The Springfield Lake Sanatorium
by Jane Gramlich, Librarian

In an era of antibiotics and advanced medical treatments, it’s difficult to imagine the toll of the serious communicable diseases our forebears faced over a century ago. Among these illnesses was pulmonary tuberculosis (TB), especially feared for its combination of slow progression and high mortality rate. Between 1909 and 1912, over 27,000 Ohio deaths were attributed to TB, 450 in Summit County alone. The number of people with TB housed in county infirmaries at that time was a significant concern to health officials, who had been lobbying for separate facilities for TB patients. Ohio legislators responded by mandating the establishment of a sanatorium to serve each county. Springfield Lake Sanatorium opened on February 1, 1915, and according to the Akron Beacon Journal, soon housed 35 patients from infirmaries in Summit, Portage, Stark, Columbiana, and Mahoning Counties.

The first few years of the sanatorium were not successful. A 1922 article in Woman’s Forum noted that “no provision for curing the patients was attempted, and at that time the Sanatorium was only a pleasant place to die.” The many burials in the sanatorium cemetery, Briar Hill, testify to this sad neglect. Board Chairman Edwin Shaw spearheaded efforts to change this, expanding the facility’s scope and focusing on curing patients rather than maintaining them until death. Increased concern for the youngest victims of TB resulted in the construction of Sunshine Cottage for children. Long stays were not unusual, but cure rates greatly improved, and in 1934, Summit County commissioners renamed the facility in honor of Shaw’s vital contribution.

During the 1940s and 1950s, as treatments for TB expanded and mortality rates plummeted, there was less of a need for sanatoria. Many of these facilities evolved into specialty hospitals, including Edwin Shaw Hospital. For many years, it operated as a specialized rehabilitation center supported by Summit County taxpayers. In addition to offering rehabilitation services for physical injuries, the hospital also provided a drug and alcohol rehabilitation unit.
But it kept a low profile, and its unusual status made it somewhat mysterious to those who weren’t familiar with it. A 1987 Akron Beacon Journal article noted that few residents knew what kind of hospital Edwin Shaw was, or where it was located, “since it isn’t situated along any busy road and it isn’t even visible from one.” There were several proposals to increase services during the 1980s and 1990s, including a nursing home for AIDS patients, but none took hold.

By the late 1990s, the hospital was seen as one of a “dying breed of institutions” and privatization became an increasingly likely outcome. Akron General Medical Center acquired the business operation and leased the facility from Summit County in 2005, but their tenure was short. In December 2009, they relocated their rehabilitation center to Cuyahoga Falls, leaving the vacant property in the county’s hands and raising the question of its future use. The answer is yet uncertain. Early in 2015, a developer proposed turning the site into a haunted attraction similar to the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield, but the county rejected the offer.

Though the property’s fate still hangs in the balance, the hospital’s earliest legacy will not be lost. As the facility closed, Summit County records manager Teresa Corall was called in to determine the future of its records. She immediately recognized their historical and genealogical importance. Documents dating from the hospital’s opening through the 1980s reveal details of its first mission as a sanatorium. The significant collection includes records of patients, employees, and Briar Hill burials as well as photos and films. Our partnership with Summit County led to the digitization of several photos, now featured in the Edwin Shaw Hospital Collection on Summit Memory. FamilySearch International and its team of volunteers also stepped in, creating digitized records freely available online. They contain information not only on Summit County residents, but also those from surrounding areas. In addition to historical medical data, the records offer genealogical details such as parents’ names and birth dates.

This archival success story makes the Springfield Lake Sanatorium and Edwin Shaw Hospital a subject that local historians and writers continue to explore. Akron Beacon Journal local history columnist Mark Price featured an essay in his latest book, Lost Akron. For two years, documentarians Kathleen and Fred Endres have been researching the sanatorium as well. Kathleen is Distinguished Professor of Communication at the University of Akron, while Fred is Professor Emeritus in the School of Journalism at Kent State University. Much of their time has been spent at the County of Summit Records Center & Archives, and along with a production team of University of Akron staff and students, they have been recording footage of the old grounds. The documentary, which will be narrated by Amani Abraham of the Rubber City Radio Group, should be ready for broadcast on public television in 2017.

The Endreses also plan to write a book on the history of the sanatorium. They are looking for former patients and staff members of the sanatorium, or their relatives, for possible interviews. In addition, they are attempting to locate photos, letters, or any other materials related to the sanatorium. If you have any materials related to the sanatorium or information about former patients, please contact Kathleen Endres at endres@uakron.edu or 330-972-6846.
Most local residents associate Edwin Shaw with the Akron General Health System rehabilitation institute that bears his name. That is just one of Shaw’s many legacies to the people of Summit County, however. As local histories and *Akron Beacon Journal* articles reveal, he had a hand in many of Summit County’s humanitarian and cultural institutions.

