

PAST PURSUITS: Genealogy and Local History News at the Akron-Summit County Public Library

A Publication of the Special Collections Division

Volume 2 Number 4

End of Year Edition

If you are reading this newsletter, there is little doubt that you have been shocked by the sudden passage of time while digesting manuscripts or scrolling through reels of microfilm. The Special Collections staff has recently taken that pause and realized that 2004 is nearly upon us. This is a time for reflection. This has been a year of many accomplishments and some disappointments. We liken our situation to genealogical and local history research. In 2003, we have solved many puzzles, written many chapters, and clearly answered questions...while, of course, creating more questions. Yet we still have a great deal of work that remains to be done. We look upon 2004 and the challenges (or "brick walls" for genealogists) it presents with enthusiasm and zeal. We remain focused on collections and database development, outreach, preparation for the move to the new Main Library in the fall, and MOST IMPORTANTLY, continuation of excellent reference service to genealogy and local history researchers. You see, we are driven by the same interest in history that makes time fly when you research, leaving your family to wonder if you are ever coming home!

To keep updated on construction efforts, visit:
<http://ascpl.lib.oh.us/construction/main.html#Downtown>

Please don't forget that you can visit us at 1040 E. Tallmadge Avenue during library construction! All genealogy and local history collections are available.

Special Note: Hours of operation at the Main Library will change in the second or third week of January 2004. We will send a special announcement via email as soon as the hours are announced.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Past Pursuits*! As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome. If you missed any of our previous issues, kindly let us know. We will email the issues to you promptly.

Email: speccollections@ascpl.lib.oh.us

Mail: 60 South High Street, Akron, Ohio 44326-0001

Phone: 330-643-9030

Genealogy Collection Highlights and Updates

Getting Acquainted with the Special Collections Division

We realize that many people are not familiar with our holdings. We collect for the purpose of helping you research, so please don't let our collections be a secret! *Past Pursuits* will keep you up-to-date on changes and additions. For a profile of our collections or to search our Library catalog, please visit <http://ascpl.lib.oh.us/main->

[sc.html](#). A listing of our microforms is also available online in pdf format at <http://ascpl.lib.oh.us/sc-microholdings.pdf>.

A staff member is available at our reference desk every hour that we are open to guide you through the collections and provide guidance. Please feel free to stop by or call the reference staff at 330-643-9030 with your questions. You may feel that you have exhausted all avenues of research...but you never know what sources we might have just received (or uncovered) that might be helpful, or how much a different perspective of the “problem” might be worth.

New Microfilm Collection

Research Publications, Inc. microfilmed many atlases and histories in 1973. We are happy to report that we have purchased four reels of “County Histories of the ‘Old Northwest’: Series II, Ohio.” This purchase adds a number of works to our collection that, because of the long life of microfilm, will be available to you for many decades to come.

Reel 7:

History of Hancock County, Ohio by D. B. Beardsley
Atlas of Delaware County, Ohio (1866)
Atlas of Jefferson County, Ohio (1871)
Atlas of Licking County, Ohio (1866)
Atlas of Muskingum County, Ohio (1866)

Reel 29:

Combination Atlas Map of Greene County, Ohio (1874)
Combination Atlas Map of Portage County, Ohio (1874)
Combination Atlas Map of Stark County, Ohio (1875)
Combination Atlas Map of Tuscarawas County, Ohio (1875)
Illustrated Historical Atlas of Clark County, Ohio (1875)
Illustrated Historical Atlas of Delaware County, Ohio (1875)

Reel 33:

Akron and Summit County, Ohio by Karl H. Grismer
Historical Collections of Harrison County, in the State of Ohio, with Lists of the First Land-Owners, Early Marriages (to 1841), Will Records (to 1861), Burial Records of the Early Settlements, and Numerous Genealogies by Charles A. Hanna
Hannum’s Atlas of Fairfield County, Ohio (1866)
Centennial History of Troy, Piqua and Miami County, Ohio by Thomas C. Harbaugh

