

Past Pursuits

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

Volume 9, Number 1

Spring 2010

Beyond Vital Records: Expanding Your Research Horizons

by Jane Gramlich, Librarian

The foundation of family history research rests on the vital records of birth, marriage, and death that frame a person's lifetime and often provide proof of relationships. Sometimes, vital records can't be found or don't include the information you're looking for. However, there are other resources that might fill in some of the blanks: newspapers, cemeteries, funeral homes, wills or estates, and church records, for example.

Obituaries are the most common genealogical sources in newspapers and are usually the easiest to find, but don't forget about other notices and articles. Short notices about births, engagements, marriages, military service, educational achievements, and news of local religious organizations have been common in many newspapers. Also there is always the possibility of your ancestor being the subject of a news story, or, if he owned a business, an advertisement of the business might exist. **(continued on page 2)**



Baptism Record for Ruth Winkler Plazo, Salem, Ohio, March 28th, 1931. From Librarian Mary Plazo and on display in the Getting Started in Family History Exhibit.

In this issue

So Long but Not Goodbye	4
On Exhibit	5
2010 OGS Annual Conference	5
Historic Akron Newspapers Online	6
Discovering Your Pennsylvania Ancestors	6
Indexes to Summit county Agriculture Schedules	7
New Portage Lakes Resources	7
Akron's Potato Chip Industry	8
Gifts to Special Collections	10
Local History Databases Online	10
2010 Woman of the Year: Judy James, Innovation	11
Save the Date: Late Night at the Library	11
Workshops from Special Collections & Summit County OGS	12
Correction	13
New to the Collection	13



Newspaper research can be daunting, mostly due to limited online availability and lack of indexing. Subscription databases like Access Newspaper Archive have been a great help, and newspaper digitization projects are increasing. But the newspaper you need might only exist on microfilm. When this happens, and there's no index, you will also need to know an approximate date or you'll have to take a lot of time scrolling through the microfilm. If you can take the time, it might be immensely rewarding. Microfilmed local newspapers usually exist in large public and academic libraries, and some institutions, like the Ohio Historical Society, carry large collections of microfilmed papers. You can also check for print transcriptions of newspaper notices in libraries.



A June 23, 1927 article from the Akron Beacon Journal about Harry Palazzo. From Librarian Mary Plazo and on display in the Getting Started in Family History Exhibit.

Cemetery headstones, and the possible records that go with them, are good ways to determine birth and death years, and even relationships. One of the best genealogical discoveries is a headstone for an ancestor who lived and died before civil registration of vital records began. An intact, legible headstone may give you at least the year of birth and death, and sometimes an exact date. Married women's headstones sometimes read "wife of," so in cases where a marriage record for the couple cannot be found, the headstone may serve as the best proof of the marriage. In the same manner, children who died young or as unmarried adults may have headstones saying "son" or "daughter," with the parents' headstones nearby. Extended families were

often buried in the same cemetery, so be sure to take a look at surrounding headstones – they might help you expand your tree.

A burial record may give more information than the headstone alone. But finding the location of an ancestor's grave and burial record, if one exists, can present a formidable challenge. You need to have a good idea of where your ancestor died, and in some cases the places he or she lived, to identify possible burial sites and record locations. If you're lucky, you might be able to find the cemetery from online sources such as www.FindAGrave.com, www.usgenweb.com, or other volunteer-submitted transcriptions. On the other hand, you may have to search through book transcriptions or microfilm. Or, you may need to contact the cemeteries themselves. Consider that cemeteries are run differently. They may be owned by a municipality, a religious organization, or a private corporation. This may affect where and how the records can be accessed.

Funeral home records can offer wonderful information. In addition to data such as the deceased's cause of death and names of immediate family members, the records may give information about how the funeral was conducted, opening a window into past family customs. Libraries may carry some local funeral home records, and many microfilmed funeral home records can be ordered from the Family History Library catalog. Transcriptions done by genealogical societies are also starting to become more available.

In many cases, though, it's necessary to contact the funeral home itself. As with cemeteries, responses will vary. Keep in mind that funeral homes are private businesses, and are not obligated to share their records. As a courtesy, many funeral homes offer a search and copy service. You won't know if your funeral home will do this, though, until you call and ask. Many funeral homes are family-owned and operated, and have been in business for a long time. However, if a funeral home has changed ownership or has gone out of business, what happened to their records can be anybody's guess. In some cases, records are transferred to the new owner or to another funeral home. One avenue to try is to contact area funeral homes that have been in business many

years and ask if they know what happened to the records. You may be pleasantly surprised.

No. 616	Name of Deceased Catherine Palazzo	Date March 16, 1955
Charge to	Address 1030 Park Avenue	
Place of Birth	Date of Birth Oct. 17, 1881	Date of Death Mar. 13, 1955
Place of Death St. James Hospital, D.O.A.	Sex M	Religion Catholic
Occupation Nurse	Profession	Physician
Interment Holy Cross Cemetery	Date of Interment March 16, 1955	Profession
Place of Burial Holy Cross Catholic Church	Born	
Father's Name	Mother's Maiden Name	
Insurance \$	Company	Payable to
Address	Terms	Social Security
Wife or Husband's Name	Recommended by	
Casket No. 3939	Material Description	
	Quaker, Mahogany, Darkwood (Heavy)	
	Rosewood, Maple	
	Maple	
	Langman	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION		
Daughters - Mrs. Mary Spata		
Mrs. Agnes S. Sanni		
Sons - Harry		
Edward		
Langman		

A 1955 Cunningham Funeral Home record for Catherine Palazzo. From Librarian Mary Plazo and on display in the *Getting Started in Family History Exhibit*.

