

# Biography of George Foster

Born November 30, 1804 - Died March 12, 1898

Updated as of June 5, 2024

**George Foster** is believed to have been born on November 30, 1804, in Wilkes County, North Carolina.<sup>1</sup>

By DNA analysis and contacts with many “cousins” through FamilyTreeDNA and Ancestry.com, we believe, but have not confirmed, that George was a descendant of **Richard James Foster**<sup>2</sup>, the first immigrant for this Foster chain, who came to the Colonies by the good ship Safety in 1635. We need to span the gap from 1635 to 1804, but our only gap is the parentage of George.

By DNA analysis, we are currently searching Wilkes County, North Carolina, and the descendants of **George Foster (Sr.; 1744-1817)** and **Sarah Childress (1753-1816)** for the parents of our George. George and Sarah had three sons: **Robert Mitchell Foster (1778-1861)**; **George Foster, Jr. (1779-1858; not our George)**; and, **Thomas Bell Foster (1789-1865)**. We currently believe that one of these three sons is the father of our George.

By DNA analysis, we believe that the mother of our George is probably a **Triplett**, or perhaps a **Ferguson**. We are looking at each woman of either family of child bearing age as of 1804. We believe that George was probably illegitimate and we have a half dozen other Foster “orphans” to place in the same era in that area.

Censuses show no Fosters in Ashe County in 1800, 1810 or 1820. There are many Fosters in Wilkes County, being in two groups including, and descended from, Thomas Foster, Sr., and George Foster, Sr., respectively Thomas and George were second cousins, most recently descendants of Robert Foster (1651-1716) and Elizabeth Jayne Garnett-Foster (1663-1744).

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<sup>1</sup> No middle name has been established.

<sup>2</sup> The conclusive link to Richard James Foster is not clearly documented. Research continues.

	<p align="center"><b>Richard Foster (1619–1681)</b>  <b>Susannah Garnett (1619–1665)</b>  Parents of eleven children; first immigrant to America</p>	
	<p align="center"><b>Robert Foster (1651-1716) &amp;</b>  <b>Elizabeth Jayne Garnett (1663-1744)</b>  Parents of nine children</p>	
Siblings	<p align="center">John Foster (1689-1763)  Isabel Golding (1700-1747)</p>	<p align="center">George Foster (1695-1789)  Mary C. Singleton (1696-1761)</p>
1 <sup>st</sup> Cousins	<p align="center">Thomas Foster (Sr.) (1715-1791)  Mary Ann Garnett (1728-1790)</p>	<p align="center">Robert Foster (1725-1755)  Charity C. Miller (1723-1754)</p>
	<p align="center">Eleven children moved to Wilkes</p>	<p align="center">First Foster in Wilkes</p>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Cousins	<p align="center">Thomas Foster, Jr. (1750-1811)  Virginia Frances Jones (1757-1803)  &amp; ten siblings</p>	<p align="center">George Foster (1744-1817)  Sarah Childress (1753*-1816)</p>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Cousins	<p align="center">various</p>	<p align="center"><b>Sons and potential fathers:</b>  George Foster, Jr.  Robert Mitchell Foster  Thomas Bell Foster</p>
4 <sup>th</sup> Cousins	<p align="center">various</p>	<p align="center">George Foster (1804-1896)</p>

On November 27, 1829, a land grant was issued to George Foster for fifty acres in Wilkes County on the waters of Stoney Fork adjoining the Ambrose tract. This is

not confirmed to be our George and is possibly inconsistent with the 1830 Census. This is more likely George Foster, Jr.<sup>3</sup>

The 1830 U.S. Census shows what we believe to be our George, at about 26, to have been living alone in (the Valle Crucis District of) Ashe County, North Carolina. His nearest neighbors were Nancy Johnson, Joseph Mast, Joel Mast, (George Foster), Jane Calloway, Benjamin Moody and John Mast. The Masts, and that other neighbors included the Shulls, indicate the Valle Crucis area. Mast General Store is still there and operating since about 1875. I purchased a history of Valle Crucis<sup>4</sup> at the Mast General Store in 2007 but it contains no mention of any Fosters or Walkers.

