

JOHN HAROLD FOSTER (1880-1956)

FAMILY PAPERS, 1838-1966

ca. 1000 items in 3 boxes

The papers of John Harold Foster, State Forester, were given to the New Hampshire Historical Society in 1970 by his daughter Mrs. James J. Page. They consist principally of correspondence from 1901 until 1915 when he married Mary Elliott, the daughter of the proprietor of the Waterville Inn, and are a good description of the life of the times. Forestry was a new profession at that time and a description of the positions open are very interesting.

Genealogical Note¹

Eli Foster, the grandfather, was born in Ashby, Mass., March 19, 1811. He married Lucy Sawyer. He kept a store in Marlow for a few years and then moved to New Ipswich where he died October 9, 1880.

John Foster, the father, was born in 1840. He was a railroad conductor and lived most of his life in Waltham, Mass. He married Ellen M. (Nellie) Webster of Royalston, Mass, May 15, 1866. They had three children, Lena, Ethel and John Harold. He died in New Ipswich, December 31, 1902.

Biographical Note²

1880 April 13	John Harold Foster born Waltham, Mass.
1903	B.S. Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont.
1907	M.F. Yale Forest School
1907-1911	Junior Forester, U.S. Forest Service
1911-1915	Professor of Forestry, University of New Hampshire
1915-1918	Texas State Forester and Professor Texas A. & M. College
1918-1920	U.S. Fuel Administrator
1920-1950	State Forester, New Hampshire
1956 Sept. 6	Died, Concord, N.H.

He married Mary Elliott of Waterville, N.H., July 7, 1915. They had two children, Ruth and Elliott. After the death of Mary Elliott, he married, in 1922, Helen Clark Kelley of Waltham, Mass. They had one child, John Webster.

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1. C.H. Chandler, History of New Ipswich (1914), pp. 429-430; Sawyer Family, P.H. Struthers, History of Nelson (1968), pp. 256-257; Tow. "History of Marlow", Section on Stores and Taverns.
 2. Who's Who in New England (1938), p. 487: notice of death in State of New Hampshire, Biennial Report of the Forestry Division, 1955-1956, p. 6; see Journal of Forestry, vol. 49, no. 6, June 1951.

INVENTORY

Container No.

Contents

Box 1

Eli Foster (1811-1880)

Bills and Receipts, 1838-1841. ca. 150 items.
Accounts of a general store in South Marlow.
Tenney & Foster (Joel Tenney & Eli Foster), 1838-1839; Eli Foster, 1839-1841; a few later promissory notes and receipts.

Box 2

Folder 1 Foster Family - Genealogical material.

John Foster (1840-1902)

Folder 2 Papers, 1856-1892. 16 items.
Includes a diary, 1856; 2 book-keeping exercise books; a few business letters and accounts; a recipe for tomato relish.

Ellen M. Webster (1844-1898)

Folder 3 Letters from Will H. Knight, 1863-1866. 9 items.
A young schoolteacher; taught in Concord, 1864.

Folder 4 Letters from Philip Gorton, 1864-1865. 16 items.
Love letters from a widower.

Folder 5 Letters from John Foster, 1865-1866. 47 items.

John Harold Foster (1880-1956)

Folder 6 Letters from John Foster, 1894-1895. 19 items.
Letters to son in Waltham and at Bank Village, New Ipswich; tells of trains and vacation hunting in Maine.

Folder 7 Correspondence, 1901. 43 items.
Letters from family and a few friends received while at Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont. Includes notice of raise in price of board, and notice of selection as editor-in-chief of the "Reveille".

Folder 8 Yale University Forest School, 1904-1915. 5 items.
Correspondence regarding admission; graduation exercises, 1907; collection of Forest School Fund, 1915.

Box 2 (cont.)