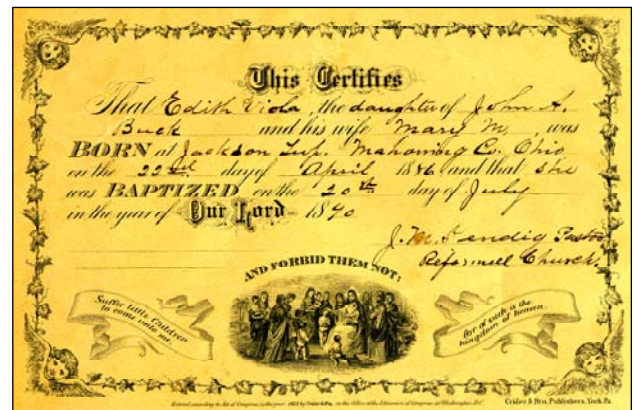
Wills can be among the most informative genealogical records because their purpose is to identify heirs: spouses, children, or other relatives. Because of this, they often provide the proof of family relationships that genealogists are always looking for. Even if no will exists, if there was sufficient property to be probated, there is likely an existing estate case that might provide answers to your questions. If you can't find a will or estate, there is a chance it doesn't exist. Insufficient property to qualify for probate, or transfer of the property before death may explain the lack of estate records.

Wills and other estate records are not as commonly found online as other types of records. Print and microfilm indexes to wills and estates are common in libraries, and microfilmed original records may also be found on library shelves. But, depending on the location and time period, it is certainly possible that the only way to research these records will be by visiting a courthouse.

Places of worship were the first institutions to record birth, marriage and death information, and continued to do so even after civil registration was common. Family Bibles, obituaries and other newspaper notices, funeral home records, and published biographies could provide clues about

possible churches your ancestor might have been a member of. When you can't tell at all, it makes the process much more difficult. The only way to know for sure is to identify churches that existed in the areas your ancestor lived and look for those records.

If the church is still in existence, the records may be located right in the building. In this case, you'll need to ferret out the church's policy on record access. Like funeral homes, churches are not obligated to make their records accessible to the public. On the other hand, the records may have been moved to any one of various places. They could be with another church of the same denomination. Or they could have been transferred to the archival facilities of a denominational or diocesan headquarters, a library, or a historical society. Some microfilmed original church records or print transcriptions may be available through libraries or genealogical societies. However, especially if the church was small and transitory, the records might be lost, or might not exist.



Baptismal certificate from 1890 for Edith Viola Buck. From Librarian Cheri Goldner and on display in the *Getting Started in Family History Exhibit*.

Here are some guiding principles for researching any genealogical records. Work from the known to the unknown: extract clues from information you have to help find new sources. Always keep in mind time period and location of an event: this affects the type and availability of records. Remember that records are scattered far and wide: learn to identify where they might be, and search by process of elimination. Finally, when you can't find something, try not to get too frustrated. Remember, family history is a labor of love. Keep it enjoyable. Happy hunting!

So Long, but Not Goodbye

by Judy James, Division Manager

Whether you are a visitor to Special Collections or someone who corresponds with us, you have invariably had contact with Michael Elliott. If you have been the beneficiary of his knowledge and generous spirit, you may even be one of his fans, of which he has many. On December 30, Mike retired after thirty-one years with the library. Mike's career started when he was a student assistant at Ellet Branch. Later, he joined our Group Services and Audiovisual Services Division. During those years, Mike was a fixture in the Language, Literature and History Division, spending nearly every lunch hour and break researching his family history.

In 2001, when Special Collections was established, and in need of staff, Mike was recruited to help get the new division off the ground. His knowledge of genealogy and local history was an enormous asset, and he soon gained the reputation of being the most knowledgeable genealogy reference staffer in the division. Mike knows all of the tricks for finding that elusive piece of information, and was often the "go to" person when the rest of us hit the proverbial brick wall. Although adept at all aspects of genealogy research, Mike's deepest interest is in Civil War history and genealogy.

Not one to remain idle, Mike will now have time to work on some of his own projects and continue with those he has been working on for many years. In collaboration with the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, Mike will publish the first volume of his research on Ohio Civil War pensioners. This project is the culmination of nearly 10 years of research. Using numerous genealogical sources, along with his exceptional research skills, Mike has compiled a listing of all pensioners from northeast Ohio listed in the 1883 Census of Pensioners. Information for each pensioner includes full name, reason for pension, company unit, name of claimant, if other than soldier, birth and death years, and cemetery location. He continues to work on this project; his

ultimate goal is to produce volumes for the southeast, southwest, and northwest parts of the state, along with a single volume for Franklin and Montgomery counties.

If you subscribe to this newsletter, you know that Mike is also an outstanding and engaging writer. He has contributed numerous interesting articles on a variety of local history topics to our newsletter and is a contributing editor for the *Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal* and *Ohio Records and Pioneer Families*, publications of the Ohio Genealogical Society. *Ohio Records and Pioneer Families* will soon include an article about the history of the Elliott family written by Mike.

In addition to his love of history and genealogy, Mike is an avid gardener. He kept us supplied with fresh flowers much of the year, from the earliest daffodils to his spectacular dahlias. Mike was honored more than once for his beautiful yard and gardens by Keep Akron Beautiful. He is also a die-hard Indians fan, supporter of the Akron Aeros, and all things University of Akron where his two sons attend college. Mike is married to Susan, a history teacher with the Springfield Schools.

