

Past Pursuits

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

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Akron's Monarch of the Skies

By Michael Elliott, Public Service Assistant

Ward Van Orman was a lucky man. He was the first to admit it. A pioneer in the early days of free ballooning, he had more than a few close calls and remarkable escapes, any one of which could have had a very different ending. Perhaps the greatest and most successful American balloon pilot of all time, he and other balloonists like him have been called "pre-astronauts" due to their early forays into the stratosphere.

Ward Tunte Van Orman (or "Van" as he preferred to be called by close friends and associates) was born September 2, 1894, in Lorain, Ohio. Showing a natural aptitude for science and mechanics, he scrimped and saved enough money through high school to enroll himself in the Case School of Applied Science – the forerunner of Case Western Reserve University. After graduating with a perfect 4.0 he came to Akron in June of 1917 and was employed by Goodyear. His training as a mechanical engineer and practical experience with motors made him a perfect fit for working with lighter-than-air aircraft. It wasn't long before he was assigned to the Naval air station at Wingfoot Lake. There he trained future U.S. Navy blimp pilots.

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Ward Van Orman in retirement, still wearing his trademark bow tie. Image from Len Davis.

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Survey Follow Up

By Joanne O'Dell, Librarian

Thank you to all of you who completed our online survey. We had nearly 100 responses and many fantastic ideas for future projects. We are investigating several for 2009. There were also many questions posed in the comments section of the survey. Two of the most frequently submitted questions appear below. We are always interested in your feedback so if you missed the survey, you can send us your comments or suggestions at speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Q: Can the library provide access to the Ancestry database from patrons' home computers?

A: Unfortunately, no. The providers of Ancestry Library Edition do not sell a subscription that includes an option for home use by patrons.

Q: Why aren't all of the censuses available online?

A: The short answer is they are but with a significant limitation. All of the census records that are publicly available are available online, even from home to library patrons. Census records are made available for research 72 years after the information is collected. The most recent U.S. Census available to the public is 1930.

Currently the library's subscription to Heritage Quest Online includes home access for our patrons. So, as a library patron, you have online access to all of the census records that are available to the public. The limitation is that Heritage Quest has not indexed several of the census years. The 1830, 1840, and 1850 census records are available but not searchable. You can only browse the records. The 1930 census is only partially indexed. Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Texas, and Virginia are searchable but the other states for the 1930 census can only be browsed. To access the states or years that are not indexed, select Search Census from the Heritage Quest Online page, then Browse. You will be prompted for the census year, state, county, and town. Then you can review all of the scanned images for that census. Heritage Quest has not published a timeline for when their indexing might be complete.

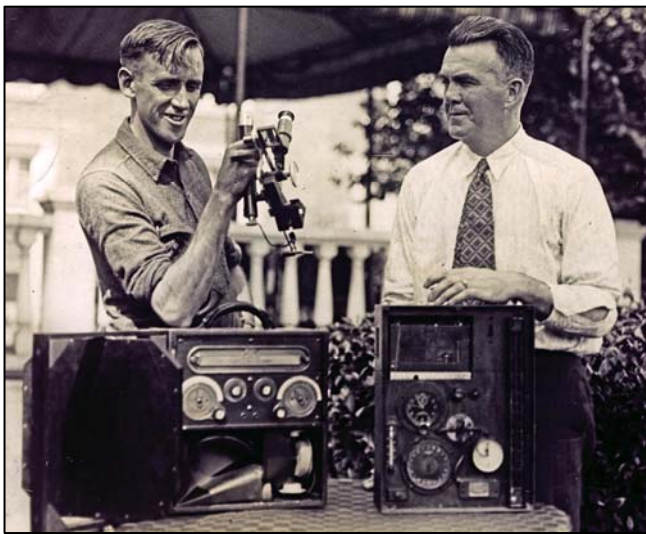
Akron's Monarch (continued)

Van Orman's first brush with lady luck involved one of his students at Wingfoot Lake. The student's arrogance and overconfidence in his ballooning skill was beginning to try Van's patience. To teach him a lesson in humility, Van Orman landed the balloon into a wheat field near Kent and informed the student it was time to solo. However, as he was climbing out of the basket, an unexpected breeze blew the balloon back aloft several hundred feet with Van Orman hanging on for dear life. Panic stricken and paralyzed with fright, the student finally managed to stammer "what do I do?" His strength fast ebbing, Van Orman directed the novice pilot to vent gas from the balloon until they lost buoyancy. Van Orman's strength finally gave out just a few feet above the ground and he walked away uninjured.

Although his skills played the major part, good fortune also figured into Van's accomplishments. He won five national races and was a three-time winner of the prestigious James Gordon Bennett Cup awarded annually to the winner of the international race. Balloon racing was somewhat popular in the 1920s and fostered national pride. Van Orman won the international race in 1926, 1929 and 1930, although he always maintained he should have been awarded the victory in 1925. In that one he and his assistant were swept out to sea and landed on a ship in the Bay of Biscay – even Van Orman claiming it was a 1 in a 100 chance. Given to understatement, he ever afterwards declared that it had been a "close call." And it was, too, as receiving a dunking in the ocean on a dark night with limited resources would have almost certainly been fatal. He remained lifelong friends with the German ship Captain who would come to America and spend his vacation in Akron. Unfortunately, the race committee decided against Van as the rules stated anyone landing in water would be disqualified.

