HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

Fall 2026

Newsletter

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION

7780 S. State Route 48
Maineville, OH 45039
Phone: (513) 683.8520
Fax: (513) 683.4325

Mark Sousa - *Board Chair*

Darryl Cordrey - *Trustee*

Joe Rozzi - *Trustee*

Leah Elliott - *Fiscal Officer*

Township Administrator
Jeff Wright (513) 239.2372

Assistant Twp. Administrator/HR
Jen Patterson (513) 239.2369

Police Department
Quillan Short - Police Chief
(513) 683.0538 (Non Emergency)

Fire & Emergency Services
Jason Jewett - Fire Chief
(513) 683.1622 (Non Emergency)

Public Works Director
Don Pelfrey (513) 683.5360

Planning and Zoning Director
Cathy Walton (513) 239.2371

Planning & Zoning Inspector
Jack Erickson (513) 683.8520

Assistant Fiscal Officer
Ellen Horman (513) 239.2377

Parks & Recreation
Nicole Earley (513) 239.2391

Cemetery Sexton
Justin Thompson (513) 683.5320

Administrative Assistant
Heather Murdock (513) 683-8520

FALL IN FULL SWING

There's something about fall in Hamilton Township. The first cool mornings, football under the Friday night lights, colorful leaves filling our parks, and pumpkins popping up on front porches all signal that a new season is here.

Fall gives us plenty of reasons to slow down and enjoy the community around us. From school events and local traditions to crisp walks through the parks and gathering with friends and neighbors, there's no shortage of ways to enjoy the season right here at home.

It's also a season of transition...and that's true for Hamilton Township, too. While we enjoy the traditions and places that make our community special, we're continuing to invest in the future, improve our parks and public spaces, and strengthen the services our residents rely on every day.

In this issue, we're taking a look at some of the people, projects, and places that help make Hamilton Township a great place to call home. So grab a warm drink, enjoy a little fall weather, and take a few minutes to catch up on what's happening around the Township.

Donate Blood

IN HONOR OF
Casey Gould



Two years ago, the importance of blood donation became deeply personal for our Hamilton Township family. Casey, wife of School Resource Officer Ben Rosenberger, experienced a medical emergency while giving birth to their son, Archer. Diagnosed with peripartum cardiomyopathy, she spent nine days in the ICU on life support and needed multiple blood transfusions that ultimately saved her life. Today, thanks in part to the generosity of blood donors, Casey is here to watch Archer grow, celebrate milestones, and make memories with her family. ❤ You may never know whose life you save, but to that person and their family, your donation could mean everything.

Please consider donating at our upcoming blood drive. Your generosity could give another family the gift of more birthdays, more memories, and more time together.

Thursday, 10/29 | 9am-3pm

Hamilton Township Police Department

7780 S. State Route 48, 45039

Schedule at RedCrossBlood.org

Garage Safety: Charge Your Batteries Safely

Electric bikes, scooters, cell phones,lap tops, hoverboards, power tools, lawn equipment and other battery-powered devices are common in many homes. While they are generally safe, lithium-ion batteries can become a serious fire hazard when they are damaged, defective, improperly charged or used with the wrong equipment.

A few simple precautions can help reduce the risk:



Charge Smart

- Use the charger that came with your device or a replacement approved by the manufacturer. Avoid universal or off-brand chargers and battery replacements unless specifically approved for your device.
- Don't charge while you're sleeping or away from home. Stay nearby while charging and unplug the device when it reaches a full charge.
- Charge on a hard, flat surface away from flammable materials such as gasoline, cardboard, paper, clothing and other clutter. Keep exits and escape routes clear.
- Follow the manufacturer's temperature guidelines and never charge a battery that is extremely hot or cold.

Your Garage Is Not a Fireproof Room

Garages often contain gasoline, lawn equipment, paint, cardboard, tools and other combustible materials, which can allow a fire to spread quickly. When possible, follow the manufacturer's recommendations and charge larger devices such as e-bikes and scooters outside the living area, in a location away from doors, windows and anything that could catch fire. NFPA's current guidance specifically recommends charging larger items such as e-bikes, scooters and power tools outside when possible.

If Something Goes Wrong

If a battery begins smoking, making unusual noises, swelling or catching fire, get everyone out and call 911. Do not attempt to fight a lithium-ion battery fire yourself.

Never put lithium-ion batteries in your household trash or regular recycling. Contact your local waste or hazardous-waste program for proper disposal options.

A Few Extra Seconds of Prevention Can Make a Big Difference

Before plugging in a battery-powered device, check the battery, use the proper charger and clear the area around it. These simple habits can help keep your family, home and community safer.

