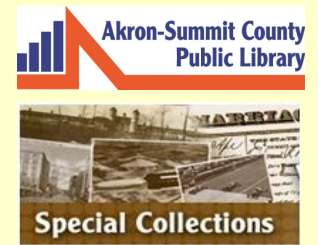


# Past Pursuits

A Newsletter of the Special Collections Division  
Akron-Summit County Public Library

Volume 15 Number 4 Winter 2016



## Library Receives Akron Community Foundation Grant to Digitize *The Reporter*

by Judy James, Division Manager



Although Akron's African American community has a rich history, it has not been well documented. For her 1975 University of Akron dissertation, *The Contribution of Blacks in Akron, 1875-1975*, Dr. Shirla Robinson McClain examined various histories of Akron and Summit County published between 1854 and the early 1900s. Scant references to African Americans include accounts of the Underground Railroad and not much more. Karl Grismer's *Akron and Summit County*, published in 1952, includes only brief mention of the social and political issues faced by African Americans living in our community. To complete her research, Dr. McClain had to rely on personal records written by residents, oral history, and records of local churches and organizations such as the NAACP. While comprehensive, Dr. McClain's work ends in 1975.

Over the years, the Akron-Summit County Public Library has worked to fill some of these gaps, most notably through [Summit Memory](#), the Library's digital database of Summit County history. Summit Memory includes images from the *Akron Beacon Journal's* photo archives as well as photos taken by Opie Evans, who documented our black community during the first half of the twentieth century. In addition, we have digitized Dr. McClain's dissertation and made it available from the Special Collections [Online Books](#) page.

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These resources tell only part of the story, however. Akron's newspaper serving African Americans, *The Reporter*, has been documenting the community's history since 1969. Established that year by William R. Ellis, Sr., *The Reporter* was founded as a response to a lack of coverage by the mainstream press. Now operated by his sons William R. Ellis, Jr. and Carlton D. Ellis, this weekly publication records the lives and perspectives of our African American residents, covering everything from church histories, biographies, and social events to articles about current issues.

Although the Library has received *The Reporter* since its beginning and microfilms it every year, it has not been indexed, so it is not searchable by names, subjects, or keywords. This makes research difficult or nearly impossible. Unless researchers have a specific date, it's necessary to scroll through the microfilm and view the pages to find what they're looking for.

But that will change soon. Thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Dick and Chris Chenoweth Fund of the [Akron Community Foundation](#), *The Reporter* will be digitized and made available online for researchers, students, and family historians. Using optical character recognition (OCR) software, approximately 30,000

pages from 1969 to the present will be scanned. This software “reads” words, enabling keyword searches that will take the researcher directly to the page or pages where that term or phrase may be found. Once complete, this project will provide unprecedented access to the stories, news, and events of our African American community for over 45 years.

The Library has contracted with [Ohio History Connection](#) (formerly The Ohio Historical Society) to digitize the microfilm. Using standards and technology established by the Library of Congress, the digital version of *The Reporter* will be added to [Ohio Memory](#), Ohio History Connection’s collaborative digital project, which includes newspapers and other materials contributed by more than 360 cultural heritage institutions from all 88 counties. The project will start in early 2017, with the first pages accessible by spring. By mid-summer, the entire paper will be available, and most importantly, searchable.

We are grateful to *The Reporter* and the Ellis family for their support and enthusiasm for this project, and to the Dick and Chris Chenoweth Fund of the Akron Community Foundation for this generous grant and for recognizing the importance of preserving this crucial piece of Summit County’s history.



## Congratulations, Judy James

Before there was a Special Collections Division, there was only a small genealogy book collection sequestered in a corner on the second floor of the old Main Library. Back then, a genealogy question could stop librarians like deer in headlights and send them running after the Library’s sole genealogy expert, Marian Davies.

Fortunately, the Library came to recognize the growing demand for genealogy reference and resources. In addition to these materials, other specialized local collections needed attention. The Library was receiving more items from private donors and area organizations, and collections of rare books had long been stored in a damp, dark vault in the basement of the building. It became clear that a dedicated service area specifically for these collections was needed. An enthusiastic librarian in the Fine Arts Department, Judy had a personal interest in preserving local history and joined the effort to help write the grant that would provide preservation supplies and a new space for these materials. The funding came through and a position opened for the first

manager of the new Special Collections Division.

