

Past Pursuits

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

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Summer 2005

Robert Orr of Akron's Motor Cargo, Inc.

Robert Orr served as treasurer and later president of Motor Cargo Inc., a company founded by his father, Owen Orr, in Akron in 1937. It was one of Akron's biggest trucking companies and trucking was one of Akron's biggest businesses in the 1950s. The Robert Orr Collection held by the Special Collections Division of ASCPL provides an inside look at both the Orr family and Motor Cargo, Inc. Within the collection are hundreds of photographs and nearly 30 years of the corporate newsletter – *The Cargoite*. There are also many artifacts relating to Robert Orr's long time hobby of racing midget autos.



Robert and Owen Orr reviewing truck routes

Also paying tribute to Akron's trucking companies is Akron's Industrial History Museum at Lock 3. The *Trucking Office of the 1950s* exhibit displays many artifacts from the Robert Orr Collection. It provides an interesting look at what a Motor Cargo manager's work environment might have been like. The museum is open during all Lock 3 events.

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Glendale Cemetery Project

Summit County OGS has started a new project - to complete the recording of Glendale Cemetery's Burial Book No. 1 before this original record fades and deteriorates to the point of being completely unreadable. This book contains Burials Nos. 1 through 5,715, covering the years of 1838 through 1891. The OGS Chapter has already published a book containing records of the first 1,705 burials, and this second publication will contain the next 4,000! Glendale is one of the very oldest cemeteries in the Akron/Summit County area, so these records are invaluable to genealogical researchers.

One member is single-handedly entering these 4,000 burial records into a database. The Chapter is in desperate need of volunteers who would be able to go to Glendale Cemetery for a few hours at a time to check these typed pages against the original book. Someone will go with you the first time and give you complete instructions. This is almost a "race against time" in order to preserve historical records. If you are interested in this project, please contact Lois Noirot at NoirotHome@aol.com.

Research, Shop, and Nosh at Main Library

The next time you visit Special Collections, you may wish to visit the newly expanded Library Shop on Main and the soon to be open café, Obee's. The Library Shop on Main is a gift and used book store operated by the Friends of Main Library. The shop carries many products for book lovers including reading glasses, bookends, bookmarks, Cross pens and more. In addition, the shop carries downtown Akron's most exciting line of greeting cards. There are plenty of gently used books to browse through with most priced at \$1 or less. The Library Shop on Main is open Monday – Saturday 10 am – 4 pm and Sunday 1-4 pm. The hours of the Library Shop on Main will expand in mid-August with the opening of Obee's, the restaurant that will occupy the café space adjacent to the Library Shop on Main.

Access Heritage Quest --- from Home

We are pleased to announce that home access to the genealogy database, Heritage Quest is now available to all Akron-Summit County Public Library cardholders. Heritage Quest includes digitized U.S. census images, full text local and family histories, selected Revolutionary War records, and PERSI, the "reader's guide" to genealogy and local history periodicals.

Researchers may access Heritage Quest from the Library's website. From the homepage, select Library Resources, then Research Databases. The link for Heritage Quest is the last item in the first column of links.

Goodbye and Best Wishes

Last month we said goodbye to our wonderful co-worker, Librarian Marie Herlevi. Marie has made a decision to pursue another advanced degree, and will attend Cleveland State University in the fall. She will continue to pursue her interest in genealogy through her involvement in local genealogical societies and study groups. We are most grateful to Marie for her skills, dedication, and kind ways. We will miss her and wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

The Ohio Death Certificate Collection

This important collection contains indexes and certificates for all deaths occurring in Ohio from 20 December 1908 through 1953. Although we have the index for Ohio deaths in 1954, the certificates are not included in the collection. Death certificates from 1 January 1954 to the present are may be obtained from the Ohio Department of Health or local vital records offices.

Children's Book Collections

The Special Collections Division houses two unique collections of children's books, the Eastman and the Harriet Leaf Collections. Both collections were maintained by our Children's Library for many years, but were transferred to Special Collections at the time of our move to the new Main Library.

The Eastman Collection

In 1926, Mary Huse Eastman, a librarian with the Wilmington, Delaware Free Public Library, published *Index to Fairy Tales, Myths and Legends*, a reference tool to assist children's librarians with their storytelling programs. This work has been continuously updated, first by Ms. Eastman, and later by Norma Olin Ireland and Joseph Sprug. This important index still serves librarians today as a source for locating hard to find folk and fairy tales. Many years ago, children's librarians at the Akron Public Library developed a collection of books that correspond to this index. The Eastman Collection now consists of more than 1,000 titles found in Ms. Eastman's work. The collection includes everything from Maori legends to Flemish Christmas tales to tall tales from the mountains of Kentucky.

