

# Past Pursuits

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

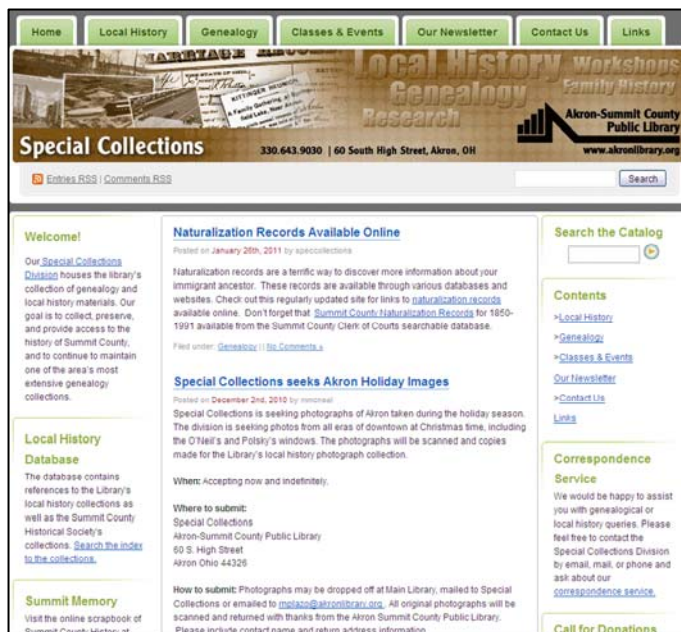
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### Special Collections' New Web Site

Special Collections has a new blog-based Web site - <http://sc.akronlibrary.org>. All of the digital resources are still available, and the new site will allow us to add new information and updated resources more quickly. We can blog about new events, records, or classes and you can subscribe to our blog using the RSS (really simple syndication) feed. This allows you to receive messages each time we add something new to the site.

Our pages are now organized by the Tabs across the top of the screen and the expandable Contents list on the right side. Links to the [Local History Database](#), [Summit Memory](#) and the [Summit Myths Wiki](#) are along the left side of the page. You can add comments on many of our pages and posts as well. Visitors can even search just the Special Collections pages with the search box on our page.



Be sure to reset your favorites, bookmarks, and other links to our new home page. Visit us often and tell us what you think of our new site.

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# Ohio Genealogical Society Annual Conference 2011

by Jane Gramlich, Librarian

The Ohio Genealogical Society will hold its 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference March 31 through April 2 at the Hyatt on Capitol Square in Columbus. The theme for this year's conference is "Genealogy through the Centuries."

If you've never attended a genealogical conference such as this, I highly recommend it. Attending a conference is always an excellent way to learn more about genealogy. You will gain valuable knowledge about how to do research, the myriad resources available and the best ways to access and understand those resources. Each day offers many different lecture and demonstration sessions centered on specialized topics. They are presented by professional, knowledgeable genealogists, historians, and librarians. Most likely, at least one of these specialized topics will be applicable to your research. For example, topics presented at this year's conference include *Researching Your Colonial War Ancestor* and *German Church Records: "The Heart and Soul of German Genealogy."* If you're a beginner and these sound too difficult, don't despair; you can still learn a great deal. You may want to check out the session *Is This Your First Genealogy Conference?* or *Pick Up the Pencil*, which focuses on the very basics of research. Each session is categorized by skill level from Beginning to Advanced to help you decide what's appropriate for you. One popular session is the open forum *Ask the Experts*, where attendees can interact with a panel of professional genealogists and ask questions specific to their research.

There are even more advantages to attending a conference. You can network and mingle with fellow genealogists. Talking to others and learning about their experiences is a great way to understand how genealogy is done and may give you some good ideas for research. Representatives from Ohio genealogical societies, software companies, and

booksellers are also on hand to show you their wares and share their expertise. If you have time, you can also check out the Columbus Metropolitan Library and its excellent genealogy collections.

For more information, be sure to check out the conference Web site and registration booklet at <http://www.ogs.org/conference2011/index.php>. Instructions for registration, directions, lodging options, and a complete schedule of events are included. We will also have hard copies of the registration booklet available in Special Collections for as long as supplies last.

Remember, genealogy is all about making connections, and conferences are full of connections! If you are able, make it a goal to attend one. You will go home with new ideas, energized and ready to kick-start your research.

## Save the Date August 6, 2011

The Special Collections Division of the Akron-Summit County Public Library and the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society are pleased to present *Discovering Your Ancestors Online*, a free program on Saturday, August 6, 2011 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm in the Main Library Auditorium at 60 South High Street.

The program will feature presentations by researcher, lecturer, and current president of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Laura Prescott, who will present an overview of using the Internet for genealogy research, as well as a demonstration of the *Footnote* database. ProQuest representative Edward Loera will discuss and demonstrate the many features of the *Ancestry* and *HeritageQuest* databases, and Judith Porter, Director of the Family History Library in Tallmadge will discuss the valuable resources of the *FamilySearch* Web site. For more information, visit our [Classes and Events page](#) on our new site <http://sc.akronlibrary.org>.

# One in Humble Life: The Life and Writings of Ellen Brown Hickox Stewart

by Judy James, Division Manager

The book sat on my desk for weeks after Friends of the Library volunteer Jim Switzer rescued it from a pile of donated materials. Because it was published by early Akron publisher Beebe and Elkins, he suggested that we consider adopting it for Special Collections. Little did I know that this small, plain book revealed the life of a forgotten but remarkable Summit County woman. Published in 1858, *Life of Mrs. Ellen Stewart: Together with Biographical Sketches of Other Individuals, also a Discussion with Two Clergymen, and Arguments in Favor of Woman's Rights; Together with Letters on Different Subjects*, tells, in her words, the little-known story of a preacher, temperance advocate, abolitionist, and women's rights supporter who lived most of her life in Medina and Copley, Ohio.

