Introduction...

It is the goal of every amateur genealogist to find his or her American Immigrant. It is no less with the hundreds of descendants of our southern branch of Fosters. This treatise is not intended to influence, persuade, conjole, or demand that anyone change anyone's belief as to our Foster immigrant. It is intended to present as many facts as is historically possible and then let each one decide for him or herself. For many years our Foster immigrant was believed to be the Richard Foster who came to America in 1635 on the Ship *Safety*. From the best I can find this premise originated from the research of Mrs. Julian Lane of Atlanta, Georgia. Mrs. Lane, a Foster descendant and professional genealogist, used the Richard Foster of the 1635 *Safety* to join the Colonial Dames. Since then, Richard has appeared in numerous genealogical reports as the immigrant without challenge or documentation. In addition to Mrs. Lane we are also in debt to a number of other Foster researchers. Among whom are Gerneva Foster Dennis of Texas, Miriam Dye, now of Chicago, Illinois, Norman Foster of North Carolina, Richard Foster of Alexandria, Virginia, and others who have researched early records in search of our immigrant. Please consider the following information.

1624

On July 3, 1624, Mrs. Dorcas Foster was married at St. Dunstan's Church, in Stepney, London, England to Bartholomew Hoskins of Jamestown, Virginia and London, England. Dorcas Foster was described as a widow with several small children. Bartholomew Hoskins, an ancient planter, was in Virginia by 1616. He undoubtedly made a number of trips from Virginia and England as he maintained a home in each location. On one of these trips back to England he married Mrs. Dorcas Foster. The maiden name of Dorcas is yet unknown as is the name of her Foster husband. Bartholomew and Dorcas made their home in Elizabeth City, Lower Norfolk County, Virginia.


*Note*: *Carraway-Foster-Williams(on) 1601 - 1706 misidentified the wife of Bartholomew Hoskins as Ann Fossit (Foster)*

1635

A Richard Foster sailed from London on August 10, 1635 on the ship *Safety* and arrived in Jamestown, Virginia that fall. He was but sixteen years old; born in 1619-20. We find on that same ship were: Bartholomew Hoskins, John Gloster (Foster), age 23, Robert Fister (Foster), age 20, Robert Piscer (possibly Foster), age 44, and Elizabeth Piscer (Foster), age 16. We make the assumption that the surnames, Piscer, and Fister were misinterpreted because in subsequent documents the name Foster appears. Some researchers have assumed that Elizabeth Foster was a twin sister to Richard and that Robert Foster, age 20, was Richard's older brother. There is sufficient information to make that assumption about Robert, but not about Elizabeth.
Bartholomew Hoskins, aged 35 years, came to Virginia on the Safety in 1635 (Hotten). As he was here in Dale's time (1616), this must have been a return from a visit to England. He was a vestryman of Lynnhaven Parish in 1640, and member of the House of Burgesses for Lower Norfolk County, October, 1649, March 1651-2, and November, 1654 (Henning)

Note: It has been established that Bartholomew Hoskins first came to Virginia before 1616, however we do not know when his wife, Dorcas first arrived. We know that Dorcas had "several" children. Could they have been Richard, Elizabeth, and Robert? We can assume that she did not leave them in England. Dorcas was born ca. 1601 in England as she was 34 in 1635. If the twenty-year-old Robert Foster, of the Safety, was her son, she must have been married ca 1615/16. She would have been young, but not too young to have born a child.

1636

Assuming the above to be correct, Bartholomew, Dorcas and her and their children made their home in Elizabeth City County. In 1636 Elizabeth City County was divided into Elizabeth City County and New Norfolk. The next year New Norfolk County was divided into Lower County, New Norfolk County, and Upper County New Norfolk. Almost immediately Lower County New Norfolk was renamed Lower Norfolk County and in 1642 Upper County New Norfolk was renamed Nansemond County. Consequently, the Hoskins family, without moving, found themselves living in Lower Norfolk County, Virginia before 1637.

1637

A Richard Foster (ffoster) received 300 acres of land granted in Lower Norfolk, Virginia on May 22, 1637. His land was on the north side of the East branch of the Elizabeth River. We must assume that this Richard Foster was not the stepson of Bartholomew as he would not be of the age to own land; he being only eighteen years old. We do not know when this Richard Foster of Lower Norfolk County came to Virginia. We do know that he was born ca 1616 or before and is later referred to as attorney.

Note: We now have two Richard Fosters in Lower Norfolk County, Virginia by 1637. To keep them separate the Richard Foster of the Safety will be designated (A) and the attorney (B). Richard Foster (B) will later marry Dorcas Hoskins, daughter of Bartholomew and Dorcas Foster Hoskins. Consequently one Richard Foster is a stepson (proof later) of Bartholomew Hoskins and one Richard Foster, attorney, will become his son-in-law. Both are literate.
1638

By this time Richard Foster (A) was ca. 19 years of age and Richard Foster (B) was ca. 22. Both are living in Lower Norfolk County. In 1638 Thomas Wallace transported another Richard Foster (C) to Virginia for which he received a land patent in James City County.

**SOURCE**: *Cavaliers and Pioneers, 1623-1666* Nugent; p. 94 *Early Immigrants in Virginia*, p. 118

**Note**: This Richard Foster (C) is probably the Richard Foster that is illiterate.

**SOURCE**: *Colonial Records of Virginia, 1623-1666*

1639

Richard Foster (A) refers to Bartholomew Hoskins as his father (we know that he is actually his step-father.) Richard was only a child when his biological father died according to a deposition in the county in which he lived (Lower Norfolk County.) March 2, 1639/40: "Richard Foster sayeth that his father Bartholomew Hoskins did buy 200 acres of land of Henry Hawkins and Robert Taylor for one cowe and calfe and two yearlings about five weeks before Christmas was two years and that he gave sixpence in earnest of the said bargain to the said Henry Hawkins."

**SOURCES**: *Lower Norfolk County, Virginia, Book A 1637-1646*, Walters, p 12a; *Carroway - Foster - Williamson and Bartholomew Hoskins 1601 1707*: Alice Granberry Walter, p. 4

Richard Foster (A) made a deposition in Lower Norfolk County

**SOURCE**: *Lower Norfolk Minute Book 1637-1643*, p. 27

Bartholomew Hoskins, gent. and wife of Elizabeth City are on a ship to sail from England to Virginia.

