

## AGNEW -- ALLIED FAMILIES

### FOSTER

Nancy Foster was born May 12, 1793/1794. She was born in Virginia. She died July 29, 1886 in Lauderdale County, Mississippi. The identity of her parents has not been established. Marriage records of Orange County, Virginia, July 23, 1791 show Thornton Foster marrying Nancey Graves. Since Nancy Foster was born two years later and has named children and grandchildren Thornton and Nancy, we like to believe these are her line of Fosters.

Nancy's marriage records are incomplete. She was listed as a widow in 1840 when her daughter, Mary was issued license to wed John McNeese in Sumter County, Alabama. The name, Nancy Foster, head of the Household in Kemper, County, MS was in Census 1850. In 1855 she purchased land in Lauderdale County by the name of Nancy Foster Coats. Other records since then on up to her death show the Coats. Records show one Sion Coats as a near by resident, apparently a widower, it could be that she married him. He was between the age of 70-80. She is living with her son Thornton Converse in 1860.

Thornton Converse, youngest child of Nancy said they came from Sumter County, AL to MS. He was born in 1838 in Mississippi. All other children, with the oldest named Delilah, were born in Alabama from 1816 thru 1835. From the census records of 1850 Nancy is listed as residing in Kemper County, MS. Next door to her were three other families of Fosters. Robert Foster, age 51, born in Virginia; Crawford Foster, age 21 (Nancy's son), who married Martha, age 17, and who was born in Louisiana. Also living near by was a Mrs. Mary Foster, born in South Carolina.

Deeds at the Lauderdale County Court House show Nancy Foster Coats purchasing from Crawford Foster and wife Martha, 36 acres of land. Deed Book H, page 46. In 1855 from W. C. and Cynthia Mills. in 1856 and in 1858, 20 acres from Joseph Sarah

Fortson. In 1860 she continues to reside in Lauderdale County with the two sons Joel and Thornton residing with her and they were listed in Kemper County, MS in 1880.

Nancy died at the home of Thornton Converse Foster in Lauderdale County in 1886. T. C. Foster listed her age in the Family Bible as 93 years, 2 months, and 17 days. Some of the records give her age to indicate she was born in 1794 instead of 1793.

Grandchildren possess a picture of her and remember her as smoking a pipe. Being classified as Head of a Household or Widow for some fifty years says of her she had fortitude and physical strength and reared ten children. Her body was interred at Pine Grove Cemetery in Lauderdale County by the side of Thomas and Etheridge. Her grandchildren on the east end of the cemetery.

#### CHILDREN:

Delilah: born 5-14-1816 in Alabama; died 1840; married John Gipson

Mary: born 1818 in Alabama; death unknown; married John McNeese

Epsy: born 1820; death unknown; married Russell Gipson

Priscilla: born 1824 in Alabama; died 6-12-1871 was 2nd wife of John Gipson

Louisa: born 1825 in Alabama; death unknown; married Robert Powell

Levi: birthdate unknown in Alabama; death unknown. No details.

Crawford: born 1828 in Alabama; death unknown; married Martha of Louisiana

Henry: born 1830 in Alabama; died 4-12-1873; married Adeline of Alabama

Joel: born 4-1-1835 in Alabama; death unknown; married Rowena McLemore in 1861

Thornton Converse: born 7-10-1838 in Miss.; died 4-1-1920; married Elizabeth Poole

Thornton Converse Foster, born July 10, 1838 in Mississippi, died 4-1-1920 in Lauderdale County, MS. son of Nancy Foster, born 1793 in Virginia, father unknown at this writing.

Thornton married Elizabeth Poole, born 1-8-1841, died 12-2-1914. She was the daughter of John Poole, born 1811 in South Carolina and Adaline Rasberry Poole, born 1815 in Georgia.

Called "Con" Foster for the Converse in his name. He lived most of his life on one place in Lauderdale County having moved there with his mother in 1855-56.

His military record consisted of a tenure of service in the Civil War, 1861-1865, being stationed some of the time at Enterprise, MS. His penmanship was excellent and he used his free time to write to families of men who could not write. Serving his fellowman, this trait was evident all through his life, his children remember their father being called upon during the night to lance a boil, bone-felon, or to pull an aching tooth, his instruments being forceps and pen knife. All of this was done in a spirit of love with no remunerations.

