

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

A Publication of the Special Collections Division

Volume 3 Number 1

Spring 2004

One of our goals is to be your “good news” newsletter. We know that researchers are always pleased to know that additional resources have been added to the collection and are just waiting to be used. We have very good news to report in this edition of *Past Pursuits*. By passing the Library levy placed on the March ballot, the voters of Summit County, Ohio showed their appreciation of and desire for a quality library system. We would like to thank all of you for your continued support. Our Special Collections Staff enjoys working with you to break down those brick walls and helping you to find the information you need.

As many of you know, our hours of operation were cut in January of 2004. Beginning the April 19th, those hours will be restored. Sunday hours will also return for late April and May. In addition, the cost per photocopy will be reduced from 10 cents back to the 5 cents we enjoyed before. Please watch our website, www.ascpl.lib.oh.us, for more information regarding the restoration of services.

We expect to be up and operating in our renovated and expanded Main Library at 60 South High Street in late September. For now, please stop by to research with us at our temporary location at 1040 E. Tallmadge.

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

The Return of PERSI

Last year, AncestryPlus ceased to offer PERSI, the Periodical Source Index. We are pleased to announce that it is now offered on the Heritage Quest database, available at the Main Library.

New Microfilm Coming to Special Collections

Special Collections has recently placed an order for Summit County, Ohio naturalization records. We expect the microfilm to arrive this summer. Included in the order are:

Summit County, Ohio, Naturalization Card File, 1842-1977 (index to Commons Pleas Court, Probate Court, and District Court)

Summit County, Ohio, Naturalizations, 1849-1930 (Common Pleas)
Summit County, Ohio, Naturalizations, 1859-1906 (Probate Court)

If you need an introduction to the process of naturalization or if you simply just need to refresh your memory, we would like to recommend the following books, all available in Special Collections:

Guide to Naturalization Records of the United States by Christina K. Schaefer
The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy edited by Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking (Chapter 13, in particular)
They Became Americans: Finding Naturalization Records and Ethnic Origins by Loretto Dennis Szucs

Note: *The Source* and *They Became Americans* are both available for you to borrow and review at home.

Ohio Death Certificates...Again

We thought a mention of the Ohio Death Certificate Collection was worth repeating as we have a number of new Past Pursuits subscribers.

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.

Special Collections now holds the complete Ohio Death Certificate Collection, 1908-1944, and also the complete index, 1908-1944. The years 1908-1932 & 1938-1944 are on microfilm, while the 1933-1937 index is on microfiche. Of course, we do not want to forget the very helpful online index, 1913-1937, compiled by the Ohio Historical Society. You can search the index at <http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/archlib/index.html>. Though the online index is a great resource, we do recommend thorough searching of the indexes on microform. You will undoubtedly find individuals your family never mentioned. One of our staff discovered a set of triplets born in the 1920s who sadly died in their first few days of life. The online index will also aid you in the event that the surname you are researching was brutally misspelled.

Queries Welcome

Need a death certificate? Looking for a photocopy of a census record? Want us to search a particular county's cemetery books? Of course, we would love for you to come to research in person...but sometimes that is inconvenient or nearly impossible. Feel free to email, mail, or phone in your request. Correspondence is answered within three weeks, though often within a week.

Email: speccollections@ascpl.lib.oh.us
Mail: 60 South High Street, Akron, Ohio 44326-0001
Phone: 330-643-9030

We do have a fee schedule for photocopy/search requests. There is a base fee of \$1.00 plus 5 cents for every photocopy. For example, you can request five death certificates and we will send you an invoice for \$1.50 with your photocopies. There is no charge for items that we cannot find. Please remember to include your mailing address with your requests.

Update on Local LDS Library

The local LDS Family History Center located on Howe Road is temporarily closed. Visit http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/frameset_fhc.asp to find the locations and hours of other Family History Centers in northeast Ohio.

Local History Collection Highlights and Update

Photographs in the Special Collections Division

Within our division we have a small but unique collection of photographs. We are currently in the process of organizing this collection in a way that will make it searchable, and more accessible to the public. In addition to the general collection, we do have photographs that are found within other collections that we have acquired. Keep checking *Past Pursuits* this year because we will be writing more about some of the interesting subjects and images that we have in our photograph collection. If you have any questions about our photographs, or would like to view them, it is always best to ***call us ahead of time*** at 330-643-9030, and we will be glad to help.