Reel 84:

The Standard Atlas of Holmes County, Ohio (1907)
Atlas of Lake County, Ohio (1898)
Columbus, Ohio: Its History, Resources, and Progress by Jacob H. Studer
Genealogical and Family History of Eastern Ohio compiled by Ewing Summers

Setting the (death) Record Straight

In our last issue, V 2.3, we noted the unfortunate news that uncertified death certificates from the state of Ohio or local health departments, 1908 to present, are no longer available. Certified copies must now be purchased at a cost of \$15 each. It has come to our attention that some researchers thought that we only held Summit County certificates. We have also noted some publications that have either neglected to mention that we have the records or stated that we were missing some years. This is a fantastic collection and we don't want anyone to miss out due to a misunderstanding.

So, we state honestly, that Special Collections holds the complete Ohio Death Certificate Collection (all Ohio counties), 1908-1944, and also the complete index, 1908-1944. This collection is on microform. Enjoy!

For more information on House Bill 95 and its effect on Ohio records, you can visit <http://www.ogs.org/>.

Summit County Marriage Index 1840-1943

Special Collections is pleased to announce the addition of the microfilmed index of Summit County Marriage Records, 1840-1943. This purchase, made possible through donations made in memory of Beverly Kepler Coss, will greatly enhance access to these records by providing an alphabetical name index (separate indexes for males and females) that includes every year from 1840-1943. Again, we would like to thank all who generously donated funds in Mrs. Coss' name.

Two Additional Notes on Summit County Marriages...

- As a reminder, Special Collections has Summit County Marriage Records, 1840-1922, on microfilm. For marriages after 1922, researchers will need to contact the Summit County Probate Court.
- The Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society is preparing Summit County Marriage Indexes for release. The books, covering 1840 to 1900, will be published in five volumes. A CD will also be available. Expected release date for this collection is early 2004. Visit their website, <http://spot.acorn.net/gen/>, for updates on publication.

New Book Released on Genealogical Research in Northeastern Ohio

Vicki Blum Vigil, amateur genealogist and historian, has recently published *Finding Your Family History in Northeast Ohio*. She is active in the genealogical community, serving as president of the East Cuyahoga Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society. Ms. Vigil is also the author of *Cleveland Cemeteries*. Look for copies of Ms. Vigil's book to be in the Special Collections Division within the month. You will find us highlighted on page 171!

Civil War Ancestors

Over the next few months, we will be compiling extensive finding aids for some distinctive parts of our collection. The first finding aid to be created will be focused on the Civil War. Many of you with Civil War ancestors will most likely be familiar with the books in our Military section. However, there are many works that get “hidden” among the other materials, in our closed stacks, and also in other departments of the Main Library that you might not think to check. We are also working to enhance the collections with such recent purchases as the 14 volume *History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers*. You can pick up a copy of the finding aid in the Special Collections Division in February. If you would like a copy emailed to you when it is completed in February, please email Marie Herlevi at mherlevi@ascpl.lib.oh.us to be on the mailing list.

Local History Collection Highlights and Update

Summit County Maps and Atlases

Maps and atlases can provide clues to your family’s past. You may remember from our January-February 2003 issue of *Past Pursuits* that we mentioned some of the resources that are included in atlases:

- *County History*
- *Town and Village Histories*
- *Sketches of prominent businesses, homes and institutions*
- *Subscribers’ reference including nativity and business*
- *Detailed population statistics*
- *Maps of Townships showing property ownership*

The county and state atlases shelved in our Genealogy and Local History area comprise only a portion of our collection. We would like to make you aware of other maps and atlases available for use in the Library. The list below provides a key to the subject divisions where the materials can be found. If you have any questions, please ask for assistance at the Special Collections reference desk.

