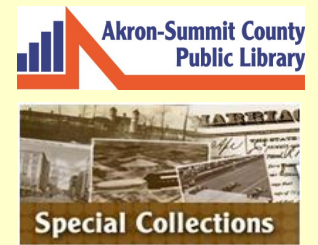


Past Pursuits

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

Volume 15 Number 2 Summer 2016



*Caricature map of Italy, 1868.
From Historic Map Works.*

Researching Italian Ancestors

by Mary Plazo, Librarian

Italy is deeply woven into American culture. We're exposed to the Italian experience in many ways, whether it's learning about the travels of Amerigo Vespucci, watching the films of Francis Ford Coppola, or eating pizza. Exploring your Italian heritage will take you on an even greater adventure.

When researching any immigrant ancestor, you'll need to gather some basic information. Good places to start are census records, passenger lists, and naturalization records. Some records may have been kept with the family, such as marriage or death certificates, military records, postcards, or family bibles. Knowing the ancestor's approximate birth date and birthplace is helpful. Finding the specific year or date your ancestor immigrated to the United States will also make your research easier. It's best to first gather any U.S. records you can find about your immigrant ancestor before "jumping the pond" for records in their native country. If there's not enough information on the immigrant ancestor in your family line, researching siblings can be incredibly useful. Information on a sibling might lead back to the next generation. Once you have some background on your Italian ancestor, you can, as your ancestor might have said, "Attraversiamo!" or "Let's cross over!"

Discovering the time period your ancestors crossed over might help you find the region of origin. Small groups of upper middle-class northern Italians, mainly artisans, merchants, aristocrats, and political exiles, arrived in America from around 1820 to the mid-1800s and settled around New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. The next wave immigrated after the 1850s, many for economic reasons, settling around New Orleans and San Francisco. After the unification of Italy in 1870, southern Italy experienced massive agricultural devastation. We see the largest tide of Italian immigrants from 1880-1930 with more than 4.5 million arrivals.

Researching Italian records also means researching the history of Italy. Before 1796, the peninsula now called Italy was made up of many culturally diverse city-states and there were no set standards for recordkeeping. Public records during this time were usually kept for tax purposes, so only those who had money and property were recorded. After 1796, except for Sicily and Sardinia, Italy was under

In this issue

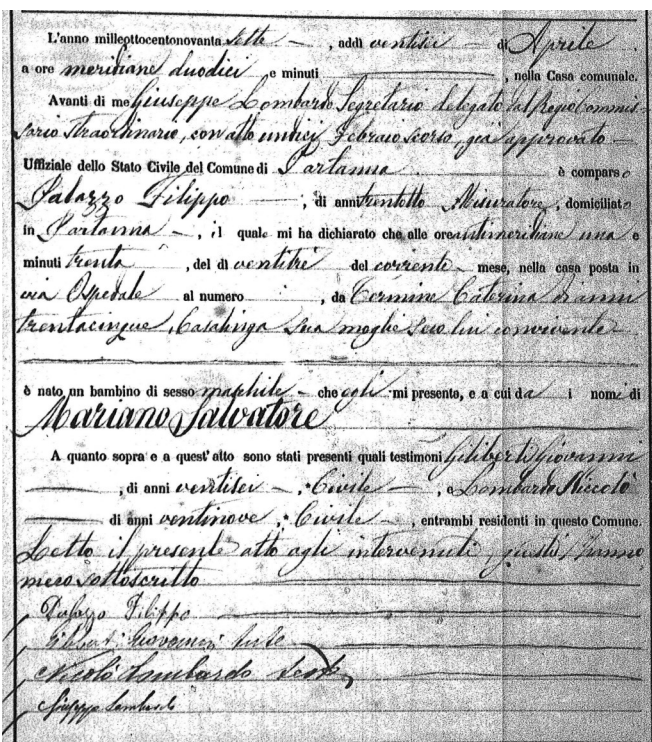
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Napoleon's control. The country was unified and reorganized into regions, provinces, and towns. By 1815, Napoleon was defeated and most of Italy returned to former sovereigns. Though his reign was short, we have Napoleon to thank for the creation of civil codes and registration of vital records.

