peat Batave

17 November 1811

Mr. Richardson Batave

18 November 1811

Mr. S. Carr Batave

Ichabod spent three nights in Batavia, twelve miles from Buffalo, and one night in Clarence, just outside Buffalo.

19 November 1811

Mr. P. Sparling Clarence

20 November 1811

Mr. Miller Buffelow

I traveled the last miles to Buffalo and turned south for Willink. The route between Batavia and Buffalo was said to be one of the worst mud-rutted stretches of the 1809 road, with only an occasional desolate log cabin.

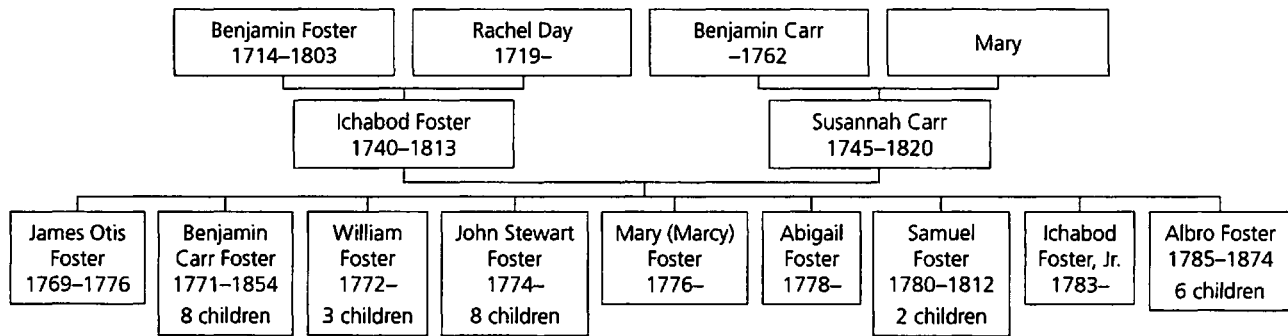
21 November 1811

Mr. Leach Buffelow

Filled with anticipation, I followed the beltway east of Buffalo, avoided city traffic, and turned south on Route 219 toward the town of Concord, location of Willink's Lot 51. (The town of Willink no longer exists.) This route was a trail that cut through the Buffalo Creek Reservation of the Seneca when Ichabod used it on the last leg of his long journey from Whiting to Willink.

A copy of Benjamin Foster's property agreement is in the microfilms of the Holland Land Company Records in the Reed Library at the State University of New York, Fredonia. The original documents remain in Holland. Dutch proprietors Wilhem Willink, Jan Willink, Wilhem Willink the younger, and Jan Willink

The Family of Ichabod and Susannah (Carr) Foster



the younger had acquired more than three million acres in western New York in 1792 and 1793 from Robert Morris, who had purchased the property from Massachusetts in May 1791. Ichabod's son was one of hundreds of men "articled," or who agreed to buy, property in installments. Benjamin received 256 acres and so on May 3, 1810, he deposited \$18 toward a purchase price of \$576. Benjamin agreed to clear the land, plant crops, build a dwelling house within five years, and pay his principal in ten. No deed would be issued until the entire principal was paid. Benjamin was expected to make regular payments or the Holland Land Company would repossess his property.^[5]

These first settlers were generally poor. Almost nothing could lighten hard work, and life was a constant battle against hardship. Prices were so high that no one could afford "luxuries," social life was limited, and the few churches and schools were of the crudest type.^[6]

22 November 1811

Mr. Brink Willink

23 November 1811

Mr. Right [Wright] Willink

Ichabod recorded rain or snow on the final nine days of the five weeks the party traveled along the Mohawk Trail to the Genesee and Iroquois trails. Ichabod walked, and perhaps sometimes rode, more than six hundred miles.

28 November 1811

To B.C. Fosters in Willink where we arrived in safty through the Divine Goodness which completed a journey of 5 weeks

28 June 1812

we heard of war being Declared against Greate Britain

Seven months after Ichabod arrived in Willink, he wrote about the arrival of an express rider delivering President James Madison's proclamation of war.

