

Frank E. Lawrence Collection Tallmadge Branch Library

Frank E. Lawrence (1894-1995) assembled, over a period of about 50 years, a large collection of historical documents and other materials related to the history of Tallmadge, Ohio, and the surrounding area. The collection consists of original documents, letters, journals, photographs, maps, blueprints, newspapers, publications, and other materials. The earliest documents are dated 1811 and many of the materials are from the late 1800s.

Mr. Lawrence, a past president of the Tallmadge Historical Society, began collecting items of historical interest in the 1940s. While president of the Historical Society, Mr. Lawrence helped with preparations for the Tallmadge Sesquicentennial of 1957. Mr. Lawrence also published two books, *About Old Tallmadge* and *Our Heritage: 150 years of Methodism in Tallmadge, Ohio*. In 1991, the Tallmadge Branch Library acquired his collection. A project archivist was retained to process the collection, and, in 1994 the collection was made available for researchers. Funds for processing the collection, as well as the renovation of a meeting room to house the collection were provided by the Emig Committee by the City of Tallmadge, the Tallmadge Historical Society, the Tallmadge Library Association, and the Akron-Summit County Public Library.

The collection is arranged in 13 series as originally established by Mr. Lawrence. Only items that required special preservation or were oversize have been taken out of the original sequence. Briefly, the 13 series contain the following:

- Series 1: Main index to the collection. It consists of two subseries: alphabetical and subject indexes.
- Series 2: Correspondence, notes, invitations, transcriptions, journals, and other items, dated 1811-1991
- Series 3: Tallmadge Methodist Church
- Series 4: Tallmadge Sesquicentennial, Mayors Reports, political literature, genealogical material.
- Series 5: Speeches, scholarly papers, articles and books
- Series 6: Ohio Genealogical Society publications
- Series 7: Photocopies of scrapbooks
- Series 8: Photocopied newspaper clippings
- Series 9: Various Tallmadge newspapers, 1956-1991
- Series 10: Photographs
- Series 11: Monographs
- Series 12: Photograph albums
- Series 13: Maps and oversize items

Using the Lawrence Collection

Lawrence Collection Inventory

Mr. Lawrence was diligent in his recordkeeping and maintained a detailed index to the contents of his collection. While his index is comprehensive, it can be difficult to use. When the collection was processed, John Brunswick, project archivist prepared an inventory that describes, in more detail, the arrangement and contents. Copies of his inventory may be found at the Tallmadge Branch and Main Library.

The Lawrence Collection Database

In 2002, the Special Collections Division of the Akron-Summit County Public Library created a searchable database to provide greater access to the Lawrence Collection. Tallmadge Library Association member Jim Mackey created the database records for the materials in the collection, thereby creating a level of access not available previously. The Lawrence Collection database may be searched by keyword, name, and subject. It may be accessed at the Tallmadge Branch Library and the Special Collections Division at Main Library.

Hours of Availability

The Lawrence Collection is available during regular library hours, but an appointment is required to use the collection. To arrange an appointment, please call the Tallmadge Branch, 330.633.4345.

Researcher Guidelines

The collection includes many unique, rare, and fragile items. To protect and preserve these materials, we ask that you read and adhere to the Lawrence Collection Researcher Guidelines posted in the Emig Lawrence Room.

Copies

Copies of materials from the collection will be made by library staff or a research assistant. Copies of documents are 5 cents each. Reproductions or digital copies of photographs or other graphic materials may be made in accordance with the Photograph Duplication Policy. Fees vary. Please refer to the Reproduction Agreement form for additional information.

Due to the fragile nature of some materials, the library reserves the right to refuse a request for reproduction that may jeopardize the safety of an item.

Additional questions about the Frank E. Lawrence Collection may be directed to the Tallmadge Branch Manager, 330.633.4345.