

Past Pursuits

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

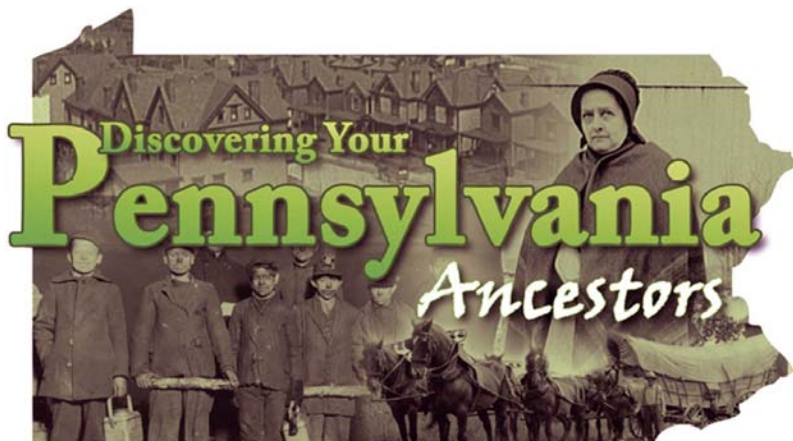
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Pennsylvania Ancestors

by Jane Gramlich, Librarian

If you have ancestors in Summit County between 1850 and 1930, chances are you also have ancestors in Pennsylvania. In every census year during that period, Summit County residents consistently reported Pennsylvania as their place of birth more than any other state outside Ohio. Quaker State nativity reached its peak in the 1920 census, when a surprising 29,000 residents claimed to have been born there – just over 10% of the county’s 286,000 population. Even more remarkable is that this number is considerably higher than the 17,000 residents reporting West Virginia birth. The scales evened out a bit by 1930, but Pennsylvania was still in the lead. We think of West Virginia as being Summit County’s primary feeder state, but that honor really belongs to our neighbor to the east.
(continued on page 2)



In this issue



A Fond Farwell	2
Akron: “Crossroads of the Deaf”	3
History Award for ASCPL & UA	6
“That Akron Riot”	7
Summit Memory Updates	9
Workshops by Special Collections	10
Workshop by Summit County OGS	10
Summer Workshop by OGS	10
Akron History Exhibit Update	11
Planning for the Civil War’s 150 th Anniversary	11
Gifts to Special Collections	12
New to the Collection	12

A Fond Farewell

by Judy James, Division Manager

When the library's administrative team began to plan for a new Main Library, an important decision was made to create a new department devoted solely to local history and genealogy. Our forward thinking administrators recognized the growing popularity of genealogy, as well as an increased demand for information about our community's history.



Led by Main Library General Manager Rick Ewing, whose vision it was to create this new department, planning began for what would become the Special Collections Division at Main Library. For nearly a year, Rick met weekly with a small team of librarians to plan every detail for Special Collections. When the building was being designed, it was Rick who worked closely with the architects to ensure that this department would be functional and practical and would provide the optimum environment for our local historical collections. In October 2004, we moved into our beautiful new building. Since then, Rick supported us and encouraged all our efforts to become one of the area's most relevant and vibrant destinations for genealogists and local history researchers.

After 25 years of service at ASCPL, Rick made a decision to return to his roots in Cape May, New Jersey, his hometown. Rick's roots are deep in Cape May. The Ewing family was among the earliest to settle in Cape May County, and many of his family members, including his mother and siblings, still live there. Rick will assist with managing the family business, the Jersey Cape Motel, which we understand is one of Cape May's best-kept lodging secrets. While we will miss Rick, we wish him and his wife Terry the very best in their new adventure. Thank you, Rick for your vision, support and friendship.

Pennsylvania Ancestors (cont.)

Pennsylvania genealogy can lead toward many paths. The state's rich history includes a blend of cultures and religious traditions that was unique in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It was founded in 1682 by William Penn, an English Quaker whose ties to the aristocracy led to a 45,000 acre land grant by King Charles II. Penn's ideology of peaceful diversity, a distinct political structure, and a location in the mid-Atlantic region ensured that, demographically, Pennsylvania resembled neither Puritan New England nor the Anglican South. There's a reason its largest city was named Philadelphia, "the city of brotherly love." The colony quickly became a haven for dispossessed Europeans seeking religious freedom. Quakers formed a large contingent, and Scotch-Irish Presbyterians settled in sizable numbers. But a heavy concentration of German groups, including Lutherans, Moravians, Amish and Mennonites, flocked to Pennsylvania. In fact, people of German descent formed its largest nationality by 1790. Smaller ethnic and religious communities such as Irish Catholics, Jews, and French Huguenots were also likely to find greater tolerance among their Pennsylvania neighbors than anywhere else.

Along with the other northeastern states, Pennsylvania's primary livelihood was agriculture well into the nineteenth century. However, it began an early transition to business and industry. By 1900, Pennsylvania had become an industrial and manufacturing powerhouse built of iron and steel, fueled by coal, and transported by railroads. Adding to the melting-pot population were immigrants from Italy and Eastern Europe, who found work in cities such as Bethlehem, Allentown, and Pittsburgh. They also migrated to the small towns and rural areas in the mining regions of the state. Some of these restless wanderers didn't stop migrating. Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, many Pennsylvanians found themselves in Ohio, either permanently or on their way farther west. With statehood in 1803, Ohio was a logical next step for the early frontier settlers of central and western Pennsylvania, a trend that continued for several

decades as farmers looked for new land. Later, factory workers moving onward could consider Cleveland, Youngstown or Akron for their next job. The result was Pennsylvania's significant contribution to Ohio's genealogy.