**SOURCE**: *American Colonists in England*

1640

A Richard Foster married Ann Jackson. "Richard Foster and Anne, his wife were married the 19th day of November 1640. Shee the said Anne as it is reported hath deserved sic for child." Later references names Anne's name as Jackson.

**SOURCE**: *Lower Norfolk County Court Receipts, Book A 1637-1646*, p. 64 *Carroway-Foster-Williams(on) 1601 - 1706*

Whereas it appeareth by bill that Richard Foster is indebted unto M...?.. Utie the now wife of Richard Bennett, Exqr.: in the same (sum) sic 260 lb tobacco old debt and 1 barrel of corne in
satisfaction where he is hereby ordered by the 24 December next to make payment on the some of 114 lb of tobacco stript and smooth otherwise execusion."

**SOURCE**: *Lower Norfolk County Book B*, p.105

A Richard Foster is a debtor in Lower Norfolk County, Virginia.  
**SOURCE**: *Lower Norfolk County Minutes Book A 1637 - 1643*, pp. 82-83, 91, 98, 128

March 15, 1640/41: "Whereass it appears to this court by speciality that Owine Hayes is indebted unto Richard Foster the quanity of 3 barrels of corne and 20 l tob script and smooth. It is therefore ordered that the said Owine Hayes shall within 30 days make payment of the said corne and tobacco according to the ....?... of this bill with charges of the Court otherwise executed to be awarded."

**SOURCE**: *Lower Norfolk County Book A*, p.105  
**Note**: Which of these Richard Fosters? (A), (B), or (C) married Anne Jackson? There is really no certain way of telling. However, Richard Foster (B) will later marry Dorcas Hoskins. So knowing that Ann Hoskins did not marry Richard Foster (B) this leaves Richard Foster (A) and (C) for her husband. All indication points to her marriage to Richard Foster (C), but there is no proof!

1641

April 15, 1641: Richard Foster was still the husband of Anne Jackson Foster who was in court charged with fornication. These charges were brought by an Ann Gaskine. She charged that Anne had a child not conceived at home.

**SOURCE**: *Lower Norfolk County Minutes Book 1637-1648*, p. 98, *Hoskins of Virginia and Related Families*, Warner, p. 16

A Richard Foster met in Deposition.  
**SOURCE**: *Lower Norfolk County Minutes 163-1648*

A Richard Foster was ordered to pay a debt in Lower Norfolk County, Virginia.  
**SOURCE**: *Lower Norfolk County Wills and Deeds, 1637-1646*, pp. 81, 87, 98, 138.

Dorcas Foster Hoskins was in England in 1641 for in that year she presented a petition to the House of Lords "on behalf of her said husband now in Virginia - that all proceedings in a suite commenced by John Carter and Joane his wife against the said Bartholomew Hoskins may be stayed."
**SOURCE:** Hoskins of Virginia and Related Families, Warner, p.16

Note: After 1641 there is no longer a mention of Ann Jackson Foster in the Lower Norfolk County records. Whether she died or she simply remained married to Richard Foster and settled down we do not know. We do know that Richard defended her vigorously at court and the woman who brought the charges was given a sentence of 30 lashes.

1642

A Richard Foster, creditor  
**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County Wills and Deeds, p. 117

A Richard Foster was a Debtor in Lower Norfolk County.  
**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County Minutes Book, 1637-1643, p. 175

A Richard Foster was Plantiff in Lower Norfolk County.  
**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County Wills and Deeds 1637-1643, p. 158

1643

January 16, 1642/43: "Richard Foster hath seet up his name to give notice that by God's Grace he intends to goe for England this present shipping."

**SOURCE:** Carraway - Foster - Williamson and Bartholomew Hoskins 1607 - 1706, Alice Granberry Walters

Note: Which of the Richard Foster identified as living in Lower Norfolk County, Virginia went to England, (A), (B), or (C)? It is important to know as the two Richard Fosters remaining are responsible for the further transactions in Lower Norfolk County. I believe that we will identify him later in our discussion as Richard Foster (B).

1644

August 20, 1644 Robert Lawrence and Ellis Brown received 400 acres adjacent Richard Worster (ffoster) in Lower Norfolk County  
**SOURCE:** Cavaliers and Pioneers, Nugent; Vol.1, Patent Book 2, p. 2

Note: This is probably the land patented by Richard Foster (B) on May 22, 1637. However does it matter?

1645

A Richard Foster is ordered to pay a debt in Lower Norfolk County. A Richard Foster is a Creditor in Lower Norfolk County.
1646

November 17, 1646: a Richard Worster (ffoster) is indebted unto James Warner for 247 pounds of tobacco. Payment is ordered to be made.

SOURCE: Lower Norfolk County, Book B, p. 11

December 16, 1646: "The difference in suite between Mr. MATH PHILLIPPS, plaintiff against ROGER WILLIAMSON and RICHARD FOSTER, defendants by consent, is referred to the next court to bee heard and determined."

Note: Roger Williamson was the first husband of Ann Foster, brother to Richard Foster (A).

SOURCE: Lower Norfolk County, Book B, 1646-1751, p. 10a

December 16, 1646, "Paid to Richard Foster for the boyes keeping."

SOURCE: Lower Norfolk County, Deed Book, p. 19a

A Richard Foster is in debt to James Warner.

1647

February 15, 1646/47: A Richard Worster (Foster) ordered to pay unto Arthur Brown, Merchant: 347 1 tob.o and caske (?)

SOURCE: Lower Norfolk County, Book B, 1646-1651, Walter, p. 27

Note: We know that Ann Foster Willamson (born 1620 and 43 years old in 1663) and Richard Foster (A) are siblings of Dorcas Foster Hoskins and that Roger Williamson, whom Ann married June 5, 1646, was her first husband. Who are the Richard Fosters involved in the above transactions?

August 16, 1647: at inquest concerning death of Jacob Bradshawe deceased April 11, 1747; a Richard Foster is involved.

