

Foust Collection Letters

Guide to the Private Peter L. Foust Archival Collection, Company C, 19th Indiana Infantry of Volunteers. Peter L. Foust, born in Randolph County, Indiana and a farmer by occupation volunteered on August 11, 1862 at the age of twenty seven. He was captured near Manassas, Virginia, on August 29, 1862, and reported to Camp Parole, Maryland. He rejoined the 19th Indiana on November, 1862 outside Alexandria, Virginia. He was killed on the first day of fighting at the Battle of Gettysburg (Pennsylvania) on July 1, 1863.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository

Civil War Museum, Jack D. Michaels Resource Center Kenosha, Wisconsin

Language of Material

Material in English

Abstract

The following collection consists of 13 documents (personal artifacts) of Private Foust that verify his service dates, etc.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Use Restrictions

Preferred Citation

(Identification of item), The Peter L. Foust Document Collection, The Civil War Museum, Kenosha, Wisconsin

Provenance

Processing Information

Processed by Frederick J. (Rick) Holtz, 2013

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Please see introductory paragraph.

COLLECTION LIST:

Doc. #1 of 13: Photo of Private Foust in uniform with his rifle.

Doc. #2 of 13: Volunteer Enlistment Record verifying his age, occupation, and enlistment date, and signed by S.E. Strong, the Examining Surgeon, and Captain R. W. Hamilton, 19th Indiana Regiment Recruiting Officer and dated, August 11, 1862, Winchester, Indiana

Doc. #3 of 13: Document- "Form for Examining A Recruit" for his physical condition, dated, August 12, 1862, and signed by S.E. Strong, Inspecting Surgeon

- Doc. #4 of 13: Document entitled "Memorandum From Prisoners of War Records" Verification that Private Peter L. Foust was captured at Bull Run on August 29, 1862 and confined at Richmond, Virginia. He was paroled at Centreville, Virginia on September 3, 1862, and reported to Camp Parole, Maryland. It also states that he was then sent to Alexandria, Virginia in November, 1862 and sent to The Army of the Potomac on December 14, 1862.
- Doc. #5 of 13: A similar document as listed above with the same information given but noted on different pages.
- Doc. #6 of 13: Company Muster Roll Records dated from September, 1862 through February, 1863
- Noteworthy: Under the September/ October, 1862 Muster Roll Record it is noted that Pvt. Foust was "dropped from the roles since August 28" as he became a paroled prisoner
Under the November/December, 1862 Pvt, Foust is listed as "Missing In Action"
Under the January/February, 1863 Roles he is marked "Present".
- Doc. #7 of 13: Company Muster Roll Records dated from March, 1863 through August, 1863
- Noteworthy: March, April, May, and June, 1863 the Muster Rolls indicates he was present, but the July and August, 1863 Muster Roll reports that Pvt. Foust was "killed in action" on July 1, 1863, at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. A short accompanying document to these records lists his physical description as 27 years, 6 feet tall, with dark complexion and hair and grey eyes. His occupation as a farmer is also listed as well as the dates of his enlistment and death on the battlefield.
- Doc. #8 of 13: September and October, 1862 Muster Roll noted that Peter Foust records were "not stated".
- Noteworthy: August 11, 1862 Gain from Depot, at Indianapolis, missing in action, August 28, 1862.
December 18, 1862, Fredericksburg, Virginia, from "Missing in action".
May 1, 1863, Regmt. Com Guard
July 1, 1863, Killed in action, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Doc. #9 of 13: Letter to his mother from Camp Pear, Falmoth, Virginia, dated,
May 30, 1863

(right side of page)

Noteworthy: It is with the greatest of pleasure that I take pen in hand to let you know that I am well and hardy at present and I hope this letter ma will find you all enjoying the same Blessings.
From David Frost I learned that you have got back to old Indiana again and though I would write you a few lines, as I never have wrote you a letter before in my life. The reason is I did not know where to write you.
I have been a soldier about 9 months and I would like to get home again and see you all. I am afraid I may have to stay for some time. It will be about fourteen months yet. That is a long time.