31 July 1812

... the alarm of war was over Declaration of War between the United States & Great Britain

18 December 1812

In the night Sam'll was taken poorly

Ichabod's son, Samuel, had left the cabin for his compulsory service with the ill-equipped New York militia in Buffalo. Samuel may have contracted pneumonia or dysentery before the troops went into winter quarters. Perhaps sickness then spread through the household.

19 December 1812

Sister Abigal Foster [wife of Ichabod's brother Joel] died at 2 o'clock in the morning

After recording the death of his sister-in-law, Ichabod wrote only "snow."

24 December 1812

Joel Foster died

27 December 1812

Sam'll died in the night

I envisioned the one-room log home crowded with crying children and somber, frightened adults. This report of Samuel's death is Ichabod's last journal entry.

1 January 1813

Ichabod Foster died in the 74 year of his age

When New Year's Day 1813 dawned, Ichabod might have been unconscious. He died some time that day. The author of this entry is unknown.

Using a town survey map, the diary, and the advice of a historian, I located Lot 51. Today nothing remains of the Foster cabin. The clapboard house that replaced it in the 1830s was demolished last year. Several trees from Ichabod's day, giant tributes to these early settlers, remain. In the old orchard up the hill from the cabin,

I stumbled across two low oval mounds of stones, resembling old graves. If I'd had a shovel, I would have started digging — my imagination convinced me Ichabod's bones were resting under my feet. More importantly, Ichabod was in my heart and mind.

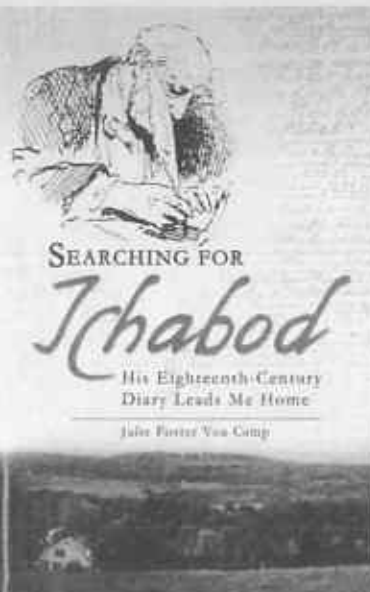
In 1813, Benjamin deferred his first interest payment of ten dollars. His son-in-law, Stukely Stone, paid fifty dollars of accumulated interest for Benjamin on May 23, 1813. By May 1818, a neighbor, Jonathan Townsend, acquired 152 acres of Lot 51. Later, the Stanbro family bought Benjamin's land and received the first fully paid deed for the property in 1834 from Wilhem Willink.^[7] Benjamin

lost his land when he couldn't make the payments.

Ichabod's diary was used to record Susannah's death in Willink (by then known as Concord) on February 24, 1820. Benjamin and his family left Willink about 1823 and moved to Cambria, Niagara County, and then to Hume, Allegany County, where Benjamin died. I don't know what became of Ichabod, Jr., or young Susanna.

Later, the Stanbro family bought Benjamin's land and received the first fully paid deed for the property in 1834

After Ichabod's death, his youngest son, Albro, my great-great-grandfather, inherited his father's diary. I believe the Foster women protected it for generations, and perhaps wrapped it in muslin dresses or quilts as they climbed into wagons heading west to Ohio and Kansas. Albro's daughter, Ann Jeanette (Foster) Hinckley, brought the diary to Beverly, Kansas, in 1880, and it remained with that part of the family until it was generously given to me in 1997. In 2003, I, in turn, donated Ichabod's journal to the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections Department at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, so it can be cared for and preserved for future generations. Copies of Ichabod's diary pages are also on file in libraries in Whiting and Middletown Springs, Vermont, and Brutus, Lima, and Clarence, New York, and at the Concord [N.Y.] Historical Society. I feel like Johnny Appleseed, hav-



To learn more

This article has been distilled from Julie Foster Van Camp's 2009 book, *Searching for Ichabod: His Eighteenth-Century Diary Leads Me Home*. Additional information is provided at www.searchingforichabod.com.