Locations key: GLH = Genealogy Local History, RSTCK = Reference Stacks,
STMD = Science and Technology Map Drawers

Akron and Summit County Atlases

1856 *Summit County* (GLH)

(Laminated, on top of atlas stand)

1874 *Summit County* (GLH and RSTCK)

1891 *Summit County* (GLH and RSTCK)

1910 *Summit County* (RSTCK)

(Laminated pages in archival box, and regular bound copies)

1915 *Plat Book of the City of Akron and Vicinity* (RSTCK)

(Very fragile, cannot copy)

1921 *Plat Book of the City of Akron and Vicinity* (RSTCK)

(Very fragile, cannot copy)

1922 *Plat Book of the City of Akron and Vicinity* (RSTCK)
(Revised version of 1921, very fragile pages in archival box, cannot copy)
1932 *Summit County* (RSTCK)
(Laminated pages in 2 archival boxes)
1936 *Summit County* (RSTCK)
(Laminated pages in 3 archival boxes)
1941 *Housing Survey, Akron and Vicinity: Maps* (RSTCK)
1955-1956 *Summit County Plat Book* (RSTCK)
1959-60 *Akron Plat Book* (RSTCK)
1964 *Aeroplant Atlas of Summit County* (RSTCK)
(4 volumes, maps including aerial photos)

Akron City (and vicinity) Maps with Census Enumeration Districts (STMD):

Akron, 1896 (with 1900 Census districts outlined)
Akron, 1907 (with 1910 Census districts outlined)
Akron, 1920
Barberton, 1920
Cuyahoga Falls, 1920

Akron Street and City Maps (STMD)

1925, 1940, 1943, 1945, 1947, 1949, 1970, 1982, 1986

Akron Street and County (STMD)

1986

Akron Wards and Parks (STMD)

1986

Other City Maps (STMD)

Bath Township, 1974
Boston Township, 1974
Canton Quadrangle, 1901
Massillon Quadrangle, 1901
Northampton Township, 1972
Portage Lakes, 1892, 1927, 1949
Richfield, 1974
Sagamore Hills Township, 1973

Miscellaneous Ohio Maps (STMD)

Ohio Canal, 1891
Ohio Townships, 1950

Akron's Own History Makers

In the summer of 2002, the Akron-Summit County Public Library hosted The History Makers, a national non-profit educational institution based in Chicago. History Makers is committed to collecting and preserving video oral histories of thousands of African-

Americans. The goal of this organization is to create a digital archive that will document the accomplishments of African-Americans who have contributed to our nation's history. During their visit to our Odom Boulevard (formerly Wooster) Branch, they interviewed Janet Purnell, Art Minson, Dorothy Jackson, Gloria Rookard, Joseph Roulhac, and Sylvester Small. Recently, the organization presented the Akron-Summit County Public Library with copies of these videotaped interviews. We are grateful to the History Makers for their donation, and applaud their continued commitment to preserving the heritage of Summit County's African-American history makers.

'Tis the Season to....Cook!

As we gather with family and friends during this season to celebrate the holidays, our gatherings will most certainly involve food, and probably lots of it! Remember that your treasured family recipes are an important piece of your family's history. Take advantage of this time together to collect family recipes and preserve them for future generations.

Speaking of Recipes...

Polly Paffilas/*Akron Beacon Journal* Recipe Database

The Akron-Summit County Public Library recently acquired the recipe collection of Polly Paffilas, former *Akron Beacon Journal* food and society editor. This collection consists of recipes that appeared in the *Beacon* from approximately 1959 until 1980, and is estimated to include 6000 to 8000 recipes. Our Science and Technology Division created a searchable database that will provide access to these recipes. To date, more than 2700 recipes have been entered. This collection provides a wonderful look at our food traditions over the years, and includes recipes from readers and local organizations such as Goodwill, Stan Hywet Auxiliary and East Ohio Gas. For more information about the database or recipes, please contact the Science and Technology Division.

