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FOSTER FAMILY PAPERS
1799-1918

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INTRODUCTION

The Foster Family Papers (1799-1918) are centered around Joseph Foster (1792-1865), farmer and public official of Maury County, Tennessee. The Foster Family Papers are a gift of Miss Mary Alice Foster, Nashville, Tennessee through the agency of Mrs. Charles Alexander, Columbia, Tennessee.

The materials in this finding aid measure 1.26 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Foster Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Foster Family Papers, containing approximately 500 items, span the period, 1799-1918. The collection, concentrating primarily on Maury County, Tennessee, is composed of accounts, correspondence, court records, genealogical data, land records, legal documents, military records, printed materials, slave records, taxes, and several miscellaneous items.

The accounts largely reflect transactions of the Foster Family in Maury County and Nashville, Tennessee. Accounts concerning cotton, merchants, school tuition, doctors, blacksmiths, undertakers, and seamstresses are included. Some of the merchants include J. L. Williams & Co.; W. A. Nichols & Co.; Salisby, Frierson, Dale & Co.; Ben. N. Noel & Bro.; Johnson & Weaver.

The court records contain the judgements and summons of the justices of the peace; along with other Maury County court records. Also included are the Superior Court records of Clark County, Georgia. A Federal certificate of bankruptcy for John D. Stockard is included with the court records.

The land records contain several deeds for land purchased by the Foster family. Two of the deeds concern land in Abbeville, South Carolina. Several property surveys are also included; one for the property in South Carolina.

A major portion of the Foster Family Papers includes the legal documents, most of which reflect Joseph Foster's responsibilities as administrator or guardian. Also included are wills, a deed of trust, and licenses.

The military records concentrate on the War Between the States, and contain an honorable discharge, oaths of allegiance, passes and receipts. Also included are commissions in the South Carolina and Tennessee militias.

The slave records include several bills of sale and information on slave value and slave auctions. An unusual document in the collection is the agreement between Joseph Foster and the "black people" on his farm.

The Foster Family Papers include some unusual documents such as a large chronological chart of world events, Tennessee and Kentucky script, a weaving pattern, advertisements, and printed materials.

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Roll # 1

Box 1

1. Accounts – Bills and receipts – Foster family, n.d., 1816-1918
2. Accounts – Bills and receipts – Miscellaneous, n.d., 1835, 1840, 1857-1859
3. Accounts – Promissory notes – J. Foster, et al, n.d., 1809-1913
4. Accounts – Promissory notes – Miscellaneous, 1865
5. Advertisements – Dr. I. Edrehi, Nashville, Tenn., n.d.
6. Advertisements – T. W. Weller, Seeds and Agricultural Implements, n.d.
7. Applications – N.S.D.A.R. – Minnie Myrtle Dansey, 1937
8. Applications – N.S.D.A.R. – Mary Alice Foster, 1977, 1980
9. Applications – N.S.D.A.R. – Mildred Ann Williams, n.d.
10. Applications – N.S.D.A.R. – Virginia Priscilla Williams, 1952
11. Certificates – Voting, 1910
12. Correspondence – _____ – Eakin
13. Correspondence – Foster, B. – Foster, T.
14. Correspondence – Getteriglett (?) – Strayhorn
15. Correspondence – Thomas – Wade
16. Correspondence – Walker – Wilson

Box 2

1. Court records – Appointment – Joseph Foster, 1837, 1842
2. Court records – Bankruptcy – John D. Stockard, 1843
3. Court records – Certification copy – J. N. Puckett, 1839
4. Court records – Constable bond – Lycurgus Collins, 1860
5. Court records – Court costs, n.d., 1824-1856
6. Court records – Judgements, 1841-1860
7. Court records – Minutes – Clark County, Ga., 1811-1816
8. Court records – Oath – Nathan B. Akin, 1839
9. Court records – Summons, 1837-1844
10. Court records – Miscellaneous, n.d., 1878
11. Currency, bank notes, etc. – Kentucky – \$4.00, n.d., Tenn. – 6 ¼ cents, 1837; Tenn. – 25 cents, 1837
12. Genealogical data – Foster family
13. Genealogical data – Foster family
14. Land records – Claim receipt – Joseph Foster, 1855
15. Land records – Deed – James Irwin to Joseph Foster, 1835
16. Land records – Deed – Hannah Foster to Benjamin Foster, et. al., 1818
17. Land records – Deed – Nancy Gray to Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Robert & Joseph Foster, agents, 1853
18. Land records – Deed – Samuel S. Foster to Benjamin C. Foster, 1848