On November 29, 1938, there was a land grant to George Foster for fifty acres on Smith's Creek in Wilkes County, adjoining the land he already owned. This is not confirmed to be our George and is more likely to be George, Jr.

There is an 1840 U.S. Census for Ashe County, North Carolina, in which a George Foster<sup>5</sup> appears on page 77 of 89 of the census. This "George," if that is the proper interpretation, was living amidst Levi Pennington, Jesse Parker, (George Foster), Liddy Brown, and Gon (George?) Ashley. This George was between 20 and 30 (our George should have been 36, but similar errors occurred in his other census ages), had an apparent wife between 20 and 30, and an apparent son under five. At this time, we cannot reconcile the woman or boy. As we are also looking for several other Foster "orphans" this may account for a sister and nephew.

**Mary Elizabeth "Polly" Walker** was born July 10, 1821, believed to have been in Surry County, to Robert Walker III and Darcas Denny Simms-Walker. George and Polly married in Ashe County, North Carolina, on August 4, 1842. Witnesses were Golston Davis and G.M. Bingham. I did not find any Walkers indexed in the 1800, 1810, 1820 or 1830

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<sup>3</sup> We find no one by the surname of "Ambrose" living in the area in 1830. Could this refer to Ambrose Foster as a current owner in 1829? Or the 1779-1785 Ambrose Harmon patents of 200 acres on Roaring River and 100 acres on Little River? Or the 1770-1782 Ambrose Foster patents of 250 and 300 acres on Crowders Creek? Identifying the current ownership and location of patents can be time consuming and require local courthouse presence.

<sup>4</sup> I. Harding Hughes, Jr., *Valle Crucis, A History of an Uncommon Place*, distributed by Mast General Store (1995). See also the pictorial history by Yates and Bake, *Valle Crucis* (1997).

<sup>5</sup> The first name is difficult to read and subject to interpretation as "Jno." or "Gon" or whatever. Some have read it to say "William."

censuses for Ashe County. (See endnote <sup>1</sup>.) It is regrettable that most records tend to be in the name of the male and it is difficult to track events in the life of the wife.

On February 27, 1847, there was a land grant to George Foster for fifty acres on the Watauga River in Ashe County. This is probably our George, as the 1850 census showed him owning land.

Ashe County was formed from Wilkes County in 1799. Watauga County was formed in 1849 from Ashe, Caldwell, Wilkes and Yancy Counties. Research is hampered by the facts that the Ashe County Courthouse burned in 1865 and the Watauga County Courthouse burned in 1865 and 1873. We are also actively searching for relevant family records in Caldwell County, Burke County (where the courthouse burned in 1865) and Surry County. The Courthouses in Caldwell, Wilkes and Surry were not burned.

Watauga County is extremely mountainous, and all of the county's terrain is located within the Appalachian Mountains range. The highest point in the county is Calloway Peak, the highest peak of Grandfather Mountain (shared with the adjacent counties of Avery and Caldwell), which rises to 5,964 feet above sea level. At an elevation of 5,506 feet above sea level, Beech Mountain is the highest incorporated community east of the Mississippi River. Boone, the county's largest city and county seat, has the highest elevation (3,333 feet) of any city over 10,000 population in the Eastern United States.

The 1850 U.S. Census dated October 3, 1850, is the first to show names of each family member and shows George (reported age 44, not 45 or 46) to have been living with Mary (age 28), **William Lowery Foster** (age 7, born May 20, 1843), **Mary S. Foster**<sup>6</sup> (age 3, born October 29, 1846) and **George Thomas "Tom" Foster** (1 year, born April 9, 1849) in "Watauga, Watauga, North Carolina." His nearest neighbors were Mary Donner, D.C. McCanless and Canada Shull. At that time he owned land worth \$300.00.

In 1850, there were two other households which included a Foster. (See endnote<sup>2</sup>.)

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<sup>6</sup> Could Mary's middle name have been "Shull?" Later, Bennett Payne and Mary had one son whose given middle name was "Shull." I don't see any family connection but the Shulls and Masts were and are prominent families and probably close friends to George and Polly in Valle Crucis. Mary Payne's death certificate, as reported by Bennett Payne, indicates her mother had been "Polly Shurreel;" could Bennet Payne have been confused and used her middle name? Should this name have been "Sherrer" or "Sherrill," family names found on Tennessee Ridge, Casey County?