Special Collections carries a large assortment of Pennsylvania resources. Records and guides for state research, and for most of its 67 counties, can be found on our shelves. We carry a current subscription to *Keyhole*, the newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Southwestern Pennsylvania, and *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage*, as well as back issues of many other periodicals. The *Pennsylvania Archives*, a series of published official colonial and state records, can be a genealogical treasure trove for many researchers. We have the print series, and it can also be accessed online through the Library's subscription to the Footnote database. Be sure to check out Web sites devoted to Pennsylvania research including Pennsylvania GenWeb at <http://www.pagenweb.org/> and Cyndi's List for Pennsylvania at <http://www.cyndislist.com/pa.htm>. Also, don't forget to investigate the many local genealogy societies, libraries and archives in your area of research, and state organizations such as the Pennsylvania State Archives and the State Library of Pennsylvania, both in Harrisburg.

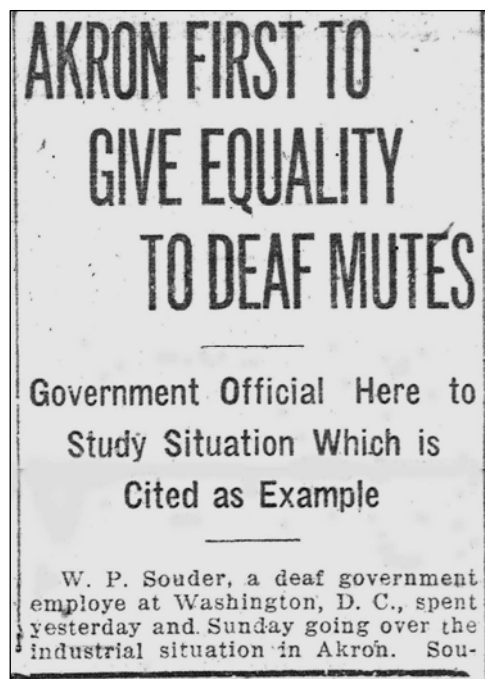
To help you learn more about Pennsylvania genealogy, Special Collections invites you to a free, all-day seminar, *Discovering Your Pennsylvania Ancestors*, on Saturday, August 14 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Speakers are John Humphrey, CG, a Pennsylvania native and the former director of the National Genealogical Society Learning Center, and Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, a Professional Genealogy Course Coordinator at Samford University and a past president of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. Topics covered include migration patterns, courthouse records and church registers. For more information on the day's events, please see <http://www.akronlibrary.org/f/SC-3197-e.pdf>. To sign up, contact the Special Collections Division, 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Akron: "Crossroads of the Deaf"

by Cheri Goldner, Librarian

Many know Akron as the "Rubber City," site of the All-American Soap Box Derby and hometown of NBA MVP LeBron James, but historians and members of the nation's deaf community also know it as the "Crossroads of the Deaf." Like so many others who migrated to Akron, the deaf came to Akron seeking jobs in the rubber factories, particularly during World Wars I and II.

Local rubber manufacturers employed deaf workers even before World War I. In his research on Akron's "Silent Colony," labor historian Robert Buchanan notes that Diamond Rubber Company was likely the first to hire deaf employees, but after a dispute with management, those employees were fired. Firestone hired mute Harvey Ware in 1910, and Goodyear followed suit in 1911 with the hiring of Park Myers. Impressed by Myers' work and encouraged by the Ohio State Labor Bureau, Goodyear hired more deaf workers prior to World War I.



This article appeared in the October 29, 1918 issue of the Akron Beacon Journal.

During the war, Firestone and Goodyear, with the full support of Harvey Firestone and Charles Seiberling, began targeted recruitment of the deaf. Recruiters like Firestone's Benjamin Schowe, Sr. and Goodyear chemist Kreigh B. Ayers, both deaf themselves, targeted men in their 20s and 30s who had attended residential schools for the deaf, like Gallaudet College (now Gallaudet University) in Washington D.C. Most deaf recruits, like their hearing counterparts in the rubber factories, were employed in semiskilled piecework. Some, like Schowe and Ayers, worked in technical and professional positions. Between 1916 and 1918, it is estimated that 1,000 deaf men and women had gotten jobs and built a community in Akron.



Cover of the May 11, 1918 issue of the *Wingfoot Clan* from www.SummitMemory.org.

The wartime hiring boom had reached its peak, however, and in 1920 the *Silent Worker*, a national newspaper for the deaf published by the New Jersey School for the Deaf from 1888 until June 1929, advised its readers to “keep away from Akron.” But with the coming of the Second World War, came a second large-scale recruitment of deaf workers. In *Wheels of Fortune*, writers Steve Love and David Giffels estimate that by 1943, Firestone had approximately 300 deaf workers, Goodyear had about 135, and Goodyear Aircraft had more than

500. Despite those high numbers, the rubber factories weren't the only places hiring deaf employees. Other businesses that were known to be deaf-friendly were the Akron post office and printers, including the Akron Beacon Journal. Because of the nature of recruitment efforts, the migration of the deaf to Akron was not regional, as it was for those who came from Appalachia or the southeast. Instead, the deaf migrated from all over the nation to Akron, as one quickly notices when reading articles about the deaf community in the *Akron Beacon Journal* or *Wingfoot Clan*. (A search for the term “deaf” at www.SummitMemory.org returns almost 100 results in the *Wingfoot Clan* Akron and Aircraft Editions.) When the *Beacon* reported on the formation of the Akron Club of the Deaf in its June 25, 1943 issue, it noted that three of the newly elected officers were from New York and the others hailed from Iowa, Kansas, Florida, Indiana, Idaho, and Minnesota.