Who was Ellen Brown Stewart? A check of standard local histories such as Sam Lane's *Fifty Years and Over of Summit County* revealed nothing, nor did a check of indices for the early years of the *Summit Beacon*, predecessor of the *Akron Beacon Journal*. She is mentioned only briefly in *Strangers and Pilgrims: Female Preaching in American, 1740 – 1845* (University of North Carolina Press, 1998) by Catherine A. Brekus. Thanks to the magic of Google, however, I located the most valuable source, her fourth great-granddaughter, the Reverend Deborah Vaughn, herself a member of the clergy currently living in Maryland. Reverend Vaughn graciously provided a copy of a paper she wrote while pursuing her Master of Divinity degree from Regent University School of Divinity. *Called to Preach: the Story of Ellen Stewart and Her Role in the Holiness Movement of the 1800s* tells of Ms. Stewart's work as a female preacher within the context of the Methodist and Holiness traditions of the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. In addition, Reverend Vaughn's mother and family historian Clara Hickox Harsh donated a copy of her published family history, *Giles Hickox: a Revolutionary Soldier, His Ancestors and Descendants* (Harsh, 2002). The

most compelling story, however, is that written by Ellen Brown Stewart herself.

Ellen Brown was born to Hosea and Hannah Brown on July 15, 1792 in Middlefield, New York in the County of Otsego. Raised a Quaker, she received little formal education, crediting favorite relatives with teaching her to read and write. The oldest of fourteen children, Ellen was sent at the age of twelve to live with another Quaker family who employed a Miss Briggs, a woman of the Methodist faith. As Methodism took hold in her community, Ellen embraced this faith and its teachings. Even her father, whose Quaker sensibilities were affronted by "the crying Amens, groanings, and loud shouts of praise to God," eventually converted to Methodism, joining the Episcopal Methodists. Tired of listening passively to these preachers, Ellen began to express her faith, first in a class meeting, and later at a "love feast," a traditional fellowship meal which commemorated Jesus' meals with his disciples. She expressed her apprehension: "I had no example among my sex; and fearing that the people and especially the preacher and brethren would think I was too forward, I quenched the spirit, yet it followed me..." In 1813, Ellen took a teaching position in Canandaigua, not far from her home. It was here that she met Reuben Hickox of Connecticut, who she married in 1814. Their first years as a married couple were difficult. Reuben was not much of a farmer and, to Ellen's dismay, not as religious as she. Ellen continued to attend the Methodist Episcopal Church until she became disenchanted with a faith she considered to be less than "stirring and awakening." Much to the consternation of Reuben and members of her congregation, she joined the Reformed Methodists, known to the Episcopal Methodists as "deformed Methodists." It was at a Reformed service that Ellen delivered her first sermon. She recalls that "the ideas flowed spontaneously, far above my common thoughts, as if handed down from heaven."

On January 19, 1829, Ellen left with Reuben, his brother and parents for Granger Township in Medina County. Ellen recounts the arduous winter journey in a covered wagon with seven children, the two youngest only six weeks and two years old. Four other families made the journey with them arriving

eighteen days later. Upon their arrival, they were welcomed by friends from New York who had emigrated before them. The first year was difficult, and Reuben and their sons resorted to logging and chopping wood to make ends meet. Ellen and Reuben began to hold meetings in their home for a small but devoted group of Reformed Methodists. This group welcomed local “mulattoes” which earned their group the name “black society.”



*This image of Ellen Brown Hickox Stewart was provided by Clara Hickox Harsh and Deborah Vaughn.*

Despite Ellen’s deep devotion to God and her church, she struggled constantly with her own faith and was often critical of herself, questioning her faith and efforts to live as a true Christian. Although not a habitual user of alcohol, Ellen had “tasted the poisoned cup,” and Reuben “had a liking to it, acquired by its use from infancy, and considered it indispensable in haying, harvesting, and tho not a drunkard habitually, yet had I seen that he was in danger of the fell destroyer.” When the Temperance movement made its way to Medina, Ellen signed the pledge and joined the cause. Initially reticent, Reuben signed the pledge after a frightening buggy accident following a stop at a tavern.

Ellen’s faith carried her through difficult times including the deaths of Reuben and her son, Reuben, Jr., within days of each other. Reuben, Sr.

died without a will, whereby Ellen “felt the injustice and inequality of the existing laws in regard to females in the distribution of property.” Ellen writes often of her frustrations regarding the inequality of women in the eyes of the government, the law, and society.

Following her husband’s death, Ellen continued to preach in her community, even traveling to Akron at times. Her reputation as a preacher spread, and she acquired a faithful following. In addition to espousing her strong opinions about the lack of equal rights for women, she also expressed her vehement opposition to the institution of slavery. When the Protestant Methodists and the Reformed Methodists merged, she refused to join because of their silence on the subject of slavery. She states, “having by reading and hearing become acquainted with the cruelty, injustice and enormity of slavery, and the connection of various denominations with it, I shudder... in building up such a system of abomination.”

In 1849, Ellen married Cyrus Stewart, a widower with whom she had been acquainted for some time. They lived a peaceful existence on his 23-acre farm in Copley just west of Schocalog Pond. In addition to preaching, Ellen commenced correspondence with various members of the clergy with whom she debated the right of women to preach, among other issues. These letters, as well as articles she wrote for *The Church Advocate*, a publication of the Church of God, are included in her memoir. Cyrus died in 1856. According to Summit County land records, Ellen sold the Copley farm in 1858 to Calvin Lee. Soon after, Ellen moved to Cherokee County, KS where she lived with her daughter and son-in-law, Jane and Gideon Leake, until her death in 1883.

Although Ellen describes her work in the preface as a “feeble effort,” the reader cannot help but be inspired by the less than feeble life of this courageous and principled woman. As we commemorate Women’s History Month and the contributions of women to our rich local history, may we remember women such as Ellen Brown Hickox Stewart.