Copies of the book may be ordered from NEHGS for \$13.95, plus \$5.50 shipping. Visit www.NewEnglandAncestors.org/store.asp, call 1-888-296-3447, or write to NEHGS Sales, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116. *Searching for Ichabod* is also available from Amazon.com.

ing dropped pages of Ichabod's life along his trail to Willink, part of my effort to preserve the words of a western New York pioneer. ♦

Notes

¹ Stillwell, Lewis D. *Migration from Vermont* (Montpelier: Vermont Historical Society, 1948), 126.

² *Ibid.*, 135.

³ Dearborn, David Curtis. "Ancestors on the Move: Migration Out of New England," *NEW ENGLAND ANCESTORS*, 3 (2002), 2:13.

⁴ Jenks, Mabel Furner, *Lima 1788-1964: Outline of the History of Lima Written for the 175th Anniversary Celebration* (Saugerties, N.Y.: Hope Farm Press, 1964), 10.

⁵ Holland Land Company records 496,1,414,984 (State University of New York at Fredonia, Reed Library, unindexed).

⁶ Weller, Ethelyn. *North Collins Remembers: A Comprehensive History of North Collins and Vicinity* (Gowanda, N.Y.: Niagara Frontier Publishing Company, 2001).

⁷ Holland Land Company records (see note 5).

A native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and graduate of the University of Iowa and Northeastern University, JULIE FOSTER VAN CAMP is the author of Courts and the Classroom (Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, Boston) and State Courts and Law-Related Education (Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, Washington, D.C.) and numerous articles. Since 1992 she has lived in Lopez Island, Washington, where she writes and volunteers as a nonprofit management consultant. Her email address is jvancamp@rockisland.com.

Foster family

Bible of William John Foster

The Foster Family Bible belonged to Adellie (or Della) Foster Young, born in Homewood, Beaver Co., Pennsylvania. Upon Della's death in 1953, the Bible came into the possession of her daughter, Mildred Blanche (Young) Sabom, of Pittsburgh and Mt. Lebanon, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. In 1981 it came into the possession of Mildred's nephew, Robert Fleming Slutz, Jr., of Barefoot Bay, Brevard County, Florida.

Embossed in gold leaf on the cover is "J.G. & H.P. Gogley."

Bible published by Case, Lockwood & Brainard, Hartford, 1872

The events recorded in the Bible refer only to William Henry Foster, his wife Katharine (Smith), and their 14 children.

Births: (16 on two pages)

William Henry Foster was born on the 14th day of June A.D. 1822
Katharine Foster was born on the 21st day of Nov. A.D. 1826
Robert Stephenson Foster was born on the 5th day of July A.D. 1843
Margaret Anne Foster was born on the 4th day of June A.D. 1846
James Forqus Foster was born on the 7th day of April A.D. 1845
Elizabeth Jane Foster was born on the 5th day of May A.D. 1848
Mary Ellen Foster was born on the 5th day of July A.D. 1850
Nancy Emeline Foster was born on the 29th day of Feb. A.D. 1852
Emma Foster was born on the 19th day of Oct. A.D. 1853
Ethalinda Foster was born on the 18th day of Jan. A.D. 1856
Rhoda Katharine Foster was born on the 11th day of March A.D. 1858
William John Foster was born on the 31st day of March A.D. 1860
Joseph Smith Foster was born on the 8th day of June A.D. 1862
Ulysses Sherman Foster was born on the 20th day of Oct. A.D. 1864 7 pm.
Annette Missouri Foster was born on the 2nd day of Oct. A.D. 1867 7 pm.
Adellie Foster was born on the 27th day of March A.D. 1870 12 m.