"Con" Foster was classified as a farmer but his life was made up principally of personal ministries. He practiced first aid techniques in the case of accidents and illnesses. In his training during the war he learned about medics and helped give ether and anesthetics when amputations were necessary. He helped to doctor cows and horses and other stock animals. He made caskets to bury the dead in all the community. He was a musician, teaching his children the rudiments of music. He held singing school classes in which he taught the Do-Re-Mi of sacred harp singing. His home life was pleasant and he made a wonderful, lovable, conscientious, and honorable father and husband. His wife, Elizabeth Poole was a devoted wife and mother in the Foster household. His mother lived with them from the beginning of their marriage in 1861 to her death in 1886 (25 years). Elizabeth died at the age of 73, leaving son, John and daughter, Nancy to look after their dad. She had busied herself in the duties of homemaker and housewife, weaving cloth for clothes, spinning the thread from cotton and wool, raising ducks for feathers, drying apples for winter, making lye soap for laundry and all the things necessary in bringing up a family. They had a family of slave negroes to help, one named, Mose, lived and died there, in the backyard. A dog named Rover, one named Nemo, a horse named Jim.

Con and Elizabeth lived conservatively, but comfortably. Always he had fruits from his orchard, wild game and pork, and plenty of grain products. Excellent managers. He traveled on a saddle horse, in a buggy and the family surrey. When he passed away he left at home living with him, a bachelor son, age 50, and a maiden daughter, age 37, the other seven children were married and living with their families. He left the home, 160 acres of land, furnishings to children equally divided. Con left sweet memories of Sunday afternoons of music with John, Willie and Jim playing fiddle, mandolin, and guitar, Annie playing the accordian, Nancy playing the organ and Con called the time and lead the singing; pure wholesome clean family living.

Con is interred in the Pinegrove Cemetery in Lauderdale County, MS by the side of his wife, Elizabeth who had preceded him in death by six years.

#### CHILDREN:

Joel J. Foster: born 1-28-1862; died 10-4-1946 in Texas; married Alice Avarilla Pace.

Annie Foster: born 12-22-1865; died 12-22-1950; married Talman Doerner; 4 children

Emma Lucinda: born 10-24-1867; died 2-1-1959; married Tom Johson; 3 children

John T.: born 2-18-1870; died 8-12-1929; bachelor

Minnie Lee born 1-11-1872; died 5-5-1949; married Will Thomas; 12 children

James Robert: born 2-28-1874; died 1-22-1949; married Minnie Ritchie; 3 children;

married Lula Adams: 1 child

William G.: born 12-16-1877; died 4-16-1950; married Vira Trussell; 4 children

Martha (Mattie): born 10-7-1880; died 2-10-1960; married John Lewis Adams; 12

children

Nancy Adeline: born 1-17-1883; died 8-9-1979; married Joe Cook; no children; married

J. M. McAlister; no children. When this was originally written this comment was made:

"October 1967, very alert, lives alone keeping house. lovingly known as 'Aunt Nan'".

**Martha Armadilla (Mattie) Foster** was born **October 7, 1880** in **Lauderdale County, MS**, daughter of **Thornton Converse Foster** and **Elizabeth Poole Foster**. She died **February 19, 1960** in **Meridian, MS**.

**Mattie** married **John Lewis Agnew**, born **May 4, 1880**, son of **Geroge W.** and **Cornelia Keeton Agnew**. They lived in the same neighborhood. The marriage was performed **December 25, 1904** by a neighbor-friend who also was the **Justice of the Peace, W. J. Parker**, in the **Foster home**.

(Details of family and children--see **Agnew, John L.**)



CHARLOTTE CAPERS  
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF  
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY  
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
JACKSON

October 6, 1967

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
COUNTY OF HINDS  
CITY OF JACKSON

This is to certify that the Official Confederate Military Records on file in the Department of Archives and History show that T. C. FOSTER was a member of the Thirty-seventh Regiment of Mississippi Infantry, CSA; and that he served as a Private in Company I of this Regiment.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL THIS THE SIXTH DAY OF  
OCTOBER, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SEVEN.

CHARLOTTE CAPERS  
DIRECTOR