The era after Napoleon was a tumultuous one for the country. The years before 1870 are often referred to as *il Risorgimento* (the "Resurgence" or "Rising Again"). This was a movement to encourage nationalism and unite again as one Italy. Some towns continued to maintain records, but keeping civil registrations was no longer required. There are many gaps in the civil records after 1815, especially for northern Italy, but vital records continued in the south. Many northern areas have two periods of civil registration, 1805-1815 (the Napoleonic era), and 1866-present. Most of southern Italy has kept civil registrations from 1809-present. Some areas did not begin civil registration until after unification. The names of some provinces and towns changed at this time, so records may be under different towns even though your ancestors stayed in the same area. World War II destroyed many records. Local communities have attempted to reconstruct these records, but they may not always be accurate. Italy's town names have remained the same since the war. Historic maps of Italy through the library's free database [Historic Map Works](#) show how names and locations changed during different time periods.

Fortunately, we now have access to many of Italy's civil records through [FamilySearch](#). Records in Italy have been microfilmed since the 1970s. The Genealogical Society of Utah has been filming parish and civil records from as many archives as will give permission. These records are kept at the local level, and you can try typing the name of a town in the [Family History Library catalog](#) to see what records are available. Most microfilmed records will have whole indexes or at least ten-year indexes. If your ancestral town is a small village within a larger town, check the records of the larger town.

Early records may be written in different languages such as Latin, French, Spanish, or Italian, including dialects. Many early records, including church records, have very little information, but there's often more



Birth record for Mary's grandfather, Mariano Salvatore Palazzo, 1897. From Registri dello stato civile di Partanna (Trapani), *Family History Library* microfilm.

detail in later civil records. Each province in Italy has a state archives located in the province's capital city. These are often referred to as *Registri dello Stato Civile*, or Civil Registration records, with the name of the town. Information varies from town to town, and formats for vital records also changed over time. By studying a few Italian words and phrases, it's possible to extract basic information from civil records. If you don't read Italian, acquire an Italian word list, keep an Italian-English dictionary on hand, or use [Google translate](#). Word lists are also available on [FamilySearch](#).

Knowing traditional naming patterns is also helpful. The oldest son in the family was often named after the paternal grandfather, the second son named after the maternal grandfather, and so on. The same pattern was followed when naming daughters in the family. Surnames such as Di'Anni or La Tora that begin with prefixes are usually indexed under the first letter of the prefix, but names and words can be broken up and hyphenated in all kinds of ways. If you have only American names, it may be difficult to decipher the Italian birth names. Once you start researching Italian records, you may find names similar enough to piece the family together. When I researched my paternal grandfather's family knowing only the American forms of their names, I discovered it was fairly easy to translate the names in the civil records for Partanna, Sicily.

My grandfather Samuel Marion Plazo translated to Mariano Salvatore Palazzo and his brother Harry translated to Rosario. A perfect example was a funeral home record for my great-grandmother that listed her mother's name as Mary Ross, which turned out to be Maria Russo. This funeral home record was the only clue I had to lead me back one more generation.

Many Italian immigrants settled in specific neighborhoods in cities and attended certain churches in those neighborhoods. You may want to seek out Italian-American clubs still existing in those neighborhoods along with any records held by neighborhood churches. Social media is another way to quickly make connections to Italian-American groups, regional genealogy groups in Italy, and even family members that may have more information.

Along with the [genealogy databases](#) available through the Library to help you get started on your research, there are many Italian heritage websites. Try the [Italian Genealogy Group](#), [Italian Genealogy](#), [Italian Ancestry](#), and the long list of websites provided on [Cyndi's List](#). Websites based in Italy can lead you to more information about towns ([Communi-Italiani.it](#)) and local archives ([Direzione Generale Archivi](#)). If you'd like to ask someone to help you with your Italian ancestry research, you can try [My Italian Family](#).