Judy has been manager of the division since its creation in 2001 and will retire as of December 30, 2016. Though it is a happy time for her, it is also a sad time for us to see her go. Special Collections would not be the strong research repository it is today without Judy’s leadership, guidance, and innovation. She created solid relationships and lasting collaborations with many local organizations. Her strong advocacy for access and service as well as her understanding and ability to keep things in perspective have made her a true mentor to her staff. She leaves a valuable legacy.

Special Collections would like to thank Judy for her many years of service and wish her the best as she departs as a supervisor, yet remains as a friend.



*Judy James and Mike Elliott at the Special Collections reference desk about 2004.*





*A horse-drawn wagon from the Klages Coal & Ice Co. about 1900. From Summit Memory.*

## Ice Harvesting in Summit County

*by Rebecca Larson-Troyer, Librarian*

Refrigeration is hardly a modern convenience, yet I can still recall my grandparents referring to the refrigerator as the “ice box” long into their twilight years. As children themselves, the insulated cabinet would have been a fixture in the home. In fact, it wasn’t until the 1940s and ‘50s that electrical refrigeration made its way into most American households. My grandparents would have been children at the tail end of the ice harvesting years, before mechanical refrigeration was the norm. Their upper Midwest winters in Minnesota were surrounded by ice, and likely teams of men cutting, floating and storing it for summer months.

By comparison, northeast Ohio’s winters were milder, yet a several-week cold stretch in January was enough to harvest thousands of tons of ice from local waters. Harvesting natural ice had been done commercially for centuries, though Akron saw its first ice dealer come onto the scene around 1870. While farmers, grocers and breweries had been cutting and hauling their own ice for many years, Akron finally had the population and business and industrial base to support a commercial venture. A grocer named C. W. Bonstedt first appears briefly in the city directories as an ice dealer; however, it was Wallace Saxon who established the Akron Ice Co. in the 1870s and soon controlled the local market. By 1872, the newspaper reported “more than 100 men were cutting and storing ice at Summit Lake, White Pond and various other ponds and basins.”

Each winter, the newspaper advertised for workers needed to take on the grueling physical task of cutting, loading and storing blocks of ice. Handsaws and horse teams with special plows were the primary tools of the trade in early years before mechanical saws were used. When ice depths reached eight to ten inches, long strips were cut through the surface of the ice, then cut into large blocks. The harvest was hauled into insulated ice houses or shipped by railroad to storage facilities. Stacked to the ceiling when a full yield was achieved, the ice blocks were covered in straw or sawdust to preserve them for warmer months. When the stores ran low, ice from northern climes was shipped in by railroad. Local ice also made the trek beyond the region, though a delay on the lines could ensure a loss of cargo. Ice was essential to meat markets, saloons and breweries, as well as firms that shipped perishable goods by rail before mechanically refrigerated cars were a reality. In some years, a low harvest and shipping issues meant that some customers went without.