Phone: 330-643-9075

Email: stdiv@ascpl.lib.oh.us

Akron Women's History Project Awards

Each year, the Women's History Project of the Akron Area, Inc. bestows awards on local women who have contributed to our community, region, and nation. The Women's History Project is currently accepting nominations for the following awards: the Rita Dove Award for Creativity, the Judith Resnik Pioneer Award, the Minnie J. Ellet Award for Inspiration, the Sojourner Truth Award for Courage, the Woman to Watch Award, and the Faye H. Dambrot Award. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Special Collections Division at Main Library or the Women's History Project website:

<http://www3.uakron.edu/schlcomm/womenshistory/>.

The Wallpaper Project

During weekend of September 26-28, the Akron-Summit County Public Library, in collaboration with the Summit County Historical Society, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the Cuyahoga Valley Park Association, and the University of Akron hosted the Summit County performance of the Wallpaper Project. This oral history-based play highlighted many themes common to all Ohioans including work, leisure, hard times, religion and family. During the week prior to the performances, the Akron-Summit County Public Library hosted three "story circles" or group oral history interviews with

folks from our community who share a commonality. Three themes were explored during these circles, Howard Street, the North Hill Italian community, and the Jewish community of the Wooster Avenue neighborhood. Each circle was lively and fascinating. Marie Reiter of the North Hill group serenaded those in attendance with a beautiful Sicilian folk song, and shared the story of how her wedding cake baked by Ninni's included live doves! The project was a statewide success, and will be represented at the Oral History Association conference in Rome, Italy in June 2004. In addition, the Ohio Humanities Council was awarded the Schwartz Prize for Excellence in Public Programming for its support of the project. We would like to thank everyone who participated in making this project a success, and especially the Akron Community Foundation for their generous support.

Ohio Bicentennial Gift from the Akron Chapter of the D.A.R.

On Saturday, November 8th, the Akron Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Lafayette Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution joined to celebrate their 80th anniversaries at their annual luncheon meeting. At the meeting, the Akron-Summit County Public Library was presented with an Ohio Bicentennial gift of a hand-carved, wooden canal boat, a replica of the St. Helena II based in Canal Fulton. The boat is about 18 inches long and is nicely mounted on a board with an engraved label. It was made by Mr. Daniel Lukac, whose wife Marilyn was past Regent of the Akron Chapter of the DAR. Mr. Lukac is a veteran of World War II and was present during the landing at Normandy. He is also an active member of the Railroad Historical Preservation Society, the MAPS Museum at the Akron-Canton Airport and volunteers for the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. Mr. Lukac's carving is truly a work of art, and we will be most proud to display it in the Special Collections Division of the new Main Library. We are very grateful for this generous gift. The DAR also presented the Library with *Barnes-Ralph: Seasons Gone By*, a family history published by Akron Chapter Regent Diana Allison. Congratulations to both organizations on their milestone anniversaries.

Gifts:

We would also like to thank the following individuals for their recent gifts:

Rick Acker for digitized copies of *The Arnold Family of Copley, Ohio Scrapbook*, and *Shorty Fulton's 1937 Soap Box Derby Photo Album*.

Barbara Griffith, Registrar for the Cuyahoga Portage Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for *Bastardy Cases in Harford County, Maryland, 1774-1844*, *Heirs and Legatees of Harford County, Maryland 1774-1802*, *Harford County, Maryland Wills, 1774-1800*, *Harford County, Maryland Marriage Licenses 1777-1865*, *Men in Mark in Stafford County, Virginia: a Listing of County Officials, 1664-1991*.

Nancy Howell for *1850 Census of Columbiana County, Ohio*, *Glendale Cemetery Burial Records, 1838-1869*, and *Index to Early Ohio Tax Records*.

Kathy and Nick Stafford for twenty-six photographs of Schott's Mill, formerly located on South Arlington Road.

Karen Taucher for a copy of her Master's thesis, *Nantucket Restoration Record: Historical Architecture, Individual Investigation*.