As Akron's deaf population grew, it was only natural that its members would form more organizations like the Akron Club of the Deaf to serve the group's needs. Organizations and services formed included social clubs, sports teams and leagues, educational and religious services, a motorists' club and even a grocery co-op.

In 1915, Akron mutes formed a local division, No. 55, of the National Fraternal Deaf Society (NFSD). NFSD was established in 1901 to provide insurance to deaf members, to serve as an advocate for the deaf, and to provide community service and recreational opportunities through divisional activities. In addition to monthly meetings in Akron, Division No. 55 members met with members from groups in Canton, Cleveland and neighboring states for picnics at locations such as Geauga Lake. Akron women formed an auxiliary division of NFSD, No. 154, in 1961.

Issues of Division No. 55's newsletter, *The Division Journal*, several of which have been reproduced in Clyde D. Wilson's *Akron History of the Deaf*, include an organization directory identifying other local deaf organizations. Among these are the Akron Society for the Deaf, which was formed by 1928 for

the purpose of providing financial and moral support to the Ohio Home for the Aged Deaf, and the Silents Democratic Club of Summit County, which later functioned under the name of The Deaf Citizens Club, Inc.

Organized in June of 1937 and chaired by William Pfunder, The Deaf Citizens Club, Inc. was formed to promote social, educational and legislative measures contributing to the general welfare of deaf citizens of Ohio, to promote good citizenship, and to protect the interest and rights of Ohio's deaf mutes. The club held its monthly meetings at Vasa Hall, 982 Market Street. Among the activities it sponsored was the All-Ohio Silents Bowling tournament in March of 1940, for which silent bowlers from across the state traveled to Akron and stayed in the Hotel Akron and Portage Hotel. The club was in existence until at least 1966.

The Akron Club of the Deaf had more than 150 paying members within a month of its founding and held the grand opening of its facility in the Nantucket Building at 21 S. Main Street, next to the Palace Theatre, on June 26, 1943. The group leased three floors of the building, using the second for social gatherings, the third for dancing and movies, and the fourth for business meetings. To accommodate the need for the facility and rubber factory workers' schedules, the club planned to be open seven days a week, 24 hours a day. In 1949, the club moved to 144 E. Exchange Street, holding a grand opening on May 26-28, 1950. When that building became property of the University of Akron in 1964, the club purchased a lot at 1467 E. Market Street and built a new building. In 1996, they moved into their last home at 5955 Manchester Road and changed their name to the Akron Deaf Community Center. While the group no longer has its own facility and its membership has declined, members do still meet.

The athletic teams are probably the most well known of the local deaf organizations. Akronites with an interest in local history have likely heard of the Goodyear Silents football team. Retired *Akron Beacon Journal* reporter Philip J. Dietrich, with the aid of a scrapbook compiled by former player

Charles R. "Buck" Ewing, recounts the team's story in his book *The Silent Men*. The Silents went from not winning a game during their first two seasons to dominating the next seven (1917-1923), winning 60 games, losing nine and tying six and outscoring their opponents 1514 to 257. The team played its last game in 1927.

In addition to football, Goodyear's deaf employees also competed in basketball, baseball, track, swimming, bowling, boxing and wrestling. They were so active in company sports that Goodyear's athletic department gave them their own facility, the Silent Athletic Club, on E. Market Street next to the newly constructed Goodyear Hall.

The Akron Club of the Deaf sponsored the first national basketball tournament here in Akron in 1945, at which time Goodyear employee Art Kruger established the American Athletic Union of the Deaf. This organization was later renamed the American Athletic Association of the Deaf, and in 1997, the USA Deaf Sports Federation (USADSF) and now serves as an umbrella organization of 26 sports.



The Akron Silents were a semi-professional basketball team of deaf athletes. From the General Photograph Collection on www.Summitmemory.org.

In addition to the social and athletic clubs, educational and religious services for Akron's deaf also sprang up. When East High School opened its doors in the fall of 1919, it included a new "deaf and dumb" school led by Gertrude Hatfield of the

Columbus deaf and dumb institute. The Day School for the Deaf, as it was called in the 1920-1921 Directory of Akron Public Schools, “taught lip reading, as well as elementary school subjects, by the most approved oral method” to nine deaf children.

Mina Gibson Burt, the hearing child of two deaf parents who gained a reputation as the “angel of the mute colony at Goodyear Heights,” organized an interdenominational Sunday school for deaf children in November of 1916. The Silent Class of the Deaf first met in High Street Christian Church then moved to the basement of Goodyear Heights United Presbyterian Church, which housed what was called the Community Bible Class of the Deaf during World War II.

Also during World War II, Rev. John Dalton at Church of Annunciation offered a Catholic mass in sign language and started a Catholic Deaf Club. Meanwhile, Akron Baptist Temple pastor Dr. Dallas F. Billington started a deaf and hearing impaired class in 1945. The church was still serving the deaf population in December of 1978, when it offered sign language classes that were attended by nearly 100 people.

More recently, Reverend John Sederwall came to Akron specifically to serve the area’s deaf population in 1970. Sederwall began by conducting services for the deaf at First Assembly of God, located at 1175 West Market Street. In 1982, he opened his own church at 745 Upson Street, naming it Calvary Church of the Deaf. In 1990, Calvary was one of just three churches for the deaf in Ohio, the others being in Toledo and Columbus. Sederwall retired in 2001, but the church stayed open several more years. The congregation has since moved back to 1175 West Market. Another deaf church, The Deaf Christian Church, was founded by seven people in January of 1990.

Akron was not unique in offering work opportunities for the deaf during wartime, but many chose Akron over other cities because of the close-knit community formed by the earliest of Akron’s deaf residents, a community whose vibrancy is

obvious from the many clubs and organizations that those residents have formed here over the years.