Know the Warning Signs

***Stop using and charging a battery if you notice*:**

- **Swelling or a change in shape**
- **Unusual heat**
- **Leaking**
- **A strange odor**
- **Discoloration**
- **Smoke**
- **Damage from a crash, fall or impact**
- **A battery that isn't holding a charge normally**

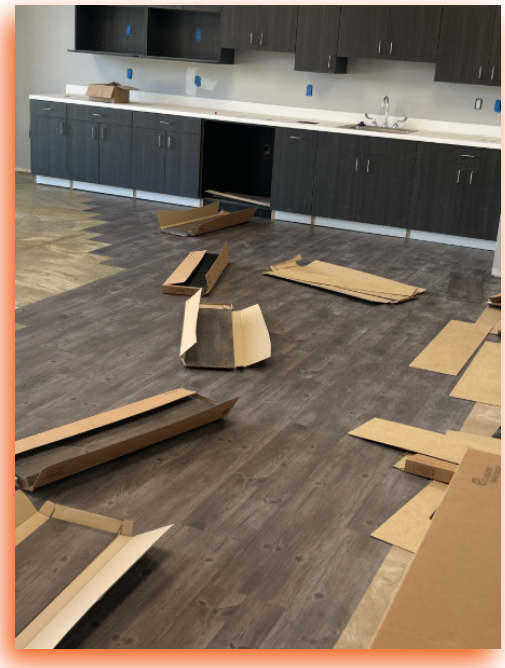
A damaged or malfunctioning lithium ion battery can overheat and enter a process called thermal runaway, which can cause an intense fire and potentially spread to other battery cells.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

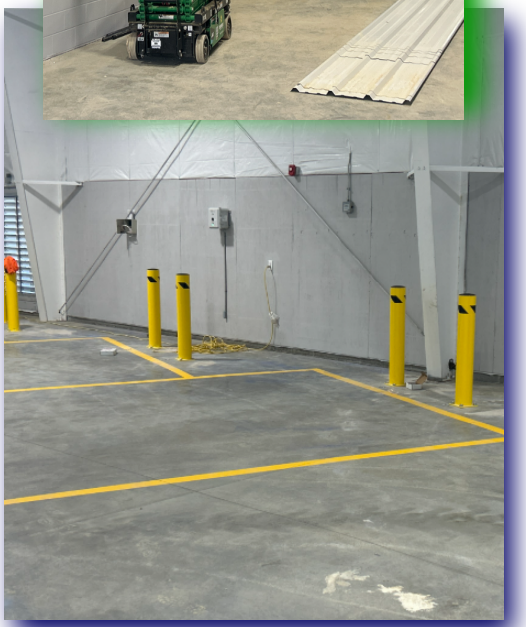
Public Works Facility Progress Update

- Mechanics bay electric rough-in completed
- Sidewalks completed
- Parking lot paving underway
- Bay floor striped and bollards installed
- AC units installed
- Polished concrete in restrooms complete and LVT flooring laid
- Lockers and office furniture installed











Up Next: Final grading and landscaping, north driveway apron, toilet partitions and restroom accessories, ongoing contractor punch list

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Zoning Code Amendments

The following amendments were approved on 9/16

Chapter 2. Administrative Roles and Authority - Remove the meeting and recommendation requirements for Zoning Resolution text or map amendments, planned unit development, sketch plan review, and planned unit development preliminary site plan review.

Chapter 3.7 Development Review Procedure - Remove section C, referring applications to the Warren County Regional Planning Commission.

Chapter 5.5.4 - Remove Step 3 referring applications to the Warren County Regional Planning Commission as well as the mention of a referral from the Warren County Regional Planning Commission in step 4.

Chapter 5.5.5 - Remove Step 8 referring applications to the Warren County Regional Planning Commission as well as the mention of a referral from the Warren County Regional Planning Commission in step 9.

The Township does not have subdivision regulations. RPC will continue to review and approve subdivision regulations within the Township.

Section 4.9.5 Accessory Use Specific Standards - The amendment proposes to update the use specific standards for private and public swimming pools changing the 20' setback to 10' setback. The proposed setback is common among many neighboring jurisdictions. The BZA has heard 4 applications in 2026 requesting a reduction in the setback requirement. All applications were approved.



tropical SMOOTHIE CAFE

6400 STATE ROUTE 48
HAMILTON TWP., OH 45039

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

FREE 11 WEEK COURSE!

MONDAYS

STARTING JANUARY 11TH

TO MARCH 22ND 2027

6PM TO 8PM





CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

K9 DEMO

JAIL TOUR

TRAFFIC STOPS

CRASH INVESTIGATIONS

SWAT TEAM

& MUCH MORE

APPLICATIONS ONLINE

EMAIL TO:

MHAYSLIP@HAMILTON-TOWNSHIP.ORG

DEADLINE:JANUARY 5TH 2027

CLICK TO REGISTER!

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

Mounts Park
Stream Restoration Project

Work is nearing completion on Phases I and 3 to redirect a stream that has breached a historic, illegal landfill. This work has constructed a new stream channel, abandoned the existing stream channel, and will cap the old landfill that has been exposed. This will improve the water quality both in the park and in the adjacent waters of the Little Miami River. ARPA funds and The Shine a Light on Dumpers grant from the Attorney General's Office are funding this project.