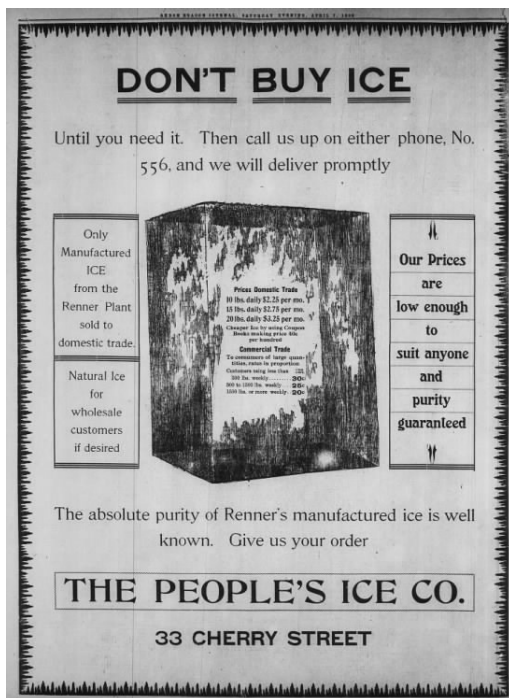
Early names in the local ice game were the Summit Lake Ice Co., Cottage Grove Ice Co. and City Ice & Coal. A man named H. L. Spelman of Kent cut thousands of ice blocks from Silver Lake each winter. In Akron, though, Klages Coal & Ice quickly became a household name. Established in the 1880s, Klages would come to supply most local ice, cutting primarily on Blue Pond and Summit Lake. An 1892 report stated that Klages had a storage capacity of 15,000 tons and was employing 100 men to cut and put away 400 to 500 tons a day. The combination coal and ice company was a common endeavor, one sure to cover the customer base through much of the year. Klages cemented his lock on the market when the firm supplemented its winter harvests by venturing into the manufacture of artificial ice in the 1890s. Klages’ method of manufacturing ice from filtered water came at a time when Akron’s



*The People’s Ice Co. continued to sell natural ice despite the Board of Health’s declaration that it was impure. Akron Beacon Journal, April 5, 1906.*

growing population and factory base were inundating local waters with sewage and industrial waste. Though ice harvesting would continue into the 1920s, consumption of natural ice and use for direct food storage was no longer considered safe. The two methods would exist alongside each other for many years, but the days of advertising “pure, natural ice” from Akron’s lakes were a thing of the past.

Whether selling natural or artificial ice, dealers employed fleets of horse-drawn wagons, and later trucks, to make deliveries throughout the city. Residential customers placed cards in a window indicating how much ice was needed, often 25 or 50 lb. blocks. Strapping delivery men armed with ice tongs hoisted large blocks of ice on their shoulders to restock melted blocks with fresh ones. So common were the iceman’s visits that he was easily substituted for the milkman in jokes of the day. Ice deliveries were still made long after artificial ice outmoded the natural thing, but there was no competing with the convenience of mechanical refrigeration. As more homes became equipped with electricity and the availability of appliances took off after World War II, the commercial production of ice dramatically slowed. The ice boxes still found in American homes today are more likely to be a novelty item full of books and DVDs. I would hazard a guess that very few locals are venturing outside on a frigid day in January to cut ice cakes from Akron’s lakes.



*This ad for the People’s Ice Co. ran in the Akron Beacon Journal just two days after the article about its impure ice, on April 7, 1906.*

## On Display: Akron Beacon Journal Photographs from Summit Memory

“Highlights from the Akron Beacon Journal Photograph Collection” will feature large reproductions of select images from the [Akron Beacon Journal Photograph Collection](#) on Summit Memory. In 2014, Special Collections embarked on a project to digitize hand-selected images from the many thousands of photographs held in the archives of the Akron Beacon Journal. To date, over 5,000 images have been digitized and made available on Summit Memory. When complete, this collection will include over 15,000 photographs that tell the stories of the people, places and events in Summit County history. The “Highlights” display will run February—April 2017.



## Summit County OGS Events

For more information, see <http://summitogs.org>.

### Abraham Clark - Signer of the Declaration of Independence

Presented by Barb Baltrinic  
Saturday, January 21  
1:30-3:30 pm  
Tallmadge Branch Library

### Dating and Analyzing Family Photographs

Presented by Rebecca Larson-Troyer  
Saturday, February 18  
1:30-3:30 pm  
Main Library

### Working Through Roadblocks

Saturday, March 21  
1:30-3:30 pm  
Tallmadge Branch Library



## Getting to Know...Paige Palmer

by Cheri Goldner, Librarian

Many northeast Ohio residents remember Paige Palmer for her long-running program on Akron's WAKR and Cleveland's WEWS, but "The First Lady of Fitness" followed her dreams and found her calling long before her television show ever aired.

Born Dorothy C. Rohrer to parents Paul and Kathryn on January 17, 1916 in Akron, she was the eldest of four children and enjoyed being active and performing from a young age. "It started when I was seven or eight years old. I was the one who taught kids in the neighborhood how to play games, put on shows," she recalled in an interview in 2000.