19. Land records – Deed – J. Edward Rutledge to Robert Foster, 1799
20. Land records – Deed – Baker White to Joseph Foster, 1848
21. Land records – List of renters, 1859-1863
22. Land records – Receipts – Miscellaneous, 1805-1884
23. Land records – Rents, 1860-1880
24. Land records – Survey – Robert Foster, n.d.
25. Land records – Survey – Squire Choate estate, 1852
26. Land records – Survey – William Linn estate, 1855
27. Land records – Joseph Foster, 1859
28. Legal documents – Deed of trust – Samuel Sealy to Joseph Foster & William Coleman, 1841
29. Legal documents – Estate papers – Joseph C. Choate, 1853-1854

Microfilm Roll # 2

30. Legal documents – Estate papers – Margaret Cochran, 1853
31. Legal documents – Estate papers – B. C. Foster, 1902
32. Legal documents – Estate papers – Joseph Foster, 1865-1866
33. Legal documents – Estate papers – R. Linn, 1859
34. Legal documents – Estate papers – William L. Linn, 1842-1845
35. Legal documents – Estate papers – James S. Robinson, 1865
36. Legal documents – Estate papers – James S. Robertson, 1877-78
37. Legal documents – Guardian papers – Mary E. & Robert H. Foster, 1882
38. Legal documents – Guardian papers – Jesse Gray, 1851-54
39. Legal documents – Guardian papers – Rebecca Linn Davis, 1854
40. Legal documents – Guardian papers – William Linn heirs, 1859
41. Legal documents – Guardian papers – H. B. Moore, 1849-52
42. Legal documents – Guardian papers – Miscellaneous, n.d., 1882
43. Legal documents – License – Joseph Foster, 1853-1854, 1857-1860
44. Legal documents – Lien – John E. Foster to B. C. Foster, 1868
45. Legal documents – Will – Margaret Cochran, 1852
46. Legal documents – Will – Joseph Foster, 1863
47. Legal documents – Will – William P. Pool, 1845
48. Legal documents – Will – James Robertson, 1859
49. Legal documents – Miscellaneous, n.d., 1833-1883

Box 3

1. Lists – Voters – District No. 11, 1841
2. Lists – Miscellaneous, n.d., 1844, 1851
3. Military records – Claims against government – John E. Foster, 1862
4. Military records – Commission – John E. Foster, Tenn. Militia, 1841
5. Military records – Commission – Joseph Foster, S. C. Militia, 1826
6. Military records – Gun permit – Joseph Foster, 1865

7. Military records – Honorable discharge – Presley C. Richardson, 1862
8. Military records – Pass – Joseph Foster, 1862
9. Military records – Pass – James Robertson, 1862
10. Military records – Oath of Allegiance – Joseph Foster, 1863, & Malinda (?) n.d.-fragment
11. Military records – Order of Impressment – B. C. Foster, 1864
12. Military records – Receipt for fine – Joseph Foster, 1838
13. Military records – Receipt for gun – Joseph Foster, 1862
14. Miscellaneous – Envelopes, n.d., 1888, 1891
15. Notes – Miscellaneous, n.d., 1840-1879
16. Pattern – Weaving – “Dimity and Huckabuck,” Mrs. Malinda Goosetrap Haslam, 1844
17. Poetry – n.d.
18. Printed materials – Booklet – “An Address to the Students of the Theological Seminary,” John T. Pressley, 1837
19. Printed materials – Booklet – “History Maury” – *Maury County Historical Society Quarterly*, n.d.
20. Printed materials – Catalog – P. O. Vickery & Co., Augusta, Me., n.d.
21. Printed materials – Circular – Robert M. Cooper, 1840
22. Printed materials – Guarantee – Williams Mintreal Sewing Machine, 1880
23. Printed materials – Music instructions, n.d.
24. Printed materials – Table – “Young’s Interest Table,” n.d.
25. School records – Bills, Receipts, 1833-35, 1837
26. School records – Tuition, n.d.
27. Slaves – Agreement – Joseph Foster and the black people on his place, n.d.
28. Slaves – Auction, 1850-1851
29. Slaves – Bill of sale – Jesse Beasley to Joseph Foster, 1817
30. Slaves – Bill of sale – John Douglass to Joseph Foster, 1825
31. Slaves – Bill of sale – Ebenzer Foster to Joseph Foster, 1834
32. Slaves – Bill of sale – Thomas Sewell (?) to Joseph Foster, 1843
33. Slaves – Bill of sale – William Webb to Joseph Foster, 1853
34. Slaves – Hired, 1843, 1851-1852
35. Slaves – List of picked cotton, 1852
36. Slaves – List & value of slaves, n.d.
37. Taxes – Corporation Tax – Robert A. Foster, 1851
38. Taxes – Foster Guardianship, 1846, 1850, 1852
39. Taxes – Lists – Albert Booker, 1846; William Prol, 1846; Malinda Robertson, 1846; & Joseph ?, 1846
40. Taxes – State & county receipts – Foster family, 1832-1911

