Special Collections Joins the Hayes Library’s Ohio Obituary Index  
*by Cheri Goldner, Librarian*

With nearly 60 contributing libraries and more than 2.2 million database entries, the Ohio Obituary Index, administered by the Hayes Research Library at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, is an excellent resource for Ohio genealogy research. The Akron-Summit County Public Library is excited to join the project this year.

For several years, Special Collections has made its two major obituary resources, the *Akron Beacon Journal (ABJ)* newspaper indexes, 1841-1939 and the *Obituary only indexes, 1937-2012*, available on our Web site in PDF. While publishing the indexes on our website has made them accessible to a much wider audience, using the online indexes has its limitations. Due to the poor quality of the text in the originals, the ABJ newspaper indexes have not been subjected to optical character recognition (OCR) and therefore are not keyword searchable. Users must browse these alphabetical subject indexes just as they would the books. While the obituary only indexes underwent OCR and are searchable individually, users cannot search across all indexes at once. Adding obituary citations from both of these indexes to the Hayes database will not only make obituary searches quicker and easier, it will also lead more researchers to the many resources available through Special Collections. The Ohio Obituary Index well known among those researching Ohio families,

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and it is also among the sources searchable through Ancestry. Special Collections staff members began making entries into the Ohio Obituary Index in January. We are starting with the current year’s obituaries and the earliest years of the ABJ newspaper indexes. As the year progresses, we will continue adding entries based on the newspaper indexes, and we will import nearly 140,000 records from 21 of our obituary indexes. Even with this import, the project will entail a great deal of data entry and will likely take several years to complete. Until then, feel free to contact Special Collections or visit the Hayes Web site to check which years are covered in the Ohio Obituary Index, and continue to use the indexes on our Web site as needed.

Volunteer Indexers Wanted

Our goal in joining the Hayes Research Library’s Ohio Obituary Index is twofold—to create a single, fully searchable index to obituaries published in the Akron Beacon Journal and its predecessors, and to make that index known to the widest possible audience. With your help, we can reach our goal much more quickly. Volunteers must have computer skills and be detail oriented. Detailed instructions and hands-on training will be provided. Once trained, you can work from home. If you’re interested, contact Special Collections and ask for Cheri.

“Discovering Your Immigrant Ancestors” Set for August 3
by Cheri Goldner, Librarian

The Library and the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society are teaming up once again to bring family history researchers a free, day-long genealogy program this summer. This year’s program, “Discovering Your Immigrant Ancestors,” will take place on Saturday, August 3, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm in the Main Library auditorium and will feature genealogy experts Lisa A. Alzo and Leslie Albrecht Huber.

Lisa A. Alzo is a freelance writer, instructor and internationally recognized lecturer with over 23 years’ experience in the field of genealogy. She earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in Nonfiction Writing from the University of Pittsburgh and is the author of nine books, including Finding Your Slovak Ancestors, Writing Your Family History Book and the award-winning Three Slovak Women. Lisa has written hundreds of articles, and her work has appeared in Family Tree Magazine, Family Chronicle, Internet Genealogy, APG Quarterly and others. Lisa also blogs as “The Accidental Genealogist” at www.theaccidentalgenealogist.com. For more information, visit www.lisaalzo.com.

A freelance writer and speaker who has worked as a professional genealogist helping people trace their German roots, Leslie Albrecht Huber has published over 100 articles in a variety of publications including History Channel Magazine, FamilyFun, Ancestry, Family Chronicle and many more. Her first book, The Journey Takers, was published in the summer of 2010. Leslie has spoken about tracing immigrant ancestors on Good Morning America, National Public Radio and at libraries, museums, conferences and meetings across the country. She lives in Wisconsin with her husband and four children. To learn more about Leslie and her work, as well as researching your own Western European ancestors, visit her Web site at www.understandingyourancestors.com.
The day will include the following five one-hour lectures: “Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestors,” “Online Sources for Western European Research,” “Jumping over Hurdles in German Research,” “The Journey Takers: An Inside Look at the Immigration Experience” and “Crossing the Pond: Successful Strategies for Researching Eastern European Ancestors.” For descriptions of each lecture as well as the schedule for the day, visit our Web site.