Of all Van Orman's experiences in the air, what transpired in the national race on May 31, 1928 was the most tragic. Most of the balloons that took off from McKeesport, PA that day were soon overtaken by a violent storm. Caught in the full fury of the storm, Van Orman went through a series of

harrowing events that would have tested the mettle of the average person. The balloon was taken up and down like an express elevator, the air currents causing the basket beneath the balloon to oscillate wildly in a 25-foot circumference. During the repeated trips up and down over the next few minutes the explosive hydrogen in the balloon would roar out of the emergency outlet while downdrafts hurled them earthward so fast that it was necessary to throw out most of their sand ballast simply to check their descent. The balloon finally exploded with a lightning strike that killed his assistant and good friend, Walter Morton, while they were at about 3,000 feet altitude, plummeting the basket back to earth. Pneumatic bumpers on the bottom of the basket, padding on the floor – and again that famous luck – saved the unconscious Van Orman, cheating death once again and keeping him from any serious injury.



Ward Van Orman on the left with his assistant, Walter Morton, photographed shortly before the ill-fated international race on May 31, 1928.

Nor were the dangers strictly operational. At least once while in the air, gunshots were directed his way. And just before the 1925 National race, he was assaulted by an unknown assailant whose apparent intention was to physically injure Van Orman to prevent him from participating in the race. He was able to fend off this man but always maintained he thought this was a “hired hit” by one of his competitors in the race that year.

Not all events were negative. There could be benefits and humorous events too. Van Orman frequently mentions in his autobiography the experience of utter peace while ballooning – away from almost all noise. Once, during prohibition, near Murfreesboro, Tennessee he landed and was soon surrounded by several locals armed with shotguns who had apparently been engaged in distilling and thought he could be a federal agent. He cracked open the “medicinal” fifth of whiskey and passed it around allaying their suspicion. Having made new friends, they cheerfully assisted in folding and packing up the balloon and provided transportation to the nearest town.

Perhaps his most charming story was as they were once flying low over the outskirts of Salem, Ohio on a cold winter morning. A woman shaking out her tablecloth in her backyard spied them above and no doubt not expecting the offer would be accepted, invited them to a full bacon and eggs breakfast. Landing in the next open field, Van Orman and his aide walked briskly back to the house where the surprised but obliging matron was as good as her word.

The international race of 1933 was one in which his intuition told him not to participate. He should have listened. After crash landing in the Canadian wilderness, he and his assistant were lost for two weeks and given up for dead. After the crash, they took stock of their meager supplies and found a few cans of food. Complicating their precarious position, one of the cans of beans they had along was spoiled and they began suffering from ptomaine poisoning. They were only saved by stumbling across a telephone line and severing it. They were found by a repairman sent out to find the break in the line. Not a young man anymore and a single parent (he had lost his first wife the previous year), this experience was the last straw that got him out of balloon racing.

His post aeronautical professional career was comparatively mundane, but no less productive. He stayed at Goodyear and held several positions over the years, including manager of the physics test lab, until his retirement in 1962. While at Goodyear, he invented several useful devices, among which was

an early form of self-sealing gas tank which saved countless lives. He also invented the “airtight-zipper,” which was imperative for high altitude flying. Although very modest by nature, Van Orman always considered his inventions his greatest accomplishments as they benefited others.

Van Orman’s post-work life was also active. He was a Shriner and felt an obligation to visit patients, particularly children, in hospitals. He would take along his harmonica, which had been provided to him as a smoking substitute by Ernst Lehman (who later died in the Hindenburg disaster), Captain of the Graf Zeppelin. Smoking was strictly *verboten* on board the hydrogen filled Graf, and every time the craving for a cigarette hit, Van Orman would reach for his harmonica, most likely to the annoyance of his fellow passengers. In retirement, he indulged himself in his boyhood hobby of model trains, and neighbors and friends discovered he was a whiz at repairing clocks and small appliances. He also embarked upon a second career, of sorts, as a motivational speaker, travelling around the country to universities and businesses to talk of his experiences. Characteristically charging no speaker’s fee, he was content with his lodging and a good meal. And of course he would periodically take to the sky in hot air balloons until within a year or two of his passing.

Ward Van Orman died from the effects of a stroke on March 11, 1978 and is buried between his wives in Akron’s Rose Hill cemetery. No one could ever claim he didn’t live a full life or dispute his claim to having good luck.

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 speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

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

The Polish Community in Akron

By Jane Gramlich, Librarian

The country we now know as Poland endured many political upheavals between the late eighteenth century and the end of World War II. For over 120 years, Poland was occupied by Russia, Prussia (Germany), and Austria, and the occupying nations often sought to suppress Polish culture. Polish natives attempted increasingly frequent and bloody uprisings against the three countries, to no avail. It was amid this unrest that millions of Poles immigrated to the United States between the 1880s and early 1900s. Census records from this time often show area of origin with terms such as “Russia Poland” and “Austria Poland.”

Census records can also give us a good idea of the settlement patterns of ethnic groups at the time the census was taken. On the Library database Ancestry, it is possible to narrow a census search using county, township/city, and place of birth, which brings up a list of all individuals reporting a particular birthplace and living in a particular area. For some census years, it is possible to narrow the search by parents’ birthplace, resulting in information on the first generation of Americans born to immigrants.

Although greater numbers of Polish immigrants settled in Cleveland, creating a strong identity and culture in areas like Slavic Village, Akron has also been home to a sizable number of individuals with Polish heritage. The 1910 census reveals the seeds of the Polish community in Akron. North Canal Street was the center of a Polish settlement, with scattered households on streets nearby, including North Maple Street, Aetna Street, and West North Street. While a few of the households contained just one family, the majority took in fellow countrymen as boarders, and the general pattern of boarding was similar. Boarders were usually recent immigrants, and those boarding them were more established, having been in the United States longer. This was probably a common immigrant experience, one that was beneficial to both parties. Recent immigrants could stay with those who had come before them, helping them adjust and become acclimated. More settled families

taking in boarders could make extra money and catch up with the news from back home.