Although we will miss his cheerful ways, silly jokes, flowers, whistling, and the best brownies on the planet, he has assured us that he will be a frequent visitor to Special Collections as he continues to pursue his interest in history and genealogy. Congratulations, Mike - enjoy your retirement and visit often!

Subscribing to Past Pursuits

Past Pursuits is an electronic newsletter e-mailed to more than 700 subscribers four times each year. To subscribe, send a message to specollections@akronlibrary.org.

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

On Exhibit

by Mary Plazo, Librarian

Take a walk up to Special Collections and check out the newest exhibit, "Getting Started in Family History." You'll see how our staff here in Special Collections decided it was time to have some fun with our own genealogy research. This display shows how each of us contributed unique and interesting items from our own family history. For example, Division Manager Judy James was able to incorporate many of her findings from a special genealogy trip she took to Fayette County, Ohio where she found an original will and probate records of her 4th great-grandfather, John Orr. Her experience gives excellent examples and advice about what one might encounter when travelling out of town to cemeteries and courthouses in order to gather more information about an ancestor.

Judy also has family heirlooms such as a shawl that belonged to her great-grandmother, and a soda glass from her great-grandfather's bakery in Monroeville, Ohio from around 1900. Librarian Cheri Goldner contributed a tar bucket. According to family legend, the Goldner family brought it with them on a Conestoga wagon when they came to Ohio from Pennsylvania. Cheri also has several items about her grandfather, Robert Goldner, from his time in WWII, many entertaining photographs of her relatives, and a memorial card and portrait of her 3rd great-grandfather, Daniel Moherman, from 1892. Librarian Iris Bolar was able to provide an early photograph and a Freedmans' Bureau Record from 1874 that belonged to her great-great-grandfather, Jerry Lee. She also displays a picture of the early Bolar ancestral home in Kentucky.

Librarians Mary Plazo and Joanne O'Dell display copies of passenger lists showing when their immigrant ancestors came to America. The lists are from different time periods and allow you to see how information documented on 19th Century lists differs widely from that on a 20th Century passenger list. Librarian Jane Gramlich was able to provide examples of an early naturalization record and an early marriage record. Jane also has a photograph of the headstone for her fifth great-grandparents,

Peter Rush, who died in 1846, and Mary Rush, who died in 1853. There is also a letter about Jane's 2nd great-grandfather, John Demaline, from his Civil War pension file. Our Clerical Assistant, Kit Zerbe, has wonderful photographs to share of her grandparents and parents ranging from 1890 all the way to the 1950s.

All of these are just a few examples of what our staff in Special Collections has on display in our latest exhibit. It goes to show that everyone has a unique collection of records, photographs and treasures to find once we start climbing that family tree.

2010 OGS Annual Conference

"Guiding Your Way Through the Past"

22-24 April 2010,

Seagate Convention Center, Toledo

The 2010 Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) Conference includes a broad range of presentations for all skill levels. There are more than 50 scheduled programs with many nationally known speakers and six workshops on Thursday for early attendees.

The conference offers the opportunity to network with hundreds of other genealogists and historians. This year, the conference committee has added some new features: computer tech help sessions, Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG) Workshop, a beginning genealogy workshop – free to the public, individual lineage application help sessions, and a surname exchange. In addition to these new events, conference attendees will once again be offered the opportunity to visit a consultation room manned by professional genealogists to assist with brick wall issues and *Ask the Experts*, where attendees can ask questions in an open forum and receive answers to their genealogical quandaries.

Many genealogical exhibitors will be on hand, along with OGS and its chapter displays, offering the latest genealogical merchandise and information on Ohio counties to heighten your conference experience.

For more information about the conference or to download a registration form, visit

<http://www.ogs.org/conference2010/>.

Historic Akron Newspapers Online

by Cheri Goldner, Librarian

As part of the National Digital Newspaper Program, a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress, the Ohio Historical Society (OHS) received an NEH grant in 2008 to digitize a select number of historically significant Ohio newspapers published from 1880-1920. Among the 13 titles OHS selected for its initial round of digitization was the *Akron Daily Democrat*. Issues from this newspaper from May 1, 1899 to Nov. 29, 1902 are now among those available for searching or browsing at no cost on the Chronicling America Web site at <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>.

The Chronicling America site currently includes issues from more than 200 newspapers from 15 states and the District of Columbia. To browse issues, click the “See All Available Newspapers” link in the upper left corner of the page then select the desired newspaper. To search, click on the “Search Newspaper Pages” link and then select a state or newspaper.

Other Ohio newspapers currently available on the Chronicling America site are the *Mahoning Dispatch* and the *Marietta Daily Leader*. The remaining ten Ohio titles will be added throughout the year. Eventually, OHS will add the 13 Ohio newspapers to www.ohiomemory.org as well.

Another local newspaper, the *Summit County Beacon*, has been digitized from 1/3/1877 - 12/25/1889 and may be searched within the Historical Newspapers search at www.genealogybank.com or on the *Akron Beacon Journal* site at www.ohio.com/archives. While a subscription is required to view full articles online, searches produce an image preview and a newspaper citation that may be used to locate the story on microfilm in Special Collections.

Remember that digital images of historical newspapers are also available to you through the library’s subscriptions to Access Newspaper

Archive, Footnote and World Vital Records, while the databases Ancestry and New England Ancestors provide searchable indexes to death and marriage notices from select newspapers. In addition, NewsBank’s America’s Newspapers database allows you to search articles in the *Akron Beacon Journal* from 1984 to the present (as well as the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *Cincinnati Post*, *Columbus Dispatch*, *Dayton Daily News* and *Toledo Blade*), and EBSCO’s Newspaper Source allows you to search the content of a number of publications from around the county, although for some titles it includes select content only. For questions about using any of these sources, contact Special Collections.