(right half of page)

Now I must write a few lines to Zephaniar Silvers and Leewise Silvers. Well Zeph I hope these few lines find you in good health and also well satisfied.
Zeph, I don't get a dram of whiskey one a month and then it costs two dollars a quart. And tobacco is about \$2 a pound. Everything else is in proportion so I must close by to requisition you to write soon and if you would please let me know how things are going now.
If you write me, direct your letters to the Nineteenth Indiana Regiment, Company C, in care of Captain Ives.
From Peter L. Foust to Zephaniar Silvers.

(left half of page)

Well David I hear that you got to double your size family_____.
I wish I could have the pleasure of being with my family again.
David it has been a long time since I have seen you, but I hope it won't be long any more. I look forward to meeting with pleasure again in peace. I must close by sending my respects to you and all the rest of the Connection. This from Peter L. Foust.
To David Foust and your wife,
I don't know what your wife's name is. Please write soon and please direct your letters to Washington City, D.C. Tell all the Connection that I am well and hearty now and I hope this will find you all well and hearty too.

(left side of the first page)

Tell uncle and aunt that I would like to hear from them and I would like to write you a long letter, but the mail is going out and I must quit writing.

Doc. #10 of 13: A letter Mrs. Sarah Foust from Camp Headquarters of the 19th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, near New Berlin, Maryland, dated, July 18, 1863

Noteworthy: Mrs. Sarah Foust,
It becomes my painful duty to inform you of the death of your Husband, Peter L. Foust. He was killed in the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July 1, 1863.
It is of course a great irredeemable loss, none but those(--) actually the (-) can appreciate (--)(--) Husband. (--)There is (one consol-) (ation) for you, (that you) can rest ass(ured) he died in a good (cause), died bravely defending the Flag of our Country. In his death the regiment loses a good and brave Soldier, the Company C Soldier, always ready and willing to do all duty allotted. (-) A noble sacrifice on the altar of his Country.
On behalf of the company allow me me to present their heartfelt sympathy in your great bereavement, any further intelligence or assistance can afford you, I will freely give.

Lie tenant J. N. Potts
Comdg. Co, "C", 19th Ind.

Doc. #11 of 13: Official Document detailing Peter L. Foust's physical description, length of service and record of a debt owed his family by the U. S. Government for the amount of \$5.44
Given in Duplicate at Rappahamoc, Virginia, dated, August 12, 1863.
Signed by William W. Macy, 1st Lieutenant Commanding Company.

Doc. #12 of 13: Document noting the Inventory of the effects of Private Peter L. Foust of Captain Joseph F. Ives, Company C, 19th Regiment of Indiana Infantry Volunteers that describes the following: His physical appearance, and when and where Private Foust was killed.

Noteworthy: Private Foust "was buried with all his effects that the enemy left on his person by one of our fatigue parties."
Signed by William W. Macy, 1st Lieutenant, Commanding the Company, Rappahannock, Virginia, dated August 12, 1863.

Doc. #13 of 13: "Casualty Sheet" listing the death of Peter L. Foust, his company, regiment place and date of his discharge, certified by Lt.. W. W. Macy, and Clerk, E. Buel. The information was obtained from Register Deed of Soldier's, Volume 1, 1863.

Following the Private Peter L. Foust Collection is a copy condensed from: Chapter Nine, Iron Men: Iron Will, "The Nineteenth Indiana Regiment of the Iron Brigade." 393 Pages, 50 Images, Charts, Rosters, and Maps. By Craig L. Dunn, Published by: Guild Press of Indiana. Hardback \$29.95 Softback \$24.95 (This gives a very concise account of the Nineteenth Indiana Infantry Regiment at the Battle of Gettysburg).

Copies may be ordered from the author at: Craig Dunn, P. O. Box 749, Kokomo, Indiana (46903-0749) Please include \$3.50 for Shipping.