On January 9, 1851, there was a land grant for 100 acres on the Watauga River in Watauga County to George Foster, and we believe this to have been our George. The Watauga River flows through Valle Crucis where George is known to have lived. This tract adjoined Joseph Shull and property that George already owned.

On May 18, 1854, there was a land grant for 100 acres on the Tow River in Watauga County to George Foster and we believe this to have been our George. We have not as yet located the Tow River and it may have been renamed.

The 1860 U.S. Census taken as of June 17, 1860, shows George (55, farmer) to have been living with Polly (38, housewife), William (17), Mary (14), Tom (11) and **Sarah Elizabeth Foster** (9, born June 10, 1851), all the children being listed as “domestic”, in Valle Crucis, Watauga County, North Carolina. He no longer owned land<sup>7</sup> but then owned \$500.00 in personal property. The personal property is not itemized, and George does not appear as a slave holder in the slave census. All the children were attending, or had attended, school, and both George and Polly were checked as “Cannot read, write.” George and Polly were living between Andrew B. Mast, John Danner, (George & Polly), Benjamin Davis and Matilda Fox. There was one other Foster in Watauga County. (See endnote<sup>3</sup>.)

While some family members believed that George had fought for the Confederacy, I have been unable to confirm that and doubt that he served. At 56 with minor children, he probably stayed home.

George’s son, William Lowery Foster, enlisted for the Civil War in Company E, 37th Regiment, North Carolina Infantry<sup>8</sup>, on April 12, 1862. He became a sergeant but was demoted to private after being court martialled for insubordination. He fought at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg and was wounded in the right shoulder at Petersburg. He was with Lee at Appomattox when they surrendered on April 9, 1865. He did pledge

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<sup>7</sup> Watauga County was formed in 1849 so any sale of these two later patents should have been recorded in Watauga County. Unfortunately, the courthouse burned in 1873 and no longer has a deed where George sold his land. We will need to check with the North Carolina Department of Archives to see if copies may be found.

<sup>8</sup> See *The Thirty-seventh North Carolina Troops: Tar Heels in the Army of Northern Virginia*, Michael C. Hardy, 2009.

allegiance to the United States Government. He was immediately paroled without going to prison.<sup>9</sup> After the war, on September 12, **1866**, William married **Mary Elizabeth “Molly” Justice** (born May 20, 1846) at Lenoir, Caldwell County, North Carolina (Marriage Book 2, Page 126). A separate biography has been prepared for William and Molly.

George’s future son-in-law, **Thomas Newton Justice**, enlisted in Company I, 26th Regiment, North Carolina Infantry<sup>10</sup>, on November 30, 1861. Under the command of Pettigrew at Gettysburg, he was a part of Pickett’s charge up Cemetery Ridge and his Company actually outdistanced Pickett’s toward the wall. Thomas was taken prisoner shortly before Appomattox and was sent to Harts Island, New York. Despite deplorable conditions, he refused to secure his release by pledging allegiance to the United States of America, and remained a prisoner until June 20, 1865. After the War he married **Sarah Elizabeth Foster** at Lenoir, Caldwell County, North Carolina, on October 25, **1866** (Marriage Book 3, Page 173).

George’s future son-in-law, **Thomas Benton “Bennett” Payne**, also fought in the War, enlisting in Company A, 22nd Regiment, North Carolina Infantry<sup>11</sup>, on April 30, 1861. Bennett was also at Gettysburg. He was taken prisoner at Appomattox on April 2, 1865, and taken to Harts Island. He was paroled on June 20, 1865, after pledging allegiance. He married **Mary S. Foster** at Lawrenceburg, Anderson County, Kentucky, on February 26, **1867**. This may indicate that the extended families did not come directly to Casey County, Kentucky, from North Carolina; i.e., Casey County may not have been their original destination and they may have still been looking for a place to settle.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> This was by William’s and Molly’s accounts in seeking pensions. Other documentation fails to show him as a prisoner or parolee at Appomattox.

