

Foster, Francis ^[1]

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by J. Marshall Bullock, 1986

d. after 1735

Francis Foster, colonial Council member, was the son of William and Margaret Foster of Accomack, Va. The earliest record of Foster in North Carolina occurs in January 1689, when one Anthony Dawson successfully brought suit against him in the Perquimans Precinct court to recover a carpenter's adz. Foster served as a justice on the Perquimans Precinct court from January to October 1700 and again in 1702 and 1703. He is recorded as being a member of the Council from 1705 until 1710, but it was not until 10 Aug. 1714 that he presented to the Council his appointment as deputy for Lord Proprietor John Dawson. Foster served on the Council or upper house of the Assembly as Dawson's deputy from 1714 until 1725. When Dawson died in 1724, leaving his proprietorship entangled in legal affairs, the other Lords Proprietors ^[2] appointed Foster to the Council where he served until 1731. While on the Council, he was involved in such issues as the "Six Confirmed Laws," which codified all statutes prior to 1715 not deemed obsolete; legislation in 1715 for establishing the Anglican church ^[3] in the colony; and the proceedings concerning the running of the dividing line between North Carolina and Virginia ^[4] in 1728.

Perquimans Precinct court records reveal that in January 1697 Foster proved headrights ^[5] for William Foster, Frances Foster, Jane Swetman, and a Black woman, but the relation between them and Foster is not known. On 14 Aug. 1694 Foster married Mrs. Hannah Gosby, widow of John Gosby. In 1699 Thomas Hallon, an orphan, was bound to Foster and his wife until he came of age. Foster was an Anglican, being appointed a vestryman in Perquimans Parish in 1715. The last reference to Foster was made in June 1735, when he was listed as being in arrears of his quitrent ^[6] from September 1729 to March 1732 on 186 acres in Perquimans Precinct.

References:

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Additional Resources:

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Minutes of the Perquimans Precinct Court January 11, 1704 - January 12, 1704." Colonial and State Records of North Carolina volume 01. 604-607. Documenting the American South, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr01-0308> ^[8] (accessed August 8, 2013).

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