The 1910 census shows Victor and Mary Colessi, who had both immigrated by 1904, boarding four men who arrived between 1906 and 1909. Similarly, Andrew and Bernice Kosowski, who came over in 1903 with son James, boarded a man who arrived in 1909. In all, 48 Polish immigrants and their children lived on North Canal Street in 1910, in households closely clustered together. It was an area that also included Hungarian, Serbian, and African American families. The next decade saw a rapid increase in Akron's population, and Polish residents were among this surge. By 1920, over 1,600 people in Summit County had been born in Poland, and over 2,700 reported Polish parentage. The vast majority lived in Akron, with about 250 individuals scattered throughout the rest of the county.

The largest and most well-known institutions serving the Polish residents of Akron have been St. Hedwig's Church and its spinoff organization, the Polish American Citizens Club. St. Hedwig's Church was formed in 1912 but did not have a church building until the following year when a small structure was built at Otis and Lods Streets. In the interim, they held services at St. Vincent's and St. John the Baptist. As the population soared, the tiny building quickly became inadequate. In July 1924, Rev. Frank J. Koslowski transferred to the church from another St. Hedwig's in Lakewood. He is credited with planning the construction of the current St. Hedwig's Church, which was dedicated with a Christmas Mass on December 25, 1925. It included an auditorium and school, and at the time, the membership was about 400 families. St. Hedwig's was the focus of a compelling article in the *Akron Beacon Journal* on November 12, 1939, just two months after Germany had invaded Poland and World War II began. The article described the women of the church sewing clothing for refugee children and donating them through the Red Cross. Many of the women could recall their own traumatic experiences as children during World War I, and many had close relatives still living in Poland whom they could not contact.

With circumstances such as these, it is easy to see why for many years, people of Polish descent remained close and supported each other. The Polish American Citizens Club is probably the best example of their spirit of camaraderie and service. The club was organized in March, 1921. It moved into St. Hedwig's old church building in 1926, and remodeled it to include a social hall, gym, and club rooms. The organization remained at that location until 1949, when it moved to East Glenwood Avenue.

According to the 2000 census, 4.6% of Summit County residents identified themselves as primarily of Polish ancestry. While that seems a small percentage, it actually ranks in fifth place of all reported ancestries among respondents, behind German (24%), Irish (14%), English (10.3%), and Italian (8.9%). If you have Polish ancestry, there are a number of resources that can help you trace your roots. *Polish Roots* by Rosemary A. Chorzempa and *Essentials in Polish Genealogical Research* by Daniel M. Schlyter are good books to start with and both are available from Special Collections. You might also want to contact the Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland at <http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc/index.htm>. We subscribe to their newsletter, *Our Polish Ancestors*. Another helpful Web site to explore is <http://www.polishroots.org/>.

Powodzenia (good luck)!

Wesley Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

By Iris Bolar, Librarian

Wesley Temple A.M.E. Zion has a long history in Akron. It was the first African American congregation in the city. As far back as 1864, worshippers met in homes, but the church formally organized in 1868 with Rev. Joseph Armstrong as its first pastor. The church was originally called A.M.E. Zion Church.

For years, the congregation met in rented halls and in Bowen School on North Broadway. In 1870, the Ladies' Home Missionary Society worked to raise funds for a permanent church building. A lot on South High Street was purchased, and an old school was acquired and moved to the location. The effort of the congregation in securing a church of its own was met with the assistance of Akron businessman George W. Crouse. In his honor, the name was changed to Crouse Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church. The church was later renamed Wesley Temple to honor Mrs. Bell Smith Wesley, the person who raised the most money during a fundraising campaign. The High Street church was used for 46 years.

Rev. James Black became pastor in 1924 and purchased land for the current site on Prospect Street. The next pastor, Rev. Buford F. Gordon, continued with the plans for a new church. The new building was designed by black architect Herbert L. Wardner of Akron. Samuel Plato, a black contractor from Louisville, Kentucky, was hired to oversee its construction. The church was completed at a cost of \$170,000. Dedication of the new building took place in August of 1928. The neo-classical revival, red brick building with stained glass windows and fluted columns is still the home of the Wesley Temple Church. A three-floor educational wing was added in 1963.



Today's Wesley Temple A.M.E. Zion Church

During the Great Depression, Rev. J. E. Kennedy guided the church through financial hardships. The

church's Web site states, "It has been repeated over and over how Rev. Kennedy would lock the church and go fishing to avoid creditors who wanted to reclaim the pipe organ in church. Today Wesley Temple is still the only black congregation with a pipe organ." In 1945, the leadership of Rev. James P. Foote helped settle the church's financial burdens.

Wesley Temple and its members have always been in the forefront of local social issues, and its members have been leaders in the Akron community. The church was the location for the formation of the Akron NAACP. Member Ed Davis was Akron's first black councilman. Rev. Eugene Morgan Jr., appointed pastor in 1953, was the first black to serve on the Akron School Board. He also served as the board's president. Member Dr. E. Gates Morgan was the first black general surgeon in Akron. Vernon Odom served as the executive director of the Akron Urban League. Thaddeus Garrett Jr., member and later a minister at the church, had been an assistant to U.S. Representative Shirley Chisolm and President George H. W. Bush. In 1990, President and Mrs. Bush visited Wesley Temple to hear Rev. Garrett preach. On that occasion, President Bush spoke on the need to eliminate bigotry and racism in the United States.

This commitment to social activism stems from the history and mission of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. The denomination was chartered in 1801 in New York but firmly established itself after separating from the white Methodist Episcopal Church in 1820. The word "Zion" was added to the name in 1848 to distinguish the church from the Philadelphia-based black Methodists. It became known as the "Freedom Church" and worked to promote salvation, racial justice, social harmony and education. Well-known members of the A.M.E. Zion denomination included Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and Sojourner Truth.