Upcoming Events

Great Lakes Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists

The Great Lakes Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists is sponsoring an Advanced Genealogy Discussion Group. The next meeting is on Saturday, January 10, 2004. The purpose of the group is to discuss advanced genealogical methodology as presented in case studies that have appeared in various scholarly genealogical publications.

The group meets the second Saturday of the month, starting at 10:00 a.m., at the Medina County District Library annex meeting room. The library is located at 210 South Broadway St., Medina, OH. The meetings last about one and one-half hours. There will be no meetings in July, August, or December. The discussions are free but pre-registration is required. Any experienced genealogical researcher is welcome to enroll.

As a pre-requisite, participants should be familiar with Dr. William M. Litchman's article, "Teaching Analysis, Logic, and the Research Process: A Seminar Approach", from the NGS News Magazine, Nov/Dec 2000, pages 340-343. Each participant is requested to read several times, in advance of the meeting, the article to be discussed at the meeting. Contact Donna Gruber for a copy of the material for the January 10, 2004 discussion.

To register, or for any questions, contact Donna Gruber at djg@bright.net or call (419) 846-3533.

Ohio Genealogical Society 2004 Annual Conference, Wilmington, Ohio 22-24 April 2004

Visit www.ogs.org for more information.

Summit County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society

The chapter will meet at a new location this year in the Carriage House of the Summit County Historical Society's Perkins Mansion, 550 Copley Road at Portage Path. The parking lot faces Portage Path. Meetings begin at 1 p.m. For more information, email the chapter at SummitOGS@ald.net.

January 17: The program will be "Breaking down the Brick Wall." Everyone is asked to bring a research problem. The group will work together to find an answer.

February 21: "Organizing Your Genealogical Records" will be presented by chapter president, Lois Noirot. The presentation was first given at a chapter seminar on September 15, 2001.

Recent Additions to Special Collections

MICROFICHE:

1841 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Directory (containing Akron and other cities)
1859-1860 Williams' Akron, Wooster & Cuyahoga Falls Directory

UNITED STATES (BY STATE)

ALABAMA

Annals of Northwest Alabama, Volumes I-II
History of Butler County, Alabama
The Heritage of Coosa County, Alabama
Marriage Records of Coosa County, Alabama, 1845-1865
Sears Chapel Methodist Church Cemetery Records, Coosa County, Alabama, Volumes 1-3
Distinguished Men, Women, and Families of Franklin County, Alabama
Jefferson County and Birmingham, Alabama History

Cemetery Inscriptions from Perry County, Alabama

DELAWARE

Minutes of the Delaware General Assembly, 1739-1742

GEORGIA

Families of Southeastern Georgia

Sketches of Some of the First Settlers of Upper Georgia, of the Cherokee, and the Author

INDIANA

The Indiana Gazetteer (1850)

Indiana Land Entries, Volume I, Cincinnati District, 1801-1840

Indiana Land Entries, Volume II, Part I, Vincennes District, 1807-1877

MARYLAND

History of Western Maryland, Volumes I and II and index

Carroll County Cemeteries, Volume Three: Southwest

Frederick County, Maryland Naturalizations, 1785-1799

Frederick County, Maryland Naturalizations, 1799-1850

Heirs and Legatees of Harford County, Maryland, 1774-1802

Colonial Piscataway in Maryland, Prince Georges County

MASSACHUSETTS

A Volume Relating to the Early History of Boston Containing the Aspinwall Notarial Records
from 1644 to 1651

NEW ENGLAND, GENERAL

Winthrop Papers, Volumes I-5

NEW YORK

Families of Western New York

Adventures for God: A History of St. George's Episcopal Church, Hempstead, Nassau County

History of Grace Church, Jamaica, Long Island (Queens County)

Origin and History of Grace Church, Jamaica, New York

Records of the Town of Jamaica, Long Island, New York, 1656-1751, Volumes 1-3

Huntington Historical Society, 1903-1953 (Suffolk County)