- **Built final step pool structure nearest bridge at 22-3**
- **Seed & straw placed on fill of the abandoned valley to cap the landfill**



Up Next...

Phase II work will construct a floodplain swale on the eastern edge of the park and cap the remainder of the old landfill. This is the final phase of the project and will finalize the construction of the Mounts Park Stream Restoration and Improvements work.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PARKS DEPARTMENT

Hamilton Township & the Village of Maineville have created a wonderful partnership and will be hosting some community events jointly to benefit all of our residents together!

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP EVENT CORNER



Joint Tree Lighting Celebration

12.5 | 4:00 pm-6:00 pm | New Public Works Facility

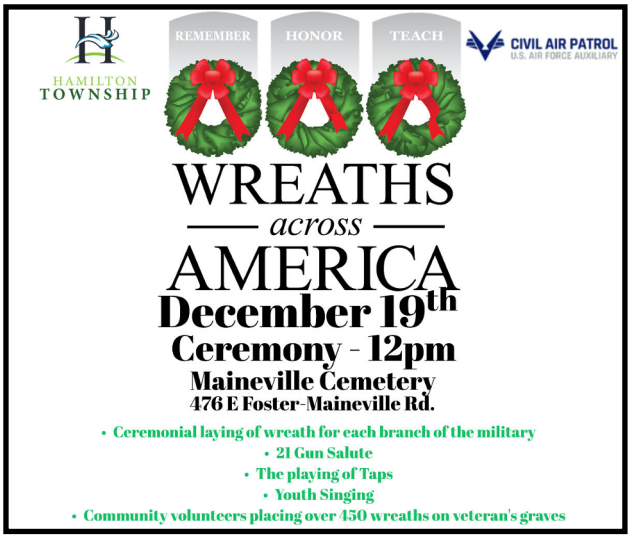
Join us for some holiday fun! Pictures with Santa, s'mores station, games, cookies, coffee, hot chocolate and popcorn. Performances by Santa's Goody Bag Band, Members of the Little Miami Select Choirs, LMHS Symphonic Band, and NCYO. Drone show finale!



Trim the Township Decorating Contest

December | Various Locations |

Show off your elf skills and decorate your house to spread holiday cheer throughout our community! Winner receives a visit from Santa & Mrs. Clause on their sleigh and a proclamation from the Board of Trustees. Entries must be received by 12/10 & online community voting begins December 12th. Enter here or stay tuned to our Facebook page to vote!



Wreaths Across America Ceremony

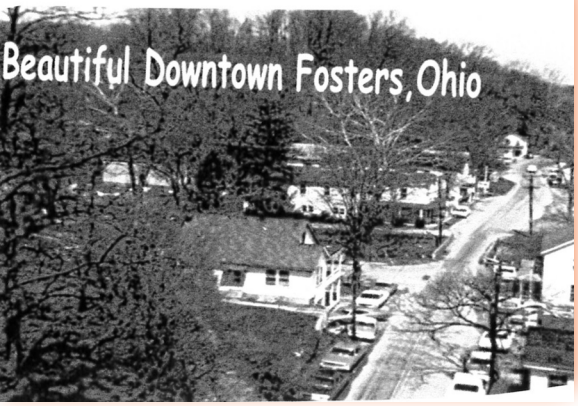
12.19 | 12:00 pm | Maineville Cemetery

The mission is to Remember the Fallen, Honor those who Serve, and Teach our Children the value of Freedom. Join us for this heartwarming ceremony complete with 21 gun salute, ceremonial laying of wreaths for each branch of the military and youth choir performance followed by laying wreaths on each of our Veterans' headstones. Become a wreath sponsor for just $17 by clicking here.

CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR FULL EVENT CALENDAR

REMEMBERING THE ONCE POPULAR TOWN OF FOSTER

It is hard to believe that Foster was once a beautiful, thriving town with numerous businesses and dwellings on both sides of the river. Its story began on the Hamilton Township side in 1842 with a 14-room, three-story brick hotel and store called the 22 Mile Stand, located where the Monkey Bar is today.



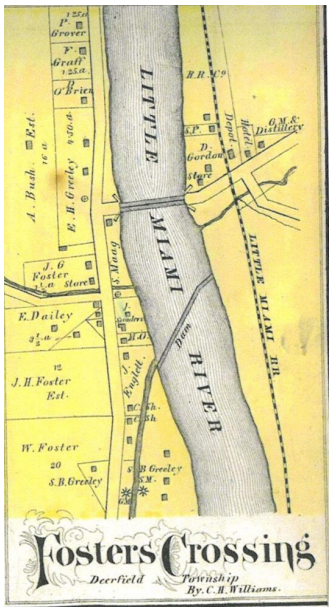


22 Mile Stand, Sketch by Eric Bowyer

When the Little Miami Railroad later came through, the location became known as Foster's Crossing because it was where the tracks crossed the highway, and where the double tracks ended. Soon, a train depot, two stores, a distillery, and a post office were built on that side of the river. By 1868, the town had 27 dwellings and 20 businesses, including three dry goods and grocery stores, a tailor shop, two shoe shops, a boarding house, a blacksmith shop, a livery, a sawmill, a flouring mill, a cooper shop, a grain depot, a toll house, and six saloons.