Discovering Your Pennsylvania Ancestors

On Saturday August 14 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, Special Collections, in collaboration with the Summit County Chapter of OGS, will host “Discovering Your Pennsylvania Ancestors.” Join us in the Main Library’s Auditorium for this day-long event.

Program Schedule

9:30 – 10:30 am *How Did My Pennsylvania Ancestor Get Here? Migration Trails Out of the Keystone State* by Elissa Scalise Powell, CG

10:45 – 11:45 am *Finding Families in Penn’s Woods* by John Humphrey, CG

11:45 am – 1 pm Lunch on your own

1 – 2 pm *What’s a Prothonotary? PA Courthouse Records* by Elissa Scalise Powell, CG

2:15 – 3:15 pm *Finding Buried Treasure in the Published Pennsylvania Archives* by Elissa Scalise Powell, CG

3:30 – 4:30 pm *Pennsylvania’s Church Registers* by John Humphrey, CG

This program is free and open to the public. Parking is free in the High-Market Streets deck. Contact the Special Collections Division to sign-up at 330-643-9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Indexes to Summit County Agriculture Schedules

by Iris Bolar, Librarian

The [Index to the 1870 Agricultural Census for Summit County](#) is now available online, and the 1850 index will soon be available. Agriculture schedules provide researchers with data that supplements other genealogical information regarding an ancestor's land, finances, and farming productivity.

This federal, non-population census was taken from 1850 to 1880, but current availability varies by location. (An agriculture census was also taken during the little-known census of 1885 in which the only voluntary participants were Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, and the Dakota and New Mexico Territories). For Summit County, only the 1850 and 1870 schedules exist, and they may be viewed on microfilm in the Special Collections Division.

Enumerators gathered this data as they took the population census, although not always on the same day. Not all farms were counted. In 1850, farms with annual production value less than \$100 were excluded; in 1870, farms with less than three acres were excluded *unless* they produced products worth \$500 or more for the year. No distinction was made between a farm's owner, manager, or tenant in the census.

The agriculture schedules recorded the amount of land (improved and unimproved); present cash value (farm and farming equipment); wages paid during the year; number of various livestock; amount of various crops; dairy products produced; quantity of seeds, grain, and other products.

In the index, names are arranged alphabetically as they appear in the schedules, even with misspellings. The township location of the farm and the page where the entry can be found in the actual agriculture census is provided.

New Portage Lakes Resources

by Judy James, Division Manager

Retired attorney and local historian Randy Norris loves local history, especially Portage Lakes history. Ask him anything about the area, and this charming raconteur will answer your question, peppering every story with anecdotes and gossip. When Randy discovered fourteen bound volumes of circa 1953-1965 Kenmore and Portage Lakes newspapers, he embarked on a mission to preserve them, lobbying the Portage Lakes Historical Society to raise enough funds to microfilm this slice of their community's history.

Through fundraising and private donations, the organization was able to raise enough to microfilm these papers, thereby preserving the information contained in them, and making them accessible. Special Collections acquired copies of the microfilm which include papers under various banners: *Portage Lakes Weekly*, *Portage Lakes Kenmore Post*, and *Portage Lakes Kenmore Herald*. In addition, the historical society donated the original bound volumes to the library where they will be preserved in our climate-controlled stacks. Many of the articles included in these papers have been copied and published in *Nostalgia Portage Lakes, 1960-1967*, the third and latest volume of a series published by the Portage Lakes Historical Society, under the direction of society member Carl Clark.

Through Randy's efforts, another significant Portage Lakes resource has been made available. In 1892, the Ohio Canal Commission surveyed the area in and around the Portage Lakes, including the canal. Randy was able to borrow an original copy, had it digitized, and graciously provided the digital files to us for addition to the [Online Map Room](#) in our [Summit Memory Project](#). This remarkable hand-drawn, color map shows the canal, lakes, and property owners during that time.

Many thanks go to Randy, Carl, and members of the Portage Lakes Historical Society for their diligence in continuing to preserve and celebrate the rich history of our Portage Lakes.

Akron's Potato Chip Industry

by Cheri Goldner, Librarian

Most Akron residents can recall the pungent smell of the city when the rubber factories were in full swing or at least can repeat stories they've heard of it. Over the years, Akronites have been able to associate more appealing aromas with their city as well, thanks to local food manufacturers such as oat mills, breweries, hamburger stands, peanut roasters and, yes, potato chip producers.

Akron's potato chip industry took off in the early 1920s. The 1922 Akron City Directory included, for the first time, a heading for potato chip manufacturers within the business directory, identifying three companies: The Akron Saratoga Chip Co. on Raymond, L. F. Fernsher on East Buchtel Avenue, and R.G. Hooper Co. on East Center.

City directories from 1922-1990 reveal at least 12 more potato chip manufacturers, some with such whimsical names as the Akron Tater Flakes Co., Chips O' Ireland, Krispy Food Products, and the Tato Face Chip Co. While most of the chip manufacturers disappear from the directories within a few years, three names turn up again and again: Salem, OK and Flaherty.