Edwin Coupland Shaw (1863-1941) was born to Edwin Augustus and Clara (Coupland) Shaw in Buffalo, New York. He studied engineering at Yale’s Sheffield Scientific School, graduating in 1886. He worked as an engineer for Otis Elevator Company and two New York power companies before relocating to Akron in 1893 to become superintendent of the Akron Electric Light & Power Company.

Shaw held his position at Akron Electric until 1896, when he became a mechanical engineer with the B. F. Goodrich Company. His personal and his professional life took major turns following his move to Goodrich. On January 12, 1898, he married fellow New Yorker Jennifer L. Bond. He worked his way up at Goodrich, eventually becoming vice-president in charge of factory operations in 1912. Shortly after, he and Jennie moved from their home on South Union Street to a Free English Manorial style home at 618 N. Portage Path. Several photographs of their home, known as Wytchwood, appear on Summit Memory.

In 1917, Shaw retired from Goodrich, but he did not slow down. He remained active on the Goodrich board for several more years and kept an office in the Second National Building (now the Law Building) on the corner of Main and Bowery Streets to conduct his personal business. One of these matters of business was Summit County’s three-year-old tuberculosis hospital, Springfield Lake Sanatorium, for which Shaw became chairman of the board on May 7, 1918.

Shaw took his appointment to the sanatorium board seriously, visiting tuberculosis institutions across the country to gain insight into their operation. He served as chairman of the institution’s building committee as well, and was in part responsible for several additions to the facility. One of these additions was Sunshine Cottage, home to the sanatorium’s youngest patients, who grew so used to seeing him around the grounds that they took to calling him “Daddy Shaw.” His work there eventually led to the facility being named after him, much to his dismay. As acquaintance Charles W. Seiberling once said, Shaw “never cared much for the blaring of trumpets or ballyhoo.”

Shaw’s interest in public health extended beyond his work with Springfield Lake Sanatorium. He also served as a trustee of Akron City Hospital, Children’s Hospital, and Summit County Children’s Home. Along with Mary Gladwin, he was responsible for creating the Akron Chapter of the Red Cross. As a businessman, he was an early supporter of employee security through compensation for illness and injury, pensions, and life and health insurance.

His service extended outside the area of public health and beyond the boundaries of Summit County as well. In 1920, Shaw became the first president of the Akron Art Institute (later the Akron Art Museum), a position...
The Summit County Medical Society is one of the oldest medical societies in Ohio. It was established in 1842, pre-dating even the Ohio State Medical Association. The society was created by one of the first settlers and the first physician of Hudson, Ohio, Moses Thompson, who came to the area in 1800. His practice extended from Lake Erie to 50 miles south of Hudson and he visited patients on foot, on horseback, and in canoes. He eventually became the first president of the Summit County Medical Society.

Special Collections has recently completed organizing a collection of materials from the Summit County Medical Society. This collection contains a variety of items, including individual files on members past and present, meeting minutes going back to the 1860s, society publications, and early medical reference books and manuals.

Many of the society’s earliest records no longer exist, but we do know that several of the founding members were prominent members of the community. The first doctor to establish his practice in Akron was Titus Chapman, who settled in Middlebury, now East Akron, in 1815. Another early Akron doctor was Dr. Eliakim Crosby, who founded the village of Cascade where Market

Despite all of his community service, Shaw still made time for hobbies. He collected etchings and paintings, cultivated rare varieties of irises and peonies, and loved to fish. It was while pursuing this last hobby on a trip to Michigan in 1936 that Shaw suffered a fall so serious, he was bedridden by 1938. It slowed but did not stop him in his humanitarian work, and he still made the trip to Sunshine Cottage for Christmas parties.

Edwin Shaw died in his Portage Path home with friends by his side on November 25, 1941. The next day, the Akron Beacon Journal carried an extensive obituary as well as a collection of tributes, including this one from industrialist Hugh Galt: “It can certainly be said of him that he left his community far better than he found it. He was a genuine, public-spirited citizen and a real philanthropist for Summit County.” Galt’s words proved even more true following the death of Shaw’s sister Caroline in 1955, when his nearly $1,000,000 estate was used to establish Akron Community Trusts (ACT), now the Akron Community Foundation. Edwin Shaw may be buried next to Jennie in Cuba, New York, but his presence is still felt here in Akron.
and Howard Streets now meet.