Map Drawer No. 4

Maps, charts, etc. – Chronological Chart of Europe, 400-1830

NAME INDEX

This is a name index of the correspondence only in the Foster Family Papers, together with the dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the box and folder in which the material is to be found.

- _____, G. to Joseph Foster, 1846, re: list of taxable property & value for cash sale, 1-12
- _____, Helen to Bessie, n.d., re: asking for money; thanks for fixing the school rooms, 1-12
- _____, Sam to Father, 1891, re: problems of the Bank of Columbia & Columbia Banking Company, 1-12
- Ansley, W. S. to Mrs. Margaret Cochran, 1847, re: instructions on the deed & bond for S. C. land sale, 1-12
- Blocker, E. to Joseph Foster, 1834, re: asking Foster to pay \$1.50 debt, 1-12
- Canders (?), W. to John Flyn, 1844, re: urging payment of a tuition bill, 1-12
- Chaney, J. J. to Joseph Foster, 1857, re: requesting 50 lbs. of flour, 1-12
- Dale, E. W. to Joseph Foster, 1837, re: notice of Foster's cotton left by Webster, 1-12
- Eakin, Mrs. to Mr. Foster, 1848, re: requesting one bushel of sweet potatoes, 1-12
- Foster, B. C. to G. W. Knizes (?), 1866, re: A. Young paid the \$16.32 judgement, 1-13
- Foster, Benjamin C. to Elizabeth & Joseph Foster, 1829, re: family & plantation; swindled out of \$1500, 1-13
- Foster, Eliza Ann to Joseph Foster, n.d., re: family news; price of sugar, coffee, corn & poultry, 1-13
- Foster, Thomas & Rosannah to Joseph & Mary Foster, 1837, re: family news; asks they write more often, 1-13
- Getteriglett, A. (?) to John E. Williams, 1840, re: requesting an execution from Coleman's docket, 1-14
- Gossey (?), W. W. to Joseph Choat, 1852, re: requesting a sack of oats, 1-14
- Greenfield, J. Y. to Mrs. Robertson, 1857, re: asking for \$10.00, 1-14
- Hill, James to Mother, 1863, re: asks for a pair of shoes; has plenty of other clothes; tell everyone hello, 1-14
- Jones, W. to Joseph Foster, 1848, re: he will settle the Stephenson note, 1-14
- Lansdale (?) to Mr. Foster, n.d., re: questions concerning an unnamed family, 1-14
- Martin, T. to unknown, n.d., re: they're excited about Henry's visit, 1-14
- Redmond, James to Aunt, 1867, re: family news; sympathy on the death of his uncle, 1-14
- Spence, Rosannah to John B. Hamilton, 1853, re: requesting payment to J. Foster for his negro girl, 1-14
- Stone, Joel to Joseph Foster, 1855, re: requesting payment of receipts; Rosanna has baby girl, 1-14
- Strayhorn, S. J. & H. J. to Joseph Foster, 1845, re: news of cotton; disagreement between Doctor Christian & Stanton, 1-14