## Metro Parks Turns 90

by Cheri Goldner, Librarian

In 1917, just one year after Congress created the National Park Service, the Ohio General Assembly passed legislation that allowed for the formation of metropolitan park districts. Cleveland Metroparks became Ohio's first metropolitan park district that same year. On December 31, 1921, the Akron Metropolitan Park District, including all of Summit County except Twinsburg and Hudson, became the state's second park system.

Patricia M. Zonsius's book *75 Years of Treasures & Pleasures*, published for Metro Parks' 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1998, is an excellent source on the history of the organization. As Zonsius details, the development of the park district really picked up steam in 1925. That year, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company founder Frank A. Seiberling and Edmund D. Eckroad, Northern Ohio Traction & Light Company's chief engineer, joined the board of commissioners. Eckroad's construction experience, Seiberling's business know-how and both men's connections in the community proved most valuable to the young park district.

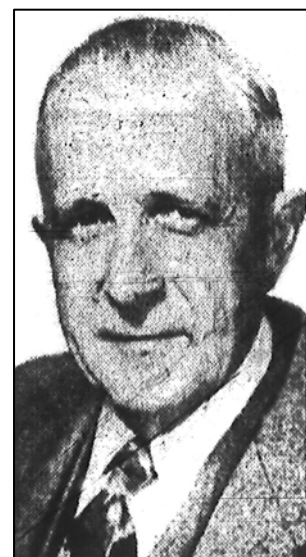
The board soon hired famed landscape architects the Olmsted Brothers to create a plan for the system and identify land suitable for park use. Just as the experience of the board members had proved helpful, so too did that of stepbrothers John Charles and Frederick Law, Jr. Their father, Frederick Law Olmsted, had designed major parks across the country, including New York's Central Park and the Boston Commons. The brothers followed in their father's footsteps, designing parks in Baltimore, Seattle and New York and projects on college campuses across the country, including The Ohio State University and Denison University. They were also founding members of the American Society of Landscape Architects and were influential in the creation of the National Park Service.

In June of 1925, Seiberling accepted the first gift of land to the park system, a small, triangular plot at the beginning of the Old Portage Trail at the intersection of North Portage Path and Merriman

Road. The district aptly named the plot Courtney Park, after donor Joseph Courtney of the Courtney Dairy Company. Soon after, during Akron's Centennial celebration, the spot was marked with a boulder with a bronze plaque dedicated by the Cuyahoga Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

From this modest start, the park district's holdings grew rapidly throughout the late 1920s and 1930s. This development was due not just to the efforts of the Akron Metropolitan Park District board but also to the leadership of its first Director-Secretary, Harold Stanley Wagner (1893-1983).

Wagner, a native of Boston who had worked with the Olmsted Brothers, was appointed to his post in 1926 and remained there until April 30, 1958. Shortly before Wagner's retirement, on April 9, 1958, the *Akron Beacon Journal* published an article reviewing his career. Wagner had relocated to Akron around 1917 while working for influential American landscape designer Warren H. Manning on Seiberling's Fairlawn development. (Manning had previously designed Seiberling's estate, Stan Hywet). During the project, Wagner and Seiberling became friends and shared an interest in developing parks to meet society's changing recreational needs. When his work on Fairlawn was complete, Wagner stayed in Akron and took his passion for parks to City Hall, becoming first a consultant to City administrators and later the Municipal Parks Superintendent. Thus, he was a natural choice for the Akron Metropolitan Park District's Director-Secretary.



As an August 10, 1930 article in the *Akron Beacon Journal* reported, within Wagner's first five years at the helm of the Akron Metropolitan Park District, he built the park area to about 1,600 acres. These holdings included the Furnace Run, Sand Run,

Cuyahoga River Gorge, Goodyear Heights and Springfield reservations.

The stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression that followed were a time of hardship for many Americans, but Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal proved beneficial to both the residents and the parks of Summit County. Following the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), many residents went to work on public projects, and many of those projects were in the parks. The influx of labor and resources allowed the Akron Metropolitan Park District to complete a variety of projects and even open new parks.



*Company 577 of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) returning to camp on Sand Run Road in 1934. From the Metro Parks, Serving Summit County Collection.*

In 1933, Wagner filed with the National Park Service to create a CCC camp at Virginia Kendall Park. As approval of the application required evidence of the ability to work with the rustic architecture style, Wagner partnered with Akron architect Albert Good, who had designed rustic lodges at the Boy Scout Camp Manatoc and later went on to author two definitive “parkitecture” books for the National Park Service. Good designed buildings that were incorporated into the landscape rather than the landscape framing the buildings.

CCC camps were established at both Virginia Kendall Park and Sand Run Reservation. Among the many projects completed by those workers were: the construction of the Octagon Shelter and bathhouse and finishing the lake at Virginia Kendall Park; building a bridge at Mingo Camp and

extending Sand Run Parkway in Sand Run Reservation; planting more than 350,000 seedlings at Furnace Run's Everett Nursery; and building a parking area and entrance building at Goodyear Heights Reservation.

The United States' entry into World War II brought further changes to the operation of the Akron Metropolitan Park District, which was forced to limit its acquisitions and improvements. With frequent personnel changes and the closing of the CCC camp at Sand Run, some cutbacks had to be made in services. In 1942 at Virginia Kendall Park, for example, the bathing beach was restricted to weekends only, and the toboggan chutes were closed in the winter. Further cutbacks in service were made the following year.

Still, the district managed to add Firestone Metropolitan Park in 1941, thanks to the efforts of Board member Henry Metzger, who helped persuade Firestone Tire & Rubber Company to donate land and money for the project. Other additions during this time included the “victory gardens” at Goodyear Heights Reservation and Firestone Metropolitan Park, both sponsored by the respective rubber companies. One facility that was heavily used during the war years was Virginia Kendall Park's Happy Days Camp. During the week, the Girl Scouts used the site. On weekends, the Goodyear Aircraft Corporation used it as a day camp for the children of its employees.