The Salem Manufacturing & Specialty Company was the first of Akron's "big three" chip manufacturers to open for business. Lebanese immigrant Kareem Thomas "K.T." Salem founded the company in 1927. According to a 1999 *Akron Beacon Journal* article, Salem was working as a candy salesman and happened to be visiting a cousin's confectionary store when a chip supplier from Sandusky dropped off a dozen bags of chips. When the cousin mentioned that the supplier couldn't keep up with his demand, Salem opened a bag of chips and began doing some calculations. He was in the chip business just a few days later.

In the beginning, Salem and his mother peeled three bushels of potatoes a day and sliced them using a crank-operated machine for cutting cabbage for sauerkraut that he had modified. His first shop was

located on West Bowery. It later moved to East South and then moved to North Main.

In 1934, Salem was the first to distribute chips in glassine wax paper bags. His innovations continued as he opened a larger, completely automated factory on the corner of West Bowery and Cedar Streets in 1948. When the smell of freshly cooked chips filled the air, providing better marketing than any billboard, Salem took advantage of the situation by letting customers purchase hot chips scooped right from a factory conveyer belt.

By the mid 1960s, Salem had expanded the factory and was cooking roughly 30 tons of potatoes each day and storing more than 2,500 tons of potatoes in a climate-controlled warehouse adjacent to the factory. The company branched out into other products and remained successful throughout the mid 1970s, employing about 100 people.

Beginning in the late 1970s, however, Salem's luck began to change. Corporate giants like Frito-Lay and Proctor & Gamble proved too much competition for smaller companies, and bad potato harvests in Ohio and Michigan in the fall of 1981 slowed production from five days a week to just two. After filing for bankruptcy in November of 1981 then being sued by the FDA in February of 1982 over alleged unsanitary conditions, the company finally closed its doors in June of 1982. K.T. Salem died in 1987 at the age of 94.

Two couples, Paul E. and Emilie Miller and Henry and Mildred Schuette, founded the OK Potato Chip Co. in Kenmore in 1929. The company's history was the subject of a November 1, 2009 article in the *Suburbanite* that featured recollections of the Millers' granddaughter, Kay Lukac. Lukac explained how the Schuettes left the partnership during the Depression, and other partners came and went until Paul Miller teamed up with his brother John, an accountant.

Paul and Emilie operated one factory on Florida Avenue in Kenmore, while John and his wife Anna opened one in South Bend, Indiana. During the Great Depression, John was hit by a car while making a delivery. After a long recovery and

mounting medical bills, he and Anna closed the South Bend shop and returned to Akron.

The Millers were friends with Fred W. Albrecht, and Acme stores stocked OK Potato Chips exclusively. Business was good, and Paul brought his brother John back into the business. As a result of John's physical limitations, changes were made in the packaging process and employees that normally stood would sit during their shift.



The OK Potato Chip Company was located in Kenmore on Florida Av the 1940s. From www.SummitMemory.org.

After a number of years, Paul and Emilie Miller retired and left the area. In 1945, John and Anna also retired, and Paul and Emilie's daughter and son-in-law, Betty and Donald Smith, moved to Kenmore to manage the company. The Smiths operated OK for another 28½ years, before selling the company to former Firestone executive Ted Robb in 1972.

Robb moved the business to Barberton in 1980, opening a facility on Fifth Street. A November 24, 1983 article in the *Akron Beacon Journal* reported that, in addition to the 23,000 square-foot facility in Barberton that employed 20 people, Robb was building a second plant in Clearwater, Florida. The new 14,000-square-foot plant was to employ about 15 people and was considered a good place for expansion due to Florida's population growth and lack of competition in the potato chip market. (At that time, Ohio had 26 brands of potato chips, while Florida had only three or four.)

Robb managed both factories, splitting his time between Barberton and Clearwater, but the long commute didn't last long. An article in the

February 3, 1986 St. Petersburg, Florida *Evening Times* reported that Suncoast OK Potato Chips had closed shop, unable to compete with larger companies to get its product on store shelves. Robb's Barberton plant was unaffected.

Chip giant Troyer Farms of Detroit, Michigan acquired OK Potato chips around 1992, and the business was moved to Mayfair Road. OK Potato Chips are still being manufactured under that name. While they are no longer produced locally, they can still be purchased at Acme stores. As a permanent remembrance of the company and Don and Betty Smith, who moved to Portage Lakes after retiring, there is a memorial brick placed at the Coventry Clock Tower.

The last of the big three chip companies, Flaherty Potato Chip Company, was a relative latecomer to the business. Akron native Vincent Flaherty and his Lebanese-born wife Claire founded the company in 1948. After brief stays on Johnston and on Manchester Road, the company moved to its longtime home at 546 Grant Street, near McCoy.

The March 11, 1982 *Akron Beacon Journal* reported that a fire destroyed the recently-remodeled plant, with damage estimated at \$1 million. Luckily, firefighters controlled the blast before it reached 30,000 pounds of vegetable oil in the basement and an underground tank holding 3,000 gallons of gasoline. The 30 employees in the building at the time escaped (15 more who worked an earlier shift had already left the building). OK owner Ted Robb, whom Flaherty had helped get started in the business 11 years earlier, drove from Barberton as soon as he heard the news and offered the use of his facilities to help Flaherty continue production.

Flaherty did intend to continue, speaking of running his routes the next week and rebuilding the factory. The 69-year-old apparently changed his mind, as he and Claire moved to Florida the following year and lived there until their deaths in the mid 2000s.

While the Flahertys' daughter, Kathleen, shows up with the company again in city directories in the late 1980s, the company was actually owned by New York-based firm Culbro Corp. since at least 1985,

when the *Akron Beacon Journal* reported about a strike at the plant. Fittingly, the building was home to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank from 1990-2007.

