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BEACON SOCIABILITY

GATHERING OF CORRESPONDENTS, PROPRIETORS AND EMPLOYEES  
IN PHOENIX HALL

It has been the cherished desire of several Beacon correspondents for a few years past, to hold a general gathering or reunion of correspondents, employes and others identified with the Beacon. This idea was partially carried out last fall during the Fair of the Summit County Agricultural Society, where a few of the correspondents got together in one of the dining halls, and enjoyed a pleasant time. This little reunion had the effect only to kindle a stronger desire for a more general gathering which finally culminated in the one held yesterday. At a meeting of several of the more active correspondents, an executive committee consisting of Rev. Daniel Emmerson of Peninsula; W. J. Schrop of Springfield and Wellington Miller of Copley, was appointed to make all necessary arrangements, prepare a programme, fix the date and place of meeting, etc. Fountain Park was selected as the place at which to hold the reunion, but the heavy rains of the past few days caused a change, Phoenix Hall being selected. Some 12 correspondents, the editorial staff, employees, and others with their wives and families gathered together about 10:30 o'clock. The remainder of the forenoon was passed in social converse, and in becoming acquainted one with another. A little after high noon the party nearly 50 in all, sat down to a sumptuous repast, prepared by the ladies. When the tables had been pretty well cleared of the substantial, Mr. W. J. Schrop, chairman of the committee called the meeting to order. Rev. D. Emmerson was selected chairman, and W. J. Schrop, secretary.

REV. D. EMMERSONS ADDRESS OF WELCOME

Upon assuming the chair, Mr. Emmerson thanked the meeting for the honor conferred and said: We are met together on a new and most interesting occasion. More than 40 ladies and gentlemen distributed through this county and its vicinity as regular correspondents, together with the editors, printers and other colaborers on the Beacon have been invited to meet together for the first time, and see one another face to face. As a band almost of brothers and sisters, we have been engaged in a common cause, and from week to week, and some of us from day to day, have mutually spread the common labor of our minds and our hands before the eyes of each other. The speaker refered to the fact that most of the correspondents were known to each other only by their nons de plume and said that in order to become acquainted with each other the roll would be called and each correspondent was to answer in propria persona. He then spoke of his gratitude for the gift of a well regulated newspaper; paid a generous tribute to the Beacon, and closed by bidding welcome to all present. His remarks were greeted with applause.

THE BEACONS HISTORY

THE TOAST "PAST AND PRESENT HISTORY OF THE SUMMIT BEACON  
RESPONDED BY S. A. LANE, MAYOR OF AKRON

In opening, Mr. Lane referred to the fact that the day thus celebrated was the 46th anniversary of his advent to Akron and followed this by the story of how he first acquired a taste for