Please note that there is not a café in the Library at present, so boxed lunches will not be available for purchase this year. Attendees should bring a lunch with them or plan on eating at a nearby restaurant. For questions or to sign up for the program, contact Special Collections.

**Getting to Know…**

**Dr. Shirla McClain**

*by Iris Bolar, Librarian*

This is the first installment of our new Past Pursuits series “Getting to Know…,” in which we provide brief introductions to some of the people, places, and events that have had an impact on the history and culture of Summit County.

Akron native Dr. Shirla Robinson McClain was an educator and local historian whose 500-page doctoral dissertation, *The Contributions of Blacks in Akron: 1825-1975*, filled the void left by local histories up to that point. Her dissertation became and remains the most authoritative work on the history of African Americans in Akron.

Dr. McClain started her teaching career with Head Start and taught in the Akron Public Schools for 20 years, resigning after receiving her PhD in education from the University of Akron in 1975. She then taught as a professor of education at Kent State University and Walsh University.


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**Beyond the Akron Beacon Journal: Summit County Newspapers on Microfilm**

*by Rebecca Larson-Troyer, Librarian*

Of the many wonderful resources available in the Special Collections Division, our microfilmed local newspapers are among the most used in the collection. Reels of the *Akron Beacon Journal* and its previous incarnations are pulled daily as librarians and library users peruse more than 170 years of information, seeking answers on their ancestors or historical accounts from a contemporary source. Requests for obituaries and news stories keep the phone ringing and the inbox pinging, while researchers, genealogists and hobby historians alike find answers (and sometimes more questions) scanning a century and a half of local news.
Often overlooked, though, are the lesser known publications. In addition to the Beacon Journal, the Akron Times Democrat, Akron Press and Akron Reporter covered city and county stories for decades. Court proceedings, real estate transactions and legal matters were chronicled in the Akron Legal News, while the Akron Germania and Akron Columbia served Akron’s German-speaking population. Representing neighboring cities were the Cuyahoga Falls Reporter, Barberton News, Portage Lakes-Kenmore Post and Ohio Observer (Hudson), with newspapers from communities in Cuyahoga and Portage Counties also available. Equally rich in local content were publications from area organizations, including Goodyear’s Wingfoot Clan newsletter, Summit County Labor News and Veterans’ News, with combined coverage of more than 100 years.

Looking for the Akron Buzzard and Buckeye Water Nymph? Just one issue has been committed to microfilm, but you may want to take a look at the complete list of other available titles at http://sc.akronlibrary.org/files/2012/09/microfilm-with-info.pdf.

Summit Memory Update
by Rebecca Larson-Troyer, Librarian

With more than 15,000 images and counting, Summit Memory continues to be a one-of-a-kind digital resource for Summit County history. Established in 2007, this online scrapbook has grown to include 46 collections from 17 agencies throughout the county.

A new addition to Summit Memory is the Edwin Shaw Hospital Collection, contributed by the County of Summit. This unique collection includes more than 30 images from the early decades of the hospital originally known as Springfield Lake Sanatorium. The sanatorium, which opened in East Akron in 1915, was constructed for the treatment of tuberculosis patients prohibited from receiving treatment at general hospitals. This historic collection includes images of the facility and grounds located on former farmland near Springfield Lake, as well as the Sunshine Cottage, the sanatorium’s pediatric center which championed the “sun cure” and open-air learning for children at risk for developing tuberculosis.

Local newspapers can contain detailed information about local residents. This notice appeared in the Cuyahoga Falls Reporter on July 2, 1920.

Sunshine Cottage children in the dining hall. From the Edwin Shaw Hospital Collection, Summit Memory.

Look for more wonderful collections coming this year. Also coming in 2013, Summit Memory is getting a new look with an updated design and
enhanced features and that will make experiencing Summit County history even easier.

**New Class: Identifying Your Family Photographs**  
*by Rebecca Larson-Troyer, Librarian*

Every photograph holds clues about the person, place or time depicted—the trick is learning to read these clues and decipher what they can tell us about the image. Observing characteristics such as the type of photograph, the fashions of the subjects and items found in the background can reveal much about historic images. Paired with the skills and resources already used in our genealogy research, these clues can go a long way toward unlocking the stories behind our family photographs.

