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## Fosterfields Papers: Finding Aid

### Overview of Collection

Creator: Fosterfields Staff, Friends of Fosterfields & Cooper Mill, MCPC, et al.  
Title: Fosterfields Papers  
Date: 1880s-Present  
Quantity: 2 boxes, 1.75 linear feet

### Restrictions

#### Important Information for Users of the Collection

This material is open for research with limited restrictions under the conditions of the Morris County Park Commission archives access policy. Records may be copied for use in individual scholarly or personal research; however, as with all materials in the Morris County Park Commission, researchers are responsible for obtaining copyright permission to use material from the collection.

### Administrative Information

#### Preferred Citation

Fosterfields Papers, Courtesy of the Morris County Park Commission.

#### Acquisition Information

The majority of the materials in this collection were part of the gift of the Foster Family Papers, given to the Morris County Park Commission by Caroline Foster as a bequest after her death in 1979. The Fosterfields Papers were pulled from the Foster Family Papers during a reorganization of that collection in 2011 and were merged with other recent donations to create the Fosterfields Papers. In addition to the archival collection, Caroline Foster also donated the property now known as Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, which is made up of numerous buildings and their contents (including a large decorative arts and farm equipment collection). Additional archival material which was purchased or donated was added to the collection upon its creation.

Much of the collection (2011.004, 2012.019) was pulled from the Foster Family Papers during the 2011 reorganization. The material was likely part of the bequest from Caroline Foster in 1979. Other materials in this collection (2005.16, 2005.26, 2006.26, 2006.8.2, 2007.23, 2008.14, 2011.5-.7, 2011.10, 2017.5, 2018.3) were purchased or donated by the Friends of Fosterfields and Cooper Mill and various individuals.

## **Processing Information**

Organized by Sara Parmigiani and Chris Rain, June 2011-March 2012

Described by Chris Rain, March 2012

Finding Aid updated by Katie Humphreys, April 2020 and March 2022

**The Fonds parent record is 2013.007**

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Fosterfields Papers are organized into 6 series. There is a large diversity of materials relating to Fosterfields Living Historical Farm. This includes programming, site history, the surrounding area, etc. The arrangement of the collection reflects the natural groupings found within the Collection: Maps, Transportation, Morris County History, Fosterfields Site, Farming, and General History

## **Associated Image Collection**

### [Fosterfields Image Collection](#)

With over 800 images the Fosterfields Image Collection captures the lives of the Foster family who resided at Fosterfields and others who lived and worked on the site. From the development of the farm and its dairy cattle business under the ownership of the Fosters to their personal enjoyments and recreations this Collection captures a snapshot of life across almost 150 years.

## **Arrangement**

The Fosterfields Papers are organized into 6 series relating to various aspects of Fosterfields Living Historical Farm.

### **Series 1: Maps**

Maps of Fosterfields and its surrounding area as well as Morris County, the State of New Jersey, and surrounding areas, 1880-1930

### **Series 2: Transportation**

Material relating to the history of transportation in the United States, 1900-1930

### **Series 3: Morris County History**

Material relating to the history of Morris County, NJ, from early colonization until the present

### **Series 4: Fosterfields Site**

Material relating events, programming, and the Fosterfields property since it became a historic site within the Morris County Park Commission, 1977-Present

### **Series 5: Farming**

Material relating to farming, especially in New Jersey during Fosterfields period of interpretation, ca. 1880 to 1930

### **Series 6: General History**

Original material that is relevant to the history of Fosterfields and the lives of its occupants but does not have a direct connection to the site or one of its occupants, ca. 1854-1979. When applicable these materials will be immediately digitized and made accessible for educators and may be assigned Fosterfields Working (FFW) accession numbers.

## Container List

### **Series 1: Maps**

Box	Folder	
1	1	Maps of Morristown, New Jersey, and New York (2008.014)
	2	Map of Estates around Morristown, NJ, 1913
	3	Official Automobile Blue Book, ca. 1926 (2012.010)
Map Case Drawer 4		Fosterfields topographic map
Map Case Drawer 10		Agriculturalist Weekly Maps Topographic Maps

### **Series 2: Transportation**

Box	Folder	
1	4	Automobile booklets (2011.004)
	5	Ford manual
	6	Automobile advertisements (2006.8.1-2)
	7	Automobile trade journal (2005.002)