SOURCE: Lower Norfolk County 1646-1661/62, Book B, p.50
August 16, 1647: "It was ordered that Richard f Foster, Owen Hayes, and Isabell, his wife, Johyn Wacey, and Edmond Lindsay, als yoeman doe personaly appears at the next Court to answer unto such matter as they bee demaunded."

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County Will and Deed Book B, p. 51A

December 16, 1647: "Richard f Foster doth promise to deliver upon demand unto Mr. Car: Lloyd Gent:...........one cowe...being at Linhaven at the plantation of Edward Hall."

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County, Book B, p. 59

**Note:** It is likely that the Richard involved in the investigation into the death of Jacob Branshawe was a Richard Foster which will be designated (C). He is presumed illiterate since he used a mark "W" on the document instead of signing his name - both Richard Foster (A) and (B) are literate. Again we are left with no indication which of the Richard Fosters is involved in the above activities. The last entry on December 16, 1647 probably referred to Richard Foster, (B) attorney?

1648

A Richard Foster arrived in Virginia in 1648 transported by Bartholomew Hoskins.

**SOURCE:** Early Virginia Emigrants, 1628-1648, p. 118 George C. Greer

A Richard Foster married Dorcas Hoskins around this date (give or take a few years.) She was the daughter of Bartholomew and Dorcas Foster Hoskins. This is not Richard Foster (A) as she (Dorcas) is his half-sister; consequently it must have been Richard Foster (B), the attorney.

January 1648: Bartholomew Hoskins received a land patent of 1350 acres on the southside of Rappahanock River for the transport of several persons, including "Richard Foster, 2 times";

**SOURCE:** Cavaliers and Pioneers, Patent Book 5, p.182

February 15, 1648: "Richard Foster (B), attorney of Richard Foster (A) to deliver unto John Caraway who hath intermarried with the relict of Roger Williamson, DEC's for the use of Sarah Williamson the cowe and all her increase which was bequeathed until Sarah by Richard (A), the god-father of Sarah when he went to England the said John Caraway (sic) in security for same."

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County, 1646-1651, 106a
March 6, 1648: "400 acres Lower Norfolk County - Lying on the Nwd side of Broad Creek being a branch of the Ewd branch of Elizabeth River sd land granted to Henry Watson 10 June 1639 & by the relict of Watson assigned to Richard Foster & by him assigned to Richard Day & Richard Woodman (or Woolman) & 200 acres the residue due sd Woolman for trans. Of 4 persons & the whole 400 acres purchased of Day & Woolman.:

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County Records, Alice Granberry Walter

June 15, 1648: "Richard Foster (A) att his going for England being five years or thereabouts did give and bequeath unto Sarah Williamson daughter of Roger Williamson one Cowe Calfe......Richard Foster, attorney of Foster ordered to give the cowe calfe & her increase to the child for her use.

**NOTE:** The attorney, Richard Foster (B) was the attorney for Richard Foster (A)

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County 1646-1651/52, p.78

June 18, 1648: Richard Foster (B), attorney promises to deliver a Plantation upon demand of Edward and Mrs. Car: Lloyd Hale

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County, Book B, p. 6

February 1647/48: Richard Foster's bell 0 6 0 0.

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County, Book B, p. 66

June 15, 1648: Richard Foster (A) "att his going for England being five years or thereabouts did give and bequeath unto Sarah Williamson, daughter of Roger Williamson one cow calf......Richard Foster (B), attorney of Foster (A) ordered to give cow calf and her increase to the child for her use........Richard Foster (A)."

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County, Book B, p. 78

February 15, 1647/48: "Richard Foster (A) to look after David Neals bels of 215; 1 barrell from Richard Foster, next year."

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County, Book B, p. 67

*Note: If it was Richard Foster (B) who went to England in 1642 he was obviously back in Lower Norfolk County serving as attorney to Richard Foster (A) who is preparing to go to England. It is obvious that Richard Foster (B) who married Dorcas Hoskins, served as attorney*
to Richard Foster (A) and that Dorcas Hoskins was a half-sister to Richard (A). It is also clear that it was Richard Foster (A) who left for England, as he is seen leaving a deed of gift (some say will?) to his niece, Sarah Williamson with Richard Foster (B) acting as his attorney. Richard Foster (A) and Richard Foster (B) are now one-half brother-in-laws. We will find later that Richard Foster (A) did stay in England his full five years returning to Virginia in 1654. We can now assume that the entries after Richard Foster (A) left for England, are those of Richard Foster (B) and/or Richard Foster (C).

1649

February 1, 1648/49: Richard Foster (B) "to pay Will: Shipp 500 1 tobo with allowance for Caske....dur Specialty."

SOURCE: Lower Norfolk County, Book B, and 106

February 15, 1648/49: "Richard Foster (B), attorney to deliver unto John Carroway who hath intermarried with Relict of Roger Williams (on) sic dec'd for use of Sarah Williamson the cowe and all of her increase which was bequeathed unto Sarah by Richard Foster (A), the godfather of Sarah, when he went to England. The said John Carroway putting in security for same."


April 9, 1649: James Warner was appointed Administrator of the estate of Benjamin Foster who died in testate, leaving an estate.

SOURCE: Lower Norfolk County 1646-1651/52

Benjamin's widow was Joane. She married a second time, Richard Yeats, August 31, 1649

SOURCE: Lower Norfolk County 1646-1651/2, pp. 123-124

June 15, 1649: Richard Foster (B) appointed Constable for the Eastern Shore of Linhaven

SOURCE: Lower Norfolk County 1646-1651/52, p. 118

August 15, 1649: "It was ordered that Richard Foster, Joseph Burch, Abraham Thomas, Thomas Wright and Lawrence Phillips, Constables shall take a list of Tythable psons with in their limits and exhit the same unto the Court to bee holden on the first of October next."
November 30, 1649: "Upon mutual consent of Richard Foster (B) plt and John Carroway deft. Certified to ye court by Mr. Tho. Lambert and Thomas Tooker...case depending on next Court."

SOURCE: Lower Norfolk County, Book B, and 130a

Richard Foster ordered to pay in Lower Norfolk County.