Wesley Temple A.M.E. Zion has its place firmly set in Akron's history. The church was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. In 1996, it received an Ohio Historical marker.

My First Research Trip: Lessons Learned and Treasures Found

By Judy James, Manager

On a glorious sunny day in April, I set out from Akron for Washington Courthouse, Ohio to embark on my first genealogy research trip. As I traveled down State Route 62, I mentally checked off everything on my to-do list. After all, this is what we teach our beginning genealogy students - do your homework, make lists, and call ahead. Was I prepared? Did I forget anything?

Since I have been working on this branch of my family for many years, making a list of what I hoped to find was the easy part. Visits to the library, county archives, and several cemeteries were definite, and, with a little luck and research, possibly a visit to the site of the original homestead built by my fourth great-grandfather, John Orr, one of Fayette County's earliest settlers. What I discovered during my 36 hours in this charming and friendly town was due to following my own advice about good planning, serendipity and some guidance from those who went before me certainly played a role.

The week before my trip, I made the requisite phone calls to the library and archives. I was disappointed to learn that the public library's local history room was closed due to the renovation of their Carnegie library building. My next call was to the county archives where I spoke with Cathy who assured me that the "queens" of Fayette County genealogy would be on duty the morning of my arrival. For every site I planned to visit, I made a list of the records I hoped to find. These lists proved to be an incredible timesaver and helped to keep me focused.

My first visit was to the county archives where I was greeted by Mrs. Caroline Shaper. From the first moment, it was clear that she reigned over the archives. She was expecting me and had already pulled a thick folder of correspondence and documents made by another Orr family researcher, a cousin perhaps? As I carefully photographed the

original will and probate records of John Orr, she made copies of marriage and death records for me. In addition to his will and various other documents, the probate packet included an invoice for his black burial suit and white kid gloves! What a thrill it was to hold documents written and signed in his hand. The two hours I spent at the archives passed quickly and pleasantly. Mrs. Shaper even offered me lunch and a piece of birthday cake. As I prepared to leave, I asked if she would be able to point me in the direction of the site of the original homestead of John. The only clue I had was a cryptic description in a county history about its location on Sugar Creek near the Martinsburg Pike. It wasn't until then that she revealed that her grandfather, Mr. Garinger, had purchased John Orr's farm and she could tell me exactly where it was located. What were the chances?

My next stop was the old city cemetery tucked behind the Dairy Queen on the main drag. Although the stones were completely unreadable, I took numerous photos and pondered the lives of my ancestors who were buried there. My next stop was Washington Cemetery, the largest in the county. As cemeteries go, this one was hopping. The maintenance crew was in force, along with what appeared to be the entire high school girls' track team. I found what I was looking for, the graves of my third great-grandfather, Charles Cissna, and his daughter, my great-great-grandmother, Maria Orr, born in 1865, and, as the story goes, in the county courthouse where the family lived during her grandfather's tenure as sheriff. As I stood over her grave, I entreated her to help me with my research. I am fairly certain that I am not the only family historian who has done this! Because it was such a pleasant afternoon, I decided to wander the cemetery a bit more where I found graves of several other family members, as well as Trustin Adams, a great family friend and witness to John's will. My father, whose middle name is Trustin, suffered a fair amount of ribbing over the years about his unusual name, also the first name of his grandfather. Now that I know the origin of his name, it isn't nearly so amusing. By this time, it was starting to get dark, so I headed back to the motel where my frozen

Stouffer's dinner and a bottle of wine awaited. I used the rest of my evening to organize the information I had gleaned, plan the next day's research and make a phone call to Mr. Bonham whose farm outside of town was the site of a family cemetery. No answer, so I left a message.

The next day I was greeted by another beautiful day, perfect for cemetery exploring. I headed four miles outside of town to the Sugar Grove Methodist Church and cemetery. It was picture perfect, a neatly tended cemetery adjacent to a small brick gothic revival church. It didn't take long to find John Orr's grave. The surprise was that someone had placed a brand new stone next to John's weathered and broken original stone. Who would have done this? As with Maria, I asked John to help me with my research. At that moment I looked up to see a middle-aged man leave the church, headed to the mailbox on the road. Assuming it was the pastor, I approached him and explained why I was there. He asked if I would like to see the inside of the church. I never expected this – serendipity, or was John helping me out? It was simple, but had very pretty stained glass windows. I was delighted to discover that two windows were inscribed as memorials to ancestors who were members of the church. This was the church where my ancestors were baptized, married and buried. Following Mrs. Shaper's instructions, I turned out of the cemetery drive and drove about 200 feet to a white house she described – the site of John's original home from where he sold feed, straw, and hay.

Having left two unreturned phone messages for Mr. Bonham, I called one more time. Do I simply pull in his drive and knock on the door? Since my luck had been so good up to this point, I summoned my courage and did so. As it turned out, a knock on the door would not be necessary. As I pulled into the long drive, I was greeted by three very large and noisy dogs. Mr. Bonham greeted me and gave me permission to drive back to his field where I could park. Two farm gates later (another lesson – no clogs when visiting cemeteries!) and accompanied by my still-barking dog friends, I found the cemetery. Only four stones remain and only one was readable. Once again, I discovered another

shiny new stone, this one for John's wife and mother. I thought for sure that the farmer would know who was responsible, but he was nowhere to be found. Back to town for camera batteries, an essential that was not on my list, another lesson.

