



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

James Littleton Foster

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James Littleton Foster came to Grapevine with his parents and siblings when the area was still a part of Navarro County. A son of Grapevine pioneer Ambrose Foster, Benjamin and his family were among the first permanent white settlers in what is now Tarrant County. James was a Confederate veteran.

James was born July 7, 1837 in Missouri. His parents were Ambrose Foster (c1794-1847) and his wife, Susannah (Medlin) Foster (1796-1889). Ambrose was one of the few veterans of the War of 1812 to ever settle in Tarrant County.

The Fosters left Platte County, Missouri and moved to Texas when James was a small boy. Ambrose Foster and his family arrived in what is now Grapevine by November, 1845. The Foster's cabin stood where the older Grapevine water tower now stands, about a block west of Main Street. The Fosters brought two slaves with them to Texas.

Mr. Foster's granddaughter, a well-known local and family historian, said James Littleton Foster first enlisted in the Confederate service on June 1, 1861 in Captain R. M. Gano's Grapevine Mounted Volunteers. Later, he enlisted in Co. A, 34th Texas Cavalry, as did many other area men. His official records in the National Archives show that he enlisted at Grapevine on January 15, 1862 under Hiram Crowley for a term of twelve months. He is shown on a muster roll for the period February 28 through June 30, 1863, still waiting for the \$11 due him from the Confederate government for the use of his own arms; he had traveled one hundred ten miles to the regimental rendezvous. He also appears on a regimental muster roll for January and February, 1864. He was a Fourth Sergeant of his company.

Mr. Foster was first married in 1867 to Alphenia McDonald. She died in 1867 after giving birth to two children: Andrew C. Foster (1866-1944) and John Matthew Foster (1867-1905).

He was married second to Margaret Permelia Neace, who died in 1873 after having two children: Rosa Lee Foster (born and died in 1870), and Joel Tally Foster (1871-1897).

Mr. Foster's third marriage was to Della McDonald, a sister of his first wife. She was born in 1855 and died in 1884. She had five children, and died. The children were Dizanna Cordelia Foster (1875-1947, the wife of George M. Warren), Ambrose Foster (1877-1878); Susan Virginia Foster (1878-1950, the wife of John Henry Bennett); Charles Ambrose Foster (1881-1949); and James "Ell" Foster, (born in 1881 and still living in 1965).

He was married fourth (and last) to Nancy Cate Martin, who had two children before Mr. Foster himself died at the age of fifty-one. Those children were Albert Foster (1887-1888), and Constance L. Foster (born in 1888 and still living in 1965, the wife of Stephen J. Sargent).

Mrs. Pearl Foster O'Donnell, James Littleton Foster's granddaughter, wrote many of the biographical sketches which are included in the Grapevine Area History. Of her grandfather, she wrote, "...James L. Foster was well known for his excellent brood stock and supplemented his income this way....He also owned a farm of 73-1/2 acres on Denton Creek Bottom. All was in Tarrant County except 6-1/2 acres....This is where he raised his children from the late 1860's until his death on November 23, 1888..."

James Littleton Foster died of a lung hemorrhage on November 23, 1888, and was buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery. Mrs. Nancy Foster's home is shown on the 1895 Sam Street Map of Tarrant County. In modern-day terms, it sat in present-day Grapevine, and now under the waters of Lake Grapevine, about one-quarter mile southwest of the end of Park Road 3 in Rockledge Park, on the north side of the lake. She did not apply to the State of Texas for a Confederate widow's pension.