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

Christl Donelan for Akron & Summit County maps

The Greater Akron Chamber for four DVDs, *The Akron Story*

Charles H. Gander for *The History and Genealogy of the Gander Families, Ancestral History of Barbara (Weber/Weaver) Gander, and Ancestral History of Thelma E. Adair* by Charles Harrison Gander

Paul Jacoway for seven DVDs, *Final Edition: Journalism According to Jack and Jim Knight*

Delores Jones for 1960 Akron North High School yearbook

Colleen Kresovich for six portraits of early Akron residents

Medina County Genealogical Society for *Veterans Buried in Medina County, Volume 1: Revolutionary War*

Scottish American Society for their club records and minutes

Sonya Schilling for various family history and genealogical reference books

Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society for *A Story of One: Walking the Path of a WWII Airman*, donated in memory of David A. Tritt

Todd Yarbrough for *The Behler and Related Families: a History of the Family in America* by Todd Kayle Yarbrough

Patricia Zonsius and William Considine for *Akron Children's Hospital in the Second Century*

Local History Databases Online

Four new local history databases have joined the Special Collections local history database and are available online -

<http://www.akronlibrary.org/DBS/SpecCollDbO/Default.aspx>. You can search all five of the databases at the same time with one click.

Each database was created to provide access to items that are not found in the online catalog. The History & Humanities Division's database lists articles clipped from the *Akron Beacon Journal* about crime or religion among other topics. The Business & Government Division's database contains records about their pamphlet files, news clippings related to local businesses or unions. The Popular Culture database lists news clippings about local sports, entertainment or celebrities. The Derby Database was also created by the Popular Culture Division but is an index to newspaper articles about the Soap Box Derby. The Special Collections Division's database has been online for some time and contains records for all of our non-book material, such as photographs and archival collections.

Together these databases allow you to search for information in ways not possible before. While the *Akron Beacon Journal* is available as a full text searchable database for anything published after 1984, access to anything earlier than that is challenging. The newspaper is available in chronological order on microfilm but without knowing the date of the article, you would be forced to simply browse the newspaper. With one search of these newly available databases, you can find out when an article appeared in the newspaper and if the library has any related photographs, programs or pamphlets.

With more than 25,000 records for vertical file folders, news clipping, photographs, documents, and archival collections, these databases are invaluable resources of local information.

2010 Woman of the Year: Judy James, Innovation

Judy James, Division Manager, was selected as one of 10 Women of the Year by the Women's History Project (WHP) of the Akron Area. Judy received her award in the Innovation category on March 3rd at the University of Akron's Martin Center. With this award, WHP recognizes the many contributions Judy has made to our community as the first Manager of Special Collections.

Prior to 2001, Special Collections did not exist; a small alcove in the History Division was devoted to genealogy and a closet had some books in it related to local history. When the new Main Library was being planned, Judy authored a proposal to create Special Collections. She was soon the manager of that new Division – without any staff or space and having a tiny collection. During the next three years, she hired the right people to build the collection and was ready to move into the new Main Library (which she helped plan). Since then, Judy has worked tirelessly to acquire important relevant collections, collaborate with scores of community organizations, and use digitization and the Web to provide cutting edge public access to vital information.

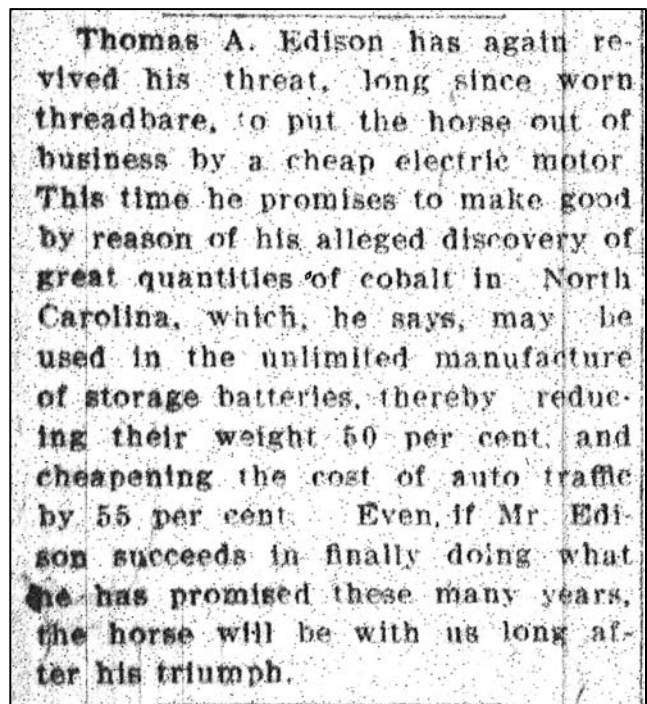
She attends countless events and meetings, recognizing the critical importance of collaboration. She uses these connections to create energy and enthusiasm for something she loves – connecting people with their own history. Before Judy started Special Collections, much of Summit County's rich past was collecting dust in attics and boxes ... waiting for someone to pick it up, realize how important it is, and make it available to the world. We owe many thanks to Judy for doing just that.

Congratulations Judy!

Save the Date! 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. Stay tuned for more information.