History Award for ASCPL & UA

by Judy James, Division Manager

1968 was a significant year in our country’s history. This pivotal year witnessed political and campus unrest, racial tensions, and the assassination of two political leaders. More than forty years later, memories of that year still evoke distinct recollections and strong opinions from folks who witnessed those events. In the summer of 2008, Special Collections, along with a University of Akron history class, collaborated on *The Times They Are A’-Changin’: Akron Remembers 1968*, a project to look back on that year through today’s lens. Through oral history interviews and research, students under the guidance of Dr. Gregory Wilson and Special Collections librarian Cheri Goldner learned about this epic year and how it changed our country and our community.

Akron was not immune to the influences of that year. In July 1968, Akron experienced several days of racial unrest, primarily in the Wooster Avenue neighborhood. Students conducted interviews with several individuals who were involved at the time, including police officers, residents, and then-Mayor John Ballard. These interviews, along with research conducted by the students, were incorporated into a fascinating exhibit at the Lock 3 Akron History Exhibit which included artifacts from the Summit County Historical Society and the TV Dinner Club Museum.

We are pleased to report that this unique collaboration was awarded the 2010 Public History Award from the Ohio Academy of History at the organization’s annual conference at Capital University. Thanks are due to Cheri Goldner, Dr. Wilson, his students, and all who participated in this project.

“That Akron Riot”

by Mary Plazo, Librarian

Almost 110 years ago, on August 22, 1900, one of the most violent and racially motivated events in history occurred right here on the streets of Akron. The riot made headlines around the country and became known as “That Akron Riot.”

The story begins with a six year old girl named Christina Maar. Monday night, August 20, little Christina was found “wandering aimlessly,” crying and all alone on Merriman Road. Earlier that night, around 5 pm, she had been playing in her yard (on East Avenue) when a witness saw a man riding a horse attached to a road cart come by and “entice” her to take a ride. She was then later found at 7 pm that night on Merriman Road, “so badly frightened and her sufferings were of such an intense nature that she was not able to give a very good description of the fiend...” (*Akron Beacon Journal* August 22, 1900). Akron Police were led to believe that someone attempted to rape and assault little Christina, and they were determined to find the perpetrator.

It was discovered that night that Louis Peck, an African American, had secured a horse and carriage from Pringle’s livery stable located on North Main Street. The horse and carriage had been returned around 8 pm by a different man. The police told Mr. Pringle that they were looking for a man who was riding a horse attached to a road cart. Mr. Pringle did not suspect Louis Peck at first, but then changed his story and told the police that it must be Louis Peck they were looking for.

Beacon Journal reporters interviewed witnesses in Christina Maar’s neighborhood and they all seemed to believe that it was an African American that abducted the little girl. Police showed a photograph of Peck to one of the witnesses, and Peck was identified as the assailant of the little girl.

Peck was arrested after he returned from Youngstown on a passenger train Tuesday night after midnight. He was taken directly to the Summit County courthouse, and a confession was quickly

obtained. Peck pled guilty to the crime as charged and was arraigned within 20 minutes.

Sheriff Frank G. Kelly and other authorities believed it was prudent to get the prisoner out of the city as a cautionary measure in case public outrage started something unpredictable in light of the Maar incident. Around 4 pm Wednesday afternoon, Peck was taken to Cleveland, to the Cuyahoga County jail, for temporary custody. As it would turn out, Sheriff Kelly was right in his thinking because something very unpredictable and terrible did occur on that August night.

Around 6:30 Wednesday night, small groups of men and boys gathered downtown in front of the City Building. As the evening progressed, these small groups grew into a mob of approximately 700 to 800 people. Angry, in full force and fueled by alcohol from nearby saloons, the mob was out of control. The people wanted to lynch Louis Peck, and if not Louis Peck, they yelled that “any black man would do.”

Police officers and Mayor W. E. Young tried to reason with the heckling crowd, and informed the people that Peck had already been taken to Cleveland, but the more Mayor Young pleaded, the more restless the mob became. Officers let committees chosen by the mob search the City Building, the City Prison, and the County Courthouse, not only once, but twice. Each search resulted in the committees confirming that Peck was indeed nowhere to be found. By this time, the mob was so agitated it insisted the buildings be taken down by force.

The mob charged toward the City Building, yelling and throwing bricks and stones at the windows. Police officers retaliated, shooting randomly from inside the building to get the mob to move back. These random shots wounded several bystanders and killed two children, 8-year-old Rhoda Davidson, who was shot while in her mother’s arms, and 11-year-old Glen Wade, who was shot through the heart. These fatal circumstances momentarily dispersed the mob as ambulances arrived to pick up the wounded, but no one predicted the fury that was yet to come.

While all seemed to go quiet, a fire was started in the old Columbia Hall. Men with guns came running down Main Street, lining up near the Beacon Journal office and began shooting at the City Building as fast as they could. A fire alarm was rung and as firemen rushed to the scene they faced the most unbelievable circumstances. Men from the mob pointed their shotguns at the firemen with no mercy and cut the water hoses so that no water could douse the fires. One fireman who attempted to stop the destruction was shot in the neck. After seeing what they had to face, no firemen or officers attempted to stop the destruction at that point.

The mob was not satisfied that the City Building had not yet caught fire, so dynamite was secured to the building and the ensuing explosion caused all of its windows to be blown out and damaged several surrounding buildings, including the Beacon Journal. A second charge of dynamite was lit and exploded, bringing down power lines and cutting the electricity in the area, but the City Building remained standing.

