



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Rev. Lucratus Hodges “Cratus” Foster

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Rev. Lucratus Hodges “Cratus” Foster was born August 1, 1842 at Holcomb Bluff in present-day Cass County, Texas, a son of Thomas Jefferson Foster and Drucilla Lucinda Holcomb.

He was a Confederate soldier in both Companies F and S, 4th Texas Cavalry, having enlisted at Young’s Chapel, Cass County, Texas, an organization which later became Co. F of the 9th Texas Cavalry. He enlisted on February 14, 1862 for a term of twelve months, and was shown on the rolls as sick in camp during March and April. On the rolls for May and June, he was absent sick in the hospital in Lauderdale Springs, Mississippi. He was wounded in battle at Davis’s Bridge in December, 1862, and was captured at that time. Union hospital records show him admitted to Branch 1, USA General Hospital, at Lagrange, Tennessee on December 22, 1862. He was treated for a wound to the left hand; the hand was virtually useless to him for the rest of his life. He was later sent to Gratiot Street Military Prison in St. Louis, Missouri, where he arrived on February 25, 1863. Two days later, on February 27, he was sent to the military prison at Alton, Illinois. He was exchanged on April 1, 1863.

After that time he was either permanently disabled or was ill a great deal of the time; on the rolls for May and June, 1863 he is listed as unfit for duty, and was traveling with the army’s wagon train. On September 11, 1863, he was assigned to quartermaster duty, and was later raised to the rank of quartermaster sergeant. He surrendered with the rest of his regiment at Citronelle, Alabama on May 4, 1865, and was paroled at Jackson, Mississippi on May 13, 1865. At the time of his parole, he gave his residence as Linden, Texas.

Cratus Foster married Fannie E. Fowler in Linden, Texas on August 26, 1866. She was born March 8, 1848 at Boston, Texas. He attended Linden College and was licensed to preach by the Hickory Hill Church in 1872. He came to Tarrant County, Texas in 1872. He was ordained to preach by the Lonesome Dove Baptist Church in 1875. Foster was one of the organizing presbytery at the founding of Pleasant Run Baptist Church in 1877. Foster was a member of the Robert E. Lee Camp

of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth. Both Mr. and Mrs. Foster died in 1903 and are buried in Grapevine Cemetery. Mr. Foster died May 29, 1903. Mrs. Foster died on their wedding anniversary, August 26, 1903.

An obituary for Rev. Foster appeared in the Grapevine Sun on June 20, 1903: *“On the 29th day of May, 1903, the soul of Rev. L. H. Foster, of Grapevine, took its temporary leave from the old house. Rev. Foster was born Aug. 1, 1842; professed faith in Christ in his 14th year, joined the Baptist Church at Linden, Cass County, Texas in 1857. Enlisted in the Confederate army in 1862 and served to the close of the war. Married Miss Fannie Fowler, Aug. 23, 1866; licensed to preach, 1872, by Hickory Hill Church; moved to Tarrant County, 1875; ordained to full work of the gospel ministry by Lonesome Dove Church in 1876. His diary shows that during his ministry he baptized over 800 happy converts, preached 4,000 times, visited 6,000 families and traveled 15,000 miles; assisted in ordaining a number of preachers and deacons (this writer being one), organized several Churches. While he was accomplishing this great work he was a constant sufferer nearly all the time from wounds he received in battle, Bright’s disease and from lung trouble, and in addition to all his troubles he was poor and had a large family to support. He would plow, teach school and sell fruit trees five days of each week, and preach Saturday and Sunday. I have plowed by his side when he would tie his wounded hand to the plow handle, and in this condition I have heard him praise God aloud. How he accomplished as much under such difficulties I do not understand. It makes me feel like hiding my face in shame when I remember my own opportunities. Bro. Foster never forgot a favor; he was among the few that were thankful for favors, and retained that gratitude to the end. He leaves 5 boys and 2 girls, a companion who must soon follow. He requested me to preach his funeral at the Baptist Church in Grapevine and designated the 7th and 8th verses of the 4th chapter of Paul’s second letter to Timothy. At the conclusion of the sermon six others stood up, and in short talks emphasized some of his virtues. He was followed to the grave by 400 sorrowing friends.---(Rev.) E. Newton, Fort Worth, Tex.”*

An earlier note in the same newspaper on June 6 adds these details: *“On Friday, May 29th, at about 7 o’clock, p.m., Rev. L. H. Foster breathed his last upon earth. He had been in bad health for quite a long time previous to his death....”*

Rev. and Mrs. Foster had seven children: Elihu Sylvanus Foster, Rev. Lucratus Allen Foster, James Thomas Foster, Joel Lewis Foster, Lucinda Ann Foster (who married Arch Marney), Mary Emilie “Molly” Foster (who married Wonderful Agib Trembley III), and William Jesse Foster.



Lower left, Thomas Jefferson Foster, a veteran of the Mexican War who lies buried in Grapevine Cemetery. His three sons are: Berry A. Foster (lower right), Joel Lewis Foster (upper left) and Rev. Lucratu Hodges Foster (upper right).

