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Origin of John J. Foster (1793, MD - 1861, IL) and Frederick Levi Foster (1792 MD - 1851-4, IL)

A Work in Progress – A Puzzle Still Unsolved Draft #1 - 1/9/2015

THE FOUR FAMILY TRADITIONS . . .

There are four family traditions which have been passed down about the origins of John J. Foster and Frederick Levi Foster. I am listing each of them below.

Tradition 1

[Said to be from “Aunt Jane Campbell”–John J. Foster’s daughter who married as her second husband, John Henry Campbell. Capitalizations are mine.]:

“JOHN FOSTER – born in Ireland near 1740, married MISS FRANCES MOORE of London. They had five children and settled at Havre-de-gras, Maryland. He fought in the Revolutionary War.

His son JOHN J. FOSTER (great grandfather of David Phelps & Bess Berry {Caron?} born Sept 12-1793- Died Oct 8, 1861. He was in the war of 1812 – His brother, FREDERICK LEVI, born May 16 – 1791. “They ran away from home when boys.” (This Levi was father of Bur. Foster & Tom, etc and some of the Purdum girls –)

This JOHN J. FOSTER married FRANCES HENDRICKSON. Their children:

1. RACHEL FOSTER married RICHARD GARRETT Lived in Texas – had 4 children.
2. AARON FOSTER married – Died near Ft Scott Kansas, Had one son, Buried in Walnut Grove, Kans.
3. MARIA FOSTER – born July 4 – 1831 in Morgan, Ill– married DAVID SCOTT
4. ELLEN FOSTER – married JOHN SCOTT, brother of David Scott
5. JANE FOSTER – born may 1838, married JACK RHODES – He died, married JOHN H. CAMPBELL
6. NEWMAN FOSTER – born _____ died Mar 17 – 1908 Married MARIE PIERSON
7. SOLOMON FOSTER – born Jan 7 – 1844, died Jan 4 – 1911 Lived in Colchester. Was in Civil War, Co. D. Reg 28 Ill. Inf.
8. ELIZABETH ALICE FOSTER born about 1846, married Ned Slater –“

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Tradition 2

[The account told by “Grandma & Grandpa Scott”]:

“The Fosters and Scotts all sailed from Londonderry, Ireland and all landed at Havre-de-gras Maryland—Then moved to Lancaster area of Penn, then to Carroll Co Ohio, then to Illinois.”

➔ *At present, it seems to me that traditions #1 and #2 likely come closest to the truth. Those traditions are basically compatible. Also, other evidence suggests that:*

–John J. And Frederick Levi were brothers.

–the Scott family and Foster family were close; two Foster daughters married Scott sons.

–John J. and Frederick Levi were born in MD and lived in OH, prior to IL.

The specific mention of Havre de Grace, Maryland in both traditions seems to be significant.

It is worth noting that neither tradition #1 or #2 claims a family connection to the noted composer Stephen Collins Foster.

Did the Fosters and Scotts sail from Londonderry, Ireland together? The answer to that is apparently “no,” based on the following:

On the 18th of August 1834, a CHARLES SCOTT testified in a Carroll Co., OH, Court that JOHN SCOTT had been in the U.S. since June 18, 1812. That John Scott likely was the John Scott who was born in Northern Ireland about 1798, who married MARY HENDRICKSON (1808-1873), who was the daughter of SOLOMON HENDRICKSON and wife ELIZABETH WALLACE.

On the 14th of August 1837, the same John Scott appeared in that Carroll Co., OH, Court again and SOLOMON HENDRICKSON testified on his behalf. That court appearance may have concluded his naturalization process.

Descendants of that John Scott said that he had been born on May 12, 1798 in Northern Ireland. They told the story that,

“when [John] was nineteen years of age his father’s family decided to come to America. They came in a sailing vessel and were thirteen weeks crossing the ocean. They landed in Maryland and from there came as far west as Ohio, with the exception of the oldest sister Isabella, who had been married in Ireland to a man whose names was also Scott.”

[“History of the Scott Family, Given by Mary Scott Greer at a reunion of the descendants of John and Mary Hendrickson Scott”]

Who was Charles Scott of Carroll Co. mentioned above? More research is needed on that.

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Tradition 3

[Said to have been “Grandma Scott’s version, as it was written in her Bible.” Capitalizations are mine.]:

“ALEXANDER FOSTER emigrated from County Londonderry, Ireland about 1725, settled in Monmouth Co., New Jersey. In 1728 moved to Little Britain Township Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania – He had three sons:

I JAMES FOSTER – Born Apr 6 – 1738, Died Apr 7, 1814
He served in Revolutionary War – He was Stephen Foster’s grandfather.) He was in Tent Penn Regiment 1777 to 1781 – He married Ann Barclay in 1766. Their son, William Barclay foster was the father of Stephen Foster. This WM – was born Sept 7- 1779 – (However, this James Foster, the No I son, was married three times and had 12 children. But only 2 survived him – a John K Foster & Ann Foster Miller, both children of his first wife.”)