<sup>10</sup> See *Covered With Glory: The 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Infantry at Gettysburg*, Rod Gragg, 2000.

<sup>11</sup> See *Historical Sketch And Roster Of The North Carolina 22nd Infantry Regiment*, John C. Rigdon, 2020.

<sup>12</sup> Interestingly, by DNA we are “close” cousins to Gary Lee Foster whose family migrated from Virginia to Texas through Tennessee and through Pulaski County, Kentucky, in the 1830’s or 1840’s. I have looked for a connection to explain why our ancestors came to Casey County. A few Kentuckians may have served in the North Carolina regiments during the war and lied about how great it is here.

Another possible connection is that William Triplett, Jr., now believed through DNA to have been at least a cousin, had come from Wilkes County to Adair/Russell County in about 1804.

At the end of the war, the Fosters, the Justices (including parents **Elijah Justice**, born about 1808, and **Mary Catherine Watson Justice**, born about 1803-1806<sup>13</sup> and their minor children) and Bennett Payne pulled up roots in North Carolina and moved to “Tennessee Ridge,” Casey County, Kentucky, where George and Polly, William and Mary, Bennett and Mary, and Tom Foster and **Clemenza Ann Combs** stayed until their deaths.

Another kerfuffle in Wilkes/Watauga County, North Carolina, about this time was the murder of Laura Foster (1845-1866) by Tom Dula (“do-LA”; pronounced “Dooley” only in the song; 1845-1868) on May 28, 1866. Laura was the daughter of Wilson “Will” Foster (ca. 1808-1883). Another lover of Tom was Angelina “Ann” Pauline (Foster-Triplett) Melton (1843-1874), daughter of Carlotta Foster-Triplett (ca. 1818-1900). A principle witness in the events was Ann Pauline Hughs Dula Foster (Scott; 1846-1890), a daughter of Levi Leander Foster (Dula), an illegitimate son of John “Jack” Dula (Tom’s uncle) and a yet as unidentified Foster mother. Also arrested by error were Ann Pauline Dula and Granville Dula, her brother (children of Bennet J. Dula II, brother to “Jack” Dula, and uncle to Tom Dula). All these people were cousins. The trials and proceeding went on for almost two years until Tom Dula was hung at Statesville on May 1, 1868. We continue to investigate how closely this impacted the George Foster family as the relationships were necessarily close.

The Casey County tax rolls for 1867 show an Elijah Foster and a William Foster as taxpayers. If the practice then was the same as now, and property and poll taxes were assessed as of January 1 of each year, then this would indicate that both had arrived in 1866. “Elijah” Foster may have been either George Foster or Elijah Justice, as the 1870 Census seemed to confuse them. Both are great-great-grandfathers of this writer and had come from North Carolina together or at about the same time.

The 1868 tax rolls of Fosters included Elija S., George, (+George, George G.), William and Thomas. Elijah had 100 acres of land valued at \$300.00, and this is most likely our George.

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<sup>13</sup> We originally believed that she had been born in the Indian Lands of North Carolina and was presumably part Indian and probably Cherokee, but we have been corrected on this by Pat Klusman whose DNA tests show no American Indian traits but suggest that we have a Scandanavian origin. Indeed, this writer’s DNA through FamilyTreeDNA shows 5% Finnish, while 23&Me shows 3.1% Swedish and 1.1% Finnish. **Ancestry.com DNA tests show 15% Sweden, 2% Norway, and 1% Finland.** The Justices were originally Gustaffsons from Sweden. This confusion probably resulted because Elijah Justice was married twice and his first wife, Mary Vinea Helton (1815-1845), did have Native-American heritage.

There were no Justices or Paynes. Thomas Benton “Bennett” Payne and Mary S. Foster had been married in Lawrenceburg, Anderson County, Kentucky, on February 23, 1867, and should have shown up here unless they paused for a season in Anderson County.

Thomas Newton Justice and Sarah Elizabeth Foster had been married in North Carolina in 1866, and their oldest child, Mary Belle Justice, was born on September 19, 1867. She is shown in the 1870 Census to have been born in Kentucky, so the family must have stopped elsewhere before coming to Casey County.