Congratulazioni on discovering your Italian heritage, and *in bocca al lupo* (good luck)!



John Philip Colletta Presents “Our Ancestors From Europe”

by Judy James, Division Manager

Author, lecturer and genealogist John Philip Colletta will present “Our Ancestors from Europe” on Saturday, August 27, 9:30 am-4:00 pm in the Main Library Auditorium. Co-sponsored by the Library and the [Summit County Chapter](#) of the Ohio Genealogical Society, the program will focus on strategies and resources for finding your European ancestors, including a session on Italian records research.

John Philip Colletta is one of America's most popular genealogical lecturers. Knowledgeable, experienced, and entertaining, he resides in Washington, DC. For twenty years, while laying the foundation for his career in genealogy, he worked half-time at the Library of Congress and taught workshops at the National Archives.

Today, Dr. Colletta lectures nationally, teaches at local schools, and conducts programs for the Smithsonian Institution's Resident Associate Program. He is a faculty member of the [Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research](#) at Samford University (Birmingham, Alabama), the [Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy](#), and Boston University's [Certificate in Family History](#) program. He has also been an instructor and course coordinator for the Genealogical Institute of Texas (Dallas), the Genealogical Institute of Mid-America (Springfield, Illinois), and the former National Institute on Genealogical Research, now [Genealogical Institute on Federal Records](#) (Washington, DC). His publications include numerous articles, both scholarly and popular, two manuals — *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record* and *Finding Italian Roots: The Complete Guide for Americans* — and one “murder-mystery-family-history,” *Only a Few Bones: A True Account of the Rolling Fork Tragedy and Its Aftermath*.

Program Schedule:

9:30-9:45 am: Introductions

9:45-10:45 am: Passenger Arrival Records, Colonial Times to Mid-20th Century

10:45-11:15 am: Break

11:15 am-12:15 pm: Naturalizations Records, Colonial Times to Mid-20th Century

12:15-1:30 pm: Lunch on your own

1:30-2:30 pm: Re-discovering “La Famiglia:” Accessing and Using the Records of Italy

2:30-3:00 pm: Break

3:00-4:00 pm: Discovering the REAL Stories of Your Immigrant Ancestors

The program is free and open to the public, and free parking is available in the High-Market parking deck. To register, contact Special Collections at 330-643-9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.



The Starlight Auto Theater promised an atmosphere suitable for children. Akron Beacon Journal, April 20, 1947.

Summit County's Drive-In Theaters

by Rebecca Larson-Troyer, Librarian

In the 1930s, America's love affair with the automobile and fondness for Hollywood gave rise to a new novelty – the drive-in theater. The nation's first opened in 1933 near Camden, New Jersey, the brainchild of Richard Hollingshead, who sought to patent and license the “automobile movie theater.” Far from the surefire money-making venture Hollingshead had originally envisioned, the idea gained footing in the prosperous post-World War II years. Its creator saw very little for his efforts and ingenuity, but the drive-in found its place in America's pursuit of entertainment, convenience, and eventually, nostalgia.

Summit County's first drive-in, the Starlight Auto Theater in Ellet near Akron Municipal Airport (Akron Fulton International Airport today), was constructed between 1937 and 1939. The business was owned in part by George Blake, director of the motion picture department at Goodyear, who himself was a filmmaker, documenting the stories of Akron's blimps in films screened across the country. Local independent theater operators objected to the “Akron airport open-air theater proposal,” fearing loss of

business, but their protests failed and the theater opened in 1940. (Several sources put the opening in 1937, however a July 1940 *Akron Beacon Journal* article describes the opening of the Starlight that summer.) The Starlight accommodated 400-500 cars, parked on ramps facing a large screen, a design modeled after the original auto theater in New Jersey and copied by drive-ins across the nation.