With the war over in 1945, both the economy and people's spirits began to rise. The park district passed a levy and set about making improvements and restoring services that had been curtailed during the war. The decade ended with another change for the district, when the Board decided to change the designation of its park areas from “reservations” to “metropolitan parks.”

The 1950s brought new challenges for the Akron Metropolitan Park District. While the district suffered the failure of three levies during this time, the problems extended beyond the financial. The City of Akron's sewer trunk line through Sand Run Metropolitan Park developed leaks and caused pollution. The construction of the turnpike north of the Brushwood Area of Furnace Run and the

relocation of State Route 21 meant the loss of land and led to soil erosion and a buildup of sediment in the lake at that park. In addition, the Tuscarawas Shelter at Firestone Metropolitan Park experienced flooding due to the construction of a new dam on the Tuscarawas River. Some property was acquired during the 1950s, including land at the north end of North Hawkins Avenue and lots adjacent to Goodyear Heights Metropolitan Park.

The decade ended with the retirement of Harold S. Wagner as Director-Secretary on April 30, 1958. At that time, the parks comprised 3,760 acres of land and were being used by more than 800,000 people per year, according to an *Akron Beacon Journal* story from January 10, 1960 that focused on Wagner's coming out of retirement to serve as director of the Federal Census in Medina and Summit counties. Among the many signs of Wagner's legacy is The H.S. Wagner Daffodil Trail at 3100 Brush Road in Furnace Run Metro Park, named for him because he and his wife originally owned the property and planted the first bulbs. Today, an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 daffodils grow along the 0.6-mile trail.

Following Wagner's retirement in 1958, Forrest B. Coup (1897-1977) became Director-Secretary. Coup had previously worked as a CCC foreman at Virginia Kendall Park and had served as the Park District's first Field Maintenance Supervisor since 1935. Acquisitions during his tenure included the purchase of the old County Hospital Property for the development of the Treaty Line Area in Sand Run and land along the Ohio & Erie Canal that was transferred from the State of Ohio, which comprises the current Deep Lock Quarry Metro Park. Coup retired as Director-Secretary in 1963 and was followed briefly by Dr. Arthur T. Wilcox, who served from 1963-1964. Hampton Hills Metropolitan Park and Seiberling Nature Center, later called the Naturealm, were added during this time.

In 1965, the district hired its second long-time Director-Secretary, John R. Daily, who served until January 27, 1995. Daily had previously worked in parks in Illinois, Colorado and Michigan. The 1960s and 70s was a period of much growth and

support for the parks, and during Daily's 30-year tenure, the park system grew to 6,600 acres, including the additions of Silver Creek, O'Neil Woods, the 23-mile Bike and Hike Trail, Kniss Conservation Area, Munroe Falls, and Cascade Valley. Daily also helped acquire lands in the Cuyahoga Valley in the 1960s that later become part of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, saving them from development.

Daily's years as Director-Secretary saw a number of other changes as well: the first publication of the district's newsletter, *Green Islands*, in 1960; the expansion of nature programs under the leadership of naturalist Bert Szabo in the early 1960s; the initiation of the Hiking Spree in 1966; the annexation of the Village of Hudson to the district in 1972; the relocation of park headquarters from Goodyear Heights to Treaty Line Road in 1974; the transfer of Virginia Kendall Park to the National Park Service in 1978; the name change to Metro Parks, Serving Summit County in 1988 (though the name was not legally changed until 1994); and both the opening of the new underground visitors center at the Naturealm and the formation of the non-profit organization Friends of Metro Parks in 1991.



*Boo the raccoon entertains children at the Seiberling Nature Center in July, 1972. From the Metro Parks, Serving Summit County Collection.*

Following Daily's retirement in 1995, Youngstown native Thomas J. Shuster, who had worked for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources as well as for

parks in New Jersey and Illinois, was hired to head the district. He served until 1997 and was followed by current Director-Secretary Keith D. Shy, who had previously served as Superintendent of Operations and is now a 27-year park veteran. Additions during Shy's time in charge have included 290 acres formerly belonging to the Summit County Home to Munroe Falls Metro Park, Liberty Park in northeast Summit County, and Springfield Bog in the southeast part of the county. In 2007, the Portage Trail Group of the Sierra Club presented him with the John Seiberling Environmental Achievement Award.

Today, Metro Parks encompasses 10,500 acres, including 14 developed parks, six conservation areas and 125 miles of trails, 21.5 of those on the Ohio & Erie canal Towpath Trail. As spring nears and the weather warms, more and more people will be taking to the outdoors to enjoy these wonderful parks. If you're among those visitors, you might take a moment from admiring the work of Mother Nature to appreciate the 90 years of human labor that have made our parks what they are.

## On Exhibit

### **“This Wonderful Recreation Ground”: 90 Years of Metro Parks, Serving Summit County**

With Metro Parks, Serving Summit County celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, it's the perfect time to take a look back at the history of the organization and the role that its parks and trails have played in the lives of Summit County residents since 1921. The exhibit, which takes its name from a 1927 speech given by long-time Director-Secretary Harold S. Wagner following the completion of the Sand Run Reservation project, is scheduled to be in the Special Collections Division display case on the third floor of Main Library from April-June. It will feature just a few of the thousands of historic photographs, maps and documents from the Metro Parks collection that is now held by and available to researchers in Special Collections.

## New Glendale Cemetery Book

*by Iris Bolar, Librarian*

The Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society has published the new book *Glendale Cemetery Burial Records Vol. II (1870-1891)*. This book of burial record transcriptions includes a history of Glendale Cemetery, a history of the book's creation, and a surname index. A diagram of burials within the Commins Family Vault, the oldest mausoleum in Glendale, is also included. The book has a unique feature: it includes notations of the inks and writing instruments used in the original documents in an effort to preserve the additions and/or corrections made to entries over the years. The first volume covers burials from 1838 through 1869 and includes burial entries for those whose remains were moved from Spicer Cemetery, which existed from 1813 through 1870.