Not long after arriving in the promised land of Casey County, Kentucky, George Foster bought fifty acres on Woods Creek from James Posey and Elender Posey, husband and wife, and Edmund R. Goode and Rhoda Ann Goode, husband and wife, for \$50.00. The deed is dated October 3, 1868, and is of record in Deed Book 15, Page 56, in the Casey County Court Clerk’s Office.

In the 1869 tax rolls, we find William L. Foster, George Foster and George T. Foster. Under Justice, we find Thomas N. and Elijah. Still no Thomas “Bennett” Payne, although he does show up in the 1870 rolls.

George Thomas Foster and Clemenza Ann Combs (1851-1914) were married in Casey County, on November 16, **1869**. Clemenza was born on June 13, 1851, in Fentress County, Tennessee, to James H. “Joe” Combs (1822-1906) and Lucy A. Huddleston-Combs (1820-1876). In the 1870 census they were living on Tennessee Ridge next to her parents. In the 1880 census they were living on Tennessee Ridge next to George and Polly.<sup>14</sup>

The 1870 census taken on July 9, 1870, showed George (67) and Mary E. (50) living in Lee Precinct of Casey County, Kentucky. George could read but could not write, and Polly could neither read nor write. They owned land worth \$100.00 and personal property worth \$250.00. Also in the household in 1870 was an eleven year old boy named **Robert Foster**, whom we have been unable to identify. Robert had attended school within the year, but could not write.

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<sup>14</sup> After the death of Clemenza’s mother (Lucy A. Huddleston, 1820-1876), it appears that her father (James H. “Joe” Combs, 1822-1906), who was married several times, married Ann Elvira Justice (1852-1884), daughter of Elijah Justice (1806-1880) and Mary Catherine “Katie” Watson (1803-1880), and half-sister to Thomas Newton Justice.)



## Fosters, Justices & Paynes in Casey County in 1870<sup>15</sup>

George Foster	Mary E	Lee	abt 1808	North Carolina
Mary E. Walker Foster	George	Lee	abt 1820	North Carolina
Robert Foster <sup>16</sup>	George, Mary E	Lee	abt 1859	Kentucky
William Lowery Foster	Mary	Rolling Fork	1843	Kentucky
Mary Justice Foster	William	Rolling Fork	1846	Kentucky
George Elijah Foster	William, Mary	Rolling Fork	1867	Kentucky
Robert J. Foster	William, Mary	Rolling Fork	1870	Kentucky
George Thomas Foster	Caroline	Lee	abt 1849	North Carolina
Caroline Combs Foster	Thomas	Lee	abt 1852	Tennessee
Elijah Jestus	Catherine	Rolling Fork	abt 1803	North Carolina
Catherine Jestus	Elijah	Rolling Fork	abt 1806	North Carolina
Elvira Jestus	Elijah, Catherine	Rolling Fork	abt 1842	North Carolina
Thomas Newton Justice	Sarah	Rolling Fork	abt 1844	North Carolina
Sarah Foster Justice	Thomas	Rolling Fork	abt 1847	North Carolina
Sarah B. Justice	Thomas, Sarah	Rolling Fork	abt 1867	Kentucky
William Justice	Thomas, Sarah	Rolling Fork	5/12	Kentucky
Thomas Bennett Payne	Mary	Caseys Creek	abt 1842	North Carolina
Mary Foster Payne	Thomas	Caseys Creek	abt 1847	North Carolina

The James Elijah “Jestus” family (Elijah, 67; Catherine, 64; and Elvira, 28), the Thomas Newton Justice family (Thomas, 26; Sarah, 23; Sarah B., 4; William, 5m), and the William Lowery Foster family (William, 27; Mary, 24; George, 2; Robert J., 3m) first stopped in the Powers Store district in the Big or Little South Rolling Fork area of Casey County, according to the 1870 census. The location of Powers Store, or Powers Post Office, is the

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<sup>15</sup> Census information partially corrected and expanded. There had been a “Nancy Foster” in Casey County in 1866 but she no longer appeared in 1867 or later and we cannot identify her.

The Census date was as of June 1, 1880.