The No II son of ALEXANDER FOSTER was WILLIAM BARCLAY FOSTER – Born near 1740 & graduated from College in new Jersey in 1764 & was pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Chester Co Penn in 1768 – He served in Revolutionary getting recruits for America - - Army --

The No III son of ALEXANDER FOSTER was JOHN FOSTER – He served in the Revoluton, and afterward moved to Tennessee, where he lived and died and left a lot of descendants --

Grandma Scott said JOHN J. FOSTER was the brother of Wm Barclay Foster, who was Stephen Foster’s (the Musician) father. He would have been Stephen’s uncle. Anyway, grandma said he played the violin on boats on the Ohio & Miss Rivers in winters sometimes –.” .

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Tradition 4

[As compiled by grandson, Rev. Francis Newton Campbell (1874-). Capitalizations are mine.]:

“WILLIAM BARCLAY FOSTER was born in Bavaria, Germany in 1740. He graduated from the University of Bavaria, moved to London, England, and married MISS FRANCIS MOORE of London. Miss Moore’s ancestors were Scotch, Welch, and Irish. The family immigrated to the United States and settled in Delaware. Foster fought in the war of 1776.

William’s family consisted of five children. The youngest son, JOHN J. FOSTER, was born September 12, 1793, in Maryland on the border of Virginia and was the brother of William Barclay, STEPHEN FOSTER’S father.

JOHN J. FOSTER who visited his noted nephew, STEPHEN C. FOSTER, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1860, immigrated to St. Louis, Missouri, and when the war of 1812 broke out, he volunteered as a soldier under Andrew Jackson. After the war was over, he remained in the service for two years and fought in the Indian war. JOHN J. FOSTER died October 8, 1861, and is buried in McDonough County Illinois, in the cemetery of Scott Methodist Church. He was a steward in this church for nearly thirty-five years. He was noted as a fine violinist. JOHN FOSTER married FRANCIS HENDRIXSON, who wa born September 27, 1800, in Pennsylvania, and died January 21, 1858. To this union was born eight children; five daughters and three sons . . .”

[This account continues, naming those Foster children: Rachel, Silas [Aaron], Ellen, Maria, Newman, Jane, Soloman, Alice. The account also gives additional information regarding Stephen Foster. As the author noted: “This information has been gleaned from the records made by the Foster family and some of it is traditional.”]

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➔ *Traditions #3 and #4 appear to me to be flawed attempts to connect John J. Foster to the noted composer Stephen Collins Foster. Both traditions claim that John J. Foster was a brother of William Barclay Foster, who was the father of Stephen Collins Foster. That claim about John being William’s brother apparently is incorrect.*

The following two published sources on Stephen Foster’s lineage both indicate that James Foster and Ann Barclay had a son William Barclay and only six other children. None of those children were named John. Those other six children were named: Mary, James Barclay, Alexander, Ann Boyd, Sally Cummins, and Elizabeth.

See pages 615-616 of the book, “Chronicles of Stephen Foster’s Family,” Vol. II, by Evelyn Foster Morneweck, published in 1944. It is available on the web at [Archive.org](https://archive.org/details/chroniclesofstep02morn):

See page 20 of the book, "Memoranda of the Lees and Cognate Families – For Three Hundred Years Back – Gathered chiefly from Family Sources," by John Newton Lee, published in 1898. It is available on the web at [Archive.org](http://archive.org/stream/memorandaofle00inwauk#page/n49/mode/2up):

Neither of those two books mentions John J. Foster or Frederick Foster as being part of Stephen Collins Foster’s lineage.

The Foster ancestry of Stephen Collins appears as follows in Evelyn Morneweck's 1944 book:

Alexander Foster b. 1710 Ireland and Polly Connor [came to our country--likely Scots Irish Presbyterians?]

James Foster b. 1738 PA and Ann Barclay

William Barclay Foster b. 1779 VA and Eliza Clayland Tomlinson
Stephen Collins Foster b. 1826

Tradition #3 also seems to imply that James Foster (b. 1738) had three wives and twelve children. According to Morneweck's book, it was not that James, but rather his son James who had that many wives and children.

