

## **Transcript of Melville Foote's Military History from the Certificate of Record**

Document is dated 1915

This Certifies that Melville B. Foote

Enlisted August 6, 1862, from Fulton County, New York, to serve three years of during the way and was mustered into the United States Service at Fond, Montgomery County, New York, August 26, as 4<sup>th</sup> Duty Sergeants of Captain William H. Shaw's Company E 115<sup>th</sup> Regiment New York Volunteers infantry Colonel Simon Sammons Commanding.

The 115<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry, "Iron Hearted Regiment" was organized at Fonda and mustered into the service August 26<sup>th</sup> 1862, and was attached to the 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Army Corps., The regiment was in the defense of Harpers' Ferry West Virginia, September 12 -15<sup>th</sup>, 1862, and was in action at Maryland Heights, September 12-13, and Bolivar Heights September 15<sup>th</sup>. The regiment was surrendered by the Commander of the Post September 15 and was paroled the next day and sent to Annapolis, Maryland thence to Camp Douglas, Chicago, Illinois, where it was on duty till November 22<sup>nd</sup>, It then moved to Washington, D.C. encamped on Arlington Heights and performed outpost picket duty during most of December then moved to appoint a few miles south of Alexandria, VA, continuing to perform outpost picket duty till January, 1863. In January the regiment was ordered to Yorktown, Va., remaining about three weeks, then ordered to Hilton Head, South Carolina till February of 1864. It was in the occupation of Jacksonville and on an expedition into Central Florida, engaged in actions at Jacksonville, Camp Finnegan, Baldwin, Sanderson and Callahan Station and participated in the desperate battle of Olustee, February 20, 1864, where the regiment distinguished itself and lost more than have those engaged, was in the occupation of Palatka, March 10, the regiment took part in Butlers operations on the south side of the James River and against Petersburg and Richmond and was in action at Port Walthall Junction, Chester Station, May 6-7; operations against Fort Darling and the battle of Drewry's S Bluff, May 14 -16; Bermuda Hundred, May 16-28; Battles about Cold Harbor, June 1 - 12, It took part in the siege operations against Petersburg and Richmond June 16 to December 7 1864, and was in the Mine Explosion, Petersburg, in which action it was temporarily attached to the 9<sup>th</sup> Corps, battles of Strawberry Plains, Chaffin's Farm, New Market Heights, battle of Fair Oaks, Oct. 27-28. First expedition to Fort Fisher, NC. December 1864. Second expedition to Fort Fisher, N.C. January 3 -15, 1865, and was in the assault and capture of Fort Fisher. It was in action at Fort Anderson, Feb 18 -19; Sugar Loaf Batteries Feb, 11; Capture of Wilmington, Feb 23; then participated in the Campaign of the Carolinas, March 1 April 26; Occupation of Goldsboro and Raleigh, and action at Bennett's House. It was present at the surrender of Johnston and his army and was mustered out of the service June 1865.

The said Melville B. Foote was taken prisoner with his regiment at Harper's Ferry, Va, September 15, 1862, sent to Parole Camp at Annapolis, MD, remaining a week, thence to

Parole camp at Chicago, Illinois, remaining till last of November, 1862, then exchanged and with the regiment returned to the front. On account of the Orderly Sergeant of his Company being wounded, he served much of the time in that capacity and was later promoted for meritorious service to Orderly 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant. He was offered further promotion as Sergeant Major of his regiment, also a commission in the 8<sup>th</sup> United States Colored Infantry, oath of which he declined, he was ordered to Elmira New York in 1863, and served several months on detached service recruiting for the regiment returning with the recruits. On account of his hearing having been seriously injured by the explosion of a shell at Harpers's Ferry, he was detached in August 1864, as Sergeant in charge of the Ambulance Train of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, 10<sup>th</sup> corps, Army of the James, until the latter part of May, 1865 and during this time was actively engaged and under fire in all the battles in which the corps participated. A Lieutenant's commission was made out for him, but the war closing soon afterward, he was not mustered with this rank. Throughout his term he was always to be found at his post of duty, bore a faithful part in all the campaigns and battles herein outlined except while on recruiting service in New York and achieved a gallant record for efficiency and soldierly conduct at all times. He received a certificate of Honorable Discharge at Raleigh, North Carolina, June 17, 1865, by reason of close of the way and General Order No. 73, Headquarters Department of North Carolina, June 7, 1865 received final pay July 3, 1865 at Barracks between Albany and Troy New York, where the regiment was disbanded.

He is the son of John Wesley and Harriet (Bell) Foote, and was born at Northville, Fulton County, New York, and January 7, 1840. He was united in marriage to Bettie M. Trowbridge at Edinburg, New York, June 17, 1866, and to them were born the following children; Hattie B., now Mrs. Eastwood of Long Beach, California; Charles W and Eugene C. both of Hastings Nebraska. Charles W. Foote graduated from Hastings Business College and is now with the Adams County Farmers Mutual Insurance Company. Dr. Eugene graduated from Highline Park College, Des Moines, Iowa, In 1900; from Creighton Medical College, Omaha, Nebr, June 1905; in Nebr until 1909; specialized in study of eye, ear, nose and throat Northwestern University Medical College, Chicago, Ill, 1909; post graduate work New York City 1911; post graduate Vienna, Austria, 1913- 14; He specializes in diseases of the eye, nose and throat.

He is a member of Herron Post 152, Department of Nebraska, Grand Army of the Republic, and is Past Commander and Adjutant and present Quartermaster, He joined the Masonic Order in 1863, at Elmira New York, he served twenty-two years as member of the School Board in Ayr Township, Adams County, Nebraska, also served as Justice of the Peace, Township Assessor, treasurer and was Census Enumerator, His wife is a charter member of the Woman's Relief Corps at Ayr Nebraska.

He is descended from Nathaniel Foote, the Settler who came from England to the United States about 1630, settling at Salem, Massachusetts, and in 1633 moved to Wethersfield, Connecticut. His grandfather Elisha Foote, Served in the Revolution, His wife is descended from the Revolutionary ancestors. Her four brothers served in the Union Army as follows, Sylvester E. and J. Willis Trowbridge in the 67<sup>th</sup> Ohio, infn. Solomon D.

Trowbridge in the 38<sup>th</sup> infantry. Dr. George M. Trowbridge as Assistant Surgeon in the 19<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry.

Mr. & Mrs. Foote left New York in November of 1866, stopped at Delta, Ohio, till February, 1867, then came to Nebraska, remained five years near Nebraska City and took up a homestead in Adams county, May 23, 1872

Compiled from Official and Authentic Sources by the Soldiers and Sailors Historical and Benevolent Society:

In testimony whereof, I hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the seal of the Society.  
Done at Washington D.C. this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 1915