<sup>16</sup> Robert reported that he had been born in Kentucky. This Census did not ask about parents’ birth places. It did not ask for relationships to the head of household. Robert had attended school within the past year and could read but he could not write. We do not know who this Robert could have been or what became of him, but looking ahead to the 1880 Census, a Robert H. Lee, born in North Carolina in 1859, is listed as a boarder in the household of Thomas Benton Payne and Mary S. Foster-Payne. If the same, this Robert Henry Lee became a preacher, married Louverna Helm (the mother of at least two of William Lowery Foster’s children) in 1898, murdered a neighbor in 1903, and died in the poor house in 1934.

present location of Penn's Store on Little South Fork of the Salt River, claimed to be the oldest continuously operated store west of the Allegheny Mountains.

There is a deed from Stephen R. Ward and Ellen J. Ward, husband and wife, to George Foster dated March 11, 1871, and of record in Deed Book 16, Page 32. George paid \$22.00 for twenty-two acres on Woods Creek.

On April 19, 1871, George was a grantee in Land Patent #45181, Grant Book 80, Page 331, in the Secretary of State's Office. The warrant and survey were in the name of James Grooms, a next door neighbor in the 1870 Census, who was also a grantee. The patent was for 40 acres on the waters of Woods Fork of Casey Creek. The headwaters of Woods Creek (as it is now known) are at Tennessee Ridge, the area in which George and most of the family finally settled. We have yet to determine where this tract was either located or sold.

There is a deed from K.L. Tanner and Elizabeth Tanner, husband and wife, to George Foster dated October 19, 1878, and of record in Deed Book 16, Page 32. George paid \$25.00 for "about 4 or 5 acres" on Woods Creek.

The 1880 Census taken June 5, 1880, shows George (then actually 76, not 66 as stated) and Mary E. (59) living with an eight year old boy named Enoch Green,<sup>17</sup> designated as their "granson," and an unrelated woman named Jane Mason (39) in their household. Even though Enoch had attended school in the past year, none of them could read or write (although Enoch's check marks may have been stricken out). George and Polly stated that they had been born in North Carolina; Jane Mason reported that she and her

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<sup>17</sup> I do not see how Enoch Green could have been a grandson unless he is the illegitimate son of either William Lowery or George Thomas; even then, how could the mother have also been born in North Carolina? We have not been able to identify any further reference to Enoch or a potential mother. The 1850 Census for Watauga County, North Carolina, shows an inordinate number of Greens; it is not inconceivable that Enoch could have been an illegitimate child or grandchild through a Green in North Carolina.

The 1890 Casey County Tax Rolls also list a landowner by the name of Mary J. Mason, and an actual resident (near Salina Mason) named Jane Mason. The household of Mary J. Mason shows one male over twenty-one years of age, and four (nine?) children between six and twenty.

The 1900 Census has a widowed Jane Mason (62) living with single son William R. Mason (21) and widowed son John Mason (38) in the Big South Fork area. Jane had borne nine children, only six of whom were living.

**This might be an appropriate place to notice that, through DNA, we are learning that George definitely had grandchildren not previously known to us.**

parents had been born in Kentucky; Enoch reported that he had been born in Kentucky but that both his parents had been born in North Carolina.

Next door in 1880 was the family of George T. (“Tom”) Foster (30), including Clara A. Foster (28), Mary J. Foster (9), George W. Foster (7), Lucy E. Foster (6), William R. Foster (3) and Louisa G. Foster (2 months). Census takers had a lot of trouble with Clemenza Ann’s name.

Mary Elizabeth “Polly” Walker Foster died on April 7, 1886, at the young age of 64. She is buried in the Rainey Cemetery on Tennessee Ridge in Casey County.

On September 27, 1888, George Foster sold three tracts (the K.L. Tanner 4 or 5 acre tract; the Stephen R. Ward 22 acre tract; the James Posey 50 acre tract) to George Busse for \$250.00 by deed of record in Deed Book 16, Page 33.

There is no 1890 Census to show where or how George lived after Polly’s death, and we sorely miss this census. Nor does George appear in the Casey County 1890 Census of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Widows, etc., further indicating that he probably did not serve in the Civil War.