Foster's location had a special appeal to German immigrants. Of the town's 180 residents in 1868, 106 were German. The Germans enjoyed their beer, as did the men of Maineville and Kings Mills, (neither town had saloons), as well as travelers on the highway out of Cincinnati and area farmers. The busiest place in town, aside from the saloons, was Greeleys sawmill and grist mill. Known as Miami Mills and located at Montgomery Pike and Davis Road, the mills provided the grains needed by farmers and their livestock.





See enlarged map on last page of Tales of the Township

While the beauty of the river and surrounding hills attracted new residents, the railroad was the key to Foster's growth and success. The railroad made it possible for millers and farmers to transport their products to market. Hundreds of hogs and cattle were shipped from Foster that were held in concrete holding pens beneath the Liberty House until the trains arrived. Years later, that boarding house became a popular dance hall called Maag's Hall, where visitors enjoyed dancing to polka music.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

Historic

TALES OF THE TOWNSHIP

REMEMBERING THE ONCE POPULAR TOWN OF FOSTER

The railroad also brought many visitors to Foster as it developed into a resort town. As early as May 1877, excursion trains were coming to Foster every other weekend. During the 1920s and 1930s, the railroad's special train, The Morrow Accommodation, brought hundreds of Cincinnati residents to spend the day at Hoppe's Island.

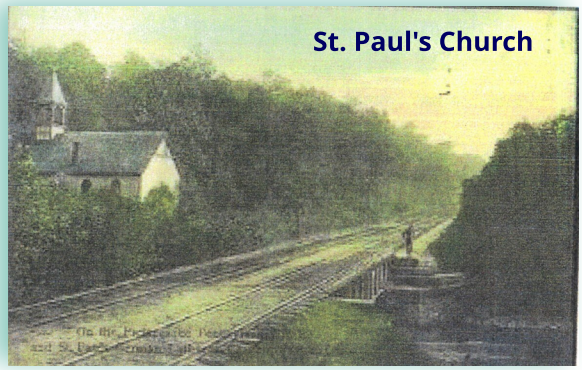
The river was great for all types of recreation, but it was also used by the town in other ways. Around 1900, the town purchased a boat called "The Queen of Miami" to transport people from Foster to Kings Mills. Since it comfortably held 25 people and the fare was just a nickel, it was a great benefit for residents who worked at the Peters Cartridge Factory.



Every winter, the town harvested large amounts of ice from near the top of the millrace dam. The ice was stored in icehouses and ice caves built along the sides of the river. Some was used locally, and the rest was sold to neighboring towns. One such cave still exists off Kings Mills Road, near the entrance to the bridge.

1883 was a banner year as Foster's Crossing was renamed Foster, and the town gained two new churches. St. John's Catholic Church was built at the foot of the hill on Socialville Foster Road. When the congregation outgrew the building, members moved across the river into the vacant Foster schoolhouse (Ballet Tech, today). The other church, St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church, was built at the foot of the hill off Foster-Maineville Road, overlooking the railroad tracks. Services were conducted in German until 1921, and English classes were offered on Saturdays for those struggling to learn the language.

This church became well known throughout the Cincinnati area because it was featured on WLWT's Sunday devotional program, "The Church by the Side of the Road." The bells viewers heard during the program actually came from that little church.


St. Paul's Church

The town struggled to settle on a name. After changing from Foster's Crossing to Foster in 1883, the name was changed to Fosters in 1884. Nine years later, residents decided they preferred Foster after all, and the town returned to that name once again.

In 1886, Greeleys Mills were sold to Augustus Hoppe, who became known for his Pride of Miami flour. For many years, he supplied fine cake flour to bakeries throughout the area.




St. John Catholic Church

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

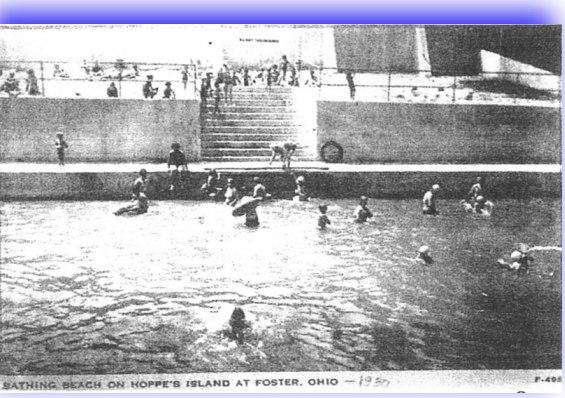
Historic

TALES OF THE TOWNSHIP

REMEMBERING THE ONCE POPULAR TOWN OF FOSTER

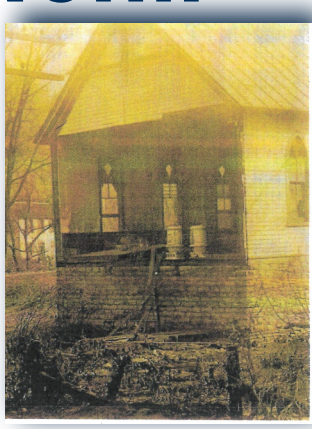


In the 1920s, the space between the millrace and the river became a popular recreational paradise called Hoppe's Island. Hundreds of people came to swim, picnic, camp, and dance to big-band music.