journalism - his taking a temporary position in a southern newspaper office in 1834, while as a book canvasser awaiting in Georgia, a consignment of books from the north. The taste thus developed led, on his return to Akron three years later, to his purchase of a dismantled newspaper office and the starting of the famous Akron Buzzard. Out of the discontinuance of the Buzzard grew, in 1839, the Summit Beacon, as the successor of the American Ballance, with Mr. Hiram Bowen as editor. He then continued: Notwithstanding its flush financial start on the 17th day of April, 1839, and notwithstanding it became the official organ of the Whig party and the new county of Summit, erected in 1840, the Beacon, like most of the weekly papers of the Western Country, at that early day, had a hard struggle for existence for several years. But through the pluck and energy of its founder, and the increasing ability and liberality of the business men of the town and county its success became finally assured, and though its offices of publication and their entire contents have three several times been consumed by fire, the paper, for the full 42 years of its existence has never missed an issue, though sometimes somewhat diminished in size while recovering from its several disasters and it now steadily where it has always stood, in the front rank of the weekly papers of Ohio. About the year 1845, Mr. Bowen sold the Beacon to Mr. Laurin Dewey (previously editor of the Ohio Star at Ravenna, and sheriff of Portage County) and brother-in-law of Mr. Richard S. Elkins, then a member of the Book and Drug firm of Beebe and Elkins, the name of the firm being Dewey and Elkins, Mr. Dewey officiating as editor and Mr. Elkins being a practical printer, having charge of the mechanical department. On the 9th day of June 1848, the office was destroyed by fire, but was immediately re-established, and later in that year Messrs. Dewey and Elkins sold to John Teesdale, Esq, previously editor of the Ohio State Journal, and state printer of Iowa. Mr. Teesdale soon formed a partnership with Messrs. Beebe and Elkins and united the printing business with the Book and Drug Business, under the firm name Elkins, Teesdale & Co., Mr. Teesdale being the sole editor of the paper. He was a graceful but incisive writer, and under his management the Beacon becoming with the change of parties, in 1854, the organ of the Republican party of Summit County, attained a high degree of popularity. Feb. 27th, 1856, Mr. Teesdale sold his interest to his co-partners, Messrs Beebe and Elkins, Mr. Teesdale, however, continuing to act as the editor of the paper until May 1st of that year. On the retirement of Mr. Teesdale, James S. Carpenter, Esq. became the sole editor of the paper, under whose management the high reputation of The Beacon, as voicing the advanced sentiment of the Republican party, was fully maintained. On his accession to the Bench of the Court of Common Pleas for Summit, Medina and Lorain Counties, Judge Carpenter on the 22nd day of Oct, 1856, vacated the editorial chair in favor of the hon Asabel H. Lewis, a former state senator for Summit and Portage Counties, a thorough schollar and a pungent writer, the name of R. S. Elkins, one of the publishers of the paper, also appearing as associate editor. On the 29th of Dec. 1856, the entire office, together with the Book and Drug Store of the proprietors was again destroyed by fire, but Phoenix like,

it once more speedily arose from its ashes in a more attractive form than ever before. The editorial connection of Mr. Lewis with the Beacon continued until Jan 10th, 1861, when he was superceeded by our speaker, then just retiring from four years of service as Sheriff of Summit County. Single and alone I performed the entire editorial duties of the office, besides doing considerable canvassing throughout the county both for subscriptions and for local items. It was my aim to make the Beacon more thoroughly a home paper than it had hitherto been, by giving more attention to local matters than was then customary with the weekly papers of the country. I established as far as was then practicable, the system of township correspondence which is now so valuable a feature of the paper, and which is the occasion of this happy gathering here today. I also paid especial attention to army correspondence during the war, devoting many a weary hour, after other people were asleep, to dressing up and getting into presentable shape the hastily written but graphic descriptions of army life and experiences, penned the "Boys in Blue" to their loved ones at home or directly to The Beacon itself. The results of the "new departure" immediately became visible in the enhanced circulation of the paper, which during the four years of the war, increased from about 1,300 to about 2,500 copies weekly. So far I had been working upon a salary for Messrs. Beebe & Elkins. In Jan, 1865, those gentlemen sold to myself and Horace G. Canfield each a one third interest in The Beacon, the firm name being changed to Elkins, Lane and Co. This arrangement continued two years, myself as editor, Beebe & Elkins as business managers and Mr. Canfield in charge of the mechanical department. In Jan 1867, the remaining one third interest of Beebe & Elkins was purchased by Albertis L. Paine and Dennis J. Long, former apprentices in the office, and faithful soldiers during the war, the Summit County Journal those gentlemen published by becoming thenceforth merged into The Beacon. The name of the firm was Lane Canfield & Co, the sole editorial duties being performed by myself until the winter of 1868-69 when Mr. Thomas C. Raynolds, then greshly graduated from Michigan University; but with decided journalistic proclivities, was employed as assistant editor and local reporter. The speaker then spoke in pleasing strain of the inauguration, in 1867, of the pay in advance system and then said: In the meantime Akron had grown from a village of 3000 inhabitants in 1850 to a city of 10,000 in 1869, with an augmented commercial and manufacturing activity to match, creating a demand for something faster than a weekly local paper. To satisfy this demand, after a careful survey of the field, Messrs. Lane Canfield and Co. on the 6th day of Dec, 1869, issued the first number of the Akron Daily Beacon, a seven folio, myself, as editor in chief, and Mr. Raynolds as assistant doing the entire editorial and reportorial work. Though quite a liberal advertizing patronage was at once accorded the daily by the liberal minded business men of Akron, its average daily circulation the first year was only about 600. Gradually, however, the people have come to appreciate its worth as a gatherer and disseminator of local as well as frest general news, until now its average daily circulation is a little over 2,000.