Bits & Bygones



*This article appeared in the Akron Beacon Journal
on June 15, 1906.*

Workshops from Special Collections

Getting Started in Family History

Saturday, March 27, 10 – 11:30 am OR

Saturday, March 27, 2 – 3:30 pm OR

Tuesday, April 20, 6:30 – 8 pm

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, March 20, 10 am – noon OR

Saturday, March 20, 2 – 4 pm

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, April 24, 10 am – noon OR

Saturday, April 24, 2 – 4 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 Meeting Room 1 – Main Library. For more information and to sign up, contact the Special Collections Division, 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors

Tuesday, April 6, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

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 2 – First Floor, 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, April 10, 10 am – noon OR

Saturday, April 10, 2 – 4 pm

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.

Workshops from Summit County OGS

Genealogy Sources of the Western Reserve Historical Society Library

Saturday, March 20, 1 pm

Akron-Summit County Public Library-Main

Join us for a presentation by Ann Sindelar, the Western Reserve Historical Society Reference Supervisor.

Tombstone Recognition and Preservation

Saturday, April 17, 1 pm

Akron-Summit County Public Library-Main

Join us for a presentation by Jim Leone, owner of Summit Monument in Akron, Ohio. Mr. Leone has been in the business for 36 years.

Courthouse Researching in Ohio

Saturday, June 19, 1 pm

Akron-Summit County Public Library-Main

Join us for a presentation by Henry Timmer. Mr Timmer is a past president and present Trustee of Firelands Historical Society, the County Historian for Huron Co. Ohio, a professional genealogist, columnist, abstractor, a member of First Families of Ohio and a former VP of OGS.

Correction

In the last issue of *Past Pursuits*, Winter 2009, we reported that early Summit County Death Records were available from Ancestry.com and were the first part of a project by the Probate Division of the Summit County Common Pleas Court. The images, which have since been removed from Ancestry, were not part of the \$150,000 grant funded project but were from an earlier filming of some of the same records. We regret the error. The images and indexes created as part of the Probate Division's digitization project are expected to be available in 2010.

New to the Collection

Alabama

Barbour County marriage licenses, 1838-1930

Kentucky

Abstracts of pensions, soldiers of the Revolution, War of 1812, and Indian Wars [for Daviess, Graves, Hart, Jefferson, Livingston, McCracken, Nelson, Nicholas, Oldham, Owen, Pulaski, Scott, Spencer, Todd and Union counties]

Bracken County wills and estates, 1793-1824

Bullitt County cemeteries

Bullitt County guardian records, 1823-1905

Campbell County wills and estates, 1794-1830

Cemetery records of Garrard County, 1792-1996

Cemetery records of Lancaster, Garrard County 1857-1994

Clark County will abstracts, 1792-1899

Fayette County wills and estates, 1822-1824

Garrard County deaths, 1936-1967

Garrard County marriage records 1797-1890

Hardin County wills and estates. 1793-1837

Hickman County cemeteries

The Hickman County Historical Society News Journal, June 2003 and Dec. 2003

Hickman County slaves & Black vital statistics: 1852-1906, 1907 & 1948

Hickman County vital statistics, 1852-1909

History families: Bullit County founded 1796

Jessamine County cemetery records

Lincoln County wills and estates, 1821-1824

Marriages, Hickman County, 1822-1948

Mason County wills and estates, 1791-1832

Washington County wills and estates, 1792-1808

Maine

Confession of faith and covenant of the First Church in North Yarmouth, 1730-1858

Maine families in 1790, vol. 10

Maine Rubicon: downeast settlers during the American Revolution

Vital records of Dayton, Maine

Massachusetts

Epitaphs in the old Burial Place, Dedham [Norfolk County]

Michigan

Cemeteries of Tekonsha Township, Calhoun County: Riverside, Windfall, MacFadden

Mississippi

New cemetery survey of Oktibbeha County

Prentiss County cemeteries

New Hampshire

Genealogical abstracts from early New Hampshire newspapers

Obliged to ask for relief: pauper records 1885-1900 [Cheshire County]

New York

The 1855 census of Schenectady County: an index

Aspiring Christians: histories of Yates County churches

The business of captivity: Elmira and its Civil War prison

The Danes of Yates County: the history of an ethnic community

Families of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Troy, 1823-1928
 Gleanings III: gleanings from the files of Miss Elizabeth Crocker, 1895-1999
 Marriage record of Schenectady Reformed Church, 1694-1852
 Marriage records of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Troy, 1805-1925
 Pupils, parents & others in Niskayuna school records, Schenectady County, 1859-1900
 Schoharie County, early records, 1730-1904
 Town of Middlesex Civil War veterans
 Vital records of Niskayuna Reformed Church, Schenectady, 1783-1961
 Vital records of Princetown Reformed Church, Duaneburg, 1824-1899
 Vital records of St. John's Episcopal Church, Johnstown, 1815-1899
 Vital records of St. John's Episcopal Church, Troy, 1831-1901
 Vital records of Trinity Lutheran Church, West Sand Lake, 1784-1899

Ohio

1895 soldiers return Guernsey County
 1904-1921 coroner's inquest of Guernsey County
 1990 directory of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Alliance
 Abstracts from Brown County newspapers, 1857-99
 Akron Children's Hospital: in the second century, 1991-2007
 Articulation: the art of the Akron-Summit County Public Library
 Burial transit permit stubs: Oct 28, 1959 thru Dec 31, 1999 [Putnam County]
 Caldwell's atlas of Madison Co., 1875
 The campaign of 1840 [Presidential race in Guernsey County]
 Central Ohio's historic prisons
 Champion of children: the history of the Child Guidance Centers, Summit County: 1939-2000
 Clermont County 1802 census
 Construction of O.C. Barber's Anna Dean Farm: 1909-2009 The Anna Dean Farm centennial year
 Delayed and corrected births, Guernsey County
 Every name index History of Madison County 1915
 Fairfield Trace surname index, 1979-2005