Rohrer started dance lessons at the age of 11. After her father consented to violin lessons only, she arranged to take the violin lessons at half price and used the other half of the money for dance. She became a lifeguard at the YWCA at the age of 12. By 14, she was teaching swimming, dancing and tennis at the Y as well as teaching dance at the University of Akron. When she was 16, she rented a house on Portage Path and opened the School of Expression, where she taught ballet, toe, tap and ballroom dancing and invited her friends to teach their own skills, such as music and knitting. Her parents learned of the venture only when she sent them an invitation to the grand opening.



"Alley-oop. There she goes, girls." A young Dorothy Rohrer demonstrated a YWCA circus routine for the Akron Beacon Journal on November 24, 1933.

**SCHOOL OF  
EXPRESSION**  
Enroll Now for Spring Term  
**DANCE DEPARTMENT**  
Dorothy C. Rohrer  
UN-5456  
Tap, toe, ballet, toe-tap, aerobic.  
Specializing in ballroom and baby  
classes. All types of tap.

**ART DEPARTMENT**  
Berdelle M. Keller  
FR-0346  
Classes for adults and children in  
drawing, design and crafts. Rec-  
reation class for grade school girls  
Saturday, 2 to 4:30.

Private Teachers May Rent Our  
Extra Classrooms. We Invite  
Teachers in the Arts to Visit  
Our Center  
166 S. Portage Path JE-1158

*Rohrer combined her entrepreneurial talent with her artistic talent to create the School of Expression on Portage Path. Akron Beacon Journal, January 23, 1937.*

After attending West High School and graduating from one of the first classes at Buchtel High School, Rohrer enrolled at the University of Akron, majoring in both physical fitness and home economics and minoring in nutrition. She recalled, "by the time I was in college at The University of Akron, they didn't have anyone to teach dancing. In my freshman year, I was teaching tap dancing." In her second year of college, the university sent her to be the physical education director at Our Lady of the Elms. While there, she set up a preschool complete with exercise programs and taught day camps. Early public performances included operettas at the Masonic Temple, a routine on an electrical horse for a 1933 circus at the YWCA, and dance reviews in the A. Polsky Co. auditorium.

In 1942, Rohrer won a national "Perfect Figure" contest sponsored by a cosmetics company. The prize was a complete wardrobe, luggage and a trip to New York City. The contest and trip changed her life. Having taken a textiles course at the University of Akron, she landed a job as fashion promotion director for the largest fabric house in New York, Cohn-Hall-Marx. As she explained in the 2000 interview, "My job was to find out what the fabric colors would be for the upcoming year, then go to the cosmetic houses and show the girls the fabrics so they'd know what colors would sell. The company used to send me around the country to promote fabrics and fashion."

Working in the fashion industry led her to adopt the "fashion-sounding name" of Paige Palmer, and her new life took her not just to New York but also to California, where she ran modeling schools and edited the fashion

magazine *Milady*. In 1947, she returned to Akron to give her sons a home. While she had no intention of continuing the television career she'd started in New York, WEWS (Channel 5) general manager James Hanrahan asked her to do a show here. A 15-week contract became a career that lasted from 1948 to 1973. Palmer not only lectured about exercise, fitness and fashion, she also encouraged her female viewers to take care of themselves by getting their annual pap smears (a topic that wasn't discussed much at the time, especially on TV) and turning their hobbies into businesses. The show led to her own line of exercise fashions and a patent for exercise equipment for women, known as The Complete Home Gym.

Palmer's television career came to an end in 1973, when she was diagnosed with the Meniere's disease, a disorder of the inner ear affecting balance and hearing. But that didn't stop her from remaining active. A longtime lover of travel and travel writing (she even interviewed the Dalai Lama while he was in exile in India), she continued to author travel books from her home in Bath and stay involved in the fashion world. She was a major benefactor of the Kent State University Museum, donating fashions and Ohio-made pottery from her vast collection. Her life and fashions were the subject of the Museum's 1999 exhibit *Panache: Paige Palmer - A Salute to 50 Years of Fashion and Fitness*. The following year, a gallery was named in her honor and many pieces of pottery that she donated to the permanent collection were exhibited in *Uncommon Clay: Ohio Pottery from the Paige Palmer Collection*. Further recognition came from Congress for her pioneering work in physical activity and exercise and from the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, which included her among its inductees in 2000.

