

**Charles T. Foster Post #42  
Grand Army of the Republic  
Lansing, Michigan**

By Paul David Arnold.  
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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

February 2008

The information was gathered in the fall of 2007 in conjunction with the restoration of the Grand Army of the Republic Soldiers Burial Lot, located in Mt Hope Cemetery, 1709 E Mt Hope , Lansing Michigan. The project took 5 months to complete (see attachment). Many of the soldiers buried in the Soldiers Lot & in Mt Hope Cemetery were members of the Charles T. Foster, Grand Army of the Republic Post.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a patriotic, fraternal organization & the successor group to the Grand Army of the Republic.

The first Grand Army of the Republic Post formed in Lansing Michigan is lost to the ages & only known in early GAR records in Michigan as Post #32, formed in 1868.

The following year in 1869 another Lansing GAR Post shows up named Post Greene. Few records exist on Post Greene. I have found the original Memorial Day service conducted by Post Greene in 1869 at the Old City Cemetery (Oak Park). This was just after the Post was formed. At this time, I have not been able to find any other printed records on this post other than the 1869 Memorial Day records. Sporadic newspaper accounts from the Lansing Republican Newspaper in the early 1870s but mention of this post lessens during the mid 1870s

The Charles T. Foster, Grand Army of the Republic Post # 42 was formed in 1882 by Rush Shank. Shank was a prominent member of the community in Lansing, Michigan. In the 1870s he formed a local Civil War patriotic organization called the Order of the Stars & Stripes. This was the precursor of the Grand Army of the Republic Posts in Lansing Michigan. He was responsible for obtaining the land located in Mt Hope Cemetery to use for the Soldiers Burial Lot. This lot was developed to honor deceased soldiers serving in the Civil War that were living in the Lansing Area when they died. This land was obtained

from the Lansing Michigan Common Council Common in approx 1874. Rush Shank was elected as the 1st Commander of the Charles T. Foster, Grand Army of the Republic post in 1882.

The Foster post was named after Charles T. Foster. He was a clerk in the dry goods store in Lansing Michigan, when the Civil War broke out in April of 1861. It is told that he was the 1st soldier from Lansing Michigan to enlist. During the course of the War he was promoted to Sgt. He acted as a color Sgt in several Unit engagements.

He was killed in the Battle of Fair Oaks Virginia on May 29th 1862. Shot through the neck with a minnie ball. Before dying he drove the flagstaff into the dirt to keep the colors from touching the ground (see attached written history). The post was named after him for his actions.

This information is a continual work in progress and will be updated as information becomes available. Currently it contains the names of the:

- 1) Past Post Commanders, of the Charles T. Foster post listed by years served.
- 2) It also lists the number of members belonging to the post for the corresponding year.
- 3) The Post Commanders home address, &
- 4) The location where the members of the Post met at.
- 5) The cemetery the Post Commanders were buried at, and
- 6) The burial location in the cemetery.

The information was gathered by painstakingly going through post records of the Charles T. Foster post, located in the State of Michigan Archives in Lansing, Michigan. The records start in 1882 and end in 1941, when the last member, James Hamilton dies.

As a matter of interest, it appears that the Charles T. Foster post had no permanent GAR Hall address, moving nine times during their existence. From records it appears they met from 1882 to 1917 on the 2nd & 4th Tues of the month between 2pm & 3pm in the afternoon. In 1917 this was changed to once a month on Saturday at 3pm. The last ref to meeting times was in 1920 when they chanced the meeting time to Saturday at 2pm. At the time of this writing we have not been unable to locate any photos or artifacts from the Post.