This spring, the Special Collections Division offers a new class, *Identifying Your Family Photographs*, Saturday, May 4, 10 am – noon. The class will provide tips and techniques for reading and researching historic images, including an overview of the different types of photographs and photographic processes, discerning clues found within images, such as clothing and hairstyles, and using a variety of resources to research and identify historic photographs. This class will be lecture style, rather than hands on. To sign up, contact Special Collections. For questions about the class, contact Rebecca Larson-Troyer at 330-643-9030 or rltroyer@akronlibrary.org.

**2013 Ohio Genealogical Society Conference in Cincinnati**

The Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) annual conference will be held April 25-27 in Cincinnati. This year’s theme is “Expanding Your Ancestry through Technology,” with numerous sessions on tech tools and navigating digital resources to further your genealogy research.

With more than 90 sessions to choose from, topics range from general how-to sessions to more specialized investigation. Each session is rated for skill level, from beginner to advanced, with coverage including regional and international research, military and church records, African American genealogy and DNA testing. Early registration ends March 15. For more details, including a link to the conference registration booklet, visit [www.ogs.org/conference2013/index.php](http://www.ogs.org/conference2013/index.php).
Special Collections Class Schedule
For more information and to sign up, contact us at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Finding Your Family in the U.S. Census
Saturday, April 6, 10 am – noon
United States census records are rich sources of genealogical information. Join us to learn more about using these valuable records in your family research. Learn how to effectively search the databases, Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage Quest. As the emphasis will be on using electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended. This workshop meets in Computer Lab 2 on the first floor of Main Library.

Branching Out: U.S. Vital Records and Obituaries
Saturday, April 20, 10 am – noon
This class focuses on the types of genealogical information and sources researchers commonly encounter, what to expect when working with U.S. vital records and obituaries, and basic strategies for finding these records. Because this class will use Internet resources, basic computer skills are recommended. Sessions are held in Meeting Room 2AB, High Street level, Main Library.

Identifying Your Family Photographs
Saturday, May 4, 10 am - noon
A picture may be worth a thousand words, but unlocking the stories of unidentified photographs requires some sleuthing. Join us for this free class on the tips and techniques for identifying historic photographs. Learn to read clues, such as the type of photograph, clothing and hairstyles, and even whether or not subjects are smiling, to reveal the stories behind every photograph. The class will also take a look at how genealogy databases and local history resources can be used to identify your family photographs. This session is held in meeting room 2AB, High Street level, Main Library.

Using Ancestry in Your Genealogy Research
Saturday, May 18, 10 am – noon
With more than 8,000 databases and 200 billion images, Ancestry is the premier online genealogy resource, and it’s available to you for free within any ASCPL location. This workshop will introduce you to the many features of Ancestry Library Edition and show you how to do efficient and effective searches. Because electronic resources are used, basic computer skills are recommended. This workshop meets in Computer Lab 2 on the first floor of Main Library.

Summit County OGS Events
For more information, please see www.summitogs.org/events.php.

Proving Lineage to General Society of Mayflower Descendants
Presented by Howland Davis, SCCOGS Electronic Report Editor
Saturday, April 20, 1 pm – 3 pm
Howland started working on proving his descendancy from John Howland of the Mayflower in 2010. He has finished all but paying the dues for application into the Mayflower Society. Howland will discuss his process, obstacles he faced and share suggestions for finding sources.

Military Bounty Land
Presented by Julie Wilson
Saturday, May 18, 1 pm – 3 pm
Researching military service in America? Don't overlook bounty land. Land was used as an inducement to enlist or as an award for service from the Revolutionary War to the Mexican War. Bounty land laws were enacted up to 1855. Julie Wilson will present the basics and show examples of genealogical information that can be found in this underutilized resource.

Cemetery Invasion
Presented by Kelly McKnight
Saturday, June 15
Location to be determined
Cemetery Chair Kelly McKnight will lead us to one of the local cemeteries where we will read the stones in the cemetery or a portion of the cemetery.
Instructions and materials will be provided. Our work will provide the information for new publications by our Chapter. Bring your lunch, lawn chair, wear comfortable shoes and come enjoy the day!