In a last attempt to destroy the City Building, a man and a boy reportedly stole two jugs of whiskey from nearby Whitelaw's Saloon, which was also destroyed by fire. They ran into the City Building and poured out the liquor all over the floor and set it ablaze. Only then did the people throw down their guns and start running away after they saw the building finally engulfed in flames. Firemen fought to keep the fires under control all Wednesday night and into early Thursday morning.

Ohio Governor George K. Nash ordered the Ohio National Guard to take the city under martial law but was not able to get assistance as quickly as he requested. Companies from the Ohio National Guard entered the city by special train at 8:30 am on Thursday morning. They proceeded to march down to the corner of Mill Street and Main Street, where they were headquartered at the Hotel Buchtel. There were also several National Guardsmen brought in to protect designated spots downtown, including the County Courthouse. Mayor Young made a declaration that in the meantime, all city

saloons were to be closed so that the influence of alcohol would not be allowed to further cause any other crimes or uprisings.



The 4th Regiment of the Ohio National Guard responded to the Governor's call to occupy Akron in August of 1900. From the Summit County Historical Society Collection.

When Louis Peck was later interviewed at the Cleveland jail, it was reported how badly frightened he was after hearing about the Akron riot. He did admit to drinking whiskey but said that he could not recall anything of the crime he was accused of and said it must have been because of the whiskey. "Oh I was drunk and didn't know what I did. Even after I had sobered up and was arrested I couldn't imagine what it was for. After I reached the jail and they told me what I was charged with, it began to dawn upon me what I had done, and the enormity of the crime almost set me crazy..." (*Akron Beacon Journal* August 23, 1900). Peck said that he would only plead guilty to the charges if they did not sentence him to life in prison. He also stated that he wanted to leave the Cleveland jail as soon as possible as it was too close to Akron.

On Thursday, a special grand jury was empanelled and Louis Peck was brought back to Akron to receive his final sentence. With only one witness, Peck was indicted on the charge of rape. Peck pled guilty and was sentenced to a life in prison all within an hour and a half. On Friday afternoon, he was taken to the Ohio Penitentiary.

Fortunately, Akron remained calm after all the events of the riot had died down, and National Guard troops were ordered to leave the city the following Monday.

The total losses by fire from the damaged buildings in the riot came to \$107,594.50. This included City Hall and its contents, Columbia Hall, and the J.P. Whitelaw building. All of the plats, records, and maps of the city's engineering department had been destroyed. No fire insurance was collected because of riot clauses in the policies.



A crowd looks at the ruins of the Akron City Building on the corner of Main and Bowery Streets following the riot. From the Summit County Historical Society Collection.

The Mayor was determined to bring justice to all of the rioters involved. By September 4, many of the accused rioters had been arrested, and a special grand jury of 15 people was formed. A total of 32 people were convicted of crimes associated with the riot. Of those, six were sent to the Ohio State Penitentiary.

Louis Peck was eventually pardoned on May 6, 1913 by the Ohio State Board of Administration, former warden of the Ohio Penitentiary E. T. Jones, and Governor James M. Cox. The members of the State Board of Administration were of the opinion that there were grave doubts as to Peck's guilt, and he was given no opportunity to establish his innocence. Peck's lawyers also believed that he had been railroaded into pleading guilty.

Akron has been fortunate to never have anything as devastating happen at the hands of its own people since the riot. Looking back at such turbulent events, let us not forget what mob mentality can do to what may seem like a civilized city.

Summit Memory Updates

by Joanne O'Dell, Librarian

The Summit Memory Project continues to grow. Now in our fourth year, we have more than 13,000 items contributed by 14 partner institutions. Since the last update in *Past Pursuits*, we have added four more collections and two new partners.

The [Houses of Hudson Collection](#) contributed by new partner the Hudson Library & Historical Society, contains images of 585 historic houses in Hudson, Ohio. The images were created in 1950 by William Moos, a founding member of the Hudson Heritage Association.

The Science and Technology Division of the Akron-Summit County Public Library has joined the project by adding U.S. Patents awarded to Summit County residents. In 1790, the U.S. began issuing patents to encourage innovation by making it profitable for an inventor. Thousands of Summit County inventors were granted patents and the [Inventors of Summit County Collection](#) contains more than 100 of the earliest patents issued to these inventors.

In 1872, the Ohio Legislature authorized P. H. Dudley, an Ohio Public Works Special Commissioner, to inspect the Ohio Canal. Mr. Dudley interviewed many millers, boatman, and lock keepers about the Ohio Canal system. The Special Collections Division scanned the [complete report](#) and it is now available online. We also added [selected depositions](#) relating to the Summit County portion of the Ohio Canal to www.SummitMemory.org.

Because postcards continue to be one of the most popular types of images, we have added the selected postcards from the [Paul Gramlich Collection](#). Mr. Gramlich was a teacher in the Cuyahoga Falls Schools and a librarian at Taylor Memorial Library. We are also continuing to add more postcards to the [Ruth Wright Clinefelter Postcard Collection](#). That collection now numbers more than 1,000 postcards.