The Harriet Leaf Collection

Harriet Leaf, affectionately known as "the Story Lady", was a children's librarian at the Akron Public Library for 30 years. Ms. Leaf was a talented storyteller, and hosted the weekly WAKR Radio program, "Tip Top Tales" from 1940 to 1957. She was also instrumental in expanding the Library's summer reading program. The Harriet Leaf Collection includes approximately 2,000 old and rare children's books from the Library's collection, as well as Ms. Leaf's personal collection.

Castle Garden (1830-1892)

The records from America's first immigration center are available from <http://www.CastleGarden.org>.

On Exhibit

Summit County Pottery

Special Collections Exhibit Case

Pottery and ceramics was one of Summit County's most important industries in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Several communities, most notably Mogadore, Tallmadge, Ellet and Springfield were known for their rich clay deposits. Dozens of ceramics factories flourished in Summit County, producing everything from marbles to bottles to sewer pipe. At one time Akron was known as the "Sewer Pipe Manufacturing Capital of the World." By 1910, most of the clay deposits had been exhausted and many factories closed. Local historian Bill Cody has graciously loaned to us for exhibit his unique collection of 19th and early 20th Century Summit County pottery. Represented in the collection are pieces made by Fisk and Smith, Edwin H. Merrill, F.L. Sheldon, Solomon Purdy, and the American Marble and Toy Company.

Soap Box Derby Model Racers

Third Floor Exhibit Case

Ron Reed's interest in the All-American Soap Box Derby has inspired him to create beautiful hand carved miniature Derby racers. Mr. Reed has carved a model of each winning racer from the National Race for every year since 1935, as well as every winner of the Akron Local Race. Each model is carefully carved from wood, and then painstakingly hand painted. Mr. Reed estimates that it takes approximately one week to carve a single racer. This exhibit represents of sample of his work, and includes Derby photographs from his personal collection.

Springfield Lake Amusement Park

The former resort located along the shoreline of Springfield Lake is now just a memory and Special Collections is gathering information on this largely undocumented bit of our history. If you have memories or photographs you would like to share please call us at 330.643.9030.

What is my book worth?

Did you ever find an interesting old book when you cleaned out the attic or basement? Or maybe you were browsing at a yard sale and saw what seemed to be a treasure? Whatever the case, most of us have experienced a time that we've held an old book in our hands and wondered if it was worth something monetarily. Here are a few resources to help you find out for yourself if you have a book that has more than just sentimental value.

From the Library:

Book prices, used and rare, History and Humanities Division: Reference 017.8 B724 1994

American book prices current, History and Humanities Division: Reference 018 AM3

Tomart's price guide to 20th century books, by John Wade. History and Humanities Division: 017.8 W115t 1994

A price guide to cookbooks and recipe leaflets, by Linda J. Dickinson. Science and Technology Division: 641.5029 D533p 1999

The State Library of Pennsylvania's website (<http://www.statelibrary.state.pa.us/libraries/cwp/viaw.asp?a=13&Q=37747>) provides tips on what kinds of details to look for when evaluating an old book and how to describe it to a collector should you consult one.

Other useful websites:

<http://www.bibliofind.com>

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/subst/books/misc/bibliofind.html/104-4098192-1684701>

<http://www.alibris.com>

<http://www.bookfinder.com>

Note

Previous versions of this newsletter, Past Pursuits are available from our website at <http://akronlibrary.org/internetresources/sc/pursuits/>

Sounds of Summit

In 2004 Special Collections began the Sounds of Summit initiative to collect recordings and other materials from local musicians of all musical genres within the Summit County and Northeast Ohio area. So far our efforts have proven fairly successful with several contributions from area churches, local rock and reggae performers, and some jazz recordings as well.

We've added a very nice set of photographs to our Sounds of Summit Collection that were taken April 8-9 of 2005 during the "Nicked-Up Hueys Weekend". This event, a benefit performed by reunited Akron and Northeast Ohio bands, brought large crowds to the Lime Spider in downtown Akron. These bands were originally part of a very popular music scene during the late 1970s and early 1980s that has made Akron legendary among certain circles of music historians and those who revel in music nostalgia. The bands included: The Bizarros, C.D. Truth, Ralph Carney, Chi-Pig, The Difficult, The Numbers Band, Tin Huey, Unit 5, The Walking Clampetts, and several others. We were lucky enough to have it documented by local photographer Andrew McAllister who has provided us with professional quality photographs of the event (www.andrewfoto.com).

Again, we urge you to please spread the word about our focus on the music and musicians of Summit County. Any items such as recordings (in any format, CD, cassette, LP), sheet music, photographs, and flyers are greatly welcome.