After a relaxing lunch on a blanket in the city park, I decided to explore downtown a bit. The beautiful courthouse retains the bullet holes from a riot in 1894, and the original courthouse/sheriff's office where Maria was born still serves as a county office. As I headed back to my car, I realized that I was parked directly across the street from the current sheriff's office. By this point I was feeling pretty brazen and walked right in. I was warmly greeted by Deputy Cotner. When I told him why I was there, he pulled out a binder of historical photographs of every sheriff's office in each of Ohio's eighty-eight counties, the work of retired Sheriff Bob Russell. Deputy Cotner insisted that I take Mr. Russell's home phone number. He was sure Mr. Russell would have information about Charles Cissna and would be happy to speak with me. That is a call I still need to make.

Late that afternoon I departed from Washington Courthouse feeling satisfied and successful. I had new documents to study, dozens of photographs to develop, possible leads for new contacts and/or cousins, and the satisfaction of having walked the ground where my ancestors settled almost two hundred years ago.

Was my trip a success? Most definitely. Thanks to pre-planning, good weather, helpful staff, and a little luck and serendipity, I gleaned much new information about my family. While none of what I discovered was particularly unexpected, what did surprise me was the gamut of emotions I experienced during my 36 or so hours in Washington Courthouse. From the delight of discovering a gravestone, to the awe of holding nearly two-hundred-year-old documents, to the peace I felt when I entered that country church, I felt a new emotional connection, not only to my ancestors, but to the place where they lived and the people who live there now. And isn't that what family history is about – discovering our connections?

On Exhibit

Let Everybody Unite:

Summit County in the Civil War

Third Floor, Special Collections

This exhibit, a collaborative effort of the Akron-Summit County Public Library, the Summit County Historical Society and the Akron Symphony Orchestra, commemorates Summit County's role in the Civil War as told through the contributions of its residents. It was presented in conjunction with a concert and program by the Akron Symphony Orchestra observing the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, A Lincoln Celebration, held in the Main Library Auditorium February 2.

On display are Civil War era artifacts from the Summit County Historical Society and photos, newspaper excerpts and books from the Special Collections Division. Items such as canteens, drums, and medals shed light on the soldiers' experiences while biographies and obituaries allow us to better understand their lives. Women's contributions are shown through their involvement in the Soldiers' Aid Society. Although no combat took place here, history was made nonetheless, and each and every person was affected by the war effort. The exhibit illustrates how Summit County's inhabitants pulled together through work and sacrifice to help speed the war's end.

Summit Memory Updates

[Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens](#) has joined the Summit Memory Project and contributed a collection of [early Akron images](#) captured by Willard Penfield Seiberling. Mr. Seiberling, son of F.A. and Gertrude Seiberling, was a successful businessman with a lifelong interest and skill in photography.

[The Archives of the History of American Psychology](#) at the [University of Akron](#) has also joined Summit Memory and contributed the [David P. Campbell Postcard Collection](#). This collection contains more than 500 postcards from around Ohio.

The **Alumni Association of Akron City Hospital School of Nursing** has joined the Summit Memory

Project. The Association contributed a [collection of images](#) from the beginnings of the hospital and nursing school in the late 19th century.

In conjunction with an exhibit at the Lock 3 Akron History Museum, the [Akron Beacon Journal](#), and the library added [The Times They Were A-Changin': Akron Remembers 1968](#). This collection contains images of the social unrest during summer of 1968 and oral history recordings from people who remember that pivotal year.

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

Rick Acker for 1926 photograph of the annual employee outing of Herberich Hall and Harter.

Tim DeFrance for *Our Dietz-Dennate Ancestry* and *The Memories of Agnes Theresa Maglione-McMullen* by Timothy DeFrance.

Derf for *Punk Rock and Trailer Parks* by Derf.

Cheryl Engel for commemorative items from the final football game at the Rubber Bowl.

Mary Carroll Hancock for *Joseph Elias Carroll and Kinsfolk* by Mary Carroll Hancock.

Delores Jones for a 1959 Lake High School yearbook.

Janice Kelly for Walsh Jesuit and North High School yearbooks and class photographs.

Peter Shrope for CDRom: *Schropp/Schrope/Schrop/Shrope Family Genealogy*.

Mr. and Mrs. Brent Sisler for *Centennial History of Akron* and *History of Summit County, Ohio* by William Perrin.

Warren Skidmore for six books and thirty-two genealogy CDRoms.

Robert Weisberger for two bound volumes of biographical information about early Jewish community leaders and businessmen.

Workshops from Special Collections

Introduction to Internet Genealogy

Saturday, March 14, 2 – 4 pm

Overwhelmed by the abundance of genealogy information available online? Join us in Main Library's Computer Lab 2 as we discuss how to get the most from your family history web sleuthing. Learn about genealogy databases that are available through the Library, as well as how to find and evaluate many popular free genealogy web sites. As the emphasis will be on using electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended. For more information or to sign up, contact us at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors

Saturday, April 4, 2 – 4 pm OR

Tuesday, April 7, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Many of us will find immigrant ancestors somewhere in our family tree. If your immigrant ancestor arrived in the U.S. between 1820 and 1940, this workshop can help you identify your immigrant ancestor and discover 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 or to sign up, contact us at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Getting Started in Family History

Tuesday, May 5, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Join us for an orientation for new family historians. This workshop includes an overview of the genealogical sources available at the Akron-Summit County Public Library, suggestions for getting started, and tips for organizing your research. We meet in the Special Collections Division, Third Floor, Main Library. For more information or to sign up, contact us at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Finding Your Family in the US Census

Tuesday, June 2, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

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 – First Floor, Main Library. For more information or to sign up, contact us at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Workshops from Summit County OGS

American Immigration History: Connecting Your Family and Historical Migration Patterns

Saturday, March 21, 1 pm at the downtown Akron-Summit County Public Library

Understanding immigration history can place your family in the context of worldwide population movements. It can also provide pointers about where to turn next when a roadblock is encountered in family history research. Amanda Epperson, Ph.D., will discuss the broad patterns of immigration to the United States from 1607 to the present day and will also focus on migration patterns in the United States, particularly Ohio. For more information, please see http://www.acorn.net/gen/chapinfo.html#MEETING_AND_PROGRAM.