In June 1870, Mr. Reynolds severed his connection with the paper, Mr. Carson Lake, then a compositor in the office, taking his place, and for several weeks, in the summer and fall of that year, during the illness and absence of the editor in chief from the office, he performing the entire editorial and reportorial work upon the paper. In Dec, 1871, the establishment was transferred to the Beacon Publishing Company, Messrs. Canfield and Paine retiring from the concern, and myself and Mr. Long retaining our respective one third and one sixth shares as stock in the new corporation. In organizing the new company your speaker was elected business manager, and Mr. Long secretary, he continuing also to act as superintendant of the news department. At this too, Mr. Reynolds was recalled and placed in charge of the editorial department of the paper, in which capacity, with the exception of one short interregnum, he has since acted with Mr. Wilson M. Day as his able and faithful lieutenant. Mr. Lane then told the story of the fire of April 27th, 1872, which destroyed the entire establishment but did not cause the suspension of a single issue, the rebuilding and enlargement of the old Beacon block, the heavy loss, which caused the sacrifice of the entire stock and its purchase by a new company composed of Messrs. Thomas C. Reynolds, Frank Staral, and John H. Auble, in Jan, 1875, the final retirement of the speaker from the establishment, in Dec. 1875, with "nary a nickle" to show for nearly 15 years of unceasing effort and labor, the retirement of Mr. Auble a year later and the sale of his stock to his remaining co-laborers, and a reference to the present condition of the office, and thus concluded: The Beacon, therefore notwithstanding its many disastrous reverses, may well be considered one of the permanent institutions of Akron and of Summit County, and taken all in all, one of the most complete establishments of its kind in the state; and notwithstanding my own personal misfortunes in connection therewith, I shall ever feel a sort of paternal pride in its prosperity, and cherish a mingled feeling of affection and commiseration for its faithful but often sorely tired proprietors, employes and contributors; for verily, I know, by dear bought experience, just exactly "how it is myself!" Thanking you for your patience with which you have listened to this necessarily dry and somewhat lengthy homily, I close with the sentiment: "The Beacon and Its Correspondents, Long May they Scintillate!".

SUMMITS PAST AND PRESENT

MR. C. C. BRONSON, OF TALLMADGE, UPON CALL ABLY RESPONDED TO THE TOAST, "PAST AND PRESENT OF SUMMIT COUNTY."

By act of the legislature, the county of Summit was brought into existence March 3rd, 1840, and by the election of officers it was organized into a county April 6th, 1840. Thus 41 years only has it been in existence, a rather short time to make history. But when we look into the past we find young Summit has a history that some of her older sister counties might feel proud of. Be this as it may, there are many things worthy of our consideration. We are on the great watershed, or divide, between the water that