Strayhorn, Samuel J. to B.C. Foster, 1868, re: discussing wagon transportation, 1-14
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Wade, P. C. (2) to B. C. Foster, 1880, 1887, re: statement of expenses; discusses market prices; the Cooper & Aikens statement, 1-15
Wade, P. C. to Mother, 1870, re: news of farm, family; discusses moving to Texas, 1-15
Wade, Pleasant & Mary to G. R. & M. G. Robertson, 1859, re: a recent illness; Thurstons moving to Texas; asks for instructions concerning the Carroll property, 1-15
Walker, James to Malinda G. Robinson, 1853, re: speaks of weather; wishes all well, 1-16
Webster, H. to Mr. Foster, n.d., re: requesting a bushel each of yellow & Spanish potatoes, 1-16
Webster, Jonathan to T. Johns, n.d., re: concerning Mr. Foster's account, 1-16
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Wilson, J. W. to B. Foster, 1865, re: requesting Irish & sweet potatoes, 1-16

CHART I - FOSTER

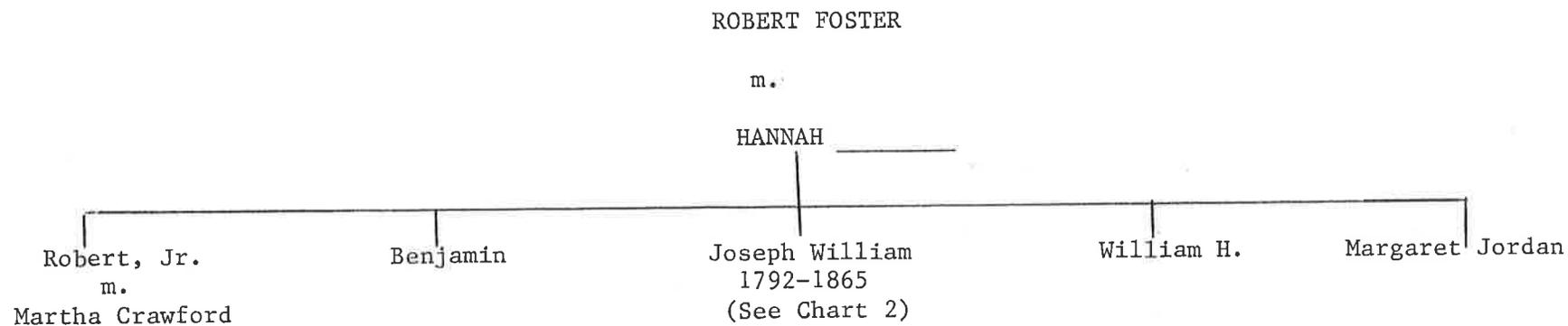


CHART II - FOSTER

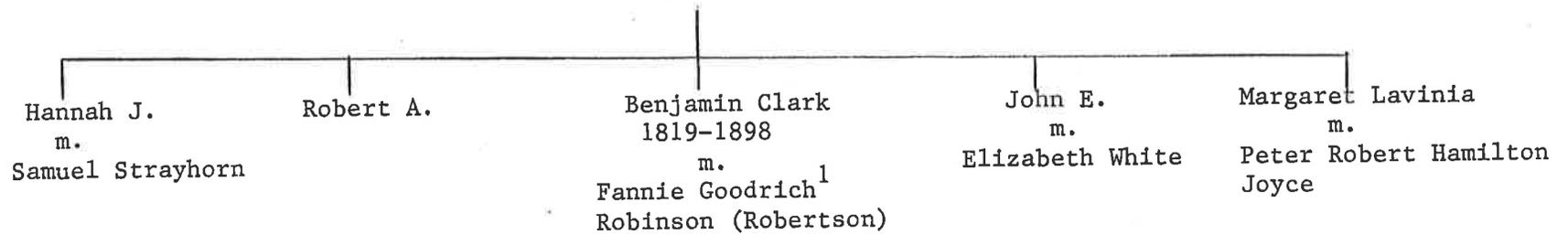
JOSEPH WILLIAM FOSTER

b. 1792, Abbeville District, S. C.

d. 1865, Maury County, Tenn.

m. (Abbeville District, S. C.)

MARY E. ANDERSON



1. Daughter of James S. and Malinda Pool Robertson

SOURCE: Foster Family Papers