After Mr. Hoppe died, the property passed into private ownership and never again enjoyed the success it had experienced between World War I and World War II. In 1944, the mill closed after Hoppe's son, Edward, was killed in a milling accident. The 13½ acres that included Hoppe's Island were purchased by Glen and Vivian Irwin, giving the property a new name: Glen Island. Parts of the mill foundation and the millrace still exist today next to Carl A. Rahe Park.

Over the years, the river was both a blessing and a curse as flooding became a major problem. In March 1897, Foster experienced its worst flood up to that time. The raging waters trapped the postmaster and his family in a building on the Hamilton Township side of the river for more than a day. The 1913 flood was even worse. It destroyed the bridge over the river, damaged the entire interior of St. Paul's Church, and washed away one whole wing of the Blue Danube Hotel.



St. Paul's Church, after the 1913 flood

These floods created a problem for the state because the highway through Foster was a major state highway. In 1938, the state completed a viaduct that carried the highway over the river, the railroad, and the town. As a result, Foster gradually withered away.



Over the years, the three-story hotel and store originally run by James Foster until his retirement in 1865 underwent several name changes. It became the Mosher Hotel, the Lloyd Hotel, the Foster Hotel, and then the Blue Danube, which operated as a resort hotel from 1892 to 1907. By the time it became the Train Stop Inn in 1975, the town was a shadow of what it had once been. However, one attraction still drew people to Foster: a monkey named Sam who smoked cigarettes and drank beer. People came from near and far to see Sam, who resided in a pen at the Train Stop and there was great sorrow when he was taken away. When the Train Stop Inn was sold, the new owners renamed it the Monkey Bar and Grill as a tribute to Sam.

