

Who Were The Frosts of Frostville ?

The **Frost Family** was prominent in northeast Ohio between 1820 - 1875 and lived at the east end of Kennedy Ridge. The Frostville Museum is named in honor of the family and the Post Office of which Elias C. Frost, Sr. was Postmaster 1829-1843.

The Frost Family traces its ancestry from **John Frost** who settled in New Haven, Connecticut in the late 17th century. The family later moved to Waterbury, Connecticut, and it was there in 1750 that **Isaac Frost** was born. Isaac was a farmer, as were most folks of his time. He married Anna Carrington of Waterbury. Four children were born of this marriage: **Elias** Carrington, Sarah, Esther and Lyman.

Early in 1807 Isaac Frost sold his land in Waterbury and set out for the Western Reserve. He first settled in Geauga County near Painesville, later moving to Columbia Township, Lorain County, Ohio (south of Olmsted). Isaac's wife Anna Carrington passed away in 1812 and is buried in Columbia Township. About 1821 Isaac moved to Lenox (later Olmsted) to join his son Elias, becoming active in community affairs, serving as Village Treasurer 1823 - 1827. In 1824 he married his second wife, Annis Wolf of Lenox. Isaac died in 1838 and is buried in Butternut Ridge Cemetery. (His grave is currently un-marked.)

Elias Carrington Frost was born in 1784 in Waterbury, Connecticut and came west with his parents to Geauga County, Ohio. In 1809 he married Phebe McIlrath, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Cozad) McIlrath, pioneer settlers of East Cleveland and Euclid, Ohio. Elias first appears in Lenox in the 1820 Federal Census. Like his father, Elias took part in civic affairs, serving as Village Trustee 1825 -1826, as Overseer of the Poor 1828 - 1830, and as previously stated, as Postmaster 1829 - 1843.

Elias and Phebe Frost had seven children, six of whom grew to maturity:

Jarvis H., 1810-1846, married Sarah Mattox. Children: William, Charles, Francis, Lorenzo, Phebe J. (m. Wilcox), and Sanford

Anna E., 1812-1898, married William H. Romp. Children: Lucy (m. Hawkins and Andrews), Margaret (m. Campbell), Mary, William E., Julius, Flora (m. Beckwith)

Samuel Jackson, 1814-1946

Lyman Johnson, 1818-1843

Lucy M., 1820-1822

Elias C. Jr., 1823-1899, married Frances Green. Children: Lucy, Ella (m. Raver), Nettie, Emma, Belle, Anna, Bertha, Ingemisca (m. Haight), Gentilisca, Huron Jackson, Cordella (m. Unkever and Curtis)

Sabrina H., 1826 -1894, married Henry Beach. Child: Emma J. (m. Townsend)

When the township was still called Lenox, in 1829 Elias applied for a postal station and the postmastership. There was another Lenox in Ohio at that time, so a change of name was being considered for the township and in the meantime, the post office received the name of **Frostville**. Elias was Postmaster until 1843.

About 1840 sons Jarvis, Samuel and Lyman moved to Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa. In 1843 Lyman was stricken with fever. His father Elias was a self-trained doctor; he and wife Phebe sped west to his aid, but before they reached their son's bedside, the young man was dead. Elias also contracted a fever and died in Iowa on September 15, 1844. While we don't have any photographs of Elias, his Masonic Traveling Apron is framed and on display in the Jenkins Cabin. It was customary for such an apron to be buried with the Masonic Lodge member upon his death. However, since Elias died away from home and did not have it with him, the apron was passed down through his descendants, eventually being donated to the Olmsted Historical Society.

Elias C. Frost practiced medicine, along with farming, civic offices and the postmastership. Details of his education are not known. Presumably he studied under an older experienced doctor, as was customary at the time. Many medical supplies and instruments were listed in the inventory of his estate.

After his death, Elias' daughter Anna and her husband William Romp traveled to Iowa to retrieve Phebe, while youngest sister Sabrina watched their young children. Upon returning to Ohio, Phebe and Sabrina lived with Elias C. Jr.'s family until Phebe's death in 1856. Both of Elias' other sons who had moved to Iowa also died too young of disease in 1846.

The Olmsted Historical Society Archives has more information on many of the Frost family members. The Society's current membership includes a few folks who can trace their ancestry to the Frosts & other families connected by marriage to the Frost family.

There are many Frost Family descendants still residing in northeast Ohio