One society member that we can be very thankful for is secretary Alexander S. McCormick. Without his diligence in recording the activities of the society and those of related associations, we would not be able to preserve this history. In *The History of Medicine in Summit County Ohio*, McCormick describes with anecdotal stories and biographical summaries the lifestyles and practices of the first known physicians in northeast Ohio. He writes, “the doctors in the early days worked hard, and visits to patients often took much time and were fatiguing. Payments for services were often made in kind. For one obstetric case, [a doctor] received two meals of wild turkey and a jug of homemade whiskey.”

Included in the collection is a small selection of early medical reference books dating from 1754 to 1853. *A System of Surgery*, published in 1791, shows many of the primitive, almost medieval instruments that were used for different procedures. Among other items in the collection are copies of the Summit County Medical Society Bulletin from the mid 1940s through 2006. These bulletins include announcements of featured lectures by physicians, lists of officers, and advertisements by hospitals and medical product manufacturers. There are also ledgers and meeting minutes dating from 1866 through the 1970s. They contain information such as names of members, budget figures, discussions of specific medical cases, brief biographies of members who died, and other miscellaneous topics of the day.

Some of the recorded discussions in these documents, especially before World War II, make it evident that specialists were rare and each doctor had to attend to whatever case he was called upon. Discussions included such topics as how much anesthetic was necessary during operations and procedures for measuring expirations from the lungs. Cases ranged from eye disease to lip cancer, from broken tibias to children with pneumonia, and there are many sad descriptions of attempted tumor removals that resulted in death.

The Summit County Medical Society had a significant role in the establishment of other medical institutions in Summit County. Eager to meet the greater demand for hospitals after the turn of the century, the society was instrumental in founding Akron City Hospital in 1887, Children’s Hospital in 1905, People’s Hospital (now Akron General Medical Center) in 1914, and Barberton Citizens Hospital in 1915. By then, the need for a tuberculosis hospital had also become urgent, leading to the establishment of Springfield Lake Sanatorium. One of the items in the collection is a manual from 1926 titled “Diagnostic Standards: Pulmonary and Glandular Tuberculosis,” distributed by the sanatorium.

By 1950, there were 497 doctors in Summit County, a ratio of one doctor to 804 people. The society continued to expand its mission, getting involved with the Summit County Health Department and other local health agencies. The society formed councils to support county-wide health protocols such as adding fluoride to the water supply, enforcing the requirement of certain vaccinations, negotiating rates of medical expenses for local unions, and supporting legislation that would greater benefit those in need in the community. After holding their meetings in various buildings around Akron for many years, the society finally obtained their own building in 1967 and added an additional meeting hall in 1975.

The Summit County Medical Society is still alive and strong today. Their website provides many links to individual medical facilities in Summit County, lists of doctors available in a variety of networks, health information, and much more.
Researchers with Virginia ancestors have a large selection of free online resources to explore. The Library of Virginia (LVA) has several useful databases. Death Index of Virginia, 1853-1896 is an ongoing project sponsored by the Virginia Genealogy Society and does not include all deaths. The records are not digitized but can be ordered from LVA. After searching or browsing through names, click on the selected person to see the indexed information (date of death, county source, parents’ names in the case of infants). Slave deaths are included in the index. Since slaves generally did not have last names, owners’ surnames are searchable.

LVA’s Virginia Military Dead Database honors Virginians who gave their lives in defense of freedom from the French & Indian War through the Iraq War and in peacetime. The information page provides a key to death and conflict codes used in the database and links to the database search page. Entries include name, gender, race, county or city, conflict, branch of service, date of death, listed residence, regiment, rank, cause of death, place of death, and information source.

The Images & Indexes section of the LVA catalog allows researchers to select and search digitized photo and military collections, land grants (1779-1993), colonial patents (1623-1774), Confederate disability applications and pension rolls, wills and administrations, and much more. Some of these collections have been digitized and linked to Virginia Memory, which includes additional collections of photographs, maps, and historical and genealogical records. Descriptions of all indexes and databases can be found on the Using the Collections page.

Unknown No Longer, a project of the Virginia Historical Society, provides access to names of thousands of enslaved Virginians that appear in the society’s large manuscript collection, including deeds of sale and manumission, account books, wills, and letters. The Virginia Gravestone Photo Project currently contains photographs of 26,000 graves. For military ancestors, try the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution’s grave registry of war soldiers and patriots. The Virginia War Memorial has a database of veterans and fallen heroes from World War II through the Persian Gulf War. The American Civil War Museum provides online images of people and objects, offering historical insight. Search for alumni of the Virginia Military Institute through historical rosters from 1839 through World War II or through institute photographs.