**CHIPS Biannual Gathering**

The Council for Historical Institutions and Preservation Societies (CHIPS) will hold their Biannual Spring Gathering at the Preservation House, 2074 West Market Street, Akron, on Saturday, April 20, 9 am – noon. A continental breakfast will be available. Come and meet other like-minded organizations and share your progress. For more information, call Dreama at 330-923-6678.

**Civil War Commemorative Events**

From now through 2015, Summit County will commemorate the 150th anniversary of Ohio’s involvement in the Civil War. For more information about events here and throughout the state, visit [www.ohiocivilwar150.org](http://www.ohiocivilwar150.org).

**Intrepid Mariners: the USS Kearsarge & CSS Alabama**
Presented by John C. Fazio
Peninsula Valley Historic and Education Foundation
Civil War Lecture Series
April 25 – 7 pm
GAR Hall
1785 Main St., Peninsula

**His Promised Land: John Parker and the Underground Railroad**
Presented by Anthony Gibbs
Peninsula Valley Historic and Education Foundation
Civil War Lecture Series
May 23 – 7 pm
GAR Hall
1785 Main St., Peninsula

**War of 1812 Commemorative Events**

Although 2012 marked the 200th anniversary of the commencement of the War of 1812, the war did not end until 1815. Communities throughout Ohio continue to commemorate this conflict with ceremonies and remembrances. For more information about events taking place in our state, visit the Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission [http://warof1812.ohio.gov](http://warof1812.ohio.gov). For information about local events and projects, visit the William Wetmore Chapter Daughters of 1812 site at [http://sharonmyers1.tripod.com](http://sharonmyers1.tripod.com).

**The War of 1812 on the Ohio Frontier**
This exclusive exhibit at the [Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center](http://www.rbhayes.org/hayes/newsroom/display.asp?id=1314) explores America’s early defeats and its eventual victories at Fort Meigs, Fort Stephenson, on Lake Erie and at the Thames. The exhibit opened February 13, 2013 and continues through October 7, 2013. For more information, visit [www.rbhayes.org/hayes/newsroom/display.asp?id=1314](http://www.rbhayes.org/hayes/newsroom/display.asp?id=1314).

**Summit County and the War of 1812**
Presented by Sharon Myers, William Wetmore Chapter, Daughters of 1812
March 14 – 7 pm
Munroe Falls Historical Society
893 Munroe Falls Ave., Munroe Falls
Fort Meigs, Fort Stephenson, and Colonel George Croghan
Presented by Sharon Myers, William Wetmore Chapter, Daughters of 1812
April 23 – 7 pm
Cuyahoga Falls Library
2015 3rd St., Cuyahoga Falls

Summit County and the War of 1812
Presented by Sharon Myers, William Wetmore Chapter, Daughters of 1812
May 9 - 7 pm
GAR Hall
1785 Main St., Peninsula

Commemoration for War of 1812 Soldiers buried In Peninsula
May 18 – 11:30 am
Cedar Grove Cemetery, Peninsula

New to the Collection

Alabama
Old land records of Colbert County
Old land records of Franklin County
Old land records of Lauderdale County
Old land records of Limestone County
Old land records of Madison County
Old land records of Marshall County
Silent witness, history in stone: The Pike County photographic tomb records

Connecticut
The clergy of Litchfield County
Inscriptions from gravestones in the Old Burying Ground, Norwich Town: With illustrations from original photographs
New Castle County land records
New Castle County wills, 1800-1813
The public records of the Colony of Connecticut, prior to the union with New Haven Colony, May 1665
Souls in heaven, names in stone: Kent County cemetery records

Delaware
Abstracts of the proceedings of the Orphans' Court of Sussex County, 1708-1709 and 1728-1777

Colonial families of Delaware
Kent County land records
Probate records of Kent County
Sussex County wills
Vital records of Kent & Sussex counties, 1686-1800

Georgia
Sumter County index of [marriage] licenses issued: Groom, from Book 1 (1832) thru Book B (8 Feb 2002)

Kentucky
Bullitt County will book, 1796-1823 and 1823-1838
Early times in Meade County
LaRue newspaper abstracts, 1892-1907
Meade County militia book
Meade County newspaper abstracts, 1906-1908