Marriages: (9 on two pages)

William Henry Foster - Katharine Smith Married April 14, 1842
Robert Stephenson Foster - Elizabeth Johnston, Married
Margaret Anne Foster - Samuel S. Chapman Married Dec. 27, 1871
Elizabeth Jane Foster - Leonard L. Carv(n?)er Married Sept 1872
Mary Ellen Foster - Jordan Nye Married Oct. 2, 1868
Ethalinda Foster - Thomas Henry Hodge, Married Nov. 23, 1882
Ulysses Sherman Foster - Mary Edna Alter Married Apr 10, 1894
William John Foster - Dora Bell McGumphy Married 1886
Della Foster - Edward Alonzo Young Married Apr 2, 1908

Deaths: (13 on two pages)

James Forqus Foster was wounded in Battle Oct. 2nd and died
Oct. 4th 1864 aged 19y 5m 27d

Emma Foster died on the 26th day of March A.D. 1872

Rhoda Katharine Foster died on the 13th day of May A.D. 1864
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock pm. aged 6y 2m 2d

William Henry Foster died Sept. 26th A.D. 1879 ab 5.20am.

Robert Stephenson Foster was killed Sept. 24th A.D. 1881
ab 6.30 am.

Nancy Emeline Foster Died Jany 8th 1884 at 3.30 pm.

William John Foster died May 27th 1889, ab 7 oclock pm.

Joseph Smith Foster died June 2nd 1898 at 8.35 pm.

Nettie Mo. Foster died March 22nd 1901 at 6.45 pm.

Catharine Foster died August 18th 1908 at

Mary Ellen Foster Nye died Sunday Aug. 7, 1910 at 1 pm.

Aged 60 years 1m 2 days

Margaret Anne Foster Chapman died Sunday Apr. 28, 1912 6 min
after 8 am. aged 66 yr

Elizabeth Jane Foster Carver died Monday Nov. 14, 1927. 10 min
of 10 am. aged 79 years 6 mo

submitted by: Robert Fleming Slutz, Jr.
911 Sequoia Street
Barefoot Bay, Florida 32958
305-589-1326







FAMILY RECORD

MARRIAGES

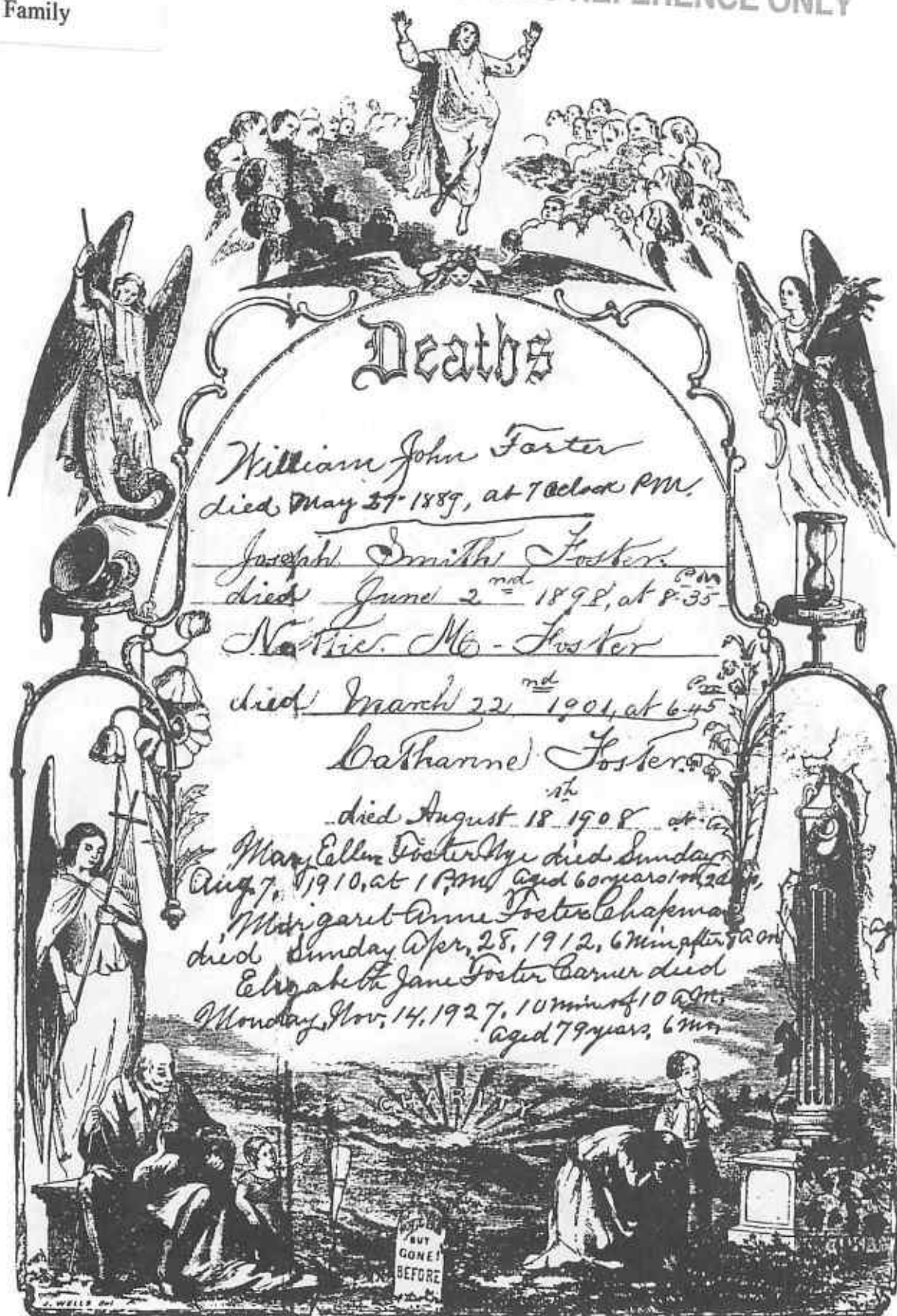
Ethelinda Foster,
Thomas Henry Alder,
Married Dec 23, 1882.