Nearly a decade passed before the area saw two more drive-ins: Ascot in Cuyahoga Falls (1947) and Montrose in Copley Township (1948). Postwar prosperity and the baby boom would fuel the popularity of auto theaters, which marketed themselves as accessible and family friendly. While going to a movie theater might have entailed dressing up, hiring a sitter, returning to the city and paying for parking, drive-ins offered a convenient alternative. Advertisements for the Summit Drive-In, which opened in the Portage Lakes area in 1956, stated “come as you are, relax in your car.”

Pajama-clad children and their casually dressed parents were drawn to concession stands, playgrounds and even bottle warming trays and self-serve laundry facilities, in some cases even more so than the films. The shows playing on the big screens often weren't the draw for teenagers either, earning drive-ins the nickname "passion pits."

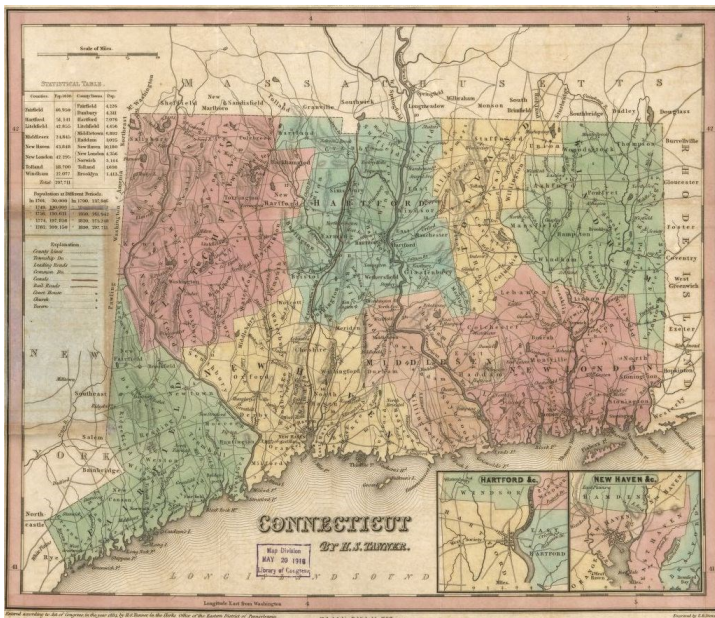
Since their inception, drive-ins faced opponents, primarily for noise, which was remedied with the advent of in-car speakers, and sex, both on the screen and on the lots. From those in the movie theater business, drive-ins were feared and even reviled by some who perceived them to be an audience-stealing nuisance. While the competition for patrons between the two theater factions was real, drive-ins were almost always at a disadvantage. Theirs was a seasonal business, heavily dependent on weather and requiring people to attend late showings at dusk. Conversely, movie theaters were open year round, generally air-conditioned, with multiple showings throughout the day and evening hours. While traditional movie houses screened blockbusters, drive-ins often struggled to negotiate first-run, major studio films, forcing them to run less popular independent films or second runs.

Despite these challenges, drive-ins surged in popularity for a time. In 1958, they hit their peak with more than 4,000 nationwide. Only one opened in the Akron area after this time, the Skyline in Richfield Township (1965). Competition continued between movie houses and their open-air counterparts, and the growing popularity of drive-ins meant more owners were finally able to secure first-run films. But both groups were fighting against the expansion of television and changes in audiences and their interests. Within three decades of their peak, the number of drive-ins dotting the country was cut nearly in half. Waning audience interest, economics, and family makeup affected the success of the drive-in, as did rising fuel costs, home theaters and even daylight savings time, which pushed show times later. Many drive-ins generated income during off hours with flea markets and events, and others abandoned their family-friendly roots, opting for R and even X-rated films in the 1970s and '80s, including the East in Tallmadge (opened in 1950) and the Gala near Springfield Lake (opened in 1948).