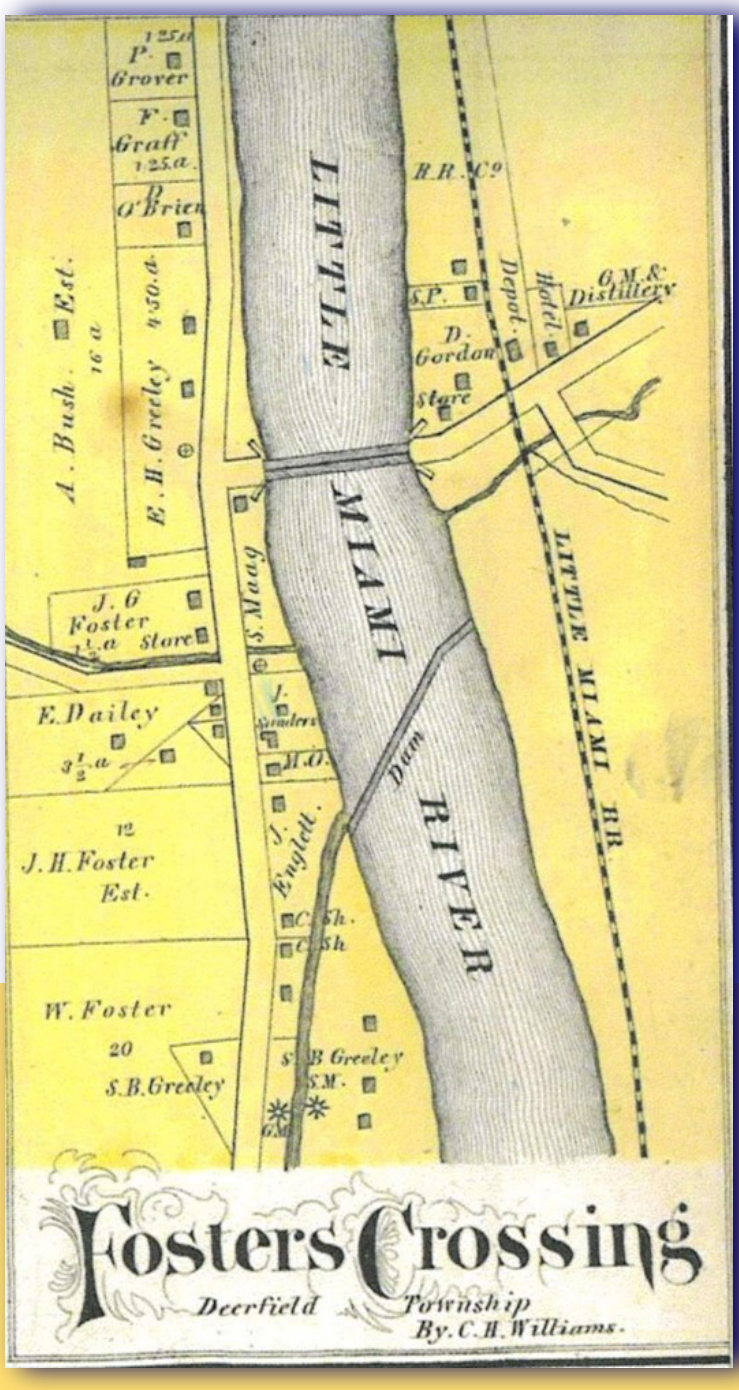




Foster's story is one of transformation, from mill town to resort town to ghost town, starting with a single building in 1842 along the river in Hamilton Township. Although the scenic town enjoyed by so many is gone, the building that remains keeps the memory of the town of Foster alive.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

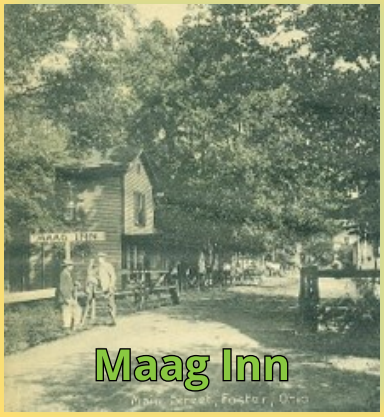
Historic TALES OF THE TOWNSHIP



DID YOU MISS THE STREAMS OF HAMILTON TOWNSHIP? CLICK HERE TO GET CAUGHT UP!

NEXT ISSUE: A Surprise!

Historic Tales of the Township is researched and written by Dr. Karen Dinsmore. Special thanks to Dan Kindel for his assistance with this article.



FUN FACTS

One of the early saloons in Foster was owned by Sebastian Maag who purchased it in 1864 and called it Maag Inn. It was one of the longest running inns in Foster as the family retained the business for 84 years. It managed to prosper during Prohibition as it was converted during that time into an ice cream parlor.

High on top of the hill overlooking Foster are the remains of the prehistoric Foster Earthworks built by the Hopewell culture of stone and burned clay. It was 2,640 feet long, rectangular in shape, and the height of the walls varied from 3 to 6 feet in some parts and 9 to 12 feet in others. Pieces of it that have been found are orange in color due to the intense heat used to bake the clay.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP



TRICK OR TREAT

This annual tradition can be enjoyed in any neighborhood in Hamilton Township. Rain or Shine.

10.31 | 6:00pm-8:00 pm

John's Holiday Tradition

Yeast Rolls & Homemade Butter

John is the only one in the family, out of 3 older sisters, that can make his Mom's yeast rolls. Perfect for any holiday gathering! Use the butter on the rolls and to baste your holiday turkey or ham.



Ingredients

Yeast Rolls

1 Package Pillsbury Hot Roll Mix (includes flour mix and yeast packet)

1 Cup Hot Water (120°F-130°F)

2 Tbsp. Butter or Margarine (softened or melted)

1 Large Egg

Flour (about 1/4 Cup, if dough is sticky)

Melted butter for brushing tops after baking

Homemade Butter

1 Quart Heavy Cream

Optional Add-Ins, to taste:

Salt

Garlic

Fresh Herbs

Honey

Directions

Yeast Rolls

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Line a baking sheet with foil and spray lightly with cooking oil .

2. Add 1 cup water and 2 Tbsp. butter to a glass measuring cup and microwave for about 2 minutes or until melted and just boiling. Combine with the mix, yeast packet, and egg, in a large bowl stirring until a soft dough forms. Turn onto a floured surface and knead for about 5 minutes, adding up to 1/4 cup extra flour if dough is sticky.

3. Place dough back into mixing bowl, cover with a kitchen towel and let it rise in a warm spot (sunny countertop or near fireplace) for 15 minutes..

4. Divide dough into 12 (or 6 giant) pieces and drop onto foil lined baking sheet. No need to roll or make dough "pretty". Cover with kitchen towel for an additional 15 minutes for 2nd rise.

5. Bake for 16-18 minutes until light golden brown. Then brush hot rolls with melted butter to serve.

Homemade Butter

1. Pour cold heavy cream into mixer bowl or food processor. Start mixing on low, then gradually increase to medium-high or high speed. (Tip: drape a towel over the top of the mixer to prevent splashing once it starts to thicken).

2. The cream will go through stages: first it turns into soft peaks, then stiff whipped cream, and then it looks grainy or like egg salad.

3. Keep mixing past whipped cream stage for about 5-10 minutes. The fat solids will rapidly clump together into yellowish butter consistency and a thin liquid (buttermilk) will separate completely. Pour off buttermilk and save in a jar for baking pancakes or biscuits.

4. Remove the butter from bowl and submerge or rinse under ice-cold water. Knead & squeeze the butter with your hands or spatula under the cold water to press out all the milky liquid. Repeat a few times until the water runs clear. (Removing all liquid is vital so the butter doesn't spoil quickly).