Reproductions from Samuel Lane's *Fifty years and Over of Akron and Summit County*

Our photograph collection contains a small selection of 8 x 10 reproduced black and white prints from Samuel Lane's famous book about Akron and Summit County. Most of the prints are from the time period of 1890 through the early 1900s. Some of the prints include images such as the Arthur L. Conger house, aerial views of old Akron such as North Akron, and views of West Hill from Market Street. There are several photographs of early Akron Streets such as Main Street, Howard Street, and Quarry Street. (now Bowery) in downtown Akron. Also in the collection are a few images of buildings such as the old Summit County Courthouse, the Summit County Children's Home, and several early churches such as the First Congregational Church, First Universalist Church, and the New German Reformed Church. We do not have a complete collection of photographs from Samuel Lane's book, but we do have a very nice selection that is sure to spark the interest of anyone who wants to know more about how Akron looked in the days of dirt roads and the horse and buggy.

Sharing is Good

If you are a member of any volunteer organization you know what is required to keep it running smoothly and successfully. It takes work, time and commitment, and, if you are

lucky, the expertise of someone who knows what they are doing. Operating an historical organization can, at times, be a challenge, especially if the advice of an “expert” is not available. It was for these reasons that Jim Caccamo, Archivist, and Tom Vince, Director of the Hudson Library and Historical Society established CHIPS. The acronym once stood for the Council of Historical Institutions of Portage and Summit Counties which is now known simply as CHIPS.

The first meeting, held in 1980 at the Western Reserve Academy Chapel, was attended by a handful of individuals interested in sharing their ideas and expertise for the operation of historical organizations. Since then, CHIPS members have met twice each year at the facility of one of its member organizations. A tour of the facility, and sometimes a speaker is offered, followed by a business meeting where a representative of each organization provides a brief account of their group’s activities. It is informal and friendly, and always informative. The CHIPS membership currently includes 43 organizations from Summit and Portage County historical societies, libraries, and museums. There are no dues or fees, but a hat is occasionally passed when funds are needed for postage or other minor expenses.

Sadly, CHIPS founder and President, Jim Caccamo passed away in November 2002. The current president is Dreama Powell of the Northampton Historical Society. The next CHIPS meeting will be held at the old Tallmadge Town Hall at Tallmadge Circle on Saturday, April 24th at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Gifts:

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

Richard Acker for eight circa 1950s photographs of Cuyahoga Falls and downtown Akron, and one photograph of the Akron Silents basketball team.

Harold Crater, Jr., Ph.D. of Victoria, Texas for *The Descendants of Moritz Creeter (1703-1772)*.

Shirley James of Old Town, Maryland for a subscription to *Old Pike Post*, the newsletter of the Allegany County, Maryland Genealogical Society.

Dorothea Seiberling for the organizational collection of Akron Chapter 682 of the American Association of Retired Persons.

The Honorable Bill Spicer, Judge, Summit County Probate Court for *History of the Descendants of Peter Spicer, a Landholder in New London, Connecticut, as Early as 1666, and Others of the Name*.

Summit County Chapter, OGS for new microfilm reels for the index to Summit County, Ohio Probate Estates.

Summit County Chapter, OGS for a memorial book honoring members Jean B. Mytholar Shetler and Marian E. Wilkinson Darst. The memorial book is *Information about People Who Served in World War II from Hudson, Ohio*.

Karen Taucher for photographs of the Akron South High School Class of 1922.

Upcoming Events:

- Please email Marie Herlevi at mherlevi@ascpl.lib.oh.us if you would like us to include your genealogy or local history event.

Barberton Historical Society

O.C. Barber Farm Walking Tour will be held at the Barberton Historical Society on Sunday, the 23rd of May. Starting time is 1:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Please contact Steve Kelleher at 330-830-1444 for more information.

Friends of Cleveland Cemeteries

Friends of Cleveland Cemeteries invite you to a MONUMENTAL EXPERIENCE on Saturday, the 1st of May from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. The program will take place at Milano Monuments located at 14600 Brook Park Road in Cleveland.

- Guests will have a guided tour of this state-of-the-art facility.
- You will meet professional artisans and craftsmen and see them demonstrate and explain diamond etching and engraving techniques.
- Hear about the dramatic changes brought about by computer aided design technology.
- Listen to stories of old as Vince Milano offers his version of tombstone tales.
- Experience the new theater-size presentation room that allows viewing monuments in full size while they are still in the design stage.
- Light refreshments will be served.

Tickets for the event are \$7 per person (\$5 for those 60 and older) and can be purchased by sending a check or money order payable to Friends of Cleveland Cemeteries and to Gail Meyer at 6678 Tudor Circle, North Royalton, OH 44133. Advance reservations are suggested because space is limited. For more information call 440 582-9620 or email GRDMOHIO@aol.com.