Workshops by Special Collections

Getting Started in Family History

Saturday, June 12, 10 – 11:30 am OR

Tuesday, July 13, 6:30 – 8 pm OR

Saturday, August 7, 10 – 11:30 am

Join the Special Collections Division for an introduction to genealogy for new family historians. Each session will include an overview of genealogical sources available at the Library, suggestions for getting started, and tips for organizing your research. This workshop meets in the Special Collections Division - Third Floor, Main Library. For more information and to sign up, contact the Special Collections Division, 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Finding Your Family in the Census

Saturday, June 26, 10 am - noon

United States Census records are rich sources of genealogical information. Join us as we learn more about using these valuable records in your family research. As we will be using electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended. This workshop meets in Computer Lab 2 – First Floor, Main Library. For more information and to sign up, contact the Special Collections Division, 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Branching Out: Second Steps in Genealogy Research

Saturday, August 28, 10 am – noon

A detailed continuation of *Getting Started in Family History*, this class is geared toward those who have already done some research. Participants will learn what to expect when working with vital records and obituaries and basic search strategies for finding them in both online and traditional sources. This workshop meets in Meeting Room 1 – Main Library. For more information and to sign up, contact the Special Collections Division, 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Introduction to Internet Genealogy

Saturday, July 24, 10 am - noon

Overwhelmed by the abundance of genealogy information on the Internet? Learn about genealogy databases that are available through the Library, as well as how to find and evaluate many popular free Internet genealogy Web sites. As the emphasis will be on using electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended. This workshop meets in Computer Lab 2 – First Floor, Main Library. For more information and to sign up, contact the Special Collections Division, 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Workshop by Summit County OGS

Using Tax Records to Trace Ancestors

Saturday, July 17, 1 pm

Join us at the new OGS Library in Mansfield, Ohio for this meeting. We will meet at 10 am in the lower level of the High & Market Streets parking deck (next to the Akron-Summit County Public Library) and carpool to Mansfield. Using Tax Records to Trace Ancestors will be presented by Tom Neel of the Ohio Genealogical Society. After the meeting we will have a tour of the library and then we will be able to do research.

Summer Workshop from OGS

Sunday, July 25 – Friday, July 30

This 5-day workshop will be held at The Ohio Genealogical Society headquarters, two miles north of Bellville of SR 97 in our new library. Nationally known speakers, Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, Shirley Hodges, Deborah Abbott, Peggy Lauritzen and others will present topics of interest which include: *Beating the Bushes: Using the GPS to find Jacob Bush's Father, the Dreaded Research Report, the Research Cycle: Don't Pedal Backwards, Church Records: The Ties that Bind, Research Facilities in the Great Lakes Area, Using Land Records in Genealogical Research, and Little Known Facts About the Census*. For more information please contact OGS at 419.756.7294 or 419.886.7903.

Akron History Exhibit Update

by Cheri Goldner, Librarian

It's summer in the city, which means that you have plenty of opportunities to hear live bands at little or no cost at downtown's Lock 3 park. (For details, see www.lock3live.com.) Those concerts are the perfect time to stop in and see what's new at the Akron History Exhibit and American Toy Marble Museum. A collaborative project between the City of Akron and several local historical organizations, including the Summit County Historical Society and the Library's Special Collections Division, the museum is located under the O'Neil's (State Street) Parking Deck, just steps from the Lock 3 concert stage.

The museum features two large galleries with displays on Akron's history. The front gallery includes several displays on Akron industry, featuring locally produced clay toys and marbles, tires and rubber toys, fishing lures and equipment made by Fred Arbogast Co. and Enterprise Manufacturing Co. a.k.a. Pflueger, bottles, pottery, and one-of-a-kind wooden games made by Robert Merchant. Other displays in the front gallery include one by Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, cars and other race items on loan from the All-American Soap Box Derby (including the infamous "magnet car" that won and was later disqualified from the 1973 national race), "Akron's Own CSI" by the Akron Police Museum, excerpts from StoryCorps interviews recorded in Akron last summer, and a display on northeast Ohio broadcasters by the TV Dinner Club Museum.

The back gallery of the museum focuses on transportation, presenting artifacts related to the Ohio & Erie canal, rail travel, over-the-road trucking, and, courtesy of the Lighter-Than-Air Society, lighter-than-air flight.

The museum features three new exhibits this summer. "Akron, Crossroads of the Deaf" by Special Collections tells the story of the migration of deaf workers to Akron during World Wars I and II and the thriving deaf community that developed as a result. The University of Akron's Hower

House has a fascinating display on Victorian parlor games, including a spirit board (Ouija board), crystal ball, phrenology skull and much more. The Summit County Historical Society has added a display on Akron beer and breweries. In addition, keep an eye out for new displays by the Lighter-Than-Air Society throughout the summer.

Planning for the Civil War's 150th Anniversary

by Judy James, Division Manager

Although Ohio was the site of only two Civil War battles, it played a significant role in the War Between the States. Starting in 2011, Ohio will launch a four-year commemoration of our state's part in this critical time in our country's history. Under the direction of the Ohio Historical Society (OHS), organizations across the state will participate in numerous activities and initiatives to tell the stories of their communities, their involvement in the war, and how they were impacted.

In 2009, OHS launched *Ohio Civil War 150* (www.OhioCivilWar150.org) an interactive Web site designed to provide information, ideas, resources, and networking for organizations and communities that are planning their own commemorative events. This well-designed and informative site includes a wealth of information including digital exhibits, discussion forums, timelines, a statewide calendar of Civil War events, and valuable resources for teachers. Because OHS intends for this to be an interactive initiative, historical societies, libraries, and historical organizations are encouraged to submit items for inclusion on the site. OHS will also offer assistance and guidance to communities that are planning events.

Conversations are underway in Summit County to determine how our community will participate. Look for updates in future issues of *Past Pursuits*. In the meantime, visit www.OhioCivilWar150.org to learn more.

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

Robert Bensinger for book and CD about the Bensinger Family.

Cascade Locks Park Association for *Early Days in Peninsula, Ohio: A Collection of Fifty Three Articles* by Fred W. Bishop, *From School to War: Transcribed from the Original Letters of George Lawson Waterman and a Few Others from 1858-1863*, and *Only in Peninsula: A Collection of Fond Memories of an Ohio Village*.