FamilySearch includes searchable databases of vital records as well as image-only military and probate court records. In addition, a useful directory linking to online sources for Virginia as well as many other states can be found at FreeSurnameSearch.com.

The documents digitized on Unknown No Longer contain valuable historical and genealogical data.
First Night Akron Celebrates Twenty Years
by Rebecca Larson-Troyer, Librarian

A tradition since 1996, First Night Akron rings in its twentieth (new) year in 2015. The annual event brings art, music, and cultural performances – along with thousands of people – downtown for one large, family-friendly New Year’s Eve party.

Modeled after the original First Night held in Boston in 1976, the event offers an arts-centered, alcohol-free alternative to New Year’s celebrations. In its inaugural year, First Night Akron was billed as a way to spur interest in a struggling downtown. A sold out crowd of 20,000 attended the city’s first First Night, and the event would see rising attendance with crowds upwards of 30,000 in subsequent years.

First Night Akron was the first large-scale project of the newly formed Downtown Akron Partnership, along with the City of Akron, the Akron Beacon Journal, and support from foundations and area corporations. Well-known local artist Don Drumm designed the event’s first button, a colorful crescent moon, which served as proof of admission to the various indoor venues throughout downtown. In a nod to its history, this year’s button is again designed by the popular artist, bearing a brightly colored bird and the words “First Night Akron, 20th year, 2016.”

In 1999, thousands of revelers faced Y2K head on, but no catastrophic global collapse occurred and the fireworks at midnight went on as usual. Newspapers in 2001 reported expectations for smaller than average crowds on the heels of 9/11, but more than 23,000 turned up for an evening with a patriotic atmosphere. Much has changed economically, culturally and politically in the years since Akron hosted its first family New Year’s Eve celebration, and recently, it has seen smaller crowds and a more condensed “footprint” of venues. But it remains a popular event, and the theme of moving forward has been a constant. In the midst of all its lively attractions, First Night has often offered symbolic ways to let go of past regrets and express wishes and resolutions for the future. We can expect a similar forward-looking outlook for this year as well, when First Night Akron celebrates its twentieth year on Thursday, December 31, 2015.

New Books

Last winter, Special Collections had the privilege of working with Joanna Wilson as she researched and wrote The Story of Archie the Talking Snowman, a lighthearted and informative look at Chapel Hill Mall’s beloved holiday character and many other local holiday attractions. Our mission of providing local history resources extends to everyone, but it is tailor-made for researchers like Joanna. Her work is a great example of the time, effort, and determination it takes to pull sources together and produce a published local history narrative.

For a list of local history and genealogy books we’ve added to our collection in the past few months, be sure to take a look at the New Books page on our website.

Past Pursuits
Winter 2015
New Database: FindMyPast

by Jane Gramlich, Librarian

Special Collections is pleased to add FindMyPast to our growing collection of genealogy databases. FindMyPast will appeal especially to researchers with ancestors in the United Kingdom and Ireland because of its strong collection of British parish records and a variety of Irish records. Researchers may find their ancestors represented in court records, directories, workhouse registers, and apprenticeship records.

Another important resource exclusively on FindMyPast is the Periodical Source Index (PERSI), an index of genealogy periodicals created by the Allen County (Indiana) Public Library. Publications such as journals and newsletters are some of the most overlooked and underused resources in genealogy. Searching through them takes a great deal of time, and many genealogists don’t know that they exist. PERSI is the best source for locating periodicals, as well as significant names, places, and subjects in thousands of periodical articles. For years, PERSI appeared only on HeritageQuest. While HeritageQuest still offers the PERSI archive for periodicals through 2009, FindMyPast offers a current PERSI and will be adding digital images of articles.

Our subscription to FindMyPast is the Community Edition. The fully accessible version of this edition is available at Main Library only. However, certain functions are available with remote access, so you can use parts of FindMyPast from home. The best way to use FindMyPast is to create a free account. With an account, you’ll be able to view original records at the Library. At home, you can create and build an online family tree and save searches for later viewing at the Library.
Stan Hywet Hall Celebrates 100 Years
by Barbara Leden, Public Service Assistant

Stan Hywet Hall was first occupied by the F. A. Seiberling family 100 years ago. The family moved in on Christmas Day, 1915. In honor of this event, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is celebrating its 100th anniversary season, 2nd Century in Bloom.

The Seiberlings’ 65-room Tudor Revival manor home was built on the land of an old store quarry. In fact, the name “stan hywet” means “stone quarry” in the Old English language. The estate is comprised of 70 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens. The manor house includes many examples of English Tudor architecture. There are 18 bedrooms, 23 bathrooms, and 273 doors. The library has a hinged bookcase that opens to a secret passageway to the Great Hall, and there is a fourth-floor infirmary.