Maine
Grandpa's scrapbook: His genealogical columns as published in the Deering news, 1894-1904

Massachusetts
Dennis vital records
The early records of Lancaster, 1643-1725
An index to Plymouth County warnings out from the Plymouth court records, 1686-1859
Vital records of Raynham
Western Massachusetts families in 1790

Michigan
Cemeteries of Campbell Township, Ionia County
Danby Cemetery, Ionia County
Eureka Cemetery, Clinton County
Fairfield Cemetery, Shiawassee County
Middlebury Cemetery, Shiawassee County
Ridge Road Cemetery, Saginaw County
South Ovid Cemetery, Saginaw County

Mississippi
A history of Chickasaw County
Madison County [Black America series]
Marriage bonds of Lafayette County
The Woodville Republican, Mississippi’s oldest newspaper

Past Pursuits
Spring 2013
New Hampshire
Hopkinton vital records

New Jersey
Burlington County deed abstracts: books A, B and C
Camden County marriages
Colonial families of Cape May County
Cumberland County marriages
Early church records of Monmouth County
Early records of Cumberland County
Genealogical data from Cumberland County wills
Gloucester County wills, 1818-1836; 1836-1846
Inscriptions on tombstones and monuments in the burying grounds of the First Presbyterian Church and St. John's Church at Elizabeth, 1664-1892
Middlesex County records of the 17th and 18th centuries
Old burying ground: Cemetery of the First Presbyterian Church, Orange, Essex County
The records of the Swedish Lutheran churches at Raccoon and Penn's neck, 1713-1786
Roster of the people of Revolutionary Monmouth County
Salem County genealogical data
Salters history of Monmouth and Ocean counties

New York
A diary of the Dutch Reformed Church of West New Hempstead
A history of the Calvinistic Methodists of Utica
Minutes of coroners' proceedings, city and county of New York: John Burnet, Coroner, 1748-1758
Their own voices: Oral accounts of early settlers in Washington County
Town of Wilmington, Essex County: Transcribed serial records
The way we were: The history and genealogy of the town of Collins, Erie County

North Carolina
Divorces and separations from petitions to the North Carolina General Assembly, 1779-1837
North Carolina headrights: a list of names, 1663-1744

Ohio
1913: Preserving the memories of Dayton's great flood
Atlas of Marion County [1878]
Batavia and Williamsburg [Images of America series]
The C.R. Patterson and Sons Company: Black pioneers in the vehicle building industry, 1865-1939
The church record book of the first Evangelical Lutheran and German Reformed Congregations: New Bedford, Coshocton County
Cleveland's transit vehicles: Equipment and technology
Cleveland Stadium: The last chapter
Come walk with me: Exploring Fairview Park Rockport Cemetery, Cuyahoga County
Day before yesterday: A collection of Marion vignettes
Doylestown sesquicentennial history, 1827-1977
Fairfield County birth records, 1899-1908
Families of Darke County
Haunted Marion
The heart of Cleveland: Public Square in the 20th Century
History of the Welsh Church in Jackson: With travels, fishing and farewells
Horse trails to regional rails: The story of public transit in Greater Cleveland
Jim Thorpe and the Oorang Indians: The N.F.L.'s most colorful franchise [Marion County]
The Marion Steam Shovel Company family: History, biography, autobiography
Memories of an Akron Christmas
Middletown [Postcard History series]
Picturing the past: A photographic essay of early Rittman and Milton Township [Wayne County]
The schools of Marion County, Ohio: A mapping, location study and tabulation, 1809-2004
The Scioto Ordnance Plant and the Marion Engineer Depot of Marion: A profile after forty years
A Shaker Rapid album
Tales from the Sage of Salt Rock of Marion County
Vintage Cleveland II: More photographs of yesteryear
Worthington: From before the Civil War, and more
Pennsylvania
1784 Berks County Pennsylvania archives
Cumberland County marriages, 1761-1800
Early German settlers of York County
Lehigh County tombstone abstracts of persons born prior to 1800
Pennsylvania genealogy research