*(Drawing Anchor in corner  
in corner)*

# Wording on the Charles T. Foster, Post #42 Grand Army of the Republic, Charter

*(Drawing of Cannon)*

*-(Drawing of Eagle Cannons & Swords)-*

**Grand Army of the Republic**

**To All unto Whom these Presents Come, Greetings**

**Know Ye, that reposing full trust and confidence in the fidelity & patriotism of  
Comrades**

*- (This area has Charter Members Names on each side & image of the -  
G.A.R. Membership Badge in the center)*

**I do hereby with conformity with the rules & regulations of the Grand Army of the Republic & by virtue of the power in me vested, constitute them & their associates & successors a Post of the Grand Army of the Republic to be known as, Chas T. Foster, Post number Forty Two, Department of Michigan & I authorize & empower them all acts necessary to conduct said organization in accordance with the Rules & Regulations of the Grand Army of the Republic. Dated at the Headquarters of the Grand Army of the Republic at Grand Rapids on the second day of February in the Year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred & Eighty Two & of our Independence the one hundred & fifth.**

**(Grand Army of the Republic)  
( Department of Michigan Seal)**

Signature:  
**B.R. Pierce**  
Department Commander

**H. H. Holton**  
Asst: Adjutant General

*(Drawing of Cannons in corner)*

Corlies Macey & Co Stationers, 39 Nassua St, NY

*(Drawing of Anchor in corner)*

**Charles T. Foster**  
**Grand Army of the Republic**  
**Post #42 - Lansing, Michigan**  
(Names on Original Post Charter, Feb 2, 1882)

*Gideon Acker, A.S. Bement, Theodore Bostle, Addison S. Boyce, Albert L. Baker,  
I.H. Burdick, Hiram C. Beemer, Jas Mead, Adelbert J. Mott. John S. Moffett,  
Abraham Cottrell, Emmet Cole, Chas D. Cowles, Alex Cameron, Edward Cahill,  
David R. Correy, Phil Christian, Jno A. Elder, Thomas Ellis, William J. Ellis,  
Geo Fowler, Seymour Foster, Chas Fish, H.M. Foss, Geo J. Foster, W.H. Firth,  
Chas A. Gunn, Samuel Graham, Gilbert M. Hasty, Wm H. Hunter,  
Jno J. Hooper, B.S Hotaling, Horace Holcomb, Lyman Hopkins, Sam W. Jaques,  
Jno W. Kincaid, Wm Longstreet, George H. Linebeck, Geo E. Lawrence,  
George Longstreet, Jno McKinley, Alphonso McMaster, Elias Mann Jr,  
Chas H. Moses, H.B. Mohn, Chas W. Owen, Christian C. Prine ?,  
Jacob J. Palmer, Josiah M. Rice, Wm L. Rice, Rush J. Shank, Joseph H. Savage,  
Allen S. Shattuck, Charles Strong, A. Sanders, Asa Smith, Hiram Titus,  
Ullises D. Ward, George Wilcox, John H. Wiser, Gustavus M. Washburn,  
Chas E. Whipp, Royal S. Woodard, William R. Wedge, William W. Waldron and  
James H. Wellings*

Original Charter Members of the Charles T. Foster, Grand Army of the Republic Post #42 in Lansing Michigan. The Post received its Charter on February 2, 1882. The names were taken from the original Post Charter. The Post disbanded December 1941

Paul D. Arnold, Camp Commander, Lansing/Sunfield, Curtenius Guard, Camp #17, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, June 2008

**Commanders**  
**Charles T. Foster, Grand Army of the Republic, Post #42**  
**Lansing Michigan,**  
**Buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery, Lansing Michigan**