Huntington Land Grant Surveys and Land Grants, Index

Huntington Town Records, Suffolk County, Volumes 1-3 and Name Index

Manumission Book, Huntington, 1800-1824

Personal Name Index to the Land Deeds Registered with the Town Clerk for the Towns of Huntington and
Babylon, Long Island, New York, 1663-1797

Records of Smithtown, Long Island, New York

OHIO

A Brief History of Religion in Northeast Ohio

German Chronicle in the History of the Ohio Valley and Its Capital City Cincinnati in Particular

Indian Hollow Road, Volume One and Two

History of Richmond, Ashtabula County, Ohio

Index to the Columbiana County, Ohio Marriage Records, 1876-1887

Records of School Teachers and Payments, Ashtabula County, Ohio

Gallia County, Ohio History Volume II

Annotated Lawrence County, Ohio Children's Home Register, 1874-1926

Index to Muskingum County, Ohio Deaths Probate Court, Volumes I & II

50th Anniversary of Dedication of St. Hedwig's Church, Akron, Ohio

75th Anniversary of Dedication of St. Hedwig's Church, Akron, Ohio

85th Anniversary of St. Hedwig's Church, Akron, Ohio

First Settlers of Summit County, Ohio, Summit County, OGS INDEX

The Value of Integrity: A Memoir Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of Buckingham,
Doolittle, & Burroughs, LLP

PENNSYLVANIA

African-Americans in Pennsylvania: Shifting Historical Perspectives

The Breaker Whistle Blows

The Great Strike: Perspectives on the 1902 Anthracite Coal Strike

Lost in Pennsylvania? Try the Published Pennsylvania Archives

Rural Delivery: Real Photo Postcards from Central Pennsylvania, 1905-1935
Directory of Pennsylvania Photographers, 1839-1900
Genealogy and Personal History of Western Pennsylvania, Volumes 1-3
Genealogical Extracts from the Gary R. Ritter Funeral Home Records, 1908-1941, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Tombstone Inscriptions of St. Mary's (old) Cemetery, Sharpshooters, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
The United Evangelical Protestant Church Records, 1782-1812
Voegtly Evangelical Cemetery Tombstone Inscriptions, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
The History of South Mountain Restoration Center, 1901-2001, Cumberland County

TENNESSEE

Earliest Tennessee Land Records & Earliest Tennessee Land History

VIRGINIA

Campbell Chronicles and Family Sketches
Men of Mark in Stafford County, Virginia: A Listing of County Officials, 1664-1991

WEST VIRGINIA

They Rest Quietly: Cemetery Records of Randolph County, West Virginia

AFRICAN-AMERICAN

Black Genesis: A Resource Book for African-American Genealogy

HERALDRY

Heraldic Design
Heralds and Ancestors

MANUALS & AIDS

The Ancestry Family Historian's Address Book, 2nd edition
Estate Inventories: How to Use Them
Finding Answers in U.S. Census Records
Genealogical Writing in the 21st Century: A Guide to Register Style and More
Getting the Most Mileage from Genealogical Research Trips, Third Edition
Numbering Your Genealogy: Basic Systems, Complex Families, and International Kin
Select Bibliography of English Genealogy

MILITARY

The 37th Infantry Division in World War II (Note: Half of division was from Ohio)
Index to Roster of Ohio Soldiers in the War of 1812
Pickett's Charge! Eyewitness Accounts

GERMANY

Emigrants from Baden and Wurttemberg in the Eighteenth Century, Volume One

HUGUENOT COLLECTION

The Edict of Nantes: Five Essays and A New Translation
The Huguenots or the Early French in New Jersey

SCOTLAND

Scots in Latin America

FAMILY HISTORIES

Ball Cousins by Margaret Kinsey
Barnes-Ralph: Seasons Gone By Colonial America to 2000
Descendants of John Bibighaus of Bedminster, Bucks County, Pennsylvania
The Four Goff Brothers of Western Virginia
Pioneer Families of the Midwest, Volume I-III