Surviving drive-ins are often in rural areas, with many of their peers long since becoming the grounds for grocery stores, shopping centers and office buildings. Large lots with ready access to utilities coupled with rising property values made the land more profitable than the business, enticing many owners to sell to developers. Most of the area's drive-ins, including Ascot, East, Montrose, Northfield, Skyline, Starlight and Summit, closed in the 1980s. The Gala held out until the 1990s. The lone remaining drive-in in Summit County is Magic City (opened in 1950) on Cleveland-Massillon Road south of Barberton in Franklin Township. Nearby in Wadsworth is Blue Sky (built in 1945) and in Portage County, Midway Twin (built in 1955) in Ravenna Township. Today, much of the appeal of drive-ins is the healthy dose of nostalgia, though many of the same conveniences that first drew audiences keep them coming back.



The Skyline offered a comfortable, open space. Akron Beacon Journal, July 15, 1966.



*Map of Connecticut, published by H.S. Tanner, 1834. From
Chronicle America, Library of Congress,
Geography and Map Division.*

Researching Connecticut Ancestors Online

by Iris Bolar, Librarian

The lives of Connecticut emigrants fill the pages of Summit County’s history. In this issue, we will look at Connecticut online genealogy resources that are helpful for researching Western Reserve settlers and later individuals.

The Connecticut State Library is also home to the Connecticut State Archives. Several genealogy indexes on the [History and Genealogy](#) page of the library’s website lead to records in its collections. The [Connecticut Death Records Index, 1897-1966](#) and [Connecticut Marriage Records Index, 1897-1965](#) allow information to be entered and searched or sorted using filters. Once a death or marriage is located, use the link to vital records forms to request copies.

The [Hartford County Superior Court Divorce Index, 1864-1929](#) and [Index for 1798-1890 Divorce](#)

[Judgments found in Hartford County, Superior Court Civil Case Records](#) are not searchable databases. They are PDF files that can be browsed. It is easier to view these indexes online by clicking “download” at the top of the page. Divorces are first indexed by husbands’ names and then, further in the pages, by wives’ former names, which may not be maiden names. The indexes provide year of divorce, volume, and page or case number. The [Connecticut Divorce Index, 1968-1997](#) is available on FamilySearch.

The Archives houses 42,000 cubic feet of documents ranging from small manuscript items to large collections. Searchable [databases of individuals](#) listed in its collections provide greater access. Databases include file locations for the original records. [Fitches Home for Soldiers](#) and the [Noble Pension Database](#) relate to veterans of the Civil War and Spanish American War. Fitches includes name, branch of service, regiment, company, date of death, cemetery, residence, and the file number. The pension database includes application date, residence, branch of service, regiment, company, enlist year, and discharge year. All pension table columns will only appear onscreen when your browser zoom is set lower than 100%. [World War I Veterans](#) is another military database available.

Other places to look for individuals in Connecticut collections include [Wethersfield Prison Warrants, 1800-1903](#) and court records. Some eighteenth and nineteenth century court records can be searched using the [Litchfield County Minorities Collection](#) and [New London County African Americans Collection](#). Court records of the [New London County Native American Cases](#) cover the eighteenth century to more recent years.

The [Digital Collections](#) of the University of Connecticut contain photographs and documents for individuals, families, events, and institutions. In addition to these resources, check [FamilySearch](#) for online indexes and digitized documents as well as the Family History Library [catalog](#) for microfilm available to borrow. Akron-Summit County Public Library has a list of [genealogy databases](#) that are available to library cardholders. Among these is American Ancestors (available at Main Library only), which focuses on New England records.

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 speccollections@akronlibrary.org.**



Getting Started in Family History

Join the Special Collections Division 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, July 9, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Meeting Room 2AB



Using Ancestry in Your Genealogy Research

With more than 10,000 databases and billions of images, Ancestry is the premier online genealogy resource – and it's available to you for free within any ASCPL location. This class will introduce you to the many features of Ancestry Library Edition and show you how to do efficient and effective searches. When possible, time

for practice searching is also provided. Because this class will use electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended.

