



Photo added by Eric J. Brock

## Mary Ellen "Nellie" Long Foster

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| <b>BIRTH</b>       | 1842   |
| <b>DEATH</b>       | 16 Nov 1910 (aged 67–68)<br>Caddo Parish, Louisiana, USA     |
| <b>BURIAL</b>      | Oakland Cemetery<br>Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, USA |
| <b>MEMORIAL ID</b> | 48101031   |



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The wife of Capt. James Martin Foster.

Her bio in the Maude Hearn O'Pry book, Chronicles of Shreveport and Caddo Parish. 1928:

### MRS. J. M. FOSTER

MRS. FOSTER was the only daughter of Dr. William Long, of Natchitoches, now deceased. On her maternal side Mrs. Foster was the granddaughter of the Rev. Dr. Boggs, an eminent Presbyterian divine. She was reared by a devoted aunt, her mother having died when she was a small child, and she and her only brother, Mr. John Long, of Kingston, La., were the tender charges in their childhood of this aunt, who rendered valuable aid to Dr. Long in his care of his motherless little ones.

When quite a young girl Mrs. Foster was sent to Mansfield College, then one of the leading institutions in the South. From this college she was graduated with distinguished honors. When barely seventeen years of age, she was married to the late Mr. James M. Foster, at that time a prominent young planter of Caddo Parish. Mr. and Mrs. Foster lived for a number of years on the plantation and there five children were born to them. Mr. Foster was a man of rare business ability and prospered marvelously, adding vast acres to those acquired from his father. When the time came to think of the education of their children, Mr. and Mrs. Foster came to Shreveport to live, and took up their abode at "Curraghmuir," the well known Foster home, which has always been the center of such delightful hospitality. At "Curraghmuir" six other children were born, Mr. and Mrs. Foster having been blessed with eleven children. Mr. Foster's affairs had now become very broad, for in addition to his planting interests, he had become one of the standard-bearers of Democracy-never wishing and never taking office - a Warwick, a king maker of North Louisiana. During these strenuous times, Mrs. Foster "sang to her nest," devoting her time and wonderful talents to the upbringing of her little family, which was destined to become so identified with the highest social and literary life of Louisiana and several other states.

Mrs. Foster was a woman of many brilliant accomplishments, whose keen wit and great

social experience made her notable in any company. Her literary gifts were very unusual and lent themselves to a great diversity of subjects. She was a brilliant club woman, the first president of Hypatia Club, which was the first club established in North Louisiana. She was the first president of the Federation of Women's Clubs of Louisiana, the first regent of the Pelican Chapter D. A. R. of Shreveport; the vice State Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution; the first president of the Home for the Homeless in which office she continued for many years. She was an ardent Daughter of the Confederacy. She was closely connected with every literary, educational, civic and charitable enterprise of the city. She was one of the founders of the Old Ladies' Home of Shreveport, and for a number of years its president, the magnificent home which now houses the indigent being erected largely through her energies-as large contributors assured her it was their confidence in her that wade them so ready to give-and may well be considered a testimonial to her ability and the distinguished regard in which she was held. She was chairman for the State of Louisiana for the George Washington Memorial Association.

#### A TRIBUTE FROM THE MOTHERS' UNION

To Her Who Was So Pre-eminently a "Mother" in the Closest and Broadest Sense.:

"Our mourning for the passing of the noble spirit of Mrs. James M. Foster will be of the sincerest, most enduring type-it will be the continual striving to emulate her example, and the teaching of our daughters to try to live as she has lived. We will tell them that no woman ever was, who combined more perfectly all the qualities which Solomon ascribed to the perfect woman, for "She opened her mouth with wisdom and the law of kindness was on her tongue:" "She looked well to the way of her household and the bread of idleness she did not eat." "She spread out wide her open palms to the poor, yea her hands stretched out to the needy." "Her children rise up and call her blessed." "Strength and dignity were her clothing and she smiled at the coming of the last day for her own works shall praise her in the gates."

Her name and true motherhood will always be synonymous in our hearts' vocabulary. Our grief is the grief of children-sympathy to the bereaved of blood going out in proportion.

Bio (note: in historical biographical articles, Ellen "Nellie" Foster is referred to as Eleanor Long Foster)

A History of Louisiana, (vol. 2), pp. 50-51, by Henry E. Chambers.

Published by The American Historical Society, Inc., Chicago and New York, 1925.

In 1859 he [John Martin Foster, Sr.] married Miss Eleanor Long, who passed away November 16, 1910, about a year after they had celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

She was one of the distinguished women of Louisiana in social and charitable affairs.

A native of Natchitoches, she was a daughter of Dr. William Long, who was born in Ireland, graduating from Trinity College at Dublin, and afterwards from a Philadelphia medical college.

He practiced medicine in Natchitoches and acquired extensive planting and merchandising interests there. Dr. William Long in 1840 married Miss Emily C. Boggs, a native of Berkley County, Virginia, and daughter of Rev. Dr. John Boggs, a graduate of Princeton University and a Presbyterian minister. Through her mother Mrs. Foster was a direct descendant of Col. Ellis Cook, a personal friend of George Washington and commander of a battalion in the Revolution. Mrs. Foster graduated with honor from Mansfield College and was almost seventeen years of age when she married James M. Foster. After some years of residence on the plantation they moved to Shreveport, where their beautiful home, Curraghmuir, was for many years a center of delightful hospitality. It was in this home that Mrs. Foster spent her last years.

She was a woman of many accomplishments, with keen wit and great social experience and with a tact and decision of character that enabled her to easily accomplish important services in various organizations. She was Louisiana president of the George Washington Society, was first president of the Hypatia Club, the first club established in North Louisiana; was first president of the Federation of Women's Clubs in Louisiana; first regent of the Pelican Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, at Shreveport, and vice state regent of that Organization. She was a member of the Daughters of the Confederacy was president of the Home for the Friendless at Shreveport, and took proper pride in work she did in securing the erection of the building and the founding of the Old Ladies' Home at Shreveport. She graced few social functions, as her charity and home work kept her wholly occupied, but whenever she did attend she was always one of the accepted and honored guests. Hers was an Urgent life and she met its multitudinous demands with the courtesy of one to the manner born and the graciousness of a Christian gentlewoman. She is the mother of eleven children, seven of whom up and five survived her. Her son Claiborne Foster graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1888 and died in 1890, and her son John Gray Foster\* died soon after his father. The son William Long Foster has been a prominent cotton planter of Caddo Parish, and the other son is James M., Jr. The daughter Lucille married Benton McMillin, former governor of Tennessee and for twenty years representative of that state in Congress, and during the Wilson administrations minister to Peru and minister to

Guatemala.. Another daughter, Elinor, is now Mrs. M. E. Foster-Comegys of New York City.

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\*Son John Gray Foster was murdered by a laborer on the Foster-Smith plantation on June 12, 1901.

## Family Members

### Spouse



James Martin Foster  
1831-1900

### Children



Ernest Flavel Foster  
1860-1862



Mary Elinor *Foster* Comegys  
1868-1946



James Martin Foster  
1871-1928



John Gray Foster  
1878-1901



Theresa Olive Foster  
1879-1920



Lucille *Foster* McMillin  
1879-1949



Newton Blanchard Foster  
1880-1881



Erastus Fullilove Foster  
1884-1888

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**Created by:** Scout Finch

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*Find a Grave*, database and images

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