

George Washington Foster Biography

GEORGE WASHINGTON FOSTER

George W. Foster was born November 14, 1842 in Marshall County, Tennessee where was living at the time he enlisted in the Confederate States Army. In later years he also lived in Giles and Lincoln Counties. He was married first to Clementine Leonard on 5 Sept 1867 and had nine children. After her death he married Nannie Elizabeth Wilson on 25 June 1892 and they had six children. Both wives and at least one daughter are near him here in this cemetery.

George Foster, at 18, enlisted May 16, 1861 in Company A, afterwards Company F, as a Private at Camp Harris, Tennessee in 8th Tennessee Regiment commanded by Col. Alfred Fulton and Capt. J. L. Bryant. He was appointed 1st Corporal on June 1, 1862 at Camp Harris. [handwritten note: 8th regiment – Donelson Brigade- Cheatham – Division, Polk Corps]

His name appeared on Company Muster Roll as of the casualties in the First Division at the Battle of Murfreesboro December 31, 1862. A Minnie Ball passed through his neck almost proving fatal. In fact, he never fully recovered and his speech was permanently impaired. He continued to suffer chronic laryngitis and cough and spit up blood as stated in his application for pension. Although he never signed the Oath of Allegiance his Application for Pension was approved.

J. T. Talley stated that he was with him in the Battle of Murfreesboro when he was badly wounded in the neck. He also served with him in the Virginia Campaign in the latter part of 1862 when he was suffering with rheumatism and that he was not able to do any service for at least two months. He is reported as absent (wounded) on company muster rolls January thru April 1863.

When partially recovered, he was offered a discharge on account of the disability, but he refused it and asked for a transfer to Forrest's Escort. J. T. Talley states that he was present when he was transferred from the 8th Tenn. Reg., Volunteer to Forrest's Cavalry because he was unable to walk. He was one of the bravest of Forrest's men. No doubt Mr. Foster named his son Forest after his greatly admired leader.

In response to the Civil War Questionnaire Andrew McEwen from Petersburg stated that he served in N. B. Forrest's Escort with George Foster and with others including Capt. Nathan Boone of Mulberry. It could be that his own son, Boone, was named from this respected comrade in arms. McEwen states that a squad of 25 on horseback crossed the Tennessee River at Greens Bluff, Ala. from boat top deep to saddle skirt.

George Foster, residence, Marshall County, Tennessee, is reported as a Private of Forest's [sic] Escort Company on a roll of Prisoners of War surrendered at Citronville, Alabama, May 4, 1865, and paroled at Gainesville, Alabama on May 9, 1865. Always

interested in what pertained to the Veterans [sic] organizations, he was President of the Schackleford Fulton Bivouac of Fayetteville at the time of his death. He was always present at any reunion of his comrades as evidenced by photographs carefully preserved by family members. After his parole, he returned to farming as his health would permit.

No truer, braver or efficient soldier ever drew a sword in defense of his country. He was a member of the Church of Christ for thirty-eight years and was one of God's noblemen. He died in Lincoln County on September 16, 1922. The funeral was conducted by T. C. Little, himself a Confederate Veteran and life-long friend, and B. F. Hart, with burial at Head Springs Cemetery, Belfast, Tenn.

The Veteran's Marker corrects his date of death to coincide with his death certificate. (September 16 rather than September 22).

His obituary in the Confederate Veteran stated that "Comrade Foster was an honest upright citizen, a brave soldier, a true, loyal and devoted husband, father and friend."

It was stated at his funeral that "it was sorrowful to see our comrades dropping out of the ranks so fast, yet it is sweet to know that when the roll is called up yonder, they'll be there. "

[image: medal on a ribbon with the words A Soldier of Gen'l [sic] Forrest]

[image: medal on a pin with the words GENERAL N.B. FORREST and a likeness of his face]