Saturday, July 23, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2



Dig Into Databases

Go beyond Ancestry and discover other genealogy databases the Library has to offer. Join us to learn more about these great resources, including what they contain, how to access them, and how to do effective searches. Sessions will include an hour of demonstration and another hour of practice time with staff on hand to help.

NewspaperArchive: Digitized newspapers from the U.S. and abroad.

Saturday, August 6, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2

HeritageQuest: Revolutionary War pension files, Freedman's Bank records, books and more.

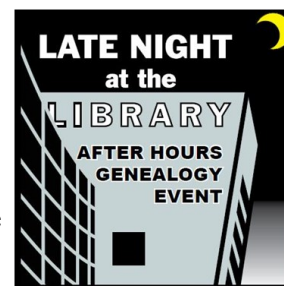
Saturday, September 3, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2

Fold3: Military records, city directories, naturalization records and more.

Saturday, September 17, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2

Save the Date for Late Night at the Library

Once again, the Special Collections Division and the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society are teaming up for Late Night at the Library on Friday, October 21, 6:30-10:30 pm. Late Night is an annual after-hours genealogy event when Main Library reopens exclusively for genealogists. Mingle with fellow researchers while uncovering your family history, take a tour of the Special Collections research area, or sit in on a short "Getting Started" session to help jumpstart your research. Print from your wireless or mobile device or try out one of our digital microfilm readers. Light refreshments and door prizes will be provided, and parking is free for those entering the parking deck after 6 pm. For additional information, please contact us at 330-643-9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org. No registration is required for this event.





Betsie Norris

Adoption, DNA Programs Set for Saturday, October 8

by Cheri Goldner, Librarian

“How can I find my birth parents?” and “What will DNA testing tell me?” are questions we’ve received on numerous occasions in Special Collections. As with a lot of genealogy questions, the answers aren’t easy. That’s why we’re bringing search specialists Betsie Norris and Amanda Reno to Main Library on the afternoon of Saturday, October 8, 1-5 pm.

Betsie Norris, Founder and Executive Director of [Adoption Network Cleveland](#), will speak at 1 pm on “Adoptee Access to Records: Ohio’s New Law.” As an adoptee who made the journey to a successful reunion on her own, Betsie founded Adoption Network Cleveland to provide

support and assistance to others who are touched by adoption. She’s a frequent spokesperson in the media and at conferences and has assisted in thousands of adoptee-birthparent reunions. She is co-author with Jayne Schooler of *Journeys after Adoption: Understanding the Lifelong Process*, has served as a board member of the national American Adoption Congress from 1997-1999, and currently serves on the board of the Donaldson Adoption Institute in New York City. Betsie has worked tirelessly on legislation to reform Ohio's adoption laws. As a result, in March 2015 Ohio became the 12th state to open previously closed birth records to adult adoptees, allowing 400,000 individuals adopted in Ohio’s formerly “closed” period of 1964-1996 to have access to their original birth certificates. A short film, *An Adoptee ROARed in Ohio: The Betsie Norris Story* by documentary filmmaker Jean Strauss will be shown and discussed along with the social and historical context of the old and new laws on this topic. Learn about Ohio’s journey and how implementation of the new law is progressing, and share your questions and thoughts about the issues involved.

Amanda Reno’s presentation at 3 pm, “Solving for Unknown Parentage: DNA Basics,” will focus on delivering the basic core knowledge required to identify an unknown parent or parents using genealogical DNA testing and traditional research techniques. Amanda is a Genetic Genealogist and team member of [The DNA Detectives](#), the company founded by CeCe Moore, genetic genealogy consultant for the PBS television series “Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.” and “Genealogy Roadshow.” Amanda was reunited with her older sister after being separated by adoption for nearly 30 years. The amazing journey that brought them together and their instant connection once they reunited inspired her to help others. When she learned DNA was being used to provide answers in some of the most seemingly hopeless cases, she knew she wanted to learn how. Employing her love of data and research, insatiable curiosity, and desire to connect with others, DNA has now become her passion.