runs into Cuyahoga River, and mingles with the ocean at the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and that which runs south into the Tuscarawas River, mingling with the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and falling into the Gulf of Mexico. The Indian trails across the county of Summit are worthy of a few moments attention. First there was the great Indian Trail, the highway of savages, that came from the northwest around the south end of Lake Michigan, crossing the country near the line between Michigan and Indiana, running in both states and into the Ohio, crossing the Maumee at Perryburg, the Sandusky at Fremont, thence across the country to the crossing of the Cuyahoga River, at a point in early days known as Cuyahoga Portage. Here the trail continued by crossing the river and crossing Northampton into Stow township by the outlet of Silver Lake, and into Franklin township in Portage County by crossing the Cuyahoga at the Standing Stone, thence by the Salt Spring to the Forks of the Ohio, now Pittsburgh. Another trail left this where it crossed Fish Creek near the east line of Stow township, taking a northwesterly course, and crossing the Center road near the Kilbourn in Hudson, thence to Pontys Camp in Boston. A trail left at the Portage, taking a southeast course crossing the Little Cuyahoga at its mouth, and then crossing it again between Gilchrists Mill and King J. Ellets in Springfield, and thence to the Ohio River at Steubenville or Wellsville. But the most important is the celebrated Portage Path. This old highway of the savage nations is classic ground almost. The Indians with their canoes, when they wished to cross the country from Lake Erie to the Ohio River, made this one of their principal routes. Leaving Lake Erie, they would ascend the Cuyahoga River, to the point well known as Cuyahoga, or Old Portage. Here they left the river and carried their canoes, with other possessions across to the Tuscarawas River, near the road where it crosses the Tuscarawas, leading from Akron to Manchester. The Portage Path was surveyed by Moses Warren, of the Connecticut Land Company in 1797, and he found it to be eight miles and four chains and 55 links long. If I am correctly informed, this celebrated path is a well defined highway from the Portage up the hill, thence in a southerly course to the stone house, the residence of our venerable fellow citizen, Simon Perkins. Thence to the Tuscarawas on the Summit County Atlas, it is well defined by a dotted line marked, Portage Path or Indian Trail. Mr. Warren in his report says: "After ascending the hill west of the Cuyahoga Portage, the land will admit a good road being built to the Indian Portage on the Tuscarawas. Gen. Bierce locates the Indian Portage at what is at this day New portage. This was as far as Flat Boats ascended the Tuscarawas, but the Indians ascended about two miles more in their canoes. But our attention is called to another portion of history of which the county of Summit is interested. When the Federal Constitution was adopted by the 13 states, and the United States of America, went into operation as a government, they began to adopt plans to extinguish the Indian titles to the land northwest of the Ohio River. Commissioners on the part of the United States were appointed to meet the several tribes of Indians who laid claim to the land to meet in council at Fort McIntosh in Pennsylvania. This Fort stood at the mouth of the Big Beaver River. The names of the commissioners on the part

of the United States I have not learned. The Indian Tribes interested were the Delawares, Shawanese, Otawas, Potwatomies, and Weas. The six Confederated Nations in the State of New York; were also represented they having a claim on the land to be ceded. This Treaty was opened Jan 21st, 1785. By this Treaty, the Indians ceded to the United States, and at the same time the Indian title was extinguished to all their lands east of the following boundaries. Commencing on the south shore of Lake Erie, at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River, up said River to the Portage. Then following the Indian Trail known as the Portage Path, to the portage on Tuscarawas, then down the Tuscarawas River to Fort Laurens, (half a mile below the present village of Bolivar, in Stark County) thence a westerly course across the country to a point known in the early history of the north west territory as Loramies, (this point is at the mouth of Loramies Creek, 16 miles N. W. of Shelby, the county seat of Shelby County, O. This is a place of historic interest. For it was the first place of an English Settlement in Ohio. But there was a trading post here as early as 1752. The Treaty Line thence down the Big Miami River, to the Ohio River. The Treaty of Fort McIntosh was not satisfactory to the Indians, and an Indian War ensued. Gen Harmar was defeated near Fort Wayne, in Sept. 1790. The Indians continuing hostile, another Army commanded by Major Gen. Arthur St. Clair, who was governor of the territory north west of the Ohio River. Nov 3rd, 1791 St. Clair was defeated with heavy near Fort Jefferson, near the line of the present counties of Darke and Mercer Ohio.