Maps, Do You Know Where Your Ancestors Lived?

Saturday, April 18, 1 pm at the downtown Akron-Summit County Public Library.

Join us for a presentation on different types of maps; top, plat, historical, migration. Find out how they can be useful in researching your ancestors. You'll find out what the area looked like and how your ancestors might have moved from here to there! We'll take a trip up to Special Collections after the presentation to look at the different maps available and explore them hands on. For more information, please see http://www.acorn.net/gen/chapinfo.html#MEETING_AND_PROGRAM.

What's Out There? Searching For Your Military Ancestor

Saturday, May 16, 1 pm at the downtown Akron-Summit County Public Library.

Flora L. VerStraten, President of the Jefferson County Chapter of the OGS, will share her knowledge of military research. She will provide handouts, rich in sources from books, county and federal records and internet sources available. There will be time for questions and discussion. If you've had success in researching a veteran, please come prepared to share what worked for you! For more information, please see <http://www.acorn.net/gen/chapinfo.html#MEETING AND PROGRAM>.

New to the Collection

Alabama

American seamen, 1867-1872
Blount County marriage index, 1820-1991
Calhoun County marriage index, 1833-1868
Clarke County marriage index, 1812-1891
Cullman County marriage index, 1877-1899
Death notices (local and foreign) from papers and notes of Charles J. Torrey III. Multiple vols.
Escambia County marriage index, 1879-1892
Higgins Mortuary records, 19th-early 20th centuries, Mobile: extracted from original mortuary records of 1930s deaths.
Marion County marriage index, 1886-1895
Randolph County marriage index 1895-1905
Roche-McKay funeral records 3 vols

Connecticut

Family secrets: 18th and 19th century birth records found in Windham County...

Delaware

Colonial Delaware soldiers and sailors, 1638-1776

District of Columbia

Marriage records index: June 28, 1877 to October 19, 1885

Indiana

Abstracts of obituaries in the Western Christian Advocate, 1834-1850
Moving west of the Appalachians, 1760-1818

Kentucky

1860 Barren County slave index
Barren County marriage index, 1799-1910
Bourbon County marriage index, 1786-1897
Calloway County cemeteries: heart of the Jackson purchase
Cemetery records, Mercer County and surrounding areas. Multiple volumes
Christian County marriage index 1797-1900
Edmonson County, unrecorded and updated cemeteries
Floyd County marriage index, 1803-1860
Floydsburg Cemetery
Harrods Creek Cemetery
Hart County cemeteries, revised and updated
Marshall County marriage records 1842-1949
Monroe County cemeteries
Pewee Valley Cemetery
Shiloh United Methodist Church Cemetery
A survey of African-American cemeteries, Oldham County

Michigan

Bethel Church cemetery, Freedom Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
Cemetery inscriptions of Saline Township, Washtenaw County
Directory of cemeteries of Washtenaw County
Early records, Southfield United Presbyterian Church, Oakland County
Eaton County cemeteries: Vermontville Township
Family maps of Eaton County: with homesteads, roads, waterways, towns, cemeteries, railroads and more
Gazetteer of the state of Michigan
Harper-Mulligan Funeral Home records 1933-49
History of Berrien and Van Buren counties, with illustrations and biographical sketches...
History of St. Joseph County with illustrations...
Inscriptions of Lodi Township, Washtenaw County
Marriage returns for Oakland County, 1836-1884
Naturalization records, Oakland County, 1827-1906
Oakland County, divorce records for 1839-1865
Oakland County, 1857 plat map transcription
Oakland County, State census for the year 1845

Michigan (continued)

Oakland County, cemeteries: Birmingham and West Bloomfield; Commerce Township; Farmington and Farmington Hills; Holly Township; Independence Township; Milford Township; Lakeside Cemetery (Holly Township, Sexton's records); Oak Hill Cemetery; Oak Hill Cemetery in Pontiac; Rose Township; Roseland Park Cemetery; St. Mary's and Royal Oak cemeteries; Southfield Township; Troy Township; White Lake Township
Pioneer history of Eaton County, 1833-1866
Royalton Township (cemeteries)
Washtenaw County, plat maps, 1856 and 1864

Mississippi

Lauderdale County marriage records, Books A, A-1, B-1, I-A 1839-1884

New Hampshire

Colonial era history of Dover
Dover death records, 1887-1937

New Jersey

Abstracts of the deaths and marriages in the Hightstown Gazette, vols. 1, 3, 4, 1861-1885
Early church records of Salem County, containing a brief summary of events...
The historical directory of Sussex County
One hundred years of the Sussex Register and County of Sussex, 1813-1913
Passaic County military service records from World War I and other wars

New York

Membership records of Seventh Day Baptist churches in western New York and northwestern Pennsylvania, 1800-1900
Old burying grounds within Harriman and Bear Mountain state parks
The register of New Netherland, 1626-1674
Westchester patriarchs: a genealogical dictionary of Westchester County families prior to 1755

North Carolina

Abstracts of obituaries in newspapers of Stokes County, 1915-1976

Beaufort County Works Progress Administration cemetery records
Burke County death certificates, 1913-1924
Burying grounds, graveyard, and cemeteries of Buncombe County
The cemeteries of Jackson County
Cemetery Records of Forsyth County
Cleveland County, death certificates
Duplin County gravestone records
Early Buncombe County African-American marriage records, 1814-1868
Early marriage bonds of Haywood County, 1808-70
Early years of Gates County cemetery and death records
The gravesites of Chatham County
Guilford County cemeteries
Pasquotank County cemeteries
Jones County cemeteries