Amanda Reno

Registration is requested. To register or for questions, contact us at (330) 643-9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Celebrate American Archives Month on Saturday, October 1

by Cheri Goldner, Librarian



October is [American Archives Month](#), and the Library is celebrating with a day of programs highlighting some of the amazing archival collections that exist in our community, as well as what you can do to preserve your own archival materials. Information tables and displays from participating organizations will be open for browsing throughout the event.

We hope you'll join us to learn more about what Summit County's archives have to offer for your historical or genealogical research. Registration is requested. For questions or to register for any of the sessions, please [contact Special Collections](#).

9 am: Meeting for staff and volunteers from local historical agencies

We'll share news about our collections, upcoming programs, and projects. Invitations to the meeting are forthcoming, but if you'd like to RSVP for your organization now, contact Special Collections.

10:30 am-12 pm: Know Your Archives: What Summit County's Archives Can Do for You and What You Can Do for Archives (open to the public)

Representatives from Special Collections, [Summit County Historical Society of Akron, Ohio](#), and University of Akron [Archival Services](#) and [Cummings Center for the History of Psychology \(CCHP\)](#) will share details on their collections and how to access them as well as how you can help.

12:45-1:45 pm: Summit Memory (open to the public)

Learn about the countywide, collaborative online historical resource administered by the Library.

2-3 pm: Preservation and Organization of Documents, Photographs, and Other Archival Materials (open to the public)

Presented by Rhonda Rinehart, Manager, Special Collections, CCHP



On Display: U.S. Presidents in Summit County

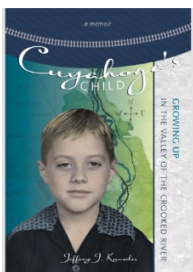
by Barbara Leden, Public Service Assistant

Ever wonder how many United States presidents have visited Summit County? Looking back in old periodicals and reminiscences, we've determined that twenty-four presidents have passed through our fair area. Some visits were brief "whistle-stop" appearances, while others were visits to local events and area residents. The first presidential stopover was by William Henry Harrison in 1838. Harrison was not yet president but was in the area campaigning for the Whig party. He stayed the night at the Pavilion House Hotel, on the corner of Howard and Market Streets, and left the next day on a canal boat heading south. William McKinley was in this area many times since he resided in nearby Canton. There, the [McKinley Memorial](#) and the [William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum](#) commemorate his life and legacy. Our current commander-in-chief, President Barack Obama, has travelled the area several times. One visit was in July 2012 while campaigning for the November election.

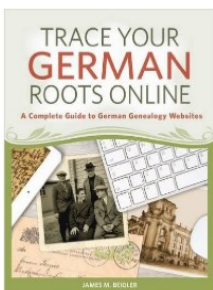
Come and visit Special Collections to see an exhibit highlighting these presidential appearances and learn about Summit County's connection to our nation's leaders. Local news articles, campaign buttons and posters of past elections will be on display. In honor of this election year, the display will be in Special Collections' exhibit case on the third floor of the Main Library from August 20-January 1.

New Books

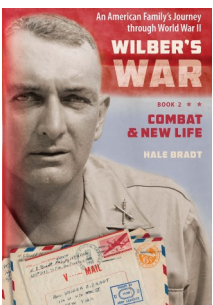
See Special Collections' [website](#) for a complete list of new books added in the last three months.



Jeffrey J. Knowles combines touching personal memoir with a deft and intensely local glimpse into the history of Summit County and environs in *Cuyahoga's Child: Growing Up in the Valley of the Crooked River*.



James Beidler's program for Special Collections in August 2015 was packed full of advice for finding German ancestors. Check out his newly published book, *Trace Your German Roots Online*, for great information on German genealogy websites.



Wilber's War by Hale Bradt tells the compelling story of a World War II soldier and his family that will resonate with those who recall the sacrifices of this era and bring it to life for those who are heirs to its legacy.