<u>Year Served &amp; Commander</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Burial Location</u> <u>(Section – Lot – Grave)</u>
1882 - Rush J. Shank	11-27-1908	<b>H-43-(3&amp;4)</b>
1883 - Rush J. Shank	same	same
1884 - Charles P. Leshner	poss 10-1-1902 10-31-1911	<b>B-315- 9 or 11</b> 2 listed on cem records
1885 - A.E. Cowles	11-30-1906	<b>A-118-5</b>
1886 - Thomas Blosser	unk	unk, Not in Mt Hope
1887 - William C. Nesen	6-4-1918	<b>B-78-6</b>
1888 - William C. Nesen	same	same
1889 - Allen S. Shattuck	3-29-1919	<b>C-29-6</b>
1890 - William L. Reed	6-30-1915	F-66-5 moved to <b>C-103-10</b>
1891 - George P. Sanford	3-27-04	<b>A-42-8&amp;9</b>
1892 - Adison Boyce	10-7-19??	<b>D-41-9</b>
1893 - W.W. Cook	unk	unk, Not in Mt Hope
1894 - Sidney Edson	8-27-1912	<b>D-41-9</b>
1895 - Henry D Warner	6-14-1905	<b>U-26-10</b>
1896 - Col Frederick Schneider	11-7-1917	<b>F-165-8</b>
1897 - James H. Baker	6-8-1875 or 8-6-1909 (2- James H. Bakers in Cemetery records)	<b>D-23-5 or H-50-6</b>
1898 - George J. Foster	6-24-1918	<b>E-17-1</b>
1899 - Leroy Williams	unk	unk, Not in Mt Hope
1900 - Theodore E. Potter	10-27-1910	F-59-9, moved to F-14-8 (1915)
1901 - Issac N. Ashley	5-16-1919	<b>C-161-3</b>
1902 - Seymour Foster	12-27-1933	<b>H-21-1</b>
1903 - Edwin R. Havens	8-27-1931	<b>C-197-10</b>
1904 - George Washington Stone	11-15-1921	<b>G-1/2 -9</b>
1905 - James Slocum	unk	unk, Not in Mt Hope
1906 - Lyman Russell	unk	unk, Not in Mt Hope
1907 - John A. marvin	10-2-1909	<b>D-133-3</b>
1908 - William A. Bolter	1-27-1927	<b>O-111-3</b>
1909 - Lester J. Kenny or Kennedy	unk	unk

<u>Year Served &amp; Commander</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Burial Location (Section – Lot – Grave)</u>
1910 - John Oatley	11-17-1924	<b>D-11-5</b>
1911 - John A. Wardell	6-6-1911	<b>D-52-1</b>
1912 - Uriah H.Lazell	unk	unk, Not in Mt Hope
1913 - Albert Spinks	10-21-1925	<b>V-66-5</b>
1914 - Franklin Paine	1-23-1929	<b>C-183</b>
1915 - Charles Phelps	unk	unk, Not in Mt Hope
1916 - William Lorenzo Mosher	2-18-1928	<b>R-15-1</b>
1917 - A.B. Chapin	unk	unk, Not in Mt Hope
1918 - Lyman W. Elwood	4-11-1921	<b>C-53-6</b>
1919 - Charles T. Lord	1-14-1928	<b>C-28-5</b>
1920 - Fred Shipp	10-23-1928	<b>C-44-6</b>
1921 - Fred Shipp	same	same
1922 - Fred Shipp	same	same
1923 - Fred Shipp	same	same
1924 - Fred Shipp	same	same
1925 - Fred Shipp	same	same
1926 - Fred Shipp	same	same
1927 - No Record of Commander		
1928 - E.T. Weal or Weale	unk	unk, Not in Mt Hope
1929 - Benjamin Ohlinger	unk	unk, Not in Mt Hope
1930 - James A. Hamilton	12-23-1941	Deepdale Cemetery,
1931 - James A. Hamilton	same	Lansing, Michigan
1932 - James A. Hamilton	same	same
1933 - James A. Hamilton	same	same
1934 - James A. Hamilton	same	same
1935 - James A. Hamilton	same	same
1936 - James A. Hamilton	same	same
1937 - James A. Hamilton	same	same
1938 - James A. Hamilton	same	same
1939 - James A. Hamilton	same	same
1940 - James A. Hamilton	same	same
1941 - James A. Hamilton	same	same

**The next to the last member of the Charles T. Foster, Post #42, James Waffle, dies 4-17-1941. The last member James Hamilton, dies 12-23-1941. The Charles T. Foster, Grand Army of the Republic, Post #42, Lansing Michigan disbanded with the death of James Hamilton.**

Compiled September 2008 by Paul D. Arnold, Camp Commander,  
Lansing /Sunfield, Curtenius Guard, Camp 17, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War,