Friends of Cleveland Cemeteries is a non-profit organization committed to preserving and protecting cemeteries owned and operated by the City of Cleveland.

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, April 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 attend.

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. The article chosen for the April 10, 2004 discussion appeared in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, Vol. 91, no.2, June 2003. It is titled "Sarah Songster Everett: Disproving a Knitted Name" beginning on page 95.

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 April 22-24, 2004

Visit www.ogs.org for more information. Registration booklets can be found in the Special Collections Department.

National Genealogical Society Conference in the States May 19-22, 2004

Visit www.ngsgenealogy.org for more information. Registration booklets can be found in the Special Collections Department.

Summit County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society

The Summit County Chapter, OGS is meeting 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.

April 17th: The "Pedigree Resource File" of the LDS Family History Center will be explained by Eunice Miller of the Tallmadge LDS library.

May 15th: A program on "Probate Court Records and Research" will be presented by Larry G. Poulos, Probate Court Chief Magistrate, and Kimberly Guldeman, Probate Court Records Room Supervisor.

June 19th: Charles M. "Chip" Billow of Billow's Funeral Home will discuss "Funeral Home Records."

Summit County Historical Society

The Summit County Historical Society has provided the following list of future events. The Historical Society is located at 550 Copley Road in Akron. For additional information, please call 330-535-1120.

GARDEN SPEAKER SERIES- 6:30 - 8:00 PM - free for SCHS members - \$10 for non-members, discount for all three sessions - \$24

- **Tuesday, April 20th: Akron's Heirloom Gardens, Seeds & Plants** - Michael Cohill, Master Gardener.
- **Tuesday, April 27th: Perkins Mansion Historic Gardens** - Stephen Paschen Senior Associate, University of Akron Archives, former Director and Curator of The Summit County Historical Society, landscape architect.
- **Tuesday, May 4th: Let's Talk Herbs** - Kathleen Varga, Crooked River Herb Farm.

- **Saturday, April 24th: Akron's Kitchen Garden Workshop 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**
\$30 non-members/ \$24 members advance payment required.
Presented by Michael Cohill, master gardener, and Kathleen Varga, Crooked River Herb Farm.

Learn from the experts about container gardening, herbs and heirloom gardening seeds. Sample special herb treats. Materials provided includes pots, planting soil, plant material and heirloom garden seeds.

Thursday, May 6th: Summit County Historical Society Annual Meeting - 5:30 - 8:30 PM - \$25 for dinner and program, held at the Carriage House of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens.

May 25th: Fieldtrip to Holden Arboretum

Recent Additions to Special Collections

UNITED STATES (BY STATE)

ALABAMA

Alabama County Data & Resources, 2nd edition
Chattahoochee Valley Sources & Resources: An Annotated Bibliography, V. 1 Alabama Counties
Old Demopolis Land Office Records and Military Warrants, 1818-1860 and Records of the Vine and Olive Colony
Old Montgomery Land Office Records and Military Warrants, 1834-1869
Old Sparta and Elba Land Office Records and Military Warrants, 1822-1860
Old Tuskaloosa Land Office Records and Military Warrants, 1821-1855
Obituaries from Barbour County, Alabama Newspapers 1890-1905
Blount County, Alabama Marriages, 1821-1844
Chilton County, Alabama Deaths, July 1 1908- December 31, 1919
Chilton County, Alabama: Index to Probate Court Records, Abstracts of County Newspapers, and County Confederate Veterans, Book 1, 1868-1924
Coffee County, Alabama Cemetery Records
Fayette County, Alabama Marriage and Probate Records
Land Grants and Adults Residing in Fayette County, Alabama 1823-1900
Marriages of Mobile County, Alabama 1856-1875
Pike County, Alabama Cemetery Records
Historical Records of Randolph County, Alabama 1832-1900
1855 Census Sumter County, Alabama
Sumter County, Alabama Wills: 1828-1872 and Mortality Schedules: 1850-1880

DELAWARE

Colonial Families of Delaware, V. 6 (Library has V. 1-5)
Early Church Records of New Castle County, Delaware, V. 2 (Library has V. 1)

GEORGIA

Africans in Georgia, 1870

ILLINOIS

Portrait and Biographical Album of Vermillion County, Illinois

MARYLAND

Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Vol. 15-17 (Library has Vol. 1-14)