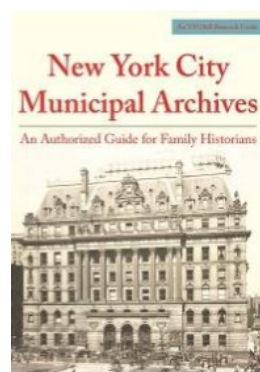
Palmer died November 21, 2009 at the age of 93. Jean Druessedow, her friend and director of the Kent State University Museum said of her, "I don't think Paige ever aged in her mind...she was always looking forward."

## New Books

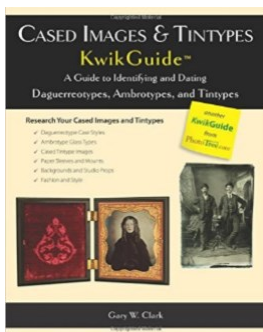
Special Collections librarians are busy ordering new resources for our collection, including the titles below. For a complete list of genealogy and local history titles we've added in the last few months, be sure to see our [New Books](#) list for Winter 2016.



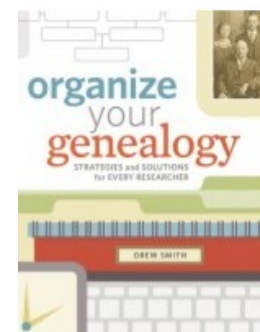
*The Akron Anthology*, edited by Jason Segedy and introduced by David Giffels, is a collection of stories and essays by area authors portraying slices of life in the tough and resilient city we call home. Heartfelt, humorous, and hard-hitting, this new book is an important addition to our local literary landscape.



If you have Big Apple kin, you probably already know how demanding New York City research can be. *New York City Municipal Archives: An Authorized Guide for Family Historians* helps researchers navigate the complex records of this metropolis with detailed descriptions, document samples, and keys to location and analysis.



Family historians are often challenged to identify many different types of nineteenth-century photographs as well as the people and places they capture. *Cased Images & Tintypes* is a useful guide to identification with many visual examples.



What genealogist couldn't use a little help getting research projects under control? In *Organize Your Genealogy*, Drew Smith, 2016 recipient of the Filby Award for Genealogical Librarianship, discusses ways to bring order not just to notes and files, but also to goals, communications, and volunteer endeavors.





Bird's Eye View of Warren, Trumbull County, Ohio, 1870. From the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division.

## Trumbull County Online Genealogy Resources

by Iris Bolar, Librarian

Our new “online genealogy resources” series will explore Ohio counties.

Named after Connecticut Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Trumbull County was founded in 1800 and encompassed the entire Connecticut Western Reserve until the county was further divided. From Trumbull, the counties of Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, and Portage were created. Summit County was created in 1840 from the counties of Portage, Medina and Stark. Therefore, Trumbull County’s records will be of interest to those researching early northeast Ohio.

The [Trumbull County Probate Court](#) holds birth and death records (1867-1908), marriages (1800-2002), wills and estates. The General Index to Estates Book 1 and Probate Docket Book 6 (1867) are digitized on the court’s [archives page](#). The [Trumbull County Records Center and Archives](#) has some online indexes and digitized documents, and its website provides thorough listings of microfilm available at the center. [Clerk of court records](#) include civil cases, criminal records, and naturalizations as well as many other record types. [Commissioner’s records](#) include county infirmary documents. Holdings for mortgages, deeds, soldier burials and discharges can be found on the [county recorder’s microfilm list](#). The earliest of the [county auditor’s](#) records goes back to 1805.