Given the information in those two Foster lineage books, Tradition #4 seems to be mistaken in a number of ways, namely:

- when it claims that the immigrant Foster was William Barclay Foster*
- when it claims that the immigrant Foster was from Germany*
- when it claims that a Frances Moore (London) was the wife of William Barclay Foster*
- when it claims that a Frances Moore (London) was a grandmother of Stephen Collins*

In my view, Tradition #3 and Tradition #4 do not “make the case” that John J. Foster and Frederick Levi were related to Stephen Collins Foster. HOWEVER, I do think it is possible that some other details in those accounts could be accurate. For example, perhaps John J. Foster did live in St. Louis, MO at one point, as Tradition #4 claims? ALSO, the failure of these traditions to “make the case” does not rule out entirely the possibility that there was some kind of family connection to Stephen Foster. I will consider such possibilities now.

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OTHER POSSIBLE CONNECTIONS TO STEPHEN COLLINS FOSTER . . .

Possibility A: A Related Foster Line?

According to Morneweck's book, ALEXANDER FOSTER, grandfather of Stephen Collins Foster, came to America about 1725, “with his mother or some other near relatives—one account says two brothers, Thomas and John, were with him.” [See page 607.] Were John J. and Frederick Levi descendants of a sibling/relative of that Alexander Foster? I have no indication that was the case, but, I suppose it is possible.

Possibility B: Alexander Foster of Harrison Co., OH?

According to Morneweck's book, WILLIAM BARCLAY FOSTER had a brother named ALEXANDER FOSTER [b. abt 1771], who lived in Pittsburg, PA, and died in Harrison Co., OH on January 23, 1845. [See page 615.] That could be significant, as that is the same county in which JOHN J. FOSTER married his wife, FRANCES HENDRICKSON in 1822. That Alexander appears to have been living in Harrison Co. at that same time. Also, that Alexander might have been of an age to have been John J.'s father.

I will note, however, that none of the four family traditions name an Alexander as the father of

John J. and Frederick Levi. I will also note, that neither John nor Frederick is known to have named a child Alexander.

Additionally, I'll also note that so far, I've found no evidence that any other Foster in Harrison Co., OH in that period had a connection with John J. or Frederic Levi. There was another Foster family, originally from VA, which was in early Harrison Co., OH. That family consisted of John Foster and his six sons: Samuel, Moses, William, David, Andrew, and Benjamin. Eventually, they all settled in Coshocton Co., OH. Samuel and Moses were the first to leave Harrison Co. for Coshocton Co.—in 1816. Eventually, the other family members followed.

See page 502 in "*History of Coshocton Co., Ohio: Its Past and Present, 1740-1881*," compiled by N. N. Hill, Jr., published in 1881. It is available on the web at Google Books at:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=9gzVAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

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Not a lot appears to be known currently about ALEXANDER FOSTER of Harrison Co., OH. More research needs to be done. The following information about him is gathered from the 1900 book, "*Historical Collections of Harrison County, in the State of Ohio*," by Charles A. Hanna. It is available on the web at Archive.org at:

<https://archive.org/stream/historicalcollec00hann#page/314/mode/2up>

Alexander Foster, land in German Twp, 1815 [124]

Alexander Foster assignee of Henry Emes for land – NW 6.10, 4, March 30, 1815 [212]

[→ *Was HENRY AMES a relative of Alexander? In the 1850 census, after Alexander's death, MARY FOSTER, likely Alexander's wife, was living in the household of ELISHA AMES, who was said to be a son of Henry Ames. That household was in the same German Twp of Harrison Co. Could Mary have been an Ames?*]

Alexander Foster was an executor and witness to the will of JOHN FRANCE, dated Dec 9, 1825 and date of probate, March 7, 1826. Wife Rebeckah, children's names not mentioned. Execs: Alexander Foster, William Homes; wits., William Holmes, John Davis, and Alexander Foster. [417]

[→ *Was John France or his wife Rebecca a relative of Alexander? John {d. 1825, age 36} and Rebecca {d. 1868, age 74} were both buried in Harrison County's Spring Beech cemetery, the same cemetery Alexander Foster and supposed wife and child were buried in. Also, John and Rebecca's child Celia {d. 1820, age 4} is buried there too. {See page 315.} So far, I've not found a connection between Foster and the France family.*]

Burials in the Beech Spring Graveyard of Green Twp. include:

Alex. Foster d. Feb 14, 1845 at 74 years [b. abt 1771]

James Foster d. Apr 4 1828 at 22 years

Martha Foster d. Aug 7, 1839 at 24 years

See page 315, also: <http://genealogytrails.com/ohio/harrison/beechnspringcemt.html>

[→It seems that James and Martha likely were children of Alexander Foster.]

Other sources indicate the following about Alexander:

Alexander Foster appears in the following available tax lists of Green Twp., Harrison Co., OH: 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819.

Alexander Foster also appears in tax lists for Archer Twp. [1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1825] and German Twp. [1828] of Harrison County.