Alvaro Sherman Foster,
Mary Anna Alder,
Married Apr 10, 1894.

William John Foster,
Dora Belle McClumphy,
Married 1886

Della Foster
Edward Henry Young,
Married Apr 2, 1905.





Foster Family

1888.

THE YOUNG LADIES JOURNAL

FASHION, FANCY WORK, FAMILY READING, ETC., ETC.

00000 REFERENCE ONLY



ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

JOHN FOSTER, REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER

JOHN FOSTER SR., son of John and Mary Foster, Spartanburg So. Carolina planter, left a will dated May 9, 1837, in which he named wife, Sydney, sons, John Jr., Enoch G., and daughters, Rebecca Gramling, Thuresey Collins, Polly Mason and Mehaley Owens. John Foster, (will dated Feb. 14, 1817) named children John Foster, Jane Hart and William Foster. Executors of his estate were son, John Foster, and grand son-in-law, Andrew Gramling, Methodist minister.

THE FOSTERS came from Amelia County, Va. and settled near Spartanburg around 1783. Traditionally there were three cousins who spearheaded the removal of the clan into South Carolina.

FOUR JOHN FOSTERS, revolutionary soldiers, resided in the Spartanburg District. The one with whom we are concerned, with TEXAS TIES, is distinguished by Revolutionary Pension File # R3696.

ISSUE of JOHN FOSTER and wife, SYDNEY, are listed on a separate page, (family Bible record).

ENOCH FOSTER, born 1799 in Spartanburg, was a carpenter, extensive builder and contractor in Spartanburg and for many years Justice of Peace. He later removed to Rutherford Co., No. Carolina and was a stockholder and business manager for the Turnpike Co., Postmaster and Justice of Peace. He married (1) Martha Gramling, (1820) in Spartanburg. She was daughter of Adam Gramling, native of Germany. Remnants of the Gramlings still reside in the town bearing their name which lies NW of Spartanburg. ENOCH FOSTER married (2) Susan A. Edwards, (1858) Polk Co., NO. Carolina, a daughter of Wesley Edwards. ENOCH FOSTER issue (1): John Foster, Ann, Francis, Betsy, Mark, William, Thomas, Carolina, Maden, Mary, George and Hosea. (2): Sarah Marie, Poly, Ira R., Millie and James.

ENOCH FOSTER removed to Texas 1872 and died at the home of his son, Mark Foster in Delta Co., (1878).

Sarah Marie Foster (Salley) was married Dec. 23, 1875 to Frank M. Spillers. (Delta Co.) Issue: Rebecca, George, Nathaniel, Susan, James M., Thomas Daniel.

continued on following page