5. Fold in your optional ingredients. Shape the butter into a log, wrap it tightly in parchment paper or plastic wrap and store in the refrigerator for a few weeks (or freeze for several months).

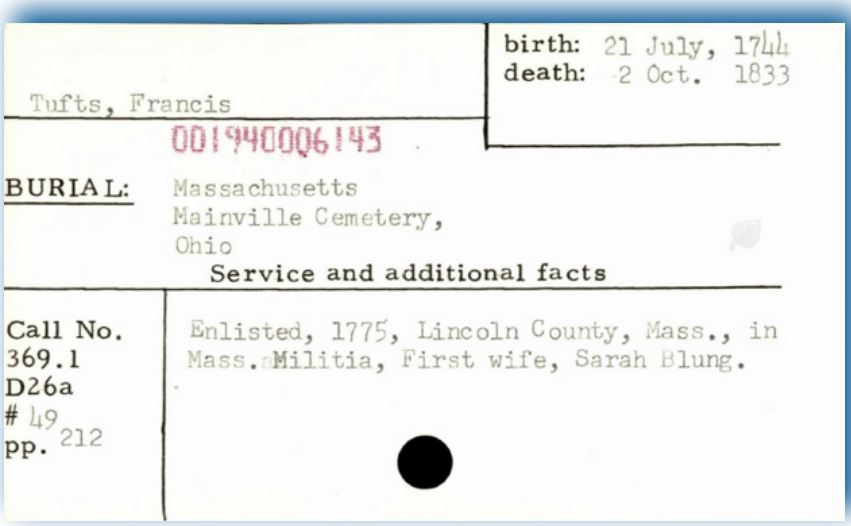


John Daunt has worked for the Township for 29 years and is a lead in the Public Works Department. John always works with a smile and goes out of his way to engage with our community residents on every job assigned. John is a HUGE part Township events and always goes the extra mile with creative ideas and dressing up as the Easter Bunny, pirate, the Grinch and Santa for the Trim the Township sleigh ride!

Remember Me

Honoring Reverend Francis Tufts (1744-1833) Revolutionary War Veteran

Francis Tufts was born on July 21, 1744 in Medford, Massachusetts. He was first married to Sarah Blunt and second to Lydia Blunt Blackstone, a sister of Sarah. Lydia died in May 1830 in Farmington, Maine.



birth: 21 July, 1744
death: 2 Oct. 1833

Tufts, Francis

00194000 6143

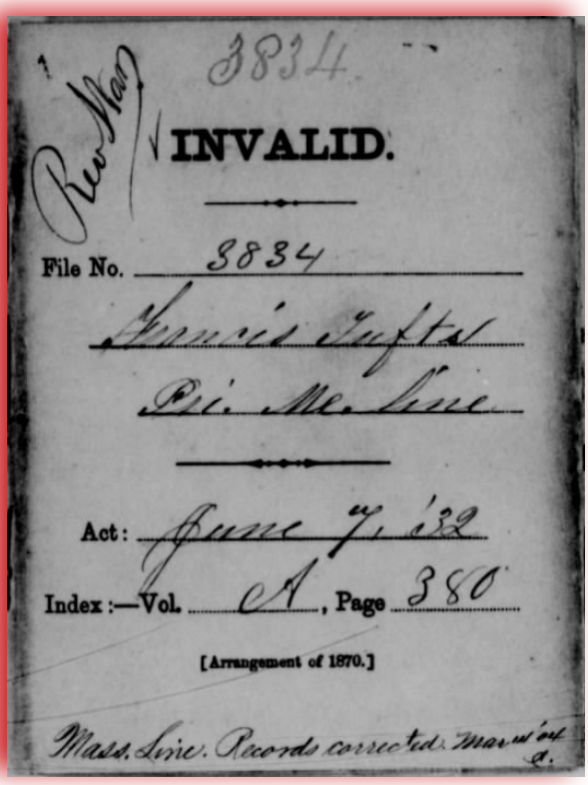
BURIAL: Massachusetts
Mainville Cemetery,
Ohio

Service and additional facts

Call No.
369.1
D26a
49
pp. 212

Enlisted, 1775, Lincoln County, Mass., in Mass. Militia, First wife, Sarah Blung.

Francis Tufts served in the Revolutionary War from 1775 to 1777, having enlisted three times under different commands in the Massachusetts militia. In 1775, as a resident of Lincoln County in the Massachusetts Province of Maine, Francis was drafted into service for six months in the Militia in Capt. John Brackett's Company, under Colonel Joseph North's regiment. The regiment marched to Tiverton in Rhode Island where he served out his term of six months and was discharged. Soon after, he was ordered to raise volunteers to go to Boston. He and the others went to General Washington's camp at the heights in the rear of Boston, which was then occupied by General Howe's British troops. For at least three months, he assisted in the construction of the defensive earthworks at Dorchester Heights, and after the British evacuation of Boston, he was again discharged.



3834

Rev War

INVALID.