Rhode Island
Early Coventry records
East Greenwich town council records, 1734-1774; 1775-1800
Newport colonial burial grounds
Scituate town council records, 1731-1786
Warwick town council records, 1742-1780

Vermont
Baptism repertoire, Immaculate Heart of Mary; records from Sacred Heart and Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church, Rutland, 1869-1939; baptism repertoire, Saint Augustine Church, Montpelier, 1856-1930
Marriage repertoire and 1857 census, St. Bridget Catholic Church, West Rutland, 1857-1930
Marriage repertoire, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Rutland, 1869-1930
Marriage repertoire, Saint Augustine Church, Montpelier, 1855-1930
Marriage repertoire, Saint Peter's Catholic Church, Rutland, 1869-1930
St. Mary's Cathedral baptism repertoire, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Burlington, 1830-1858; 1856-1936

Military
Angels at the station
Battery H: First Ohio Light Artillery: The James Barnett papers
The Buckeye vanguard: History of the 49th Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry, 1861-1865
Common valor: Ambush at Srok Rung, November 7, 1967
The Confederate dead in Brooklyn: Biographical sketches of 513 Confederate POWs
Duty well performed: The 21st Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War
Fantastic shadows upon the ground: The 35th Ohio Volunteer Infantry of the Civil War
In their honor: The men behind the names of our military installations
Irish Rhode Islanders in the American Revolution
The men of K-2 in the forgotten war
New England captives carried to Canada between 1677 and 1760
Ohio Civil War tales
Pearls of blue and gray: Women in the Civil War
Revolutionary War veterans, Chenango County
Selected final pension payment vouchers, 1818-1864: New Jersey: Trenton
Selected final pension payment vouchers, 1818-1864: Mississippi: Natchez & Jackson
To crown myself with honor: The wartime letters of Captain Asbury Gatch, 9th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry
Treasured memories of a Civil War widow
The veterans and the valley: Central Ohio's World War II generation speaks
Veterans' voices: Central Ohio's greatest generation speaks

New England
Dictionary of American-Indian place and proper names in New England
Founders of New England
New Englanders in the 1600s: A guide to genealogical research published between 1980 and 2010
The Winthrop Fleet: Massachusetts Bay Company immigrants to New England, 1629-1630

Germany
The Amish-Mennonites of Waldeck and Wittgenstein
Emigrants from Fellbach (Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany), 1735-1930
Encyclopedia of German-American genealogical research
First Germans in America: With a biographical directory of New York Germans
The Simmendinger register

Ireland
The Huguenot settlements in Ireland
England
Thirty-one English emigrants who came to New England by 1662

Genealogies
An armory of American families of Dutch descent
Colonial families of the United States of America

Reference
Blaeu's the grand atlas of the 17th century world
The Churches of Christ of the Congregational Way in New England
Congregational and Plan of Union churches in the Great Lakes states
Congregational churches on the plains
Family History Library research
Plan of Union and Congregational Churches of Christ in the Middle Atlantic states

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

Anne Cabaniss for a copy of the A. Polsky Department Store commemorative brochure.

LaBrenda Fitzgerald for a 1968 Buchtel High School yearbook.

Catherine Hershey for Combination Atlas Map of Summit County, 1874.

Janice Kelly for a copy of a postcard of the 1913 flood in Massillon, Ohio.


Russell Sibert for historical materials pertaining to the University of Akron, Akron Press Club, NEOUCOM and Quaker Square.

Leonard F. Shetler, Jr. for genealogy and local history books from the collection of Alvin and Jean Shetler.

William C. Wetz for three historical publications about Ohio and the Western Reserve.

Rexford G. Wiggers for War Behind the Lines: the Civil War History of the 115th Ohio Infantry Regiment, 1862-1865.

Call For Past Pursuits Topics
We want to write what you want to read. Do you have a specific local history or genealogy topic you’d like us to cover in Past Pursuits? Let us know!

Bits & Bygones:
Snippets from Another Era

This unusual advertisement appeared in the Akron Beacon Journal on January 5, 1932. The building pictured is now FirstMerit Tower.
Imagine flying like this. How many Summit County residents took advantage of this opportunity, advertised in the Akron Times on July 4, 1920? The airfield is now the Kent State University Airport.