Mindy Christman for family history collection of the Christman, Dignan, Seeds, & Schumm families.

Cuyahoga Falls Historical Society and Jon Upham for 1903 Map and Atlas of Cuyahoga County.

Cuyahoga Portage Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution for *Early Families of Southern Maryland, volumes 1-5*.

Daughters of the American Colonists for *Early Families of Hull, Massachusetts* by Ethel Farrington Smith in memory of Mrs. Shirley Croft and Mrs. Harriet Pfeifle.

Dreama Powell for *History of Monroe County, 1913*.

Jack Gieck for *Tom Bank's Recollections from September 1945 to September 1952* by Thomas A. Bank.

Clara H. Harsh for *Giles Hickox : a Revolutionary Soldier, His Ancestors and Descendants* by Clara H. Harsh.

Summit County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society for *Obituaries from the Clarion Democrat, 1928 through 1930* in memory of Mary M. Towler.

Warren Skidmore for various music CDs, DVDs, genealogy books, and maps.

Correction to the Spring 2010 issue:

The Scottish American Society donated the historical records of the Robert Burns Society, not the records of the Scottish American Society.

New to the Collection

Alabama

Births & deaths in Autauga County, 1908-1916
Cemeteries of Chilton: a census of interments
Montgomery County 1855 state census

Connecticut

The first traders on Wall Street: the Wiechquaeskeck Indians...

Kentucky

Allen County cemeteries and graveyards revisited (with genealogical notes)
Bullitt County marriage records, 1797-1845
Crittenden County births, deaths, etc.
Death certificates of Allen County, 1911-1945
The early history of Montgomery County
Greenup County marriages: the first hundred years, 1803-1903
Jefferson County births, 1852-1859

Maine

Burial records, 1717-1962 of the Eastern Cemetery, Portland

Maryland

Early families of southern Maryland
Frederick County church and cemetery records

Massachusetts

A century of service: a brief history of the North Congregational Church, Amherst, 1826-1926
The early records of the town of Rowley, 1639-72

Michigan

1859 maps of Genesee County
1890 assessment roll for Sandstone Township, Jackson County
1890 Blackman Twp. assessment roll
Albert Falk & Sons Funeral Home records (1919-1975), Port Huron
Argentine Township Cemetery, Genesee Co.
Avondale Cemetery, Genesee Co. burial records, 1870-1998
Bristol Road Cemetery, Flint Township, Genesee Co. burial records, 1839-2001
Civil War gravesites: a compilation of Genesee, Lapeer and Shiawassee counties

Michigan (cont.)

Cronk Cemetery, Flint Township, Genesee Co.
burial records, 1811-1998

Davison Cemetery, Genesee County

Dodds-Dumanois Funeral Home records, 1904-59,
Genesee County

Evergreen Cemetery, Grand Blanc Twp, Genesee
County

Flushing Cemetery, Genesee County

Genealogical holdings of the St. Clair County
Public Library

Genesee County birth records, 1895-1907

Genesee County cemetery locations

Genesee County, Mundy Twp. cemeteries

Glenwood Cemetery, Genesee County burial
records, 1857-2000

Gracelawn Cemetery burial records, 1913-1997
Genesee County

Grand Blanc Twp. Consolidate School scrapbook:
1921-1942, Genesee County

Index to combination atlas map of Jackson County

Index to naturalization records from June 1854 for
St. Clair County

Index to the 1845 state census of St. Clair County

Jackson County, Rives Township justices docket:
from 1874 to 1896

Maple (Gibson) Cemetery, Grand Blanc Twp.,
Genesee Co. burial records, 1835-1997

Old Flint City Cemetery, Genesee Co.

Perry-McFarlan Cemetery, Grand Blanc Twp.,
Genesee Co. burial records, 1834-2000

Port Huron Township, St. Clair County cemeteries:
Harrington Cemetery and Woodland Cemetery

St. Clair County birth records, indexed 1867-1874

St. Clair County marriage records. January 1843-
June 8, 1898

St. Mary cemeteries, St. Clair, St. Clair County

St. Nicholas Orthodox Cemetery, Genesee Co.
burials, 1918-1998

St. Robert Parish Cemetery, Flushing

Shiawassee County: Bryon Cemetery

Smith Hill Cemetery, Genesee County

Tompkins Center book of births, marriages &
deaths, Jackson County

Weddings and obituaries scrapbook, 1894-1942,
Genesee Co

New Jersey

New Jersey during the Revolution: as related in
news items of the day

New York

Chateaugay, N.Y. and the War of 1812

A Franklin County family album

North Country settlers: Malone in the 19th century

Index to the 24 volumes trustees annual reports of
the school districts of Chautauqua County

The sesquicentennial history of Fallsburg Township,
1826-1976, Sullivan County

Town of Wilmington, Essex County transcribed
serial records: 1850 U.S. census schedules...

Ohio

The Amish & Mennonites of northern Stark
County: a people of strength and integrity
centered in Lake Township

Cincinnati Bengals history

Cincinnati boxing

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Cincinnati fire history

Cincinnati on field and court: the sports legacy of the
Queen City

Cincinnati police history

Cincinnati Reds, 1900-1950

The Cincinnati sound

Cincinnati television

Cincinnati's historic Findlay Market

Cincinnati's Northside neighborhood

Cleveland and its street cars

Cleveland's rock and roll roots

Cleveland's Slavic Village

The continuing history of Bath Church, Summit Co.
Dover

History of one room schools, Huntington Township,
Ross County: 1922-1942

Index to church records at Emmanuel E&R Church,
1847-1920, Medina County

Index to Shelbyana: issue no. 1-issue no. 100,
October 1979-July 2004

Industrial voyage: a case study of Appalachian
migration to Akron, Ohio: 1900-1940

Logan County court records, 1836-1935

Marion County

Medina

Ohio (cont.)