Additional resources for Glendale Cemetery available in the Special Collections Division are the book *Living History, Dying Art: The History of Glendale Cemetery* by Michele Colopy; a notebook of information on Civil War Veterans entitled *Civil War Roll Call: Glendale Cemetery* by the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society; and microfilm of Glendale burial records arranged chronologically from 1839 up through part of November 1989.

### **History of Glendale Cemetery**

Following the death of his son Augustus in 1837, prominent Akron druggist Dr. Jedediah D. Commins promoted the idea of new burial grounds where graves would not become water-logged. The doctor kept his son's body in alcohol for over a year until a suitable grave could be acquired. From the efforts led by Dr. Commins, the city first purchased land from General Simon Perkins and Judge Leicester King. More land would be purchased over the years with the grounds covering approximately 85 acres. The new cemetery was chartered in 1839 and was first called Akron Rural Cemetery since it was located outside of Akron's city limits at the time.

Many bodies interred in other area cemeteries were moved and reburied in the new public cemetery. One of these cemeteries was Spicer Cemetery, which



was unsuitable for graves because water would not drain from the clay within the ground there. That location was chosen for the building of Buchtel College, and the land was purchased by college trustees for \$1. Remains were transferred to Akron Rural Cemetery in 1870 and 1871.

In its early days, Akron Rural Cemetery was considered a beautiful park with a brook, ponds, and bridges. It was the location of picnics, concerts, and fundraisers for the cemetery's beautification projects. In 1869, John R. Buchtel won a contest for the "handsomest man in town" held by the Ladies' Cemetery Association to raise funds to build the cemetery caretaker's stone lodge. Money for the Soldiers Memorial Chapel was raised by the Buckley Post #12 of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor Akron's veterans and fallen soldiers of the Civil War. Construction on the chapel began in 1875, and it was dedicated on Memorial Day in 1876. The Bell Tower was built in 1883, and its bell had been rung for funerals and memorial services in the past. Finally, the cemetery's office was added in 1903. These structures and the grounds are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The cemetery's name was eventually changed to Glendale Cemetery since its main entrance faced Glendale Avenue. In June of 1977, an explosion in the sewer system under the cemetery damaged cemetery buildings and required residents in the area to be evacuated.

Glendale Cemetery is the final resting place of thousands of Akronites - from prominent families such as Perkins, Buchtel, Seiberling and others, to those buried in the "potter's field" section. A walk through the cemetery's grounds, past its mausoleums and sculpted monuments, takes you on a path through Akron's history. The brook, ponds, and bridges are long gone, but the cemetery is finding new life in serving, once again, as a location for community functions. In recent years, Glendale Cemetery has been one of the sites for free performances of the Heinz Poll Summer Dance Festival.

## Scan and Save Your Records in Special Collections – for FREE!

*by Mary Plazo, Librarian*

Special Collections now has the technology available for our users to scan and save paper documents, photographs and microfilmed records, and it's FREE! There are two scanners available, one connected to a public computer and one connected to a microfilm reader/printer.

In the Special Collections reference area, we have a document and photograph scanner set up next to one of our public computers. It's very simple to use. You just log onto the computer as you normally would when using any of our library computers. After you log on, simply place the document(s) or photograph(s) on the scanner, press a button, and the scanner software automatically appears on the screen and allows you to save your scan. When you save your scan, you can save it to a special place on the hard drive and then e-mail it to yourself, or you can save them onto your own thumb/flash drive and take them home with you.

We also have a computer connected to one of our microfilm reader/printer machines in the Special Collections microfilm area so you can scan and save records from microfilm. We have special software loaded onto the computer that allows you to save your scans either to the hard drive to e-mail to yourself or to your thumb/flash drive. You will need your library card to log onto to this computer the same way you do on any of the library's public computers. After you log on, we have printed instructions for you to follow, or you can just ask any of the Special Collections staff to assist you with scanning the microfilm.

Saving your records by scanning them can ensure a better quality copy. It also allows you to create new paper copies of records to share or replace worn out research copies. So the next time you come to Special Collections, remember that you can scan your own original items, or scan some of those hard to read microfilm records to get a better copy for your genealogical research.

# Special Collections Celebrates Ten Years

by Judy James, Division Manager

When planning began in the late 1990s for a new Main Library building, the library's administration made a decision to create a new department devoted to local history and genealogy. Our forward-thinking leaders recognized the growing interest in genealogy generated in part by the Internet, along with a significant increase in requests for information about local history, as good reasons to create this new department. In 1997, a small team of librarians met weekly for nearly a year to develop a vision for this new department. Working closely with the library's administration, plans were developed to create the department. With the hiring of a manager in March of 2001, Special Collections became an official department of one full-time manager and one part-time clerk. Later that year, another staff member was hired, just in time for the big move from 55 South Main Street to our temporary location on Tallmadge Avenue. During our time on Tallmadge Avenue, we hired two more staff members, which allowed us enough personnel to staff our own reference desk at that location. When the new Main Library was dedicated in 2004, Special Collections made its official debut.

How we have grown since the days when our local history collections were housed in a chain link fenced area in the basement of the old library! With a creative, energetic, and knowledgeable staff of seven, we maintain one of the most comprehensive genealogy collections in the state of Ohio. Whether seeking an obituary or more detailed research, family historians from near and far write or visit us. Others take advantage of our classes and workshops. Our local history collections continue to grow as well, boasting a variety of materials in all formats. The crown jewel is the archival collection of the Summit County Historical Society, transferred to us in 2008. Although collecting and preserving these materials are our goals, access is our mantra. Through initiatives like the [Summit Memory Project](#) and resources like our [Local](#)

[History Database](#), we continue to share and shine a light on these remarkable materials.

