



2LT FRANKLIN JAMES FOSTER

23 July 1890-23 Aug 1917

FRANKLIN JAMES "FRANK" FOSTER was born in Clinton, Ontario on 23 July 1890 to Adam and Sarah Ellen (Cook) Foster. He had three sisters: Mary Ellen "Mamie", Jessie Amelia and Isabella Sophia, and a brother: Roy Willard.

Adam Foster was a cooper. He was born in England and immigrated to Canada in 1875.

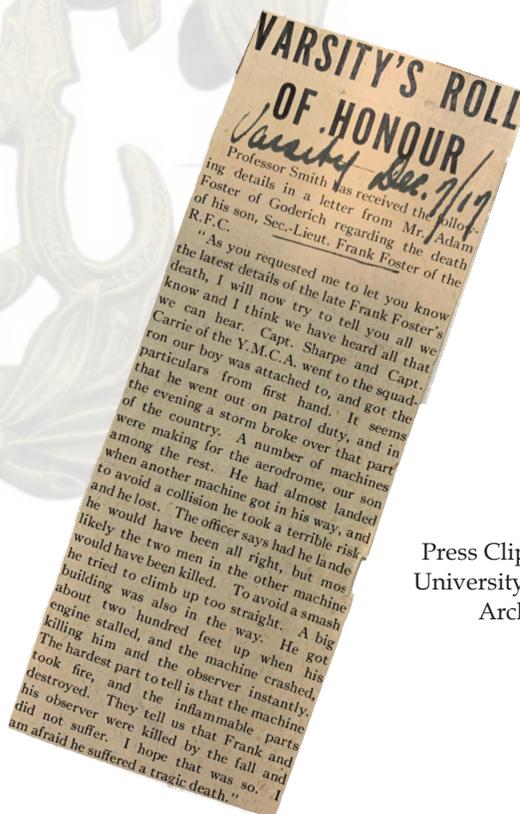
Foster was educated in Clinton at the Clinton Public School and in Goderich, Ontario at Goderich Collegiate Institute. He obtained his BA from the University of Toronto in 1914 and spent two years as a law student in Regina, Saskatchewan before returning to Toronto to enlist in 1916.

In June of 1916, Foster enlisted as a Private with the University of Toronto Overseas Training Company, part of the Canadian Officer Training Corps. Members of the Overseas Training Company trained in Canada to be commissioned as officers, often with the Imperial Forces. Foster was discharged from the CEF in September of 1916, so that he could be commissioned with the Royal Flying Corps and he went overseas to

England with the RFC.

Foster qualified as a pilot on 23 March 1917, at the Military Flying School at Catterick Bridge in North Yorkshire, England. He went over to France in April 1917, where he joined No 11 Squadron on the Lens-Cambrai Front. No 11 Squadron was formed on 14 February 1915 specifically for "fighting duties" and was the RFC's first dedicated fighter squadron. All of previously formed squadrons flew in a reconnaissance or army co-operation role.

On 23 August 1917, Foster was out on patrol near Warlincourt-lès-Pas, France when a storm broke and he returned to the Squadron's aerodrome at La Bellevue, France. He was on final approach when another plane crossed his path. To avoid a collision Foster pulled up sharply, but his engine stalled and the aircraft crashed. Foster and his Observer were both killed.



Press Clipping from University of Toronto Archives.

Foster was 27 years old and is buried at Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery in Saulzy, France. His family selected the fitting inscription:

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN; THAN HE
THAT LAYETH DOWN; HIS LIFE FOR A
FRIEND; BORN JULY 23, 1890 for his grave
marker.

Prior to enlisting with the CEF, Foster served for
three years in the Militia as a Sergeant.

Foster's bother, Private Roy William Foster, en-
listed in the CEF in May of 1917. He was, how-
ever, discharged as being underage. Pte Foster,
like many other young men who enlisted, lied
about his date of birth to enlist.

Four months after his son's death, Foster's fa-
ther wrote a heart-breaking letter describing the
his son's enlistment and death. That letter reads
in part:

*He struggled hard for an education and had just
about got to where he wanted to be when this awful
war broke out. He looked at it from every angle and
finely (sic) thought it his duty to go. If you only saw
the 20 page letter he wrote to us when he had made
up his mind to serve*

*We mourn for our boy but..we can take pride and a
comfort in the way he met his death....*