Maryland Deponents, V. 3 (Library has V. 1-2)
Index of Obituaries and Marriages in The Baltimore Sun, Books 1, 2, 4 (Library has Book 3)
Abstracts of Cecil County, Maryland Land Records, V. 1-2
Revolutionary Patriots of Cecil County, Maryland
Maryland Bible Records: Baltimore and Harford Counties, Vol. 1 – 3
Heirs and Legatees of Harford County, Maryland, 1802-1846, V. 2 (Library has V. 1)
Abstracts of Wills Montgomery County, Maryland, 1826-1875

MAINE

Maine Biographies

MISSISSIPPI

Tracing Your Mississippi Ancestors

NEW ENGLAND

Third Supplement to Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700 (Library has 1st book plus 1st and 2nd supplement)

NEW JERSEY

Intestates and Others from the Orphans Court Books of Monmouth County, NJ 1785-1906

NEW YORK

Genealogical Resources in New York

OHIO

Bible Records from Ohio Daughters, Colonial Dames XVIII Century
Ohio Cemeteries, 1803-2003
Anecdotal Journeys into Lost and Forgotten Cemeteries of Coshocton County, Ohio
Coshocton County, Ohio Cemeteries V. 8-13 (Library has V. 1-7)
County Directory of Coshocton County, 1899
Rural Schools of Crawford County, Ohio 1820-1930
A Complete Index in Two Volumes to the Portage County, Ohio Cemetery Books
Ira L Herriff's Undertaker Records, Vol. 2-4 (Library has V. 1)
Information about People Who Served in World War II from Hudson, Summit County, Ohio

PENNSYLVANIA

Atop These Hills: A Compilation of the Major Cemeteries of the Brady's Bend Area
At Rest in These Hills: A Record of Burials in Small Cemeteries of Brady's Bend Township and Perry Township, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania
Burials in Kittaning Cemetery, Kittaning, Pennsylvania 1811-1995 (Armstrong)
Cemeteries of Armstrong County, Pennsylvania
North Sewickley Cemetery, Beaver County, Pennsylvania
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rochester, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, Part One
Bucks County, Pennsylvania Church Records of the 17th & 18th Centuries, V. 2-4 (Library has V. 1)
Butler County, Pennsylvania Cemeteries, v. 1-5 plus index
First Lutheran Church, Washington, Washington County, Pennsylvania Records 1905-1934
Stecker – Mt. Zion Lutheran Church Records, Ginger Hill, Washington County, 1783-1859

VIRGINIA

Genealogies and Sketches of Some Old Families
Greenbrier County, Virginia Birth Records, 1853-1898, V. 8 (in 2 parts)
Greenbrier County, Virginia Deeds and Wills, 1750-1833, V. 5
Greenbrier County, Virginia Death Records, 1853-1900, V. 6
Greenbrier County, Virginia Marriage Records, 1782-1900, V. 4 (in 3 parts)

WEST VIRGINIA

Cabell County, West Virginia Abstracts of Deed Book I, 1808-1814
Cabell County, West Virginia Abstracts of Deed Book V, 1830-1835
A Gazetteer of Extinct Towns in Cabell County, West Virginia
Miscellaneous Cabell County, West Virginia Records (Order Book Overseers of the Poor 1814-1861, Fee Book 1826-1839, 1857-1859 Rule Book, Cabell Land for Tax Purposes 1861-1865)
Early Births of Raleigh County, West Virginia, 1853-1870
Early Marriages of Raleigh County, V. 1, 1850-1870
Raleigh County, West Virginia Death Records, 1896-1914
Raleigh County, West Virginia Marriages, 1871-1890
Summers County, West Virginia Death Records 1872-1890, V. 1
Summers County, West Virginia Death Records 1891-1900, V. 2
Marriage Records of Wyoming County, West Virginia, 1890-1902
Wyoming County, West Virginia Marriage Records, 1854-1889

FAMILY HISTORIES

The Descendants of Moritz Creeter (1703-1772) by Harold Crater, Jr., Ph.D.
History of the Descendants of Peter Spicer by Susan Spicer Meech
Josef and Anna Maria (Lenz) Drehobl Family from Kreuzberg, Bavaria, Germany to Bedford, Indiana, 1883-1885 by Edward L. Hutton

MANUALS & AIDS

Family Tree Guide Book to Europe
Following the Paper Trail: A Multilingual Translation Guide
Genealogy Online
Liberia Genealogical Research

MILITARY

History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 14 volumes

IRELAND

Irish Emigrants in North America
Irish Libraries: Archives, Museums & Genealogical Centres

FRANCE

French Colonists and Exiles in the United States

POLAND

In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents, Volume I : Polish

MISCELLANEOUS

The Golden Age of Roller Coasters in Vintage Postcards