Ohio

25th anniversary: Coshocton County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society
Abstracts from miscellaneous Delaware County newspapers, 1821-1857
America's match king: Ohio Columbus Barber, 1841-1920
Ancestral charts of Ottawa County Genealogical Society members
Ancestral surname index [Franklin County]
Bedford Township, Meigs County: road tax, 1897; teacher's term report to the township clerk, 1877-1888; school register, 1905-1907
Belmont County in World War I
Berlin Township cemeteries, Delaware County
Berkshire Township cemeteries, Delaware County
Bible records from Ohio daughters
The Bradford fire, 1920: how a big fire changed a small town [Miami County]
A brief history of Bedford Township (Meigs County)
Brown Township cemeteries, Delaware County
Calvinists incorporated: Welsh immigrants on Ohio's industrial frontier
Cemeteries, Warren County
Cemeteries of Miami County
Cemeteries of Olive Township, Meigs County
Cemetery inscriptions of Pleasant Township, Perry County: including obituaries and vital statistics

Ohio (continued)

- Cemetery transcriptions, Springfield Township, Summit County
- Chappelear Co. and Chappelear & Kaufman funeral home records, 1912-1913 [Knox County]
- Churchbook of St. Jacobus/St. James Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, 1835-1891: Marion Township, Hocking County
- Churchbook of the Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's congregation, 1836-1891: Berne Township, Fairfield County
- Churchbooks of the Betzer Union/Zion Reformed Church, 1817-1888: Bloom Township, Fairfield County
- Churchbooks of the Lutheran and German Reformed congregations of the Glick/Salem (Union)/Brick Church, 1808-1915: Bloom Township, Fairfield County
- Collections of bits and pieces of Sutton Township history (Meigs County)
- Concord Township cemeteries, Delaware County
- Crawford County directory, 1900: Bucyrus city directories, 1888-89 and 1892-93
- Davids German Reformed Church, Madison Township, Franklin County and the Winchester Charge, 1839-1900
- Death records, Meigs County
- Delaware County and grantee-grantor index, land records, 3 vols. 1800-1835
- Delaware County names index from the Military History of Ohio: 1886 soldiers edition
- Delaware County news items, 1828-1899
- Delaware County will book no. 4: 1859-1869
- Delaware-Troy Township Cemeteries, Delaware County
- Early history and war record of Wilkesville and Salem (Meigs County)
- 1827 quadrennial enumeration of adult white males of Miami County
- Every name index to Franklin County Court of Common Pleas order books, 2 parts, 1816-1827
- Fairfield County marriages, 1800-1879
- Fairfield County will and estate abstracts
- Fairfield Trace surname index, 1979-2005
- Family Bible records [Fairfield County]
- The First Regular Baptist Church and other Baptist churches of Columbus & central Ohio, 1825-44
- Floral Hills Memory Gardens, Pleasant Township, Fairfield County
- Fulton County: celebrating 150 years
- Genealogical abstracts from the Lancaster Gazette. 1826-1910
- Genealogical abstracts from the Lancaster Eagle newspaper, 13-July 1815 to 14 October 1837
- Genealogical index to chancery book volumes, 1840-1846, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas
- Genealogical name index to the Ohio Supreme Court records, Franklin County, vols. 1-4 with references to dates 1783-1839
- Genoa-Harlem Township cemeteries, Delaware County
- Grohe funeral home records, Mount Vernon 1950-58
- Guide to cemetery locations: Fairfield County
- Heidelberg Reformed Church: church history and registers I and II: Stoutsville, Clear Creek Township, Fairfield County
- Hocking County cemetery surnames
- Honored & remembered: veterans and servicemen/women of Crawford County
- Indentures of Fairfield County, 1824-1880
- Illustrated historical and business review of Meigs County for the year 1891
- Index and genealogical notes to "Sellsville, ca 1900" by Carl H. Weisheimer [Franklin County]
- Index, Clark County, newspaper abstracts
- Index of applications of the Pioneer Families of Crawford County: file numbers 001-530
- Franklinton: history and heritage
- Frontier miscellany concerning the Ohio Militia Miami County and the War of 1812
- Index, Beside the Stillwater [Montgomery County]
- Index of Bahmer's Centennial History of Coshocton County
- Index to combination atlas map of Fairfield County, 1875
- Index to naturalizations of Fairfield County, 1823
- Index to newspaper obituaries, Coshocton County, 1826-1908
- Index to probate records, Washington County, 1851-1900
- Index to the atlas of Perry County, 1875

Ohio (continued)

Index to the book Fulton County, Ohio: 1850-1976
Infirmiry records, Fairfield County, 1848-1910
Jobs/Hiobs Union Church German Reformed and
Lutheran, Violet Township, Fairfield County
Kingston-Porter-Trenton Township cemeteries,
Delaware County
The ladies of the George Washington Chapter, the
Daughters of the American Colonists
Lakeview Cemetery: Port Clinton
Liberty-Orange Township cemeteries, Delaware
County
Liberty remembers: veterans and
servicemen/women of Crawford County
Liberty Township trustee records, Fairfield County,
1835-1866
List of male inhabitants over the age of 21 in
Delaware County, in the year 1835
Lucas Sullivant: Sept. 22, 1765-Aug. 8, 1823
Maple Grove Cemetery, Pleasant Township,
Fairfield County
Marlboro-Oxford Township cemeteries, Delaware
County
Marriage consents, Crawford County, 1832 to 1900
Marietta genealogy notes
Meigs County World War II soldiers
Mercer County recorder's office original land
entries, 1829-1842
Miami County 1931 atlas
Miami County family histories: Tired Iron book
Miami County Historical and Genealogical Society:
membership 5-generation charts
Miller & O'Brien funeral home records, Mount
Vernon. 1920-1950 multiple vols.
Miller Brothers funeral home records, Mount
Vernon. 1913-1918 multiple vols.
Mt. Zwingli German Reformed Church, 1840-1932:
Rushcreek Township, Fairfield County
Morgan County birth book I, 1867-1884
Name index to the Franklin county plat maps: 1842,
1856, 1883
New guide to cemetery locations in Perry County,
3rd ed.
Newspaper obituaries of burials in Plainfield
Cemetery, Plainfield [Coshocton County]
Obituaries 1872-73, & 1876-77 (Meigs County)