SOURCE: Lower Norfolk County Wills and Deeds 1646-1651/52, p. 134

February 15, 1648/49: "Richard Foster (B) att of Richard Foster (A) to deliver unto John Carroway which has intermarried with relict of Roger Williamson, dec'd for use of Sarah Williamson the Cowe and all her increase which was bequeathed unto Sarah by RICH: the godfather of Sarah, when he went for England. The said John Caraway putting in security for same."

SOURCE: Lower Norfolk County, Book B, p 106a

April 9, 1649: "James Warner was apptd. To be Adm of the estate of Benjamin Foster, dec'd of Lower Norfolk County, Virginia. Benjamin's wife. Joane m 2nd time to Richard Yeats."

SOURCE: Lower Norfolk County, Book B, p.113

1650

November 1, 1650: a Richard Foster received a certificate for a land patent for the transportation of himself, his wife Dorcas Foster, Sr. and daughter, Dorcas Foster, Jr. and a Richard Streeete and Henry Williams.

SOURCE: Lower Norfolk County, Book B, p. 155 and Cavaliers and Pioneers 1623-1666, p. 249

February 15, 1649/50: "The difference depending between Rich. Foster and John Carroway is referred to ye next court of ye sd Foster in ye (interim?) shall procure Mr. Jno. Meares in his oath that ye sd Meares had never had any dealings with ye sd Foster but only 6 hhad (hogshead) of tobo. that was paid Mr. Marsh for him at plunt point. (This might refer to Blunt Point on the South side of the James River in Warwick County.)"
February 27, 1649/50 'Upon the Peticon of John Workman…..ordered the Rich. Foster Constable, shall deliver unto ye sd Workman such clothing and other things as he hath of his having been brought to him by an Indian Man.............." 

February 27, 1649/50: Tobacco payd Richard Foster for bt......160 total debts amt to 3804 

A Richard Foster..."also known as Richard ffoster in Lower Norfolk County, Virginia." 

July 8, 1650: Land patented to Ralph Greene, "Being a neck of land on the N. side of York R. within Bennetts Crk. HR (Headright): Gilbert Mace, George Turner, Mary Turner, Mary Foster, and Thomas Williams." 

Note: The top of this page is torn and the following could be a will of deed of gift. "Unto Sarah Williams (on) sic...(cows with descriptions)...until said Sarah arrives at the yeres of 16.......in case she should dye before she is at age to owne cows them, that then they should be equally divided amongst the rest of the children of Roger Williams(on) sic and John Carraways that shall be livinge, Dated July 31, 1650. ...." witnessed by Robert Eyre and Simond , S.H. Hancocke. Signed,( Richard Foster) 

November 15, 1650: 

SOURCE: Abstracts of Lower Norfolk County, Book B, p. 160 Note: We do not know who this Benjamin Foster, who died in 1650, is or how or if he is related to Richard Foster (A), (B) or (C). It now seems logical that the Richard Foster that went to England in 1642 was Richard Foster (B) as we see that he received a certificate for a land patent in 1650 for the transport of himself, wife, Dorcas, and daughter, Dorcas, Jr. It is of little consequence; however, as we have seen that Richard Foster (B) cannot be our immigrant. The remaining entries in 1650 obviously involve Richard Foster (B), attorney or Richard Foster (C). Who is this Mary Foster mentioned above?
1651

Richard Foster (A) is in his third year in England. April 15, 1651: Thomas Watkins received a certificate for land for paying the transportation of a Sussan Foster from England to Virginia. A Richard Foster payed for the transportation from England to Virginia, a Mary and Ellen Foster. April 29, 1651: "Bartholomew Hoskins of Elizabeth River….Planter have freely given and delivered unto Henry Barlowe living in ye said river a cowe calf of a year old which he hath marked." (Signed) Richard Foster (B)

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County, Book B, p. 178

June 1651, 1651: "To next Court" Richard Pinner agst Richard Foster to next court (this is all that is written.)

CERTIFICATE: to Richard Foster (B) for 250 acres for transportation of himself, Dorcas Foster, his wife, Dorcas Foster, his daughter, Richard Steete, and Henry Lewis."

**SOURCE:** Abstracts of Lower Norfolk County Wills, p. 7
**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County, Book B, p. 181

October 30, 1651: "Richard Foster (A) agst. Roger Williams (on) sic ordered that ye land in question be equally divided between sd Foster and the children of the wife of sd William (on) sic being orphans - by Richard Whitenshurst, Richard Foster (B), John Chandler, Henry Nicholls, Mr.s, sic John Sidney and William Mosely are requested to be there present and to be done by the 23 October 1651."

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County, Book B, p.1881

October 30, 1651: Richard Foster ordered to pay unto John Martin 747 lbs. tobacco and caske with "forbarence and court charges."

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County, Book B, p.188a

Same court October 23, 1651: "At a peticon (petition) of Richard Water. John Carroway ordered to pay his share of the debt due Richard Pinner as per order of the last court."

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County, Book B, p.189a

"LEIFT THOMAS LAMBERT appointed collector for ye Eastern and Southern Branches in Elizabeth River from 104 tytheable psons at 65 p poll which amounts to......... To MR.
BARTHOLOMEW HOSKINS in full for Burgesses charges 1170 To Mr. Foster for killing one woolfe.  0100

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County, Virginia, 2 November-15 January 1651/2, Walter, p. 200a

*Note: These entries and others which deal with legal matters in the year 1651 are assumed to involve Richard Foster (B) as Richard Foster (A) is in England and Richard Foster (C) is illiterate.*

**1652**

It is Richard Foster's (A) fourth year in England. We have no knowledge what he is doing there, if he is married, if he having children, etc.

July 5, 1652: Thomas Watkins received land patent on Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River in Lower Norfolk County for the transport of Sussan Foster from England to Virginia

**SOURCE:** Cavaliers and Pioneers

Richard Foster: collector of tithables in Lower Norfolk County

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County Wills and Deeds 1651-1656, p.12

*Note: One would like to say that the Sussan (Garnett?) Foster transported from England to Virginia by Thomas Watkins was the wife of Richard Foster (A). However, all we can really say is that which is stated. If she was the wife of Richard, why is someone else paying her passage to Virginia? Why is she leaving Richard in England? (as he has another year to live there.) If she is the wife of Richard Foster (A), does she have children? Were they left in England or transported? Who are Mary and Ellen Foster transported from England to America by a Richard Foster? Are these the children of Richard and Sussan Foster? If so, then why are they leaving England on a separate ship than their mother? Ship manifests do not give the ages of the passengers so we do not know if Mary and Ellen are children or adults. All we can really say is that they are transported by a Richard Foster that we cannot identify.*

**1653**

Richard Foster (A) is in his fifth and final year in England. In Lower Norfolk County, Virginia a Richard Foster (B) is being called Captain Richard Foster in some deeds and wills.