Local History Events Calendar

PTP Monthly Meeting

Progress Through Preservation

Monday August 29, 2005

A presentation on the Fine Arts Garden at the Cleveland Museum of Art by landscape historian Mary Paolano Hoerner will be preceded by dinner at Judson and a tour of the garden.

Rubber City Road Rally

Summit County Historical Society

Saturday, September 3, 2005

Cruise through the country and finish the race with a fantastic party on the grounds of the Perkins Stone Mansion. Call 330.535.1120 for more details or visit <http://www.rubbercityroadrally.com>

Guided Hiking Tours of the Park

Cascade Locks Park Association

Sunday, September 25, 2005 3:00—4:00pm

Come and learn about the Cascade Locks Historic District, which will soon host the newest section of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Free guided tour meets at the Mustill Store.

National Preservation Conference, Portland, Oregon

Progress Through Preservation

September 27-October 2

See www.nthpcongerence.org.

Akron Road Runner Marathon

Cascade Locks Park Association

Saturday, October 1, 8:30—10:30 am

Runners in this all day race pass by the Mustill Store. Join us on the porch to cheer them on.

The Harvest Festival

Stow Historical Society

Saturday & Sunday October 15 & 16, 2005

Entertainment, food, and crafts are all present. One favorite is old-fashioned apple butter cooked in a copper kettle over a wood fire. Admission is free.

33rd Annual Community Luncheon

Cleveland Restoration Society

Tuesday November 22, 2005 11:30-1:30

This event raises unrestricted funds for the Society's programs and operations.

Preview Party

Summit County Historical Society

Thursday, December 1, 2005

Celebrate the holidays with an evening of food, music, and spirits in the Perkins Stone Mansion.

Genealogy Events Calendar

Historical Privy Salvage and Bottle Excavation

Summit County Chapter of the OGS

Saturday, September 17, 2005

The Lacy family of Ashtabula will present the discovery of artifacts produced, used, and disposed of by our ancestors. Meet at the Akron-Summit Goodyear Branch Library, 60 Goodyear Blvd.

Members Share their Genealogy Projects

Computer Assisted Genealogy Group

Saturday, September 17, 2005 9:30-2:00

Moderated by Jean Hollman

Washington D.C. Research Trip

North Hills Genealogists

September 25-29, 2005

Join the North Hills Genealogists of Pittsburgh for research in the National Archives, DAR Library and Library of Congress. Roundtrip bus from Pittsburgh, PA area; 4 nights; Sunday arrival dinner and orientation included. For more information call Elissa Powell at 724.935.6961 or e-mail DCTrip@northhillsgenealogists.org.

OGS Inaugural Annual Fall Seminar

The Ohio Genealogical Society

Saturday, October 1, 2005 9:00-4:30

Cyndi Howells is the owner and webmaster of Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet. Cyndi, a genealogist for more than 24 years is also the author of three books. For more information call 419.756.7294.

The Yanks Are Coming

Summit County Chapter of the OGS

Saturday, October 15, 2005

Presented by member Linda Taylor. Find Great Grandpa in the World War I Draft Registration Cards.

Jack Braverman Program

Computer Assisted Genealogy Group

Saturday, October 15, 2005 9:30-2:00

The afternoon program is to be announced.

Using Chat Rooms

Computer Assisted Genealogy Group

Saturday, November 19, 2005 9:30-2:00

The afternoon program is to be announced.

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

The Akron Convention and Visitors Bureau for slides of the greater Akron area.

Denise Chatfield and Christ Episcopal Church, Hudson for historical materials and an audio CD from Christ Church.

Rudy Christian for materials about the singing group, the El Capris.

Charles Conrad for photographs from the estate of Dr. and Mrs. William J. Ream.

Patricia Johnson for *Descendants of Philip Steele, 1758-1827*.

Jack Morris for his original manuscript, *Akron Motorcycle Dealers and People*.

Jack Morris for his compiled family history.

Dr. Albert E. Myers for *Briner Family History*.

Carol Polak for books from the estate of her mother, Cathryn Taliaferro: *Anthology of Western Reserve Literature; I Have My Own Song for I; At Home on the Hill; Written on the Hills; Yesterday's Akron; Our Heritage: 140 years, Grace Methodist Church; When Giants Roamed the Sky*; map: Reproduction of 1807 map of Akron; videorecording: *A Memorial Tribute to Dorothy Garrett Martin*.

Shirley Jackson Sowell for *A Maple Branch: Descendents of John Maple and Nancy Hickman*.

St. Philip's Episcopal Church for historical materials about the church and congregation.

Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society for *Sacred Landmark Cemetery Project: Phases I and II; John Hartz, 1801-1882 and Catharine Hershey, 1807-1874; Doncaster Funeral Home; The Rattlesnake and the Ramsey: the History of the Lorain, Ashland, and Southern Railroad; and Ankrom Genealogy*.

Robert Weisberger for framed *Akron Beacon Journal* articles pertaining to the Akron riots of 1968.

Brenda and Bob Weltman, James Howell, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Howell, and Mr. and Mrs. Craig Howell for *Written in Stone: Tombstone Readings of Preston County, West Virginia*.

Carole Yassine and the Fairlawn Garden Club for organizational materials about the Fairlawn Garden Club.

New to the Collection

District of Columbia

Many Witnesses: A history of the Dumbarton United Methodist Church

Indiana

Indiana Civil War Veterans

Mississippi

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi Vols. 1-2

New York

African Americans of Eastern Long Island

Ohio

2003 Ohio Genealogical Society Chapter Directory Allen Co., Ohio births 1890-1900 Vol. 1 Allen Co., Ohio births 1901-1930 Vol. 2 Amanda Twp., Allen Co., Ohio cemeteries

Directory of Ashland County, Ohio

Athens County obituaries 1955-1959 Battle of Point Pleasant

Bunker Hill Church Cemetery Butler Co., Ohio

Elk Creek Baptist cemetery Butler Co., Ohio

Indian Creek cemetery Butler Co. OH

Mennonite Cemetery, Butler Co. Ohio

St. John's cemetery, Butler Co. Ohio
Carroll County Abstracted Guardianship Records
Index to wills, estates, guardianships and partitions
of Fairfield Co. 1803-1900
Will Book E & F Franklin Co., Ohio
Early Naturalizations Huron County Ohio 1819-
1864
Huron County Probate Court Naturalization
Records index 1859-1903 Family research in
Monroe Co., Ohio vols. 1-9
Monroe Co., Ohio obituaries Vol. 3 Morrow Co.,
Ohio marriages 1890-1899
Mansfield in Vintage Postcards
Early Court Records of Scioto County Vol. 2
Gravestone inscriptions of Scioto County
Letters Home: Letters of the wall of Ohio veteran's
plaza
When Giants roamed the sky

Pennsylvania

The Battle of Bushy Run
Catholic Vital Records of Central Pennsylvania
1793 – 1869 (5 vols.)
Pennsylvania Births, Dauphin County 1757-1825
Early Landowners of Pennsylvania: Land Tracts
transferred from Virginia

South Carolina

Migration to South Carolina: Movement from New
England and the Mid-Atlantic states, 1850 census

West Virginia

Greenbrier County West Virginia Births 1853-1898
(2 vols.)
Lewis Co. WV obituaries 1900-1909
Lewis Co. WV obituaries 1910-1919
Monongalia County Births 1853-1876
West Virginia and its people
Ritchie Co WV deaths 1918-1940 Ritchie Co. WV
deaths 1941-1955 Ritchie Co. WV deaths 1956-
1970
Ritchie Co WV marriages 1843-1915
Ritchie Co. WV marriages 1916-1945
Roane Co. WV deaths 1856-1900
Roane Co. WV deaths 1901-1955 Roane Co. WV
deaths 1956-1967 Roane Co. WV marriages 1856-
1919

Taylor Co. WV marriages 1853-1905 Tyler Co.
WV deaths 1936-1950 Tyler Co. WV deaths
1951-1970 Upshur Co. WV marriages 1851-1896
Upshur Co. WV marriages 1896-1923
Upshur Co. WV marriages 1924-1932 Wirt Co.
WV marriages 1848-1854 Wirt Co. WV marriages
1900-1970
Wood Co. WV cemeteries Vol 5
Transitional West Virginia
Further materials on Lewis Wetzel and the upper
Ohio frontier

Military

122nd Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry
Virginia military surveys of Clermont and Hamilton
Counties 1787-1849

Native Americans

Indian Wills, 1911 - 1921

Reference

American Genealogical research at the DAR,
Washington DC

France

Emigrants from France (Haut-Rhin Departement) to
America

Germany

From Bremen to America in 1850: Fourteen rare
emigrant ship lists
Nineteenth century emigration from Kreis Simmern
Nineteenth century emigration of "Old Lutherans"
from Eastern Germany

Poland

Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia

Scotland

American Data from the Aberdeen Journal 1748-
1783
Later Scots-Irish Links 1725-1825
Scottish soldiers in Colonial America part 3

United States

Genealogist's Companion and Sourcebook
Saving Stuff: How to care for and preserve your
collectables