Milford
Miller Bros. & Miller & O'Bryan Funeral Home records, Mount Vernon, 1918-1919
Monroe
Mt. Healthy
North Baltimore and its neighbors
North Olmsted
North Ridgeville
The Ohio & Erie Canal, 1832-1913
Ohio River images: Cincinnati to Louisville in the packet boat era
Olmsted Falls
"Our Mr. Brown": Akron's best kept secret
Price Hill
The Rayen School, 1866-2007: a retrospective
Rockefeller's Cleveland
Ross County 1803 census
Sebring
Rubber mirrors: reflections of the rubber division's first 100 years
The Shakers of Union Village
Struthers
Sylvania
Toledo's Polonia
The Underground Railroad in Meigs County
Upper Arlington
Veterans buried in Medina County
Westlake
Williams County
World War II Logan County, Ohio newspaper clippings: from the scrapbook of Diane Wright
Youngstown State University: from YoCo to YSU

Pennsylvania

1771 Lancaster County – Archives
Funeral record index of Felton Funeral Home, New Alexandria, Westmoreland County, 1918-1985
Brush Creek Reformed Church, Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County: 1820-1921
Brush Valley Lutheran Church, Brush Valley Township, Indiana County: parish records, 1822-1893
Deaths in the bituminous coal districts, 1888-1897
The German Church records of Western Pennsylvania, 1792-1820

Pennsylvania (cont.)

Harrold Zion Lutheran Cemetery and church funeral records, Hempfield Township, 1885-1996
Hebron Lutheran Church, Blairsville, Indiana County: parish records, 1880-1922
Hempfield Zion Cemetery, Hempfield Township, Westmoreland
Index to the registration of deaths, Allegheny City, 1893-1905
Jefferson County will book index, 1852-1906
Journal of Gabriel Adam Reichert, Lutheran pastor in Indiana, Armstrong and adjacent counties, 1822-1937
Marriage and death notices transcribed from the pages of the Lebanon Valley Standard
Marriage records of Squires Isaac and Joseph F. Mayes, Washington County
Marriages and deaths from The York Recorder, 1821-1830
Marriages in Allegheny City, 1877-1882
Mifflin County Amish and Mennonite story, 1791-1991
Old Harrold Cemetery, Lutheran and Reformed, Westmoreland County, Hempfield Township, 1772-1889
Pittsburgh 19th century voter lists
Proof of settlement certificates of northwestern Pennsylvania
St. John's Reformed Cemetery, Harrolds, Hempfield Township, Westmoreland, 1890-1999
Tax lists of Westmoreland County: Mount Pleasant Township, 1811-1815
Youngwood Cemetery, 1905-1978, Westmoreland County

Virginia

The diligence and disappearance of Manakintowne's Huguenots
Index for 1802 minutes of the special conference of the Lutheran Ministries of Virginia
The Sprag(g)ins family of Virginia

West Virginia

A history of one: walking the path of a World War II airman

Borrowed identity: United States 128th Colored Troops: multiple-name usage by Black Civil War veterans who served with Union regiments organized in South Carolina

Grand Army of the Republic, Dept. of Pennsylvania: personal war sketches of the African American members of Col. Robert G. Shaw Post No. 206, Pittsburgh

Reference

Ancestors of American presidents, 2009 ed.

A history of the Amish

Taking the mystery out of land records: using land records in genealogical research

Europe

In search of your European roots: a complete guide to tracing your ancestors in every country in Europe. 3rd ed.

Switzerland

Was isch dini Nahme?=What is your name?: a collection of Swiss family names

African Americans

A guide to records of ante-bellum southern plantations from the revolution through the Civil War

Bounties to Black soldiers

Race, slavery and free Blacks: Series II, petitions to Southern county courts, 1775-1867

Records of U.S. colored troops. Part 1: letters related to recruitment of African Americans, 1863-1865

Family History

Adam Burget family: children and descendants of Adam Burget and Maria (Mary) Puterbaugh

Addendum to the Abraham Teeter family: children and descendants of Jacob and Hannah (Teeter) Long family

Ancestors on the frontier: a genealogical narrative spanning three centuries

The Bradley-Chatham family book

The Clappers in America

Family History (cont.)

The descendants of Jacob Reaser, 1786-1860 in August County, Virginia

The Dilling-Puterbaugh family chronicle

Goffredo & Orazia's immigration story

Harmon Dick family: children and descendants of Harmon and Margaret (?) Dick ...

Jacob Kagarise and Barbara (Burger) family: probable ancestors and true descendants of Jacob and Barbara (Burger) Kagarise

The memories of Agnes Maglione-McMullen

The Merrill family: the ancestors and descendants of James A. Merrill

The Metzger family history

Our Dietz-Dennate ancestry

Peter Baker, 1816-1892 and Mary (Snider) Baker: children, grandchildren

Reprogle-Reprogle genealogy, 1600-1998

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

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Reminder

Late Night at the Library

Join the Special Collections Staff and the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society for an evening of genealogy research. On Friday, October 22, the Library will close at its regular time of 6 pm but will re-open for genealogists from 6:30 to 10:30 pm.

Mingle with fellow researchers as you uncover the details of your ancestry. Door prizes and refreshments will be provided, and parking is free in the High St. & E. Market St. deck for those arriving after 6 pm. Printing and copies from microfilm will also be free. For more information, please call Special Collections at 330.643.9030.