The 1820 census for Green Twp., Harrison Co., OH shows the Alexander Foster household as follows:

Name:	Alexander Foster	Home in 1820:	Green, Harrison, Ohio
Enumeration Date:	August 7, 1820		
Free White persons			
- Males - 10 thru 15:	1		
- Males - 16 thru 25:	1		
- Males - 45 and over:	1		
- Females - 10 thru 15:	1		
- Females - 16 thru 25:	1		
- Females - 26 thru 44:	1		
Number of persons engaged in manufactures:	2		
All other persons except Indians not taxed:	6		
Free White persons - under 16:	2		
Free White persons - over 25:	2		
Total free White persons:	6		
Total all persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other:	12		

The 1830 census for German Twp., Harrison Co., OH shows the Alexander Foster household as follows:

Name:	Alexander Foster	Home in 1830:	German, Harrison, Ohio
Free White persons			
- Males - 15 thru 19:	1		
- Males - 20 thru 29:	1		
- Males - 50 thru 59:	1		
- Females - 20 thru 29:	1		
- Females - 50 thru 59:	1		
Free White persons - under 20:	1		
Free White persons - 20 thru 49:	2		
Total free White persons:	5		
Total - all persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored):	5		

The 1840 census for German Twp., Harrison Co., OH shows the Alexander Foster household as

follows:

Name: Alexandre FASTER [Alexander Foster]

Home in 1840: German, Harrison, Ohio

Free White persons

- Males - 60 thru 69: 1

- Females - 50 thru 59: 1

Persons employed in agriculture: 1

Total free White persons: 2

Total all persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves: 2

[→ *Mornebeck's book indicates that Alexander Foster died in Harrison County, OH on January 23, 1845. {See page 615.}*]

The 1850 census for German Twp., Harrison Co., OH shows MARY FOSTER, likely widow of Alexander Foster, living in the household of ELISHA and AGNES AIMES.

Name: Mary Foster Age: 69 Birth year: abt 1781

Birthplace: Bedford Co., Pennsylvania Home in 1850: German, Harrison, Ohio

Gender: Female Family number: 13

Household members:

Elisha Aimes 27

Agnes Aimes 23

Abitha L Aimes 0

Mary Foster 69

Agnes' surname was GIBSON. She and Elisha married in 1848 in Harrison Co. OH.

[→ *Did this Ames family have a family relationship with Alexander Foster? An Ancestry.com family tree indicates that HENRY AIMES (1766, Bedminster, Bucks, PA – 1840, German, Harrison, OH) was the father of Elisha Aimes. As I noted previously, in 1815 Alexander secured land in Harrison Co. as an assignee of Henry Emes. Henry's wife is said to have been Margaret Gutshall/Gotschall (b. abt 1772, Philadelphia, PA).*

See also: <http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?aimes::oh/harrison::413.html>]

The above Elisha Aimes family appears in the 1880 U.S. census, living in Crawford, Coshocton, OH. Mary Foster does not appear their household.

Agnes Aimes appears as a widow in the 1910 U.S. census, living in Canton Ward 6, Stark, OH. She apparently died in 1911.

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FOSTER FAMILY NAMES . . .

The names chosen for children can sometimes be helpful for identifying individuals in earlier generations of the family. Here are the presently known names of the children of John J. Foster

and his brother Frederick Levi Foster. Unfortunately, the name of the first wife of Frederick is still unknown.

Things to note: In this naming there is:

NO – William or Alexander [unless that was Solomon's middle name].

YES – Both John and Frederick name a son AARON. That could be significant. John's Aaron may also have been known as Silas.

YES – John has a daughter Maria and about the same time, Frederick has a daughter Mary Ann.

YES – John has a daughter Ellen and Frederick has a daughter Sarah Ellen.

JOHN J. FOSTER with wife FRANCES HENDRICKSON, is said to have had children:

Rachel Agnes Foster [b. before 1824]

Aaron Foster [b. abt 1824, OH]

Mariah Foster [b. 1831, IL]

Ellen Foster [b. abt 1832, IL]

Newman Foster [b. 1835, IL]

Jane Foster [b. 1828, IL]

Solomon A. Foster [b. 1841, IL] – Likely named after Frances' brother Solomon.

Elizabeth Foster [b. abt 1843, IL] – Likely named after Frances' brother Solomon's wife.

FREDERICK LEVI FOSTER with first wife, name unknown, is said to have had children:

Aaron Foster

Margaret C. Foster [b. 1822]

Mary Ann Foster [b. 1832]

Jacob Foster

With second wife, MILLIE MASON, Frederick is said to have had children:

Sarah Ellen Foster [b. 1841]

James Foster [b. abt 1843]

Burrow Foster [b. 1848]

Thomas H. Foster [b. 1853]

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END OF DRAFT #1

Comments, new information, corrections, welcomed.

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