



Town of Southampton ~ Civil War Veterans

## Alonzo Foster

Hometown: Ponquogue (Hampton Bays)

Foster served in the 6th N. Y. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, known as the "2nd Ira Harris Guard," in Company F.

In October 1861, at the age of 20, Alonzo mustered in. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and re-enlisted in 1863. Foster was wounded in action at the First Battle of Deep Bottom, July 26, 1864. He was discharged February 6, 1865, at Auger General Hospital, Alexandria, VA.

He is buried in the Good Ground, Cemetery, Hampton Bays.



1861~1865



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## Mr. Foster's Tree

Alonzo Foster, of Brooklyn, brother-in-law of Mrs. H. N. Booth of this place has set out a tree in front of his property at Pon Quogue, which has an interesting history. Mr. Foster is a veteran of the Civil war. On October 12, 1863, his regiment, the Sixth New York Cavalry, made a charge on the Confederate lines at Brandy Station, Va. While on a recent visit to that vicinity Mr. Foster brought home a tree from the Brandy Station battlefield and planted it in his yard at Pon Quogue.

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Reminiscences and Record

OF THE

6<sup>th</sup> New York U. S. Cavalry.



BY

ALONZO FOSTER,

LATE SERGEANT CO. F.

After returning from a trip following in his wartime footsteps, Foster wrote *Reminiscences and Record of the 6th NYV Cavalry* in 1892.



The monument to the Sixth New York Volunteer Cavalry Regiment at Gettysburg was erected by the State of New York and dedicated on July 11, 1889.

The bronze bas-relief, sculpted by James E. Kelley, on the front of the monument is titled “General Fitzhugh’s Charge” and actually did not take place at Gettysburg but features, Alonzo Foster, circled in red, from an earlier battle that the 6th also took part in.

## A REMINISCENCE.

The wreck of the schooner Louis V. Place, which occurred off Patchogue during those three days of terrible storm and sleet, resulting in the loss of Capt. W. H. Squires with seven of his officers and men, recalls to our mind some facts in relation to the unfortunate fate that has befallen so many of the young men who have gone out from the village of Good Ground.

Probably few, if any, of our Long Island seacoast hamlets have, in proportion to their population, produced a greater number of seafaring men. In the earlier days of her history, when the whale fishery was in its prime, many of the young men from this place sailed from Sag Harbor, New Bedford and New London and by their pluck and sailorly qualities won for themselves success, and for Good Ground the reputation of producing first-class whalers. Prominent among these were Capt. George Raynor, Corrington Raynor, Wesley Raynor, A. P. Squires, Wesley H. Squires, B. F. Squires, Joseph L. Foster,

John H. Foster, Wm. S. Foster, Daniel Fanning, L. D. Bellows, Israel Warner, Jesse Petty, Charles Petty and others whose names were familiar in whaling circles. Later on, when the whale fishery had declined, the sea retained its attraction for the youth of Good Ground, and many continued to follow it as a chosen means of livelihood; but as we recall the names of those who left their homes for the perilous calling of a sailor's life, we are startled by the long list, numbered among the victims of the relentless ocean. The writer recalls the following names, all of whom were among his early acquaintances and associates:—Capt. Samuel Hildreth, Capt. William H. Squires, Capt. Luckey Squires, Capt. John Petty, Capt. Wm. N. Raynor, Charles Squires, Alexander Squires, Edwin Brown, David Carter, Charles Raynor, Edmund N. Raynor, John S. Conklin, Jos. W. Conklin. Of these nearly all were lost at sea, the remainder sickened and died in foreign ports, or were consigned to an ocean grave by their shipmates.

When the cloud of war burst upon us, the village of Good Ground was among the first to send her young men to the front. In October, 1861, the following men enlisted in the 6th New York Calvary: Alonzo Foster, Alexander H. Penny, Charles A. Jackson, John Devine. Still later, in 1862, the following recruits joined the 127th (monitor) regiment: John Jacobs, William Jacobs, Joseph Jacobs, Henry Skidmore, Edward L. Squires, George P. Squires and Brazilla Jackson, William T. Conklin, having enlisted in the 99th New York.

Of these, Alonzo Foster was wounded at the battle of Deep Bottom, Va., and after nearly four years of service returned home with his left hand so shattered as to be useless. Charles Jackson, a little later, was sent home from the field hospital to die. John Divine returned from Libby prison, after months of suffering, to continue a hopeless sufferer from rheumatism; Wm. Jacobs and Brazilla Jackson died in camp; Henry Skidmore was killed at the battle of Honey Hill, S. C., while nearly all the others bear sad marks of their army life.

Of these men who went out from their homes on sea or land, whether as soldiers or sailors, whether they returned or whether they sleep in the soldier's or sailor's

grave, theirs is an unsullied record; and until some bronze or granite shaft shall, by the grateful hands of their fellow townsmen, be erected to bear their names, be it ours who remain, and theirs who may follow, to honor and cherish their memories.

F.





Foster, Alonzo

Good Ground Cemetery, Hampton Bays