We are especially grateful to those who have helped and collaborated with us along the way. Special thanks are due to the Summit County Historical Society, University of Akron Archival Services, Summit County Chapter Ohio Genealogical Society, the City of Akron, and all of our [Summit Memory Project](#) partners.

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

Diane Barton for framed memorabilia of the Hanol Waterless Hand Cleaner Company.

Lisa Campbell for *Blindfolds* by Lisa Campbell.

Michael Francis for World War II letters and diary of John Morgan, 1921-2000.

David McCann for *Our McConnell Family of Ohio and West Virginia* by Marcia Bell Christy Croye.

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Price for family genealogy collection: *The Shaffer/Fiscener Family*.

James G. Reichman for *Descendants of Jacob & Elizabeth Bolich* by James G. Reichman.

Summit County Chapter Ohio Genealogical Society for *Index to Summit County Ohio Grantee/Grantor Land Records Index* published by the Hudson Genealogical Study Group, 2009; in memory of John D. Cerny

Ron Syroid for *Jane's All the World's Aircraft, 1909*.

John Welker for historical materials about Roadway Express, 1970s-1980s.

Kevin Westmeyer for five copies of CD, *Not Necessarily Beautiful but Mutated: a Tribute to Devo*.

Michael Wronkovich for *My Ukranian Roots: a Story from "Hunkietown" in Akron, Ohio* by Michael Wronkovich.

## Workshops from Special Collections

### Getting Started in Family History

*Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 – 8 pm OR*

*Saturday, May 14, 10 am – 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](mailto:speccollections@akronlibrary.org).

### Getting Started in African American Genealogy

*Saturday, May 7, 10 am – noon*

Do you want to trace your African American family tree? Not sure how or where to begin? The Special Collections Division presents a class for genealogy beginners who have a specific interest in African American ancestral research. This workshop meets in Meeting Room 2AB, Main Library. For more information and to sign up, contact the Special Collections Division, 330.643.9030 or [speccollections@akronlibrary.org](mailto:speccollections@akronlibrary.org).

### Finding Your Family in the Census

*Saturday, May 21, 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 1, First Floor, Main Library. For more information and to sign up, contact the Special Collections Division, 330.643.9030 or [speccollections@akronlibrary.org](mailto:speccollections@akronlibrary.org).

### Branching Out: Second Steps in Genealogy

*Saturday, March 19, 10 am – noon OR*

*Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 – 8:30 pm*

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 the High St. Level Meeting Rooms, Main Library. For more information and to sign up, contact the Special Collections Division, 330.643.9030 or [speccollections@akronlibrary.org](mailto:speccollections@akronlibrary.org).

### Internet Genealogy 1

*Saturday, April 16, 10 am – noon OR*

*Tuesday, June 7, 6:30 – 8:30 pm*

Overwhelmed by the abundance of genealogy information on the Internet? In this introductory workshop, you will learn the basics about genealogy databases available through the Library and how to find and evaluate some popular free genealogy Web sites. As the emphasis will be on using electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended. This workshop meets in Computer Lab 1, First Floor, Main Library. For more information and to sign up, contact the Special Collections Division, 330.643.9030 or [speccollections@akronlibrary.org](mailto:speccollections@akronlibrary.org).

### Internet Genealogy 2

*Saturday, April 30, 10 am – noon OR*

*Tuesday, June 14, 6:30 – 8:30 pm*

What more does the Internet have to offer for the genealogist? Much more! In this follow-up workshop to Internet Genealogy 1, you will explore even more Web sites for genealogy research. It is recommended that participants first attend Internet Genealogy 1. As the emphasis will be on using electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended. This workshop meets in Computer Lab 1, First Floor, Main Library. For more information and to sign up, contact the Special Collections Division, 330.643.9030 or [speccollections@akronlibrary.org](mailto:speccollections@akronlibrary.org).

### Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors

*Saturday, June 18, 10 am – noon*

Most of us will find immigrant ancestors somewhere in our family tree. Join staff from the Special Collections Division for a discussion of identifying immigrant ancestors and locating passenger lists and naturalization records. As we will be using electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended. This workshop meets in Computer Lab 1, First

Floor, Main Library. For more information and to sign up, contact the Special Collections Division, 330.643.9030 or [speccollections@akronlibrary.org](mailto:speccollections@akronlibrary.org).

## Workshop from Summit County OGS

### GOOSETOWN: Reconstructing an Akron Neighborhood

Saturday, May 21, 1 pm

Join us at the downtown Akron-Summit County Public Library for our May meeting. Our speaker will be Dr. Joyce Dyer, the author of *Goosetown: Reconstructing an Akron Neighborhood*. Joyce Dyer is director of writing and professor of English at Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio. She is the author of three books, *The Awakening: A Novel of Beginnings*, *In a Tangled Wood: An Alzheimer's Journey*, and *Gum-Dipped: A Daughter Remembers Rubber Town*. She has received numerous awards for her writing, including a 1997 Individual Artist Fellowship from the Ohio Arts Council and the 1998 Appalachian Book of the Year Award.

## Summit County Historical Society Collection Update

Special Collections has been working diligently to process the many items in the Summit County Historical Society Collection that we received in 2008. So far we have processed almost 5,000 photographs from the collection and have entered them into the [Local History Database](#) which is searchable online. We have also been creating an inventory of the many boxes of historical documents we received and are entering them into our database as we process them. There are still hundreds of photographs and documents to process, and Special Collections will continue working to make this incredible collection accessible to the public.

Published by the Special Collections Division  
of the Akron-Summit County Public Library,  
Akron, Ohio.