October 28, 1853/54: Deed. Dated October 28, 1652, "Richard Foster sells Wm. Warde 50 acres in Bennetts Creek and adj. SW on land which did belong to William Est and now belongs to John Stratton the son of John Stratton, and is part of land belonging to James Sterling." (Signed) Richard (X ) Foster Wit. James Sterling
November 26, 1653: a Richard Foster received a land patent 250 acres in Linnhaven Parish in Lower Norfolk County. Virginia at the head of the Broad Creek running s.s.w. near a swamp thence w.n.w. etc. for the transport of himself, his wife, Dorcas, and his daughter, Dorcas Jr.

The same year, 1653, Richard Foster is a member of the House of Burgesses.

July 5, 1653: Thomas Watkin received 50 acres lying in the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River for the transport of Sussan Foster.

1654

Richard Foster (A) sailed from Bristol, England destination Virginia. He has spent five years in England and is now back in Lower Norfolk County, Virginia.

March 25, 1653/54: A Richard Foster sold 50 acres on Bennetts Creek in Lower Norfolk County, Virginia. He signed with an "X".
Richard Foster was called a Land Owner in Lower Norfolk County, Virginia.

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County Wills and Deeds 1651-1656, p.114

Richard Foster, Juror, Lower Norfolk County, Virginia

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County Wills and Deeds 1651-1656, p.114

December 4, 1654, Edward Simpson received land, "300 acs. adjoining his land, Ashwell Battern and Leo. Chamberlaine on Pepetico Creek, HR: Robert Foster

**SOURCE:** Records of Colonial Gloucester County, Virginia, p. 67

*Note: Are we to assume that the Richard Foster that signed his name with an "X" is either Richard Foster (C) or a fourth Richard Foster (D) in Lower Norfolk County and must then join the list of Richards who could be our immigrant? Now, since we know that both Richard (A) and (B) are literate we have an urge to disregard (C) and/or (D) as possible candidates - should we? We also must assume that the Richard Foster who sailed from England to Virginia was Richard Foster (A). Do we really know that? No, but likely it was him. How who is this Robert Foster mentioned above?*

1655

April 1, 1655: A Richard Foster received a land patent on head of the Southard Creek in Severne, in Mockjack Bay (Abbingdon Parish, Gloucester Co., Virginia.)

**Source:** Cavaliers and Pioneers Book 5, p. 490 Land to Richard Foster, "On the head of the southward creek in Severne R. of Mockjack Bay, on Coll: Lundlows line. HR: Ellen Foster, Mary Foster, Sarah Davis, Robert Bynam, Fran. Bignall. Land due for last. Renewal."

**SOURCE:** Virginia Land Patents of the Counties of Norfolk, Princess Anne, & Warwick, Books O-G 1666-1679, Walters, p. 64 Records of Colonial Gloucester County, Virginia, p. 67

*Note: This entry is most critical in determining our immigrant. Is Richard Foster (A) selling his land in Lower Norfolk County and moving to Gloucester County or is the Richard Foster living in Gloucester County an entirely new Richard Foster (E)? It is interesting that George Ludlow must have known both Richard Fosters in Lower Norfolk County and that he bought land in Gloucester close to another Richard Foster. Are (A) and (E) the same? It seems too coincidental that old George would known three Richard Fosters in that day and time. Who knows? It is certainly possible and doesn't prove or disprove a thing. In addition, who are Ellen and Mary Foster and who/which Richard Foster paid for their passage? He lived on the head of the southward Creek in Severne River where we find Richard Foster (C)
Richard Foster is a Member of the House of Burgesses Jamestown


Richard Foster appraised an Estate in Lower Norfolk County.

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County Wills and Deeds 1651-1656, p.146

**Note:** Again, it is critical to identify the above Richard Fosters. It is most likely that the Richard who is a member of the House of Burgesses is Richard Foster (B). Did (B) also appraise the estate? We have no way of knowing if these are the same Richards. If these are (A) and (B), then the Richard Foster who patented land in Gloucester County is (E) and possibly ours as we know that both John and Robert Foster (sons of our immigrant) were "of Gloucester County".

1656

Richard Foster (B) member of the House of Burgesses from Lower Norfolk Co., VA

**SOURCE:** Journals of the House of Burgesses 119-1659, p. 33

Richard Foster (B) called Capt. Richard Foster was a member of the House of Burgesses, Lower Norfolk County, Virginia.

**SOURCE:** The Statutes at Large, Vol. 1, p. 414

Captain Richard Foster (B) Present at the General Assembly, Jamestown.

**SOURCE:** The Statutes at Large, Henning, Vol.1, p. 414

Richard Foster (B), Commissioner (Justice of the Peace) in Lower Norfolk County, Virginia.

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County Wills and Deeds 1651-1656, pp. 1,42, 44, 557, 64, 170, and 225.

Richard Foster (B) Present in Court in Lower Norfolk County

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County Wills and Deeds 165-1656, p. 217

**Note:** Are we to assume that these entries involve only Richard Foster (B). If so, where is
Richard Foster (A)? If we assume that both Richard Fosters participate in the above entries, then the Richard Foster in Gloucester County is Richard Foster (E).

1657

Richard Foster, Sheriff in Lower Norfolk County

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County Wills and Deeds 1656-1666, p.72

Richard Foster, High Sheriff of Lower Norfolk County p. ?

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County Wills and Deeds 1656-1666

Richard Foster, Commissioner (Justice of the Peace)

**SOURCE** Wills Lower Norfolk County and Deeds 1656-1666, p. 72

*Note:* This is critical! Are both of these Richard Fosters (B) or is one of them Richard Foster (A). If they are not the same then, our Richard (E) is probably on his plantation in Gloucester County. If they are the same, then Richard (A) could be the Richard on the plantation in Gloucester County. Can the same man be Sheriff, High Sheriff, and Commissioner at the same time or in the same year?