- Folder 9 U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service, 1904-1911, 1917. 21 items.
Correspondence concerning openings and notices of appointments and promotions.
- Folder 10 New Hampshire College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, Durham, 1911. 10 items.
Correspondence relating to appointment as professor of forestry at the University.
- Folder 11 Texas Forest Service, 1915-1966. 9 items.
Letter from Mrs. John W. Foster concerning visit to Texas, 1966; copy of letter 1934 and of a defense of forestry department by J.H. Foster; newspaper clippings and a history of the department.
- Folders 12-15 Forestry Positions Considered, 1907-12. 4 folders.
Correspondence concerning positions open in teaching forestry and in State Forestry describing opportunities in a new field. Interesting.
Pennsylvania State College; New Brunswick; State Forester, Vermont, New Hampshire; Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; Massachusetts Agricultural College; University of Washington, Seattle; University of Syracuse.
- Folder 16 Dartmouth College, Master of Arts, 1940. 11 items.
Invitation to receive honorary degree of Master of Arts; congratulations. Also one letter concerning plans to retire as State Forester, 1950.
- Folder 17 Notebooks. 3 items.
Rough notes concerning forestry business.
- Folder 18 Newspaper clippings.
Chiefly about forest fires; includes picture of Gov. Francis P. Murphy and State Forester John H. Foster at Hampton Beach.

Box 3

- Folder 1-4 Letters from Mary Elliott, 1908, 1912-1915. 4 folders.
Describe the life of a young lady; summers in Waterville, N.H., winters in Plymouth, N.H., visits to Boston, Chicago; preparations for the wedding.
- Folder 5 Carrie H. Elliott - Papers, 1916-1917; 1945. 17 items.
Correspondence with daughters Lela and Mary; copy of will; a few probate papers; letter concerning the cottage at Waterville, 1945.

Box 3 (cont.)

John Harold Foster - Investments

- Folder 7 Lot in Washington, D.C., 1911-1924.
Deed to lot #19, Massachusetts Ave. Heights;
correspondence regarding its sale; map of tract.
- Folder 8 Sealed Package Ice Co., 1910. 8 items.
Stock certificate and correspondence concerning
purchase of 10 shares of Sealed Package Ice Company
Stock.
- Folder 9 Industrial Savings & Loan Co., 1911-1913. 25 items.
Advertisements and correspondence regarding the
Industrial Savings and Loan Company, New York City;
failed 1912.
- Folder 10 Havana Consumers Company, 1913-1915. 15 items.
Stock certificate for 85 shares of preferred
stock in the Havana Consumers Co; changed to
100 shares in Havana Planters Co., Ltd.; failed.
- Folder 11 New York Real Estate Security Co., 1911-1916.
17 items.
Purchase of one 6% gold mortgage bond;
failure of company, 1913; bankruptcy settlement, 1915.
- Folder 12 Union Savings Association; New Haven Hotel Company,
1924, 1925. 10 items.
Correspondence and notices regarding stock in
the Union Savings Association, Sioux Falls, S.D.,
1924. Notices of 10 shares of stock in New Haven
Hotel Co., taken over by Taft Realty Co., 1925.

Miscellaneous Town Papers

- New Ipswich - Methodist Episcopal Church
Receipts for pew rent, 1871-1874. ca. 80 items..
- Waterville - Miscellaneous Town Papers, 1831-1931. 2 folders.
Include non-resident tax lists; perambulation
of line with Thornton, 1870; Thornton highway, 1890;
advertisements and newspaper clippings; correspondence
between David S. Austin and John H. Foster, selectmen,
1921-1931.

Cards made for catalogue

Names:

Bass, Robert Perkins

Elliott, Carrie H .

Foster, Eli

Foster, John

Foster, John Harold

Webster, Ellen M.

Subjects:

Dartmouth College

Forestry

Household Goods

Norwich University

Railroads

Texas Forest Service

U.S. Forest Service

University of New Hampshire

Yale University - Forest School

Towns:

Marlow

Mason

New Ipswich

Waterville (2)

Accounts - Foster, Eli

Diaries, - Foster, John