### **Series 3: Morris County History**

Box	Folder	
1	8	"Fondly from Florham," 1918-1920
	9	Reproductions of Morristown, NJ postcards, 1905-1910 (2005.16)
	10	Women's Club of Morristown (2007.023)
	11	Report Card for Louise Hastings from Miss Dana's School, June 1902
	37	Pamphlets from St. Peter's Church, 1919-1927 (2000.008-.016)

### **Series 4: Fosterfields Site**

Box	Folder	
1	12	Article on Fosterfields and Cooper Mill programs
	13	"Victorian Homes" Holiday 1995 edition
	14	Fosterfields Visitors Center
	15	Fosterfields envelopes from the 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary, 1988
	16	Correspondence, 1977-1978
	17	Fosterfields movie script
	18	Fosterfields Visitors Center dedication invitation
	19	Fosterfields envelopes, 1978
	20	Certificates
	21	Fosterfields stationary
	22	"19 <sup>th</sup> Century" magazine
	22A	Magazines and publications about Caroline; 1985 Morris County Magazine
2	23	Fosterfields Calendar of Events
	24	Invitation to Opening of Willows 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor (2011.025.3)
	24A	Invitation to the preview party and dedication of the Willows 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor (2007.023)
	25	Thomas Coulter Willows docent training certificate, 1989 (2005.003)
	25A	Friends of Fosterfields material (2007.023)

40 Art of Willows, artist Larkin, on board.

- Map Case Drawer 4 Farmhouse Plans  
Restoration Plans
- Drawer 5 Merrill Harvey Art for Visitors Center (2021.12.1)  
Fosterfields Construction Plans 1984 (1970s/1980s)
- Drawer 6 Construction documents for sewer, Carriage House, and Visitor Center
- Drawer 7 Willows Building Plans and Restoration

**Series 5: Farming**

- | Box | Folder |   |
|-----|--------|---|
| 2   | 26     | "War Vegetable Gardening," 1918 (2005.021 or 2012.19)                           |
|     | 26a    | "War Gardening and Home Storage of Vegetables" Victory Edition, 1919 (2017.5.1) |
|     | 27     | "Farm Account Book for New Jersey Farmers" (2006.003)                           |
|     | 43     | Agricultural Catalogs   |

**Series 6: General History**

- | Box | Folder |  |
|-----|--------|--|
| 2   | 28     | "The Palmer Method of Business Writing," 1927 (2011.6.1)   |
|     | 29     | Postcard from Dublin, Ireland (2014.005.1)   |
|     | 30     | Highland Park Hotel Postcard Aiken, SC (2011.005)  |
|     | 31     | Advertisements (2011.006)  |
|     | 32     | Advertisements (2011.007)  |
|     | 33     | United States currency (2005.26)   |
|     | 34     | Booklet: "How Fine Prints are Made"  |
|     | 35     | Electrolux manual and letter (2006.26.1-2)   |
|     | 36     | Sheet Music: "It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary" and "Oh! You Suffragettes" (2013.017.1)  |
|     | 36a    | Sheet Music: Blank Staff Paper (2015.7.15) and Handwritten Bass Clef exercises (2015.7.16)   |
|     | 38     | "American Homestead Spring" Currier & Ives lithograph  |
|     | 39     | "Bradley's Straight Line Picture Cut-Outs: Fairy Tales" designed by Clara G. Dennis for Milton Bradley Co., Springfield, Mass. Copyright 1918. (FFW1198) |
|     |        | "Bradley's Straight Line Picture Cut-Outs: Toyland" Milton Bradley Company, Springfield, Mass. Copyright 1914. (FFW1199)                                 |
|     |        | "Mother Goose Stand-Ups" Ideal School Supply Company, Chicago, Illinois. Copyright 1923 (FFW1200)  |
|     | 41     | Joy-Toy Housekeeping paper toy set (2004.20)   |
|     | 42     | Cookbooks; Wartime Canning and Cookbook and Perfection Cook book (2006.26.12)  |
|     | 44     | Photo Album, empty.  |
|     | 45     | New Years and Christmas Cards, 1893 (2022.13; FFW1428-FFW1435)   |

- | Box | Folder |   |
|-----|--------|---|
| 3   | 1      | Newspaper, the Hartford Evening Press, 1864 (2012.8.1)  |
|     | 2      | Newspaper, the Hartford Evening Press, 1865 (2012.8.2)  |
|     | 3      | Bret Harte Engraving, Yesterday's News, 1871 (2018.3.1)   |
|     | 4      | Newspapers; Needlecraft Magazine, front page Rural-New Yorker, The Sunday School Times, Harper's Weekly |

Audio Box      Contains recordings of interviews and birthday wishes to Caroline. Material is on various media.