We have now transcribed the 1890 Casey County Tax Rolls and this George Foster does not appear even though, as we presently understand it, every male over twenty-one should have been listed to pay a poll tax.<sup>18</sup> The two George Fosters who do appear are: George Foster, Jr., probably George Thomas “Tom” Foster; and George W. Foster, probably Tom’s son who would have been only 17 in 1890. We appear to be missing George Elijah Foster (1867-1953), son of William Lowery Foster. We may have George W. and George Elijah reversed.

George Foster died on March 12, 1898, at age 94. He is buried in the Rainey Cemetery. His stone is broken and this descendant intends to repair or replace it and Polly’s as soon as possible.

After drawing a Confederate war and widows’ pension from the Commonwealth of Kentucky beginning in 1912, William Lowery Foster died on July 13,

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<sup>18</sup> George was 86 and there may have been an upper limit to the registry for poll taxes.

1927, and Mary Elizabeth “Molly” Justice Foster died on April 23, 1932. They are buried in the Rainey Cemetery.<sup>19</sup>

Thomas Benton “Bennett” Payne died on November 30, 1922, and Mary S. Foster Payne died on February 25, 1925. They are buried in the Rainey Cemetery.

Clemenza Ann Combs Foster died March 7, 1914, and is believed to be buried in an unmarked grave in the Fisher (Combs) Cemetery on or near Tennessee Ridge. George Thomas “Tom” Foster died on June 21, 1929, but his grave site is unidentified. It is very likely that Tom is also in the Combs Cemetery in an unmarked grave.

Thomas Newton Justice and Sarah moved to the Northern Kentucky area (Dayton, Campbell County, Kentucky, near Cincinnati)<sup>20</sup> where Thomas died on September 7, 1924, and Sarah died on December 20, 1929. They were both brought back to Casey County for burial in Salem Cemetery near Tennessee Ridge, although no marker for Sarah now exists near the crude marker for “Tom Justice.” These stones need upgrading and to be placed.

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<sup>19</sup> See their separate biography filed with the Casey County Public Library.

<sup>20</sup> Family lore is that Tom parted with the rest of the family because he was of Indian heritage and his dark complexion subjected him to ridicule among the rest. Thomas was a child of Elijah Justice’s seven children by his first wife, Mary Vanela Helton (1815-1845), and was of Indian heritage. Half sister Mary Elizabeth “Molly” Justice Foster was by second wife Mary Catherine “Katie” Watson (1803-1880) and had no Indian DNA.

Respectfully updated and submitted this June 5, 2024.<sup>21</sup>

**Jerry L. Foster**

138 Middleburg Street  
P.O. Box 635  
Liberty, Kentucky 42539-0635

Cellular      **[1](606) 303-4749**  
E-Mail        [JerryLFoster@HotMail.com](mailto:JerryLFoster@HotMail.com)  
Web Site:     [JerryLFoster.com](http://JerryLFoster.com)

Wednesday, June 5, 2024 (12:27pm)  
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<sup>21</sup> In addition to [JerryLFoster.com](http://JerryLFoster.com), This biography will be filed with the Casey County Public Library, 238 Middleburg Street, Liberty, Kentucky 42539 {Office [1](606) 787-9381; Facsimile [1](606) 787-7720} for their genealogy section which already contains other documentation regarding the Foster family, including the pension applications referred to herein. This and related material will also be offered to the Ashe, Caldwell, Watauga and Wilkes Counties Public Libraries in North Carolina.

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**1. Endnote regarding other Walkers in Ashe/Watauga County:** We did not identify any Walkers in Ashe County in 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830 or 1840.

In 1840, we find no Walkers in Ashe/Watauga or Caldwell Counties.

Focusing on households with females 15 through 19 (as Mary would have been 17 or 18), we find the following in **Wilkes County**: Meredith Walker (1); Richard Walker (1); David Walker (1); Turner Walker (1). Notice that none of these given names are repeated in George and Polly's children.