Fifty years of Cleveland: 1875-1925
 Five generation charts. 1988 and 1989 supplements [Preble County OGS]
 Five generations in Guernsey County
 Genealogical index to Caldwell's atlas of Madison County, 1875, by Henry Cring
 Ghosts along the Tuscarawas
 Goosetown: reconstructing an Akron neighborhood
 Greetings from Ravenna: picture postcards, 1905-25
 Guernsey County community & family history book
 Guernsey County will book A, 1813-1841
 Haunted Cincinnati and southwest Ohio
 Historical Circleville in pictures. 2 vols.
 An index to Centennial History, Continental, Ohio 1886-1986
 History of the restored Northampton Center School
 Index, Guernsey County: history of an average Ohio county
 Index to first family files, Guernsey County
 Index to Guernsey County wills and administrations, 1812-1850
 Italians of Greater Cincinnati
 Jefferson Township school records, Fayette County
 Jews of Cincinnati
 Justice oaths, Guernsey County, 1861-1902
 Kent State University athletics
 King Records of Cincinnati
 Lake Shore Electric Railway
 Licking County
 Lincoln Heights
 Little cities of black diamonds
 London, county seat of Madison County: the town plat, the deed records, the first owners of town lots from Deed Book I
 Mothers' pension records, Guernsey County: 11 January 1911-18 and October 1920
 Mt. Hermon United Presbyterian Church membership roster, March 1857-6 June 1982 [Guernsey County]
 Obituaries appearing in the Home Towner, Quaker City, 1933-1974 [Guernsey County]
 Ohio, an empire within an empire
 Ohio in homespun and calico
 Ohio was their home
 Obituary inventories. 5 vols. [Madison County]

Ohio (continued)

Order in the court: the courts and the practice of law in Akron, Ohio, 1787-1945

A passion for the land: John F. Seiberling and the environmental movement

Pioneer soldiers of Guernsey County

Putnam County obituaries

Ravenna: a bicentennial album of 19th century photographs

Souvenir journal, 1920-1987 [Second Baptist Church, Medina, Ohio]

The story of Springfield Township: 1808 to present day

Washington Township, Guernsey County: local history and genealogical data

Where Grandpa Rohrer came from: Sidney Park Rohrer, 1890-1985

Pennsylvania

Bedford County marriage records: Oct. 1885-April 1890

Births, marriages and deaths of Bedford and Somerset Counties, 1852-1854

Cambria County cemeteries. 2 vols.

Early occupations of Bedford County people

The ecclesiastical records of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. James, 1847-1875 [Westmoreland County]

Tombstones, burials and cemetery histories of Jefferson County

The unwritten history of Braddock's Field

Vermont

Marriage repertoire, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, formerly St. Mary's Catholic Church, Burlington, 1830-1930

Middlebury marriage repertoire, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary [Church], Middlebury, 1845-1930

West Virginia

1820 Federal census for Kanawha County

Annotated 1840 census for Kanawha County

Annotated 1850 census for Kanawha County

Annotated 1860 census for Kanawha County

Putnam County, WV death index only, 1853-1916

Wayne County, West Virginia cemetery listings

West Virginia cemeteries

Military

August Willich's gallant Dutchmen: Civil War letters from the 32nd Indiana Infantry

Banners south: a northern community at war

Company "A" Corps of Engineers, U.S.A.: 1846-1848 in the Mexican War

Meade's army: the private notebook of Lt. Col. Theodore Lyman

The struggle for the life of the Republic: a Civil War narrative by Brevet Major Charles Dana Miller, 76th Ohio Volunteer Infantry

Unknown soldiers: the American Expeditionary Forces in memory and remembrance

The weary boys: Colonel J. Warren Keifer and the 110th Ohio Volunteer Infantry

Reference

American shelter: an illustrated encyclopedia of the American home

Bounty and donation land grants in British Colonial America

Census substitutes & state census records

Evidence explained: citing history sources from artifacts to cyberspace

Genealogical resources of the Civil War era

History for genealogists: using chronological time lines to find and understand your ancestors

Index to records of ante-bellum southern plantations: locations, plantations surnames and collections

Patriots of color: African Americans and Native Americans at Battle Road and Bunker Hill

Stories told in stone: cemetery iconology: a manual for genealogy research

Ireland

Ireland and Irish emigration to the New World: from 1815 to the famine

Research outline, Ireland

African Americans

The Freedmen's Bureau: reconstructing the American South after the Civil War

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

New to the Collection (cont.)

Family History

Ancestral history of Barbara (Weber/Weaver)

Gander, wife of Peter Gander

Ancestral history of Thelma E. Adair (Mrs. Clifford
M. Gander)

The history and genealogy of the Gander families

The Howell family

The Joseph Smith family of Gloucester and Salem
counties, NJ. The James Dye family of
Gloucester County, NJ

My story: Mattie Olivia Hale Carmack, 1873-1961

Woodruff genealogy: Matthew Woodruff of
Farmington, Conn, 1640-1641

CHIPS Meeting

The Council for Historical Institutions and Preservation Societies (CHIPS) will gather at the Randolph Town Hall on April 10, 2010 from 9 am to noon. Our host will be the Randolph Historical Society in Portage County on Rt. 44. All historical and preservation organizations are welcome. We want to meet you and hear your biannual report of what's happening in your group with your beloved projects and museums. For more information, contact Dreama at Dreamarona@webtv.net or 330-923-6678.