**Charter Members of the Charles T. Foster  
Grand Army of the Republic Post #42, Buried at  
Mt. Hope Cemetery, Lansing Michigan**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Section Buried, Lot # &amp; Grave</u>
Gideon Acker	6-1-1896	<b>C-69-2</b>
Augustus B. Bement	6-14-1893	<b>B-128-1</b>
Addison S. Boyce	10-7-1914	<b>D-41-9</b>
I Horace Burdick	7-27-1917	<b>U-99-3</b>
James T. Mead	7-11-1888	<b>R-43-5</b>
Abraham Cottrell	4-22-1880	<b>F-33-10</b>
Charles D. Cowles	10-12-1905	<b>A-261-7</b>
Alexander Cameron	3-11-1908	<b>C-147-1</b>
Edward Cahill	7-29-1922	<b>A-87-10</b>
David R. Corey	unk	<b>B-53</b>
John A. Elder	4-13-1899	<b>A-190-10</b>
Thomas Ellis	1-22-1916	<b>B-309-4</b>
Willian J. Ellis	12-11-1898	<b>B-309-2</b>
Seymour Foster	12-27-1933	<b>H-21-1</b>
Charles T. Foster -	Memorial Stone	
	Died, Battle of Fair Oaks, VA	<b>H-21</b>
George J. Foster	6-24-1918	<b>E-17-1</b>
George Fowler	1-20-1907	<b>B-40-4</b>
Samuel Graham	6-25-1885	<b>C-49-7</b>
Charles A. Gunn	* 6-3-1926	<b>Z-107-10</b>
Charles Amos Gunn	* 9-20-1926 (Unk right one)	<b>Z-288-10</b>
Gilbert M. Hasty	6-16-1919	<b>B-201-9</b>
John J. Hooper	2-15-1890	<b>B-107-10</b>
Horace H. Holcomb	5-9-1905	<b>P-15-5</b>
Lyman Hopkins	2-1-1890	<b>B-196-2</b>
John Kincaid	1-5-1905	<b>H-13-1</b>
William Longstreet	12-6-1896	<b>G-3-6</b>
George Longstreet	11-1905	<b>E-24-10</b>
George E. Lawrence	2-15-1903	<b>C-114-3</b>
John McKinley	9-2-1918	<b>B-102-5</b>
Alphonso McMaster	8-28-1889	<b>C-50-7</b>
Eli Mann	1-15-32	<b>X-65-1</b>
Christian Prine	3-28-1915	<b>B-67-1</b>
Jake Palmer	2-7-1905	<b>P-37-3</b>
Josiah Price	11-30-1914	<b>A-181-8</b>
William L. Rice	2-9-1924	<b>U-108-10</b>

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Section Buried, Lot # &amp; Grave</u>
Dr Rush J. Shank	11-27-1908	<b>H-43-(3&amp;4)</b>
Joseph Savage	12-31-1899	<b>N-41-5</b>
Allen S. Shattuck	3-29-1919	<b>C-29-6</b>
Asa Smith	12-15-1891	<b>Q-114-1</b>
Charles Strong	6-13-1901	<b>D-?-1</b>
Hiram Titus	3-1-1891	<b>B-12-1</b>
Ullises D. Ward	2-27-1903	<b>A-37-9</b>
John H. Wisner	6-27-1885	<b>A-182-7</b>
Charles Whipp	9-10-1928	<b>A-176-10</b>
William R. Wedge	8-1-1911	<b>D-135-5</b>
William W. Waldron	8-10-1902	<b>B-89-1</b>

Note: This list is just the Charter Members of the Charles T. Foster, Grand Army of the Republic Post #42 buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Lansing Michigan. It does not include all charter members.

Refer to the Complete List for All Charter Members of the Charles T. Foster, Post # 42 This Post was in existence in Lansing Michigan from February 1882 to December 1941.

List compiled June 2008 by Paul D. Arnold, Camp Commander  
Lansing/Sunfield Camp #17, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.





Lansing, Michigan



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