## New to the Collection

### Alabama

Bibb County, Alabama: the first hundred years, 1818-1918  
Birth notices [Mobile County]  
Burial grounds: a collection of Monroe County cemeteries  
Cemeteries of Dale County, 2002  
DeKalb County wills and estates, 1836-1929  
Enumeration of the Moon Cemetery and the Byrd Cemetery, Owens Cross Roads, Madison County  
Hartford City Cemetery, Geneva County  
History of Jackson County  
Index to divorce records of Choctaw County  
Index to white marriages, Choctaw County: books 1-7, 12-15  
Index to will books of Choctaw County  
Lawrence County death register, 1881-1901  
Lawrence County index to original marriage bonds & license, 1818-99. Groom's index; Bride's index  
Marriages of Mobile County, 1813-1855  
St. Clair County marriages, 1818-1889  
Slavery in Alabama  
Survey of cemeteries in Chambers County  
Tombstone inscriptions, Choctaw County  
Walker County cemeteries  
Washington Co. marriage records, 1899-1911, non-white (Blacks/Indians)  
Will book I, 1813-1837: includes translations of French and Spanish wills Mobile County Probate Court  
Will book IV: 1860-1875 Mobile Co. Probate Court

### District of Columbia

Daily National Intelligencer marriage and death notices, 1851-1854  
National Intelligencer newspaper abstracts, 1800-70

### Kentucky

Revolutionary soldiers in Kentucky

### Maryland

The 1798 Federal direct tax of Somerset County  
Abstracts of land records, Anne Arundel County.  
Anne Arundel County marriage records: 1777-1787  
A history of Calvert County  
Cedar Hill Cemetery, Brooklyn Park gravestone inscriptions [Anne Arundel County]

## **Maryland (continued)**

Chancery books of Carroll County, 1837-1873  
Grave matters: African-American and slave  
cemeteries, Anne Arundel County  
Grave matters: Mount Calvary Cemetery  
inscriptions, Brooklyn [Anne Arundel County]  
Land grants in Middle Neck Hundred of Anne  
Arundel County, 1650-1704  
Maryland freedom papers  
The particular assessment lists for Baltimore and  
Carroll counties, 1798

## **Massachusetts**

Identifications of "unidentified" wives in the "Vital  
Records of Williamstown, Mass. to 1850"  
Index to names changed in Massachusetts, 1893-  
1912  
Miscellany from the William Bradford Browne  
collection of northern Berkshire County  
genealogical records  
Registered voters and their wards of residence in  
Pittsfield for the year of 1890

## **Michigan**

1899 atlas of Gratiot County  
1914 atlas of Gratiot County  
Alma Record 1901 newspaper excerpts  
Cemetery locations, Gratiot County  
Cemetery records of Gratiot County, copied from  
the tombstones  
Chancery divorce calendar of Gratiot County, 1899-  
1962  
Civil War veterans buried in Gratiot County  
Gratiot County veterans, War of 1812  
Emerson Township Cemetery, Ithaca  
An index of brides' names for Gratiot County  
Ithaca Cemetery and mausoleum records  
Military bounty land warrants & tract book and  
early deeds for Gratiot County  
New Haven Township Cemetery: 2000  
Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis  
Probate record for Gratiot County, 1855-1870  
Ridgelawn Cemetery burial records, Breckenridge  
Seville Center or French Cemetery [Gratiot County]  
Sumner Cemetery, Gratiot County

## **Mississippi**

George County colored marriage records: June 17,  
1910 through December 21, 1979  
George County white marriage records, 1910-1951

## **New York**

Columbia County gravestone inscriptions  
Irish immigrants of the Emigrant Industrial Savings  
Bank. Book 3  
Katsbaan Reformed Church, 1800-1839  
Old gravestones of Columbia County  
Records of proceedings at Justice's Court of New  
Lebanon: Ira Hand, Justice of the Peace, from 10  
January 1832 – 13 February 1849  
Southern Columbia County families: a genealogy  
Vital records of First Presbyterian Church, Amenia,  
Dutchess County, 1849-1956  
Vital records of First Presbyterian Church, Millerton,  
Dutchess County: 1829-1950 (Congregational  
Church of North East)  
Vital records of Smithfield Presbyterian Church,  
Amenia, Dutchess County: 1787-1942  
Vital records of South Amenia Presbyterian Church,  
Wassaic, Dutchess County: 1756-1989

## **North Carolina**

Burke County marriage abstracts, 1780-1869  
The deeds of Bertie County. 1757-1794  
Marriages of Bute and Warren counties, 1764-1868  
Marriages of Granville County, 1753-1868

## **Ohio**

As long as the heart remembers: tributes to our late  
loved ones  
Ashland cemetery burial records: Ashland County  
Auglaize County abstracts of obits, death mentions  
and funeral cards  
Baker's map of Ashtabula Co., 1856  
Bethesda Ebenezer Cemetery [Belmont County]  
Greentown: a story of 1812 in contemporary  
Documents [Ashland County]  
Index of Thompson's Historical Collections of  
Adams County  
Index to Benjamin Bailey's account book, Rock  
Creek, Morgan Twp, Ashtabula Co.  
Index to Finnish Congregational Church [Ashtabula  
County]  
Minute book of the Trumbull Pioneer Association  
from 1892-1907

## **Ohio (continued)**

St. Mary's Cemetery, 1900-1995: Martins Ferry  
Roster of Pioneers, Adams County  
Shirer Funeral Home, 1890-1979 [Muskingum Co.]  
Windsor reminiscences [Ashtabula County]  
Stories of medicine in Athens County