Among the digitized resources available on the Record Center’s website are maps and atlases from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and county cemetery maps (1800-1930) showing veteran burials. Select “Maps (Township)” from the website menu to make a selection. Deed records and [indexes to deeds \(1795-1896\)](#) are available from the recorder’s historical documents. The deed records can be viewed by book letter or by number. Western Reserve draft books are included on the “deeds by letter” page. The *Trumbull County Indenture Book* (1824-1869) can also be accessed from the recorder’s historic records menu.

The [Local History & Genealogy Center](#) of the Warren-Trumbull County Public Library provides multiple online indexes on its [digitized resources](#) page. Obituary indexes to *The Warren Tribune Chronicle* cover 1900-1949 and 1970-2014, while those for the *Youngstown Vindicator* cover 2011-2014. In addition, there are indexes (incomplete) for adoptions (1865-1973); divorces (1816-1969), marriages elsewhere (1842-1969); and naturalization information (1896-1969). The *Atlas of the Ten Lower Townships of Trumbull County, Ohio, 1918* is also accessible from the website. The library’s [Trumbull Memory Project](#) displays the history of Trumbull County through photographs, postcards and documents. Its many collections cover events, schools, churches, veterans and other citizens of the City of Warren and Trumbull County.

Ancestry Library Edition (available only in library agencies) has the 1889-1890 directory for Trumbull County, which helps fill the gap caused by the destruction of the 1890 federal census. This searchable directory does not include images from the actual directory, however. Some Trumbull County vital records can be found on [FamilySearch](#) as well. Birth registers for Trumbull County (1867-1908) are included in “[Ohio, County Births, 1841-2003](#).” Images of Trumbull County marriage records (1803-1916) are included in the record collection “[Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013](#).” Over 13,000 Trumbull County marriages are indexed in the collection “[Ohio Marriages, 1800-1958](#).” FamilySearch also has [Ohio death certificates](#) (Dec 20, 1908 - 1953). Check the content tables for other [Ohio collections](#) on FamilySearch for county and date coverage by clicking on “Learn more” after selecting a collection.

# Join Us for All-Day Genealogy Program April 1

Breaking down brick walls often means in-depth research in sources that may not be easy to find. Learning to locate these sources and understanding what they can tell us is an important part of the process. Special Collections is pleased to present “**Church and State: Genealogy Research in Religious and Government Records**” featuring Cleveland-area genealogists [Sunny McClellan Morton](#) and [Chris Staats](#) on Saturday, April 1, 9:30 am-4:00 pm in the Main Library Auditorium. The program is free and open to the public, and parking is free in the High-Market Parking Deck. To register or for more information, contact the Special Collections Division at 330-643-9030 or [speccollections@akronlibrary.org](mailto:speccollections@akronlibrary.org).

## Program schedule and lecture descriptions:

- 9:30-9:45 Welcome and introductions
- 9:45-10:45 Sunny McClellan Morton: *Why We Care Where Grandma Went to Church*  
U.S. church records can reveal ancestors’ vital events, family relationships and prior/subsequent residences (including overseas birthplaces!). Learn what various types of church records look like, how to identify an ancestral church, locate extant records and access them.
- 10:45-11:15 Break
- 11:15-12:15 Sunny McClellan Morton: *They Once Were Lost but Now Are Found: Using U.S. Church Records to Solve Genealogical Mysteries*  
When are church records worth your while? When you’re trying to answer specific kinds of questions. Lively case studies show how church records from various time periods, denominations and ethnic groups were located and used to address different research questions.
- 12:15-1:30 Lunch on your own
- 1:30-2:30 Chris Staats: *Order in the Court! A Brief History of Ohio Courts and the Records They Created*  
Ohio’s court system has undergone numerous revisions since its Northwest Territory days. This lecture will describe the evolution of different courts, their jurisdiction, and their records.
- 2:30-3:00 Break
- 3:00-4:00 Chris Staats: *Buried Treasure: Finding Your Ancestors in Ohio’s Local Government Records Collection*  
Ohio’s Local Government Record Program has preserved a wealth of records that can’t be found elsewhere. This lecture will cover what they are and how to access them.