Households with a female 15 through 19 in nearby Burke and Surry counties were: **William** Walker in Burke (2); **Elizabeth** Walker in **Burke** (1); John Walker in Burke (2); **William** Walker in Surry (although this appears to be a young couple); Samuel Walker in Surry (2); Dabney Walker in Surry (1). George and Polly named their first child William and Sarah's middle name is Elizabeth.

In the 1850 census for Watauga County we find a Martha Walker (11 or 17) living in the household of Joseph Shull (49), Elizabeth Shull (34), William Shull (13), Caroline Shull (11), Noah Shull (9), Philip Shull (7), B? Shull (5), William Davis (? , 18), and Adeline Johnson (21). The connections to the Shulls is not yet fully understood.

In 1850 Watauga we also find a **Sarah** Walker (24) living with Allen Mitchell (30), Hiram (Walker?, 7), Andrew (Walker?, 5), **Elizabeth** (Walker, 4), Joseph (Walker?, 3) and **Mary** (Walker?, 2m). Highlighted names were used by George and Polly for their children.

In the 1860 census we find living in Valle Crucis District the household of John Walker (41) and Rebecca Walker (34) with their children **William** H. (19), **Sarah** E. (11), John J. (9), James N. (8), Rebecca E. (6), Martha L. (5), and Millard F. (2).

**2. Endnote regarding other Fosters in Watauga County in 1850:** Edmond Foster, 50, was living in household #215, family #218, of **L. Triplet** (41), Fanny Triplet (35), Hmbron (Ambrose) Triplet (16), Jesse Triplet (11), Mary Triplet (8), Lucinda Swetin (13, a mulatto) and Nancy Swetin (11, a mulatto). This is quite confusing as in 1860 this household was: **Lindsey Triplet** (51), Hanie Triplet (46), Jesse Triplet (20), Mary B Triplet (17), Lucinda Sweeten (24 mulatto), Nancy L Sweeten (22, mulatto), John E Sweeten (4, mulatto), Harriet Sweeten (3, mulatto), Roda A Sweeten (5/12, mulatto). Who belongs to whom? Lindsey **Triplet** had married Frances "Fanny" **Foster** on November 2, 1833, with John **Ferguson** as a witness. Lindsey Triplet (1809-1892) can be traced back through Jesse "Stoney Fork" Triplet (1777-1875) to William Coleman Triplet (1732-1782), and Eleanor "Nelley" Harbin Triplet (1736-1841), grandparents of Frances Triplet Foster (1791-

1883). Thus, Frances Triplett Foster (possible mother or aunt of our George Foster) and Lindsey Triplett were first cousins. Frances “Fanny” Foster (1815-1892) traces back through William Ambrose Foster (1787-1867) to Thomas Foster, Jr. (1750-1811), second cousin to George Foster (1744-1817). These interconnections of the Fosters, Triplett and Fergusons go on and on.

Levi F. Foster (25), was living in household #509, family #513, with Anna (Church) Hughs (30), Lucinda Hughs (13), Anna Hughs (4), Joseph Hughs (3), and Horton Hughs (1). Levi Leander Foster was believed to have been the illegitimate son of a daughter of Robert Mitchell Foster by Johnston “Jack” Dula. Thus he was probably a nephew or first cousin once removed to our George. In 1860, Levi (“L.F. Dula”) and Anna and seven children (no Lucinda or George R., 3) were living in Wilkes County as Dulas next to his father, Johnston “Jack” Dula. In 1866, daughter Anna Pauline Foster (then 23) was involved in the murder of Laura Foster by Tom Dula in Wilkes County. In 1870, Levi (53) and Anna (53) and five children were back in Watauga County living as Fosters. In 1880, they and son Robert (21) were in Watauga County as Fosters. Son George R. Foster may be son Robert G. Foster.

George Foster was in household #521, family #525, about 12 houses from Levi.

**3. Endnote regarding other Fosters in Watauga County in 1860:** Edmond Foster, 64, was living in the household of Edmond R. Jones (32), Alley Jones (32), Polly Jones (9), Nancy A. Jones (4), and Adam E. Jones (1). Edmond Jones owned 2,355 acres of land worth \$300.00, and Edmond Foster owned 100 acres of land worth \$200.00, both being listed as farmers. If related, then Edmond Foster would likely been the father of Alley Jones.