The museum celebrated its centennial milestone earlier this year with special tours, programming, and exhibits. This winter, Stan Hywet will once again present their annual holiday program, “Deck the Hall.” The grounds will be illuminated with over 800,000 lights, and the historic Manor House will be decorated in the theme of “Home for the Holidays.” Check out their website for more details.

On Display:
The Artwork of Donald Peoples

Akron native Donald Peoples has worked as a graphic artist for the Akron-Summit County Public Library for over 26 years. His design was chosen to represent First Night Akron 2012 on buttons and posters. The cartoonist and photographer will display his work in Special Collections from January through March. Donald is a member of the National Cartoonists Society and the Northern Ohio Illustrators Society.

Donald Peoples’ playful style lent a whimsical touch to First Night Akron 2012. See more of his artwork in Special Collections this winter.

Summit County OGS Events
For more information, see http://summitogs.org.

Researching Your Ancestors Before 1820
(Chapter Meeting)
Presented by Jane Gramlich
January 16, 1:30 pm
Main Library

Brick Walls
(Chapter Meeting)
Led by Jan Appel
February 20, 1:30 pm
Main Library

What’s New in Special Collections at ASCPL
(Chapter Meeting)
Presented by Judy James
March 19, 1:30 pm
Tallmadge Branch Library
Special Collections Main Library Class Schedule

The Special Collections Division offers several recurring genealogy classes to help you with your family research. All classes are free of charge and open to the general public. Classes are also held at branches. Current branch class schedules are posted on the Special Collections website. **Registration is required for all classes held at Main Library. Please register by calling us at 330-643-9030 or emailing us at speccollections@akronlibrary.org.**

**Getting Started in Family History**
Join the Special Collections Division for an introduction to genealogy for new family historians. This class includes an overview of genealogical sources available at the Library, suggestions for getting started, and tips for organizing your research.
Saturday, January 9, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Meeting Room 1
Saturday, March 12, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Meeting Room 1

**NEW! Researching Your Immigrant Ancestors 1820-1892**
Immigration to the U.S. increased dramatically in the decades between the 1820 federal law mandating passenger lists and the opening of Ellis Island in 1892. This class focuses on researching European arrivals to eastern and southern U.S. ports during this era, including historical background, clues in a variety of genealogical records, and sources for naturalization records and passenger lists.
Saturday, January 23, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2

**Branching Out: U.S. Vital Records and Obituaries**
This class focuses on the types of genealogical information and sources researchers encounter, what to expect when working with United States vital (birth, marriage and death) records and obituaries and basic search strategies for finding these records. Because this class will use electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended.
Saturday, February 6, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2

**Finding Your Family in the U.S. Census**
United States census records are rich sources of genealogical information. Join us to learn more about using these valuable records for your family research and how to effectively search the census using library databases. Because this class will use electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended.
Saturday, February 20, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2

**Internet Genealogy**
There are an overwhelming number of websites for genealogy research. This class will provide tips for locating online resources for family history research and allow participants some class time to explore websites. The focus will be finding free online genealogy resources and brief introductions to the library’s genealogy databases. This class does not cover Ancestry Library Edition as there is a separate class for this resource. Because this class will use electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended.
Saturday, March 5, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2
We would like to thank the following for their generous donations:


Karen Carmack Stadler for *Western Maryland Newspaper Abstracts 1799-1805*, vol. 2 by F. Edward Wright; *Carmack of the Klondike* by James Albert Johnson; *The Goads: A Frontier Family* by Kenneth F. Haas; *A History of the Carmack Family* by Roberta and Jake Morris; *The Carmack Family Genealogy* by Charles W. Peckham, Sr.

Cuyahoga Portage Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution in memory of Catherine Elizabeth Ebbert Macey and Catherine Elizabeth Macey for *Henry County Tennessee Newspaper Abstracts, vol. 1; Henry County Tennessee Newspaper Abstracts, vol. 2; Abstracts of Newsworthy Items in “The Preacher”; Marriages, Death, Obituaries and Other Newsworthy Items from Three Pittsburgh Newspapers, ca. 1820-1833.*

Rosemarie Foord for September issue of *Genealogists’ Magazine; Case Western Reserve University Alumni Directory.*

Richard Riley for postcard of Viaduct Bridge, Akron, Ohio.

Reverend Janice H. Robinson, Esq. for *Seven Steps to Being Single, Saved, and Satisfied* by Janice H. Robinson.


Wayne Sanders for two Soap Box Derby helmets and one Soap Box Derby t-shirt.

Russell Sibert for various historical materials and documents pertaining to Summit County.