Sunny McClellan Morton teaches genealogy for local, state, national and international audiences. She is Contributing Editor and Genealogy Insider columnist for *Family Tree Magazine*, as well as Editor of *Ohio Genealogy News*. She has been an instructor for Family Tree University, and is a

member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the International Society of Family History Writers & Editors.



Chris Staats regularly presents and writes on genealogical topics including methodology, resources, and technology. He has written articles for many publications including *Family Tree Magazine* and *Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly*.

He is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and Seminar Chairperson for the Western Reserve Historical Society’s Genealogical Committee.



# Special Collections Main Library Class Schedule

The Special Collections Division offers several recurring genealogy classes to help you with your family research. All classes are free of charge and open to the general public. **Registration is required for all classes held at Main Library. Please register by calling us at 330-643-9030 or emailing us at [specollections@akronlibrary.org](mailto:specollections@akronlibrary.org).**



## Getting Started in Family History

Join us for an introduction to genealogy for new family historians. This class includes an overview of genealogical sources available at the Library, suggestions for getting started, and tips for organizing your research.

Saturday, January 7, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Meeting Room 2AB

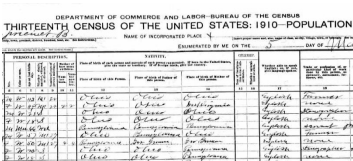
Saturday, March 18, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Meeting Room 2AB



## Branching Out: U.S. Vital Records and Obituaries

This class focuses on the types of genealogical information and sources researchers encounter, what to expect when working with United States vital (birth, marriage and death) records and obituaries and basic search strategies for finding these records. Because this class will use electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended.

Saturday, January 28, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2



## Finding Your Family in the U.S. Census

United States census records are rich sources of genealogical information. Join us to learn more about using these valuable records for your family research and how to effectively search the census using library databases. Because this class will use electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended.

Saturday, February 11, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2



## Using Historical Newspapers in Your Genealogy Research **NEW!**

Historical newspapers should be a “primary” source for all genealogists. From births to obituaries, estate notices to news stories, newspapers can fill in important details and help to paint a fuller picture of our ancestors’ lives. This new class will take a look at accessing newspaper content through a variety of resources.

Saturday, March 4, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2

## New Microfilm Readers

Even in the digital age, quite a few of our resources are still on microfilm, and it’s questionable when they’ll be accessible digitally. That means we need to keep up with new developments in microfilm readers as our old readers wear out. While we still maintain a few of our old microfilm reader/printers, we began upgrading to new scanning machines a couple of years ago, starting with ST ViewScans. Recently, we’ve added three ScanPro 3000 units. The ScanPro 3000 allows a user to view, print, and scan microfilm images and offers an option for emailing scanned images. The system software is user-friendly and the microfilm is easy to load. The digital images can be enhanced for brightness, contrast, focus and size, which is very helpful when working with dark images on microfilm. The new devices can view 16mm and 35mm microfilm as well as microfiche. Just a reminder, to use the new ScanPro 3000 and the existing ST ViewScan devices, you’ll need to log in to the computer station connected to the machines with your library card number.



## Castel di Sangro Society Letter of Donation

Among recent donations to Special Collections was a collection of items from the Castel di Sangro Society, a local Italian heritage organization. The accompanying letter was a touching tribute to Akron's historic Italian community. It is reprinted here as a testament to that history and to the Society's devoted members.

*Dear Director Jennings,*

*One of the photographs in the Castel di Sangro Society collection shows their trophy-winning baseball team.*

*It is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter to you, on Columbus Day, in appreciation of the Library's willingness to accept various items of memorabilia from the Castel Di Sangro Society, in addition to items from the*

*Castel di Sangro Ladies' Auxiliary. On behalf of all remaining Society members, I am also pleased to present the Library with a check in the amount of the funds left in our treasury to further its Special Collections Division in any way that you deem appropriate.*

*The Society was incorporated in 1937, and was open to any man over 18 years of age who could trace his lineage back to the small town of Castel di Sangro located in the mountains of Central Italy. For many years, the Society had a clubhouse located on East Cuyahoga Falls Avenue; however, due to the decreasing membership in the Society as the years passed, and the cost of maintaining the building, the clubhouse was sold in 1994. At that time, membership was also closed to new members.*