## **Pennsylvania**

Bucks County will abstracts, 1825-1870

## **Tennessee**

Pickwick Landing Reservoir cemeteries

## **Virginia**

Abstracts of Cumberland County will books 1 and 2, 1749-1782  
Alexandria (Arlington) County death records, 1853-1896  
Amelia County wills. 1735-1780  
Brunswick County will books, 1780-1812  
Buckingham burials: a survey of cemeteries in Buckingham County  
Buckingham County death records, 1853-1868  
Caroline County death records, 1919-1994  
Caroline County order book. 1740-1746  
Cemeteries of Caroline County  
Cemeteries of Clarke County  
Cemetery records of Amelia County  
Chesterfield County colonial deeds. 1749-1764  
Compendia: annotations of Washington County cemeteries  
Death notices from Richmond newspapers, 1841-1853  
Divorces of Wythe County: 1816-1886  
Early church records of Alexandria City and Fairfax County  
Fauquier families  
Free people of colour: free Negroes, Indians, Portuguese and freed slaves  
Goochland County colonial wills. 1728-1768  
Halifax County marriages, 1801-1831  
Husbands and wives associated with early Alexandria and the surrounding area  
Index to Virginia estates, 1800-1865  
Isle of Wight County colonial deeds, 1750-1782  
King George County marriages. 2 vols.  
The lost children of Wythe County, 1790-1878: poor school children, orphans and apprentices from county records

Loudoun County birth register: 1880-1896  
Loudoun County clerk's probate records, 1904-1938  
Lovettsville Union Cemetery, Loudoun County, 1879-1999  
Marriage bonds and ministers' returns of Prince Edward County, 1754-1810  
Mathews County records  
Middleburg cemeteries, Loudoun County  
Princess Anne County marriage bonds, 1822-1850  
Quaker records of Cedar Creek Monthly Meeting, 1739-1793  
Quaker records of Henrico Monthly Meeting and other church records of Henrico, New Kent and Charles City counties  
Tombstone inscriptions of Alexandria  
Tombstone inscriptions of upper Accomack County  
Virginia genealogy: sources & resources  
Washington County designated "Colored" marriages, 1853-1881  
Washington County marriages, 1853-1880  
Will book 2X, Amelia County, 1761-1771  
Wythe County marriages 1854-1900

## **West Virginia**

1790 Harrison County census  
Abstract of deed book ... Ohio County 1777-1795  
Ancestor charts of the Roane County Historical Society, Inc.  
The cemeteries of Ohio County  
Cemetery records: Mount Wood, Ohio County  
Death records, Ohio Co., 1853-1864  
Declaration of naturalization, Ohio County. 1854-1907  
Early births, 1853-1857: Ohio County  
Fayette County birth and death records, 1854-1859  
Hardesty's county maps of West Virginia: 1882-1884  
Mt. Calvary Cemetery records: September 1872-1900 [Ohio County]  
Mt. Zion Cemetery records: Fairmont Avenue, Wheeling  
Peninsula Cemetery, Wheeling  
Register of the inmates of Ohio County infirmary  
Stone Church Cemetery records, interment and readings, 1709-1945, brief history of Stone Church Cemetery

## **West Virginia (continued)**

Various obituaries and death notices of Ohio Valley residents and natives, spanning the years 1852-2000

## **Military**

Forgotten heroes: men of the Korean War awarded the Medal of Honor, 1950-1953

Heroes of our time: 239 men of the Vietnam War awarded the Medal of Honor, 1964-1972

The Skull & Crossbones Squadron: VF-17 in World War II

Upshur brothers of the Blue and Gray

Yesterday's heroes: 433 men of World War II awarded the Medal of Honor, 1941-1945

## **Reference**

Going to America

My father was a soldier: the Real Daughters of the American Revolution

## **Family History**

Nicholas Pontius line, 1540-2010

Samuel Hale: ancestors and heirs of a minuteman

## **Canada**

Across the waters: Ontario immigrants' experiences, 1830-1850

The history of the county of Huntingdon and of the seigniories of Chateauguay and Beauharnois...

Court of Probate: registers and estate files at the Archives of Ontario: an index for genealogical research (1793-1859)

Land records in Ontario registry files: a genealogical research guide

Surrogate court records at the Archives of Ontario: a genealogical research guide

## **Ireland**

The book of Ulster surnames

Genealogy at a glance: Irish genealogy research

Land owners in Ireland, 1876

The Scotch-Irish

Ships from Ireland to early America, 1623-1850

## **Scotland**

The Irish Scots and the "Scotch-Irish": an historical and ethnological monograph

The people of the Scottish burghs: a genealogical sourcebook of the people of Greenock, 1600-1799

The people of the Scottish burghs: a genealogical sourcebook of the people of Kirkcaldy, 1600-1799

Scottish family history

Scottish local history: an introductory guide

## **Genealogies**

Blood royal: issue of the kings and queens of medieval England, 1066-1399

## **Germany**

Genealogical guide to tracing ancestors in Germany

## **England**

Visitation of England and Wales

Yorkshire families

## **Native Americans**

Cherokee ration books, 1836-1838, New Echota

### **Subscribing to *Past Pursuits***

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Hard copies of the newsletter are also available. You may request to be added to the physical mailing list by calling 330.643.9030.

**Special Collections Division  
Akron-Summit County Public Library  
60 South High Street  
Akron, Ohio 44326**

## **Summit County Vital Records Update**

Recent changes in state law and mergers of Summit County's health departments have resulted in changes to which vital records are available and where you go to get them.

The Summit County Health District, Vital Records Office at 368 South Main Street in Akron now provides death certificates for deaths that occurred anywhere in Summit County *except* Barberton from 20 Dec 1908 to the present. Current hours are Monday and Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. and Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 330.375.2976.

The Summit County Health District, Barberton Office at 571 West Tuscarawas Avenue in Barberton provides death certificates for deaths that occurred in Barberton from 20 Dec 1908 to the present. Current hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For more information, call 330.861.7157.

Any local health department in Ohio can now issue birth certificates for anyone born in the state since 20 December 1908, so both of the above offices can provide those. The fee for all certified certificates is \$22.00 per copy.

The Summit County Health District office on Graham Rd. in Stow no longer provides vital records.