In the spring of 1794, the army assembled at Greenville in Darke County, under the command of Major Gen Anthony Wayne; he met the Indians and fought the Battle of Fallen Timbers Aug. 3rd, 1795 which confirmed the Treaty of Fort McIntosh. Thus we find young Summit to be the line of demarkation between the United States and Indian Territory, from the northwest corner of Northfield, to the Tuscarawas Portage, and thence down the Tuscarawas River to the 41st parrallel of Lattitude, until June 1805. The Treaty of Fort Industry extinguished the Indian Title to the whole Western Reserve. The first settlement of Summit County was in the township of Hudson, by David Hudson Esq. and others. Mr. Hudson came in 1799, and being one of the origional proprietors of Town 4 Range 10, he came to explore and survey the township. Joseph Darrow, was the surveyor, and the survey of the township was completed Oct. 11th, 1799. The next day, Mr. Hudson left for Connecticut and arrived safe. And on one of the early days of June 1800, he and his colony arrived and the township had received the name of Hudson. The first celebration of the nations natal day in Summit County was held on what is now the park at the center of Hudson, July 4th, 1800. The men, women and children all sat at a table made of elm bark in the shade of the forrest and partook of a dinner. The population of Hudson, on that day all told was a grand total of 42 inhabitants. The first birth of a white child in Hudson, or the county of Summit, was Anner May, daughter of David and Anna Hudson, was born Oct. 28th, 1800. She occupies the house her father built in 1806; and is the widow of the late Harvey Baldwin of Hudson. "This certifies that George Darrow, and Miss Olive Gaylord, both of Hudson were married Oct. 11th, 1801, by me David Hudson, Justice

of the Peace. Recorded in Trumbull County Records May 12th, 1802, John Stark Edwards, Recorder.

This being the first marriage ceremony in the County of Summit. The first saw and grist mills in Summit County was built on Tinkers Creek in the north east part of Hudson in 1801, the saw mill in operation in the fall of 1801. The grist mill in the spring of 1802. The first frame erected was a barn built by Esq. Hudson in 1802. The first frame house was built by Deacon Stephen Thompson in Hudson. In all probability the house erected by Esq. Hudson in 1806, now the residence of his daughter Mrs. Harvey Baldwin, is the oldest building in Summit County. And is thought to be the first two story frame house built west of the longitude of Warren on the Reserve. David Hudson was the first Justice of the Peace of Hudson, when it began at the south east corner of Atwater, thence north to the north east corner of Hiram, thence west to the north west corner of Northfield, thence south on the Cuyahoga River Portage Path and Tuscarawus River to the 41st parallel of Latitude, thence east to the place of beginning, and is known as Hudson. When Portage County was organized in 1808, two of her associate Judges were from the county of Summit, William Wetmore of Stow, and Aaron Norton of Tallmadge, now middlebury. And the present state of Summit County is well worthy of our attention, 81 years ago a vast unbroken forest with one exception; and what do we see today: the fruitful fields, the pleasant farm house, the noble barns, the fine horses and cattle, and the sheep on a thousand hills. The large amount of low and swampy that have been reclaimed and have been made valuable land for cultivation, all show forth the prosperity of her farmers. Then take a view of the various manufactories in many parts of the county. The mills to manufacture flour and feed for man and beast; the manufacture farm implements, sewer pipe and potters ware, fire brick, wagons and carriages, friction mashes and rubber goods. Including machine shops, foundries, with rolling mills, wire mills, and paper mills. All these employ a large of men and some women, they and their families are consumers of the products of the farmer. By this the producer and the consumer are able to aid each other on the way to prosperity. Then look into the various mercantile establishments and see the business they transact; it all shows the great degree of prosperity with all classes of her inhabitants. There are those now living that have seen almost the whole of Akron and Cuyahoga Falls a forest. The great project of DeWitt Clinton to build the Erie Canal, when it went into operation, caused a visible change. Then when the Ohio Canal was located across the Portage Summit, Middlebury held a jubilee, for Akron was nowhere. But when the canal commissioners let the jobs to the various who put in proposals. Akron received its name and began to be populous; but still Middlebury was a place of much business and at one time had eight, for that day heavy dry goods stores in full blast. Two flouring mills were in operation in Middlebury, and one at Cuyahoga Falls, which opened a market for wheat, which had previously hardly worth raising beyond

family consumption. Now Summit County has great facilities, by canal and by the railroads, two of which run northerly and southerly and one northeast and southwest, passing through Akron, her county seat. And the other places are receiving great benefit from the same sources. From all this may we not draw a safe inference that the people of Summit County may feel proud of her past history and not be ashamed by any means of her present history, while they entertain great hopes of her future.