File No. 8834

Francis Tufts

Pri. Mc. Line

Act: June 7, 1832

Index:—Vol. A, Page 380

[Arrangement of 1870.]

Mass. Line. Records corrected. Mar. 31 '96

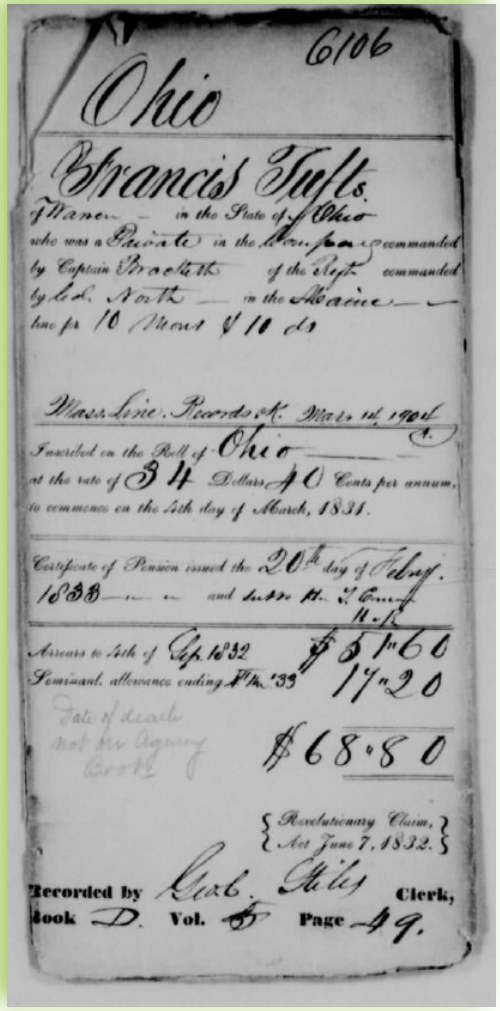
In the fall of 1777, Francis, with a number of his fellow militiamen, marched about 100 miles to a place on the Penobscot River where it was said a body of Loyalists were annoying the country by stealing American cattle and selling them to the British. After this adventure, he again was discharged and returned home to Lincoln County.

Wreaths Across America
December 19th - Noon
Maineville Cemetery

Remember Me

Honoring Reverend Francis Tufts (1744-1833) Revolutionary War Veteran

In the fall of 1831, Francis Tufts, then 87 years old and after the death of his second wife, accompanied the family of Samuel Knowlton on the long trip on horseback from Farmington, Maine to Maineville, Ohio, where he joined his two sons, Josiah and Benjamin and his daughter, Sarah Hopkinson. The trip is said to have taken 39 days and they arrived in Maineville on October 13, 1831.


6106

Ohio

Francis Tufts.

of Maine — in the State of Ohio

who was a Private in the [illegible] commanded by Captain Proctor of the Regt commanded by Col. North — in the Maine line for 10 Mos 10 ds

Wass. Line. Records &c. Mar 1st 1901

Inscribed on the Roll of Ohio

at the rate of $34 Dollars 40 Cents per annum, to commence on the 4th day of March, 1831.

Certificate of Pension issued the 20th day of Febry. 1833 — and sent to [illegible] Ct. U.S.

Arrears to 4th of Sept 1832 $51.60

Semiannl. allowance ending Mch 33 17.20

Date of death not stated in Agency Book

$68.80

Revolutionary Claim, Act June 7, 1832.

Recorded by Clerk. Clerk,

Book D. Vol. 5 Page 49.

On Thursday, October 4, 1832, at Warren County, Ohio Court of Common Pleas, Francis Tufts applied for a pension under the Revolutionary War Claim Act of June 7, 1832. He was granted a Certificate of Pension of $34.40 annually for his service as a private in the Massachusetts militia on February 20, 1833. On September 4, 1832, he was paid $51.60 in arrears to September 4, 1832 plus a $17.20 semi-annual allowance.

Francis died on October 2, 1833, in Maineville, in his 89th year, and was buried in the Maineville Cemetery in lot 3, grave 1.



Special thanks to the Warren County Genealogical Society for researching and authoring this series.

Wreaths Across America
December 19th - Noon
Maineville Cemetery

More information can be found at:
Warren County Genealogical Society
406 Justice Drive
Lebanon, OH 45036

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

Community Partner

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Our Mission

The Warren County Genealogical Society (WCGS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to build and promote interest in collecting and preserving genealogical records. We are here to assist you in finding your ancestors and relatives and have many resources available to help with your research. WCGS is a Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society.

Holiday Open House

Fun & festivities including library tours, snacks and cookies, and fellowship with volunteers and visitors!

Join Us!

Saturday, 12/10
9am-4pm
WCGS Resource Library
406 Justice Drive, Lebanon, OH

Research Services



Resource Library
Surnames
Land & Tax Records
Funeral Home Records & Obituaries
Vital Records
Western Star Online



More information

www.wcgsohio.org

406 Justice Drive
Lebanon, OH 45036

Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm
513-695-1144