*Although the Society has not been an active social club for several years, it lives on in the hearts and minds of the remaining sixteen members.*

*Most of the original members and their families came to the United States at the turn of the twentieth century with little more than a dream and what they could pack into a travel chest. America provided them with the hope for an opportunity to give themselves and their families a better life than presented itself in Italy (and Europe) at the time. Of course, when these immigrants came to America, there was no welfare, Social Security, or any of the other many social services available to immigrants arriving in the last 50 years.*

*They came to work in order to survive, and work they did, in many industries in and around Akron. Many Italians, along with Germans and Eastern Europeans, settled in North Hill—then a newer area for the ever-expanding city of Akron. There they built homes, churches, schools, delicatessens, social clubs and restaurants. And, of course, they raised families that added to the growth and prosperity of Akron and Summit County. The American Dream realized.*

*The Society greatly appreciates the Library's efforts to try and capture images and memorabilia from Akron's past, and hopes that patrons will recognize and take advantage of the items, documents and images that you have in your collection for years to come.*

*Most sincerely,  
John R. Marconi  
President, Castel di Sangro Society*



Thank  
You

**We would like to thank the following  
for their generous donations:**

Richard Allen for original issue of *American Balance*,  
December 28, 1837.

Castel di Sangro Society for historical records of the Castel di  
Sangro Society of Akron, Ohio and monetary donation.

Jennifer Cauffield for four photographic portraits, possibly of  
Summit County residents, and photograph of the 1937  
convention of Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way  
Employees, held at the Portage Hotel in Akron, Ohio.

Richard Garinger for framed print of Central High School.

Emma Glass for historical materials related to Akron's rubber industry and the Akron Public Schools;  
Goodyear Theater programs featuring Eleanor Buchholzer.

Greater Akron Audubon Society for historical records of the Greater Akron Audubon Society and Cuyahoga  
Falls Audubon Club.

Robert Kendall for *Monthly Jail Register, Summit County, 1907-1910* recorded by Summit County Sheriff  
Daniel P. Stein.

Mary Beth Kluge for photographs and World War II letters written by Donald A. Kluge.

April Knepp for postcard of Akron Children's Home, 1919.

Olive Hoffman for genealogical research related to the Au/Aue family.

Judy Montavon for monetary donation.

Lawrence J. Rohr for twenty Walsh High School yearbooks.

Jae Roll for *100 Historic Pages of the Akron Beacon Journal* and *Akron Beacon Journal* poster featuring Stan  
Hywet.

Russell Sibert for WSLR Country Radio magazines; photographs; Cascade Locks Master Plan; compiled  
history of Akron Public Schools; CD and print pages from the Akron Women's History Project website; 1888  
map of Akron, Ohio.

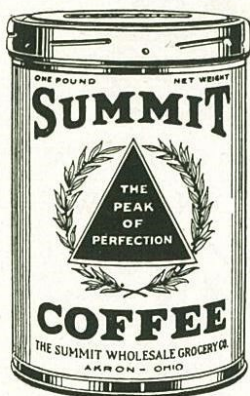
Saints Peter and Paul Church Senior Group for monetary donation.

Laura Seal for 1980 Summit County election memorabilia.

Summit County Sports Hall of Fame for records of the Summit County Sports Hall of Fame.

Bert Szabo for documents pertaining to the geology of Akron and Summit County, Ohio for the Summit Metro  
Parks Collection.

## Start Right This Year



By drinking Summit—that good wholesome coffee, delightful in aroma, delicious in taste and absolutely fresh when you buy it at your grocer, because it is packed in air-tight metal canisters as shown in the illustration. Independent grocers sell it.

*“Akron Owned  
and Operated”*

**THE SUMMIT  
WHOLESALE  
GROCERY CO.**

*The Summit Wholesale Grocery Co. was located at  
36-40 South College St. in the late 1920s.  
Akron Topics, January 1929.*

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Special Collections Division  
is located on the third floor  
of the Main Library.

Special Collections  
Akron-Summit County Public Library  
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