#### POWER OF THE NEWSPAPER PRESS

Mr. Wm. Day, associate editor of the Beacon responded by referring, by way of contrast to the fact that in 1841, when President Harrison, it was ten days before the news reached Springfield, Ill. and then Abraham Lincoln would not believe it, because it seemed impossible to have come in so short a time, while, a few days ago, within four minutes from the moment Iroquois passed the wire, the first American horse to win the English Derby, the news was going into type in the office of the New York Telegram. To the telegraph the newspaper owed much, as it would in the future owe a great deal more to the telephone and kindred inventions. In illustration of what had been said by previous speakers, Mr. Reynolds read from dispatches just received, to show how the news of the world comes in.

#### THE MORAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRESS

This toast was ably responded to by Rev, J. A. McKinstry of Richfield. The speaker presented some very excellent thoughts and well worthy the consideration of every honest and fair-minded journalist. In closing his remarks he said: The newspaper is the instructor of the age. It is bound to see that all is for good. A wholesome newspaper is a blessing not to be estimated by gold or silver. Long life to the Akron Beacon; may its light go forth on its mission to guide and to bless.

#### OHIO, THE MOTHER OF STATESMEN

"Ohio the Mother of Statesmen" being the next sentiment, it was responded to by Mr. Hiram S. Falor, of Columbus. He said; From the stock of Virginia, mother of Presidents, Ohio worthy decendant and true to her ancestry, the mother of statesmen and soldiers comes. Less than 100 years old, the nation but a little older, yet what mighty changes she has produced. In 1788 the sturdy pioneers drove the aborigines from their abode, the wild beast from his lair, dammed the streams, strewed the forests, decked the earth with smiling fields and happy homes, and the hillsides with churches and schools. Old John Brown so well known to you all, as the apostle of freedom and martyr, found reffuge here. It was an Ohio statesman who dared utter the truth and tell the slaveholders of the south, that no man, white or black was so poor as not to possess the inalienable right to be free. Joshua R. Giddings was that man. When the conflict came, 300,000 Ohio men responded and under the leadership of Ohio men like McDowell, McPherson, McClellan, Rosecrans,

Buell, Mitchell Gilman, Grant, Sheridan, Sherman, poured forth their lives blood. Ohio burnished General Schenk, Salmon P. Chase, "Bluff" Ben Wade, Edwin M. Stanton, Morison R. Waite. In times of war, the service of Ohio Statesmen could not be dispersed with, in times of peace they have not been. The Treasury department has been placed in the hands of Sherman and Windom. The names of Hayes and Garfield now stand side by side with that over which Ohio statesmen have presided, and the nation needs no better. Who knows but standing here today among this group of intelligent literary men, Ohio may produce a greater than these time alone can tell.

'THE BEACON STAFF AND EMPLOYEES' WERE NEXT TOASTED  
THE RESPONSE OF A WINTENBERG FOREMAN OF THE JOB ROOM

As follows: Not being aware that I was expected to respond here, my remarks will be brief. As to "the Beacon employees" there is not a more enlightened, hard working, and at the same time more genial set of fellows anywhere and in their behalf I desire to return our sincere thanks for this pleasant entertainment etc. Rev D. Emmerson, W. J. Schrop and H. S. Falor, com. They adjourned

"MEMORIAL SERVICES"

Marking the spot where the First Congregational Church was  
gathered in the log house of Rev. David Bacon  
The venerable Dr. Leonard Bacon and his sons present and participating

'Twas a great and notable day in the township of Tallmadge, Thursday, June 2, 1881. About 10 o'clock that morning a long procession of double and single carriages bearing the good people of the vicinage started the center of town and moved down the south road a distance of two miles and over, and thence into a grove one half mile west of the main highway. The line was led by the Tallmadge Cornet Band whose music waked the echoes in the country round and gave such early warning of the approach of the procession that people living on its route made ready to join it as it passed their farms. Next after the band rode the honored guests of the day. Rev. Leonard Bacon, D.D., of New Haven Conn; L. Wolsey Bacon, of Norwich Conn; and two Misses Bacon, daughter and granddaughter of the venerable divine first named. These members of the Bacon family had come to witness the placing of a