OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

**Author:** Franklin Foster  
**Title:** Franklin Foster letters  
**Date:** 1841/1857  
**Abstract:** This collection consists of letters of Frank E. Foster from his friends, relatives and associates.  
**Quantity:** .3 cu.ft.

BIOGRAPHY OF

Franklin Foster was a citizen of Circleville, OH. He was a son of Hull Foster, which letters we can find in the collection.

Foster's family was one of the first families who settled in Athens. Zadoc Foster (Frank’s grandfather), a native of Massachusetts, moved with his family to Athens in 1809. Mr. Foster kept public house in Athens till his death in 1814. His widow, Mrs. Sarah Foster, continued to keep the tavern a few years after his death. She then began to teach a school for young children till her death 1849. In the letters Frank’s younger brother, James Foster, mentioned about this school (Pratt’s School – one of the first schools in Athens) and about Sarah Foster – Grandma.

Frank’s father - Hull Foster, only surviving son of Zadoc Foster, was born in Sudbury, Rutland county, Vermont, January 23, 1796, and came to the northwestern territory, with his father’s family, when a few months old. When about seventeen, Mr. Foster took up the trade of shoemaking—to use his own expression, “just as a cow does kicking—in her own head.” In 1821 he returned to Athens, resumed his trade, and built the house where Mr. Abner Cooley now lives. Soon after he married his first wife, a daughter of Mr. Ira Carpenter. Since then he has steadily adhered to his trade, at which he has worked for more than fifty years, and still works some, though under no necessity to do so. There is one family in the county for whom he has made
shoes for five generations. He has been twice married—his second wife was a daughter of Mr. William Brown, of Lee township— and is now a widower. A man of strong sense, strict integrity, and marked force of character, his life and virtues are known and read of all his neighbors.

Unfortunately, there is no enough information about Frank Foster, but you can find more general information about Foster’s family on website:

http://www.progenealogists.com/athens/athenstownship.htm

from memories of Maria Brown (Foster) on website: http://iagenweb.org/history/gb/gbc2.htm

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

This collection consists of letters of Frank E. Foster from his friends and relatives, and associates. The time period covers years 1841-1857.

Some letters are from Frank Foster’s relatives: his father — Hull Foster, his brother — James Foster, his brother in law — D. Brown, etc.

Other letters are from Frank Foster friends: C Carpenter, M. Atkinson, J. Auch and E. Stewart.

In overall there are 43 sub-folders with the names of 42 persons – authors of the letters to Frank Foster and one letter written by Frank Foster.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

These records are organized into the following series:

N/A

Abbreviations with in content list:

N/A

RELATED MATERIALS

FAMILY PAPERS

William T. Bingham Collection (#109) [Bingham genealogy]
Boyd Family (#15) [Athens County: OU 1st woman grad]
Broadwell – Hatch – Frost Family (#6) [Athens Co.]
Brown Family (#18) [Athens County: Civil War]
Brown, Henry T. – Journal (#238)
Burson, Gladys – Scrapbooks
John B. Calhoun Notebooks
Eve D. Chubb Diaries (#198) [wife of Edwin Chubb]
John Cornwell Journal (#149)
John William Corrington Collection (#161)
Benjamin Corp Diary [contractor -- Cutler Hall]
Cox Family (#7) [Vinton County]
Andrew J. Crawford Collection (#19) [Athens County mining doctor]
Manasseh Cutler Collection (#9) [co-founder of Ohio University]
Dana Family (#5) [Washington Co]
John B. Downing & William A. Thomas Manuscript (#249)
Dow Finsterwald Collection (#288) [professional golfer]
Hull Foster Ledgers (#141)
Franklin Foster Letters (#170)
Charles Grosvenor Collection (#150) [Athens Civil War & politician]
Hatch – Frost – Broadwell Family (#6) [Athens Co]
Jean R. Mahn Collection (#252)
O’Bleness Family Collection (#151) [Athens]
Louis Philip De Steiguer Recollections (#248)
Colonel John Stone Collection (#140) [Belpre pioneer & abolitionist]
William A. Thomas & John B. Downing Manuscript (#249)
John Van Cleve Correspondence (#233)
Robert Willis Scrapbooks (#219)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Restrictions: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Ohio University Libraries.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to cite the collection name, collection number, and the Ohio University Libraries, in all footnotes and bibliographical references.

Provenance: The Ohio University Archives received the collection on unknown date.

Property Rights: Ohio University retains all property rights to the collection.
This collection consists of letters of Frank E. Foster from his friends and relatives, and associates. The time period covers years 1841-1857. Some letters are from Frank Foster’s relatives: his father - Hull Foster, his brother - James Foster, his brother in law – D. Brown., etc. Other letters are from Frank Foster friends: C Carpenter, M. Atkinson, J. Auch and E. Stewart.
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