Summit County OGS Events

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

Tour of the Polsky Building Archives

(Chapter Meeting)
Saturday, July 16

1 pm

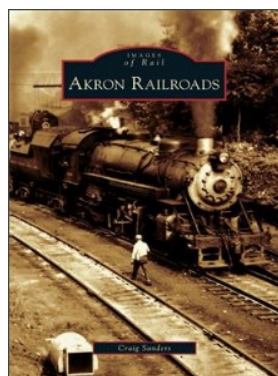
Polsky Building, 225 S. Main St., Akron

The tour will cover the archival collections of the University of Akron housed in this building.



Thank You to Summit County OGS

We wish to express a sincere thank you to our friends, the [Summit County Chapter](#) of the Ohio Genealogical Society (SCOGS), for their generous donation of \$700 to help underwrite our August program, *Our Ancestors from Europe* featuring John Philip Colletta. Over the years, SCOGS has continued to advocate for us as a repository of genealogy and local history resources. They have made many donations to fund our programs and our membership in the [Ohio Obituary Index](#), and they have provided a great deal of assistance for our annual Late Night at the Library event. We are grateful for their ongoing support and look forward to many more years of collaboration.



Now Available: Genealogy and Local History Titles on Hoopla

Today's libraries are about so much more than books on shelves. With the advent of e-books and other digital media,

library patrons can now download just about anything on their mobile devices. Hoopla is one of the newest digital services available to library customers, joining Overdrive, One-Click Digital, and Zinio. Free to ASCPL cardholders, these services include e-books, music, TV shows, and movies. Recent additions to Hoopla include several local history and genealogy books. *Akron Railroads*, *DNA and Family History*, and *Tracing Your Roscommon Ancestors* are just a few examples of titles that may be downloaded and viewed for free. Visit our [e-Books and Digital Media page](#) to search and browse thousands of titles and to sign up for these great new services.



Society of Mayflower Descendants Prepares for 400th Anniversary of *Mayflower* Landing

Are you curious about the Mayflower Society? Are you researching your lineage to a Mayflower passenger? Visit the Society's [website](#) for historical information, names of the Mayflower passengers, how to join, and much more. You can also access an outline of the process and necessary forms through [Ohio Mayflower Descendants](#).

The Western Reserve Colony is one of five colonies in Ohio that are part of the Mayflower Society. Western Reserve Colony encompasses fourteen counties in northeast Ohio, including Summit, Stark, Medina, Portage, Wayne, and Trumbull County. Check for notices about your local colony's meeting dates, times, and speakers. Guests who wish to find out more are welcome to attend.



In November 2020, the Mayflower Society will commemorate the 400th anniversary of the historical *Mayflower* voyage and landing, and they hope that preliminary applications can be accepted in time for the celebration. Special Collections will be glad to show researchers the many books and resources we carry that can help you get started. It may take several months to complete, so it's not too early to begin. Good luck with your virtual voyage!

Thank
You

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

Akron Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution for *A Hidden Phase of American History: Ireland's Part in America's Struggle for Liberty*.

Timothy Fleshman for *The Story of the Airship* by Hugh Allen; *The Work of the Labor Division* (Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company)

Ann Gulbransen, State Historian, Society of Mayflower Descendants in Ohio for *Robert Bartlett of the "Anne" and His Descendants for Four Generations*; *Richard Church and His Descendants for Four Generations*; *Robert Cushman of Kent*; *The Cry of a Stone*.

Constance Bradt Lal on behalf of the Akron Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution for *Wilber's War: An American Family's Journey Through World War II* by Hale Bradt in memory of Laura Dunlop.

Russell Sibert for *Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County* by Samuel Lane, from the library of John R. Buchtel.

Stark County District Library for booklet, 150th anniversary of High Street Christian Church.





*Promoting public awareness of the dangers of Fourth of July activities isn't a new phenomenon.
 Akron Beacon Journal, July 3, 1939.*

The Akron-Summit County Public Library
 Special Collections Division
 is located on the third floor
 of the Main Library.

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