Obituaries and memorial cards of some Ottawa
County people
Ottawa County first families
Perry County health department index 1908-2007
Perry County school land vote: a list of voters for the
sale of section 16
Portage Township cemeteries, Ottawa County:
Christy Chapel, Dwelle and Shook cemeteries
Pre-1900 obituaries & death notices, Perry County
Quadrennial enumerations, Fairfield County 1831-
1847
Quadrennial enumeration of adult white males,
Miami County, 1835
Radnor-Thompson Township cemeteries, Delaware
County
Records of the Zion Lutheran and Reformed Church,
Thorn Township, Perry County
Reports of births, Perry County, 1882-1883
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church: Lithopolis,
Bloom Township, Fairfield County. 1853-1920
St. Thomas Evangelical German Lutheran
congregation, 1842-1889:Madison Township,
Fairfield County
Scioto Township cemeteries, Delaware County
Shaking the family tree: a sampling of Delaware
County Common Pleas court records pre-1900
Sines history of Meigs County
A study of the history of Meigs County
There are no strangers at the feast: Catholicism and
community in northeastern Ohio
Those who gave all: Meigs County World War II
soldiers killed in the war
To dwell with fellow clay: the story of the East
Cleveland Township Cemetery
Trinity Lutheran Church, Marcy-Ashville, Pickaway
County
Trinity (Sponagle) Lutheran Church: baptism,
confirmation and marriage records (1842-1982):
Bern Township, Fairfield County

Pennsylvania

The cemeteries of Colebrook Township, East
Keating Township, Grugan Township, Leidy
Township, Noyes Township and West Keating
Township, Clinton County
Cemeteries of Columbia County, vols. 2-5
Cemeteries of northern Columbia County

Pennsylvania (continued)

The cemeteries of Dunnstable Township, Clinton County
The cemeteries of Gallagher, Wayne Pine Creek Townships, and Avis Borough, Clinton County
The cemeteries of Woodward Township, Clinton County
Church membership 1857-1881: "the pioneer days" of the Methodist [Clinton County]
Clinton County court naturalization records
Clinton County divorce court records: December 1867 – June 1993
Court of Common Pleas records, 1813-1824: Lebanon County
The Cowan's Gap CCC Camp of Fulton County
Marriages and deaths, 1865-1884, from Fulton County newspapers
St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church, Tyrone, PA: church records
Sideling Hill CCC, CPS and POW camps of Fulton County
United States direct tax of 1798 for Fulton County, Pennsylvania

South Carolina

African-American cemeteries, Anderson County

Tennessee

Carroll County marriage index 1839-1950
From whence we came: the history of Greater Pleasant View Baptist Church, 1894-1999
Monroe County, Tennessee, tombstone inscriptions: W.P.A. records
Polk County marriage index, 1894-1898

Virginia

1890 Bland County property tax records
Bland County court order book 1872-1891
Bland County, deed book, v. 1
Bland County index to wills from 1754-1830
Bland County obituaries and death records from the archives of the Virginia State Library
Bland County will book, v. 1
The colonial churches of St. Thomas' Parish, Orange County, Virginia: with notes on sites in Orange, Greene and Madison counties
Deed and will abstracts of Stafford County, 8 May 1780 -13 March 1786

Jamestowne ancestors, 1607-1699: commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Landing at James Towne, 1607-2007

More obituaries of Bland County, 1870-2004
The stones bear witness [Bland County]

West Virginia

Fayette County, West Virginia: marriages for 1903 through 1931; personal property tax records for 1831 and 1833

Graveyard history of Morgan County

The history of Taylor County

A history of the town of Bath (Berkeley Springs)

Land book number 1 [Taylor County]

Morgan County death records, 1865-1903

Morgan County births, 1865-1904

Morgan County marriage records (1865-1903)

Morgan County marriage records, 1820-1865

Morgan County obituaries

Sistersville and Tyler County

Military

American women and the U. S. armed forces: a guide to records of military agencies...

The Salem Light Guard: Company G, 36th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Marietta, Ohio, 1861-1865

Tears on the Bluestone: a Civil War portrait of Mercer County, Virginia, now West Virginia

Native Americans

Indians from New York in Wisconsin and elsewhere
Indians from New York, vol. 3

New England

Early New Englanders and kin: a genealogical tree of more than 12,000 inter-related individuals...

Reference

The Trans-Mississippi west, 1804-1912

Ireland

Basic guide to Irish records for family history

Erin's sons: Irish arrivals in Atlantic Canada

Finding your Irish ancestors: unique aspects of Irish genealogy

Irish emigrants in North America: part 4 & part 5

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

New to the Collection (continued)

Netherlands

Dutch colonists in the Americas, 1615-1815

Scotland

Huguenot and Scot links, 1575-1775

Family History

Addendum: a historical supplement of One Saxon
Headed West and Uncensored Leaves of a
Family Tree [Neibarger]

William Lantz/Lance family history: descendants of
Andreas Lantz

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