1658

Richard Foster: Member of House of Burgesses

**SOURCE:** The General Assembly of Virginia, 1619-1678

Richard Foster, Commissioner in Lower Norfolk County.

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County Wills and Deeds, 1656-1666, p.197

Richard Foster petitioned the Court in Lower Norfolk County.

**SOURCE:** Lower Norfolk County Wills and Deeds 1656-1666, p. 70

Richard Foster, Commissioner in Lower Norfolk County; Judgement for Lower Norfolk County.
Richard Foster was involved in a Court Case.

Richard Foster was a Member of the House of Burgesses

August 31, 1658: Land to Ralph Green, "On N side of York R., from Jones Crk to creek dividing.................HR:.......Geo. Foster

Richard Foster Commissioner in Lower Norfolk County. Judgement for Lower Norfolk County

Richard Foster appraised an estate in Lower Norfolk County

Richard Foster, Commissioner, Lower Norfolk County

Note: Are these the same Richard Fosters or are they (A) and (B)?
"Margaret Foster and Richard Foster, yeoman, bound to Thomas Willis, mariner, to serve 4 years in Virginia."

**SOURCE:** The Complete Book of Emigrants 1607-1660, Coldham, p. 463

**Note:** Here we have another Richard Foster, however, can he be discounted from being our ancestor?

**1661**

No records of significance could be found

**1662**

March 18, 1662, Richard Foster (A) or (E) renewed his patent on the Southern Creek on Mockjack Bay, Gloucester County. March 18, 1662 Richard Foster (B) renewed the patent on his land of 250 acres in Linhaven Parish, Lower Norfolk Co., Virginia. Renewal of patent dated 25 November 1653

**SOURCE:** Cavaliers and Pioneers, Patent Book 1, Part 1, p. 473

"Robert Coleman, 110 acs. Gloster "sic" March 18, 1662. On main branch of Burnts Creek.......land runing N.W. by N. & to Richard Foster land then ..........".

**SOURCE:** Cavaliers and Pioneers 1623-1666, p. 508

October 28, 1672: BARTHEW: WILLIAMSON 110 acres in Lower Norfolk County according to the antient (sic) lawful bounds formally granted to Robert Worster (Foster?) and is lately found to escheat &c........(this name should be Foster. It has been found in other records spelled this same way)

**Note:** there is on patent to Richard Worster in Nugent however there are several to RICHARD FOSTER

**Note:** A Richard Foster renewed his patent on land on Southern Creek on Mockjack Bay in Gloucester County, Virginia the same day that Richard Foster (A) was renewing his patent on land in Linhaven Parish, Lower Norfolk County, Virginia. Is there something significant about both patents being renewed on the same day? Did they know each other? Were they kinfolk?

If the Richard Foster who patented land in Gloucester County was Richard Foster (A) then the two men were brothers-in-law as Richard Foster (B) is married to Richard Fosters (A) half sister, Dorcas Hoskins. If the Richard Foster who patented the land in Gloucester County is Richard Foster (E) could not they still be kin even though we have no records to indicate
such? If they are not kin does it have any bearing on his being our immigrant? Who is this Robert Foster. Could it be the son of our Richard. If so then Robert had to be born in 1651 or prior to this date. This makes Robert at least 21 years old - old enough to patent land on his own.

1663

Richard Foster (B) and his wife Dorcas Hoskins Foster of Lower Norfolk County moved with Dorcas' brother, Bartholomew Hoskins, Jr. to Albermarle County, North Carolina (present day Carrituck County). Bartholomew Hoskins, Sr. is dead by this time. This land in Old Albermarle County is just across the state line adjacent to Lower Norfolk County. So they were not moving far. They were in North Carolina on March 24, 1662/63.

Richard Foster (B), son-in-law of Bartholomew Hoskins, was called Major Foster in North Carolina. He was a Councilman in Albermarle County.

SOURCE: Old Albermarle County, North Carolina Miscellaneous Records 1678 - 1737, Weynette Parks Haun

April 22, 1663: 'Endorsed September 7, 1683 - an Indenture made 22 April 1663 between Thomas Willoughby, Lemuell Mason and Richard Foster in Lower Norfolk County.....we the said partyes Covneated, concluded and agree with the other mutually that we will settle a plantation to the southward upon a certaine tract of land which goes by the name of WHITE's ISLAND and another piece of land right over the western end of the afsd Whites Island (inniconed?) which marsh called WALNUT NECK wherein each of us have an equal share and proportional Right and.....?....proportional charge boath for building and stock boath in Catl & hogggs for profitt and cost till such time as it bee further concluded between." Us.................

Wit: Richard Thompson Tho. Willoughby
Warner Eth....?... Lem Mason
Richard Foster

Note: If Richard Foster (B) has gone to North Carolina and Richard Foster (A) or (C) is in Gloucester County, then who is this Richard Foster?

1664

No records of significance are found in Lower Norfolk County Records or Gloucester (what there is of them.)

1672

March 18, 1672/73: On swamp dividing this land of Daniel Clark and Richard Foster.
October 28, 1672: "Bartholomew Williamson (son of Ann Foster Williamson Carroway, sister of Richard Foster (A)) received land of Robert Foster that is escheat."

There could be found no significant records in Lower Norfolk County.

Note: If this is the Robert Foster of the 1635 Safety, could it then signify a relationship between Richard, Robert, and Elizabeth (brothers and sister)? This leaves us little doubt that the Captain Richard Foster of Lower Norfolk County is the Major Richard Foster that we find in Old Albermarle Co., North Carolina.

1678

In Kingston Parish, Gloucester County, Virginia there is land patented by a Mr. Deggs which adjoins the land of a James Foster

Note: It has been suggested that this James Foster is the father of Robert, John, and Richard Foster. However there is no reason to believe that he is. There is also no evidence that he is the son of Richard Foster, immigrant (which he probably is.) He patented land across the bay from Richard Foster.

1683

September 7, 1683: "Coll Richard Foster before us acknowledged the within writing to bee his voluntary act and deed, butt as to the hoggs therein menconed there is none in the island butt that belongs particularly to Coll. Foster and what Catls belong to Coll Mason & Major Willoughby’s Ayers (ears) are marked with a piece cut in the upper part of the left ear. The produce of which catte.......?.......... to be soo marked for their use Coll Lemuell Mason...?...acknowledge the within writing as his ect. & deed

Note: Now, who is the Coll. Richard Foster and what does Coll. stand for? Is he a new Richard (F) or is it Richard Foster (A) who is still in Lower Norfolk County. If so, then Richard Foster (E) is the Richard in Gloucester County. What do you think?

1692

Robert Foster, son of Richard, bought land in an area of Essex County called Bottom's Range owned by John Bottom. He patented 200 acres adjacent to 600 acres bought by John Garnett. Robert’s brother, John Foster patented 200 land (some say 1692 (other say 1709.).
Richard Foster is found on the Rent Rolls of 1704 as being in Abbingdon Parish, Gloucester Co., Virginia.
James Foster is found on the Rent Rolls as being in Kingston Parish, across from Mockjack Bay. Also on the 1704 Rent Rolls we find Robert and John Foster, sons of the immigrant in Essex County.

Note: If this is the same James Foster that some think is the father of Robert, John, Richard, and James Foster (?), he would certainly be an old man. This is probably James Foster, son of Robert Foster, who is the son of our immigrant for on December 12, 1718: James Foster, Sr. of St. Anne's Parish, Essex County, to William Taylor of same. For 2000 pounds of tobacco. 75 acres on the north side of Gilson's Run....line of John Foster by the last will of Robert Foster....part of 200 acres purchased by Robert foster of Mr. John Baker deceased out of a tract commonly known by the name of Button's Range.

James Foster
Wit.: Rob. Charlesworth, Elizabeth (X) Charlesworth.
16 Dec. 1718. Acknowledge by James Foster

Note: If this is Richard Foster, son of our immigrant Foster then he is ca. 85. It is more likely that this is Richard Foster, Jr. son of Richard Foster, Sr. that we alluded to earlier.

Summary

There seems to be four significant Richard Fosters in Lower Norfolk County, Virginia during the critical period for determining our immigrant, Richard Foster. Two of these are illiterate. Can they be eliminated? Yes?, No? Why? I do think that we can eliminate Richard Foster (B) as he is clearly the son-in-law of Bartholomew and Dorcas Foster Hoskins and it is he who was a member of the House of Burgesses in Lower Norfolk County. It is also this Richard Foster who was, Commissioner- --- sheriff, I don't know! Could it be that Richard Foster (A) was our immigrant? If so, he would have married (Sussan Garnett, we are told), gone to England for five years and, we assume sired babies in Virginia and in England. We find no transport records of the known children of our immigrant, i.e., Richard, Robert, and John. He could have had them in Virginia, of course. Who are Mary and Ellen Foster transported by a Richard Foster? Are they daughters of our immigrant? After Richard Foster (A) returned from England he and his family would have moved to Gloucester County and continued their lives and raised their families. Both died on this plantation? How many children did they have? We do not know. Robert, Richard, John, James and most certainly some daughters. Our immigrant, Richard Foster may have never lived in Lower Norfolk County, Virginia. He could be Richard Foster (E) who patented the land in Gloucester County, Virginia after arriving in Virginia, a date of which we do not know.

Since Richard Foster (E) is a viable choice for our immigrant we must turn our attention to him and trace his immigration and migration, if possible. When and at what age Richard Foster (E)
immigrated to Virginia, we do not know. It is through his association with other families that we get a sense of his age. It was quite common in colonial days and in the days of the great migration from Virginia that families lived in close proximity with close friends and/or relatives. We find this is true with the Fosters, Colemans, and Garnetts. Consider the following. Robert Coleman was named as head right in a grant to Thomas Symons, by grant dated, March 2, 1638.

**SOURCE:** Gloucester County Patent Book I, Part II, p. 830.

It is established that Robert Coleman was settled in Gloucester County in 1658, for by deed dated August 2, 1658, Francis Carpenter conveyed a tract of land in Westmorland County to "Robert Coleman of Monjack, sic Gloucester County" Thereafter he acquired by grant a tract of land on Burnt Creek in Gloucester County, adjoining Daniel Clark, Richard Foster and another development of his own. The grant is dated March 18, 1662.

**SOURCE:** Westmoreland County Deed and Will Book 1, p. 830 and Patent Book 5, p. 352

March 18, 1672: Robert Coleman land: "On a swamp dividing this land of Daniel Clark & Richard Foster."

**SOURCE:** Cavaliers and Pioneers, p. 508

Consider the following: Richard Foster and Robert Coleman had lived as near neighbors for a decade. It is likely to assume they were friends and probably went to the same church. There is no evidence for this, of course. Calculations and a leap of faith have Richard Foster being born ca. 1620. Robert Coleman's death as been calculated to be ca 1680, then his birth date could be close to that of Richard Foster. If so he was 60 years old when he died. I believe that Robert Coleman and Richard Foster were near in age with Robert Coleman being a little older (don't ask me why I just have a feeling). We know by 1692 that Robert Coleman, Sr. is dead and most likely Richard Foster. If he was still alive he would have been 72 years old. I believe that Richard Foster was either dead by1692 or he moved with his sons, Robert, and John from Gloucester County to Essex County by 1692. September 7, 1692: DEED - John Baker to Robert Foster - 1672; John Baker of Kingston Parish, Gloucester County sold to Robert Foster of same Parish and County, 200 acres (part of Button's Range). This tells us that Robert Foster moved to Gloucester County earlier than September 1692 as he is said to be "of same Parish and County" as John Baker which is Kingston Parish, Gloucester County, Virginia. There is a similar deed for John Foster, Robert's brother. Also in 1692 we find: POWER OF ATTORNEY - Robert Yard to Robert Coleman (this has to be Junior) - Robert Yard of Gloucester County appoints Robert Coleman of Essex County his true and lawful Attorney.
We see from these documents that both of the Foster brother and Robert Coleman, Jr. have moved from Gloucester County to Essex County. It seems most likely that the fathers, Richard Foster and Robert Coleman, Sr. were friends. Certainly their sons, Robert Coleman, Jr. and Robert and John Foster were. They all have removed from Gloucester County to Essex at approximately the same time. Robert Coleman, Jr. died in 1713 and Robert Foster died in 1716.

Another family that we find in close association with this Richard Foster was the Garnett family. Thomas Garnett was the first of his line to come to Virginia. He was an ancient planter that survived the Indian massacre in 1622 and was present for the first muster in 1623. Present, also were: his wife, Elizabeth, and their three year old daughter, Sussan. Tradition has our immigrant marrying into this Garnett family while in Gloucester County. Thomas had patented 200 acres of land for the transport of four persons (we do not know who they were). We do not hear from this family again in the patent and wills book of Gloucester County, which are available. Most of the books of Gloucester County were burned during the Civil War.

It has been accepted by most Foster researchers that Robert Foster, son of Richard and Sussan Garnett Foster married an Elizabeth Garnett. In his will of 1715/16 he names his wife, Elizabeth (no family name) and even though he wills the plantation on which he lives, to his first son, Robert Foster, Jr., he provides for Elizabeth, Robert Jr's mother, to remain on the plantation. Thomas, Sr. another son of Robert Foster acknowledges that the Elizabeth in the will was his mother. He gave his mother, who was now married to Robert Charlesworth and living on his land, a gift of deed to the land on which they were then living. In the deed he states that Elizabeth was his mother. I mention this as there are so many researchers still using the wife (Sara Biggs) given Robert Foster, Sr. by Mrs. Lane in her research. I have found no documentation that he married a Sarah Biggs, or even Elizabeth Garnett. However, he had a better chance of marrying a Garnett in Gloucester County than in Lower Norfolk County. There were Biggs in Gloucester County at the same time as there were Garnetts. Read the will of Robert Foster, Sr. carefully - it is most difficult.

The Garnetts of Virginia do not recognize Thomas Garnett as their ancestor or even a close relation. They state, "The earliest Garnett from whom descent at this time can be traced is John Garnett to whom under date of April 16, 1673 the governor, Thomas Lord Culpeper, issued a grant of 260 acres of land lying on the south side of Garden Creek in Gloucester County, between lands of John Smither and John Diggs."

John Garnett had two sons that lived to maturity, John, Jr. and Thomas. Anthony died while still young.
John Garnett, Jr. the eldest son of John Garnett, Sr. lived in Kingston Parish, Gloucester County, Virginia. Shortly after the birth of his first son, James in 1692, he moved to St. Anne's Parish, in Essex County, where we find his name as a witness to deeds in 1703 and 1710. The land that he bought was a part of Button's Range and was adjacent to the 200 acres each bought by Robert and John Foster, brothers. Button's Range was subdivided in 1789. John Garnett and the Foster brothers bought their land in 1692 (some say that John Foster bought his in 1709 and is not even a brother.)

**Source:** Gloucester Records from Other Virginia Counties, pp.?

**Source:** Essex Deed Book No. 14, p. 109 Thomas Garnett, of St Anne's Parish, Essex, planter, is described as "one of the sons and devisees of John Garnett late of the Parish of Kingston in the County of Gloucester".

**Source:** Essex Deed Book No. 13, p. 225

We now have the sons of Richard Foster, the sons of John Garnett, and the son of Robert Coleman, Sr. all moving to Essex County, Virginia at about the same time, 1692. For two generations the Foster, Garnetts, and Coleman's had been close friends. June 8, 1709: "Bond of Thomas Garnett of St. Anne's Parish, Essex County, to John Foster of same, planter. For 7000 pounds of tobacco. To fulfill conditions of deed. Signed (Thomas Garnett)"

**Source:** Essex County Records, 1717 - 1731, Dorman, p?

February 13, 1719: "John Foster, Jr. of St. Anne's Parish, Essex County to Robert Charlesworth of same. For 4000 pounds of tobacco. 125 acres in said Parish on south side of Gilson's Run.....Corner tree of John Foster....bequeathed unto the said John Foster by the last will of Robert Foster, Sr. dec'd and is part of 200 acres purchased by the said Robert Foster off Mr. John Baker, dec., out of a tract commonly known by the name of Button's Range." Robert Charlesworth, you will remember, married Elizabeth Foster after the death of her husband, Robert in 1715/16.

**Source:** Essex County Records, 1717 - 1731, Dorman, pp. 156-59

May 20, 1720: "John Ridgdails of St. Anne's Parish, Essex County, to Robert Foster of same. For 850 pounds of tobacco." This is Robert Foster, Jr. as his father, Robert Foster, Sr. died in 1715/16

1741: Thomas Foster, son of John, son of Robert and (Sussan Garnett?) married Ann Garnett, daughter of Thomas Garnett (son of John, the immigrant) and Elizabeth Muscoe.
May 13, 1743: "It is ordered Robert Coleman, Jr. be overseer of road from the County line by Wm. Riddle's to the fork of the road by Jno. Beasley's and the Church road to the Church bridge and half the bridge from thence unto the road down the creek to the county line. Andrew Lyons, Harry Anomaly, Charles Hart, Rowld, Thomas, Robert Foster, Robert Coleman......"

**SOURCE:** Virginia County Records, Vol.1; Crozier. P.178 June 4, 1745: Robert Coleman and Sarah, his wife of St. George Parish, Spotsylvania County, Virginia to Thomas Foster, Surgeon of Parish and County afsd L50 curr. 400 acres. (Signed) A(nthony) Foster, John Gordon, Jno Parish." Anthony, Thomas, and John Foster are sons of Robert Foster, and grandsons of the immigrant.

**SOURCE:** Virginia County Records, Vol. 1; Crozier. P. 297?

1760: Anthony Foster, Jr. son of Anthony Foster and Martha (Taliaferro?), son of Robert and Elizabeth (Garnett?) married in Fairfax County, Virginia to Rose Coleman.

We could go on and on, but we see that there was a close relationship between the Foster, Coleman, and Garnett family. They married each other, they moved with each other. One researched suggested that our Richard Foster, our immigrant, was one of the headrights of the first Thomas Garnett. He certainly would have been acquainted with Sussan Garnett. However this is simply speculation.

I hope I have not left you completely confused. You must read and reread this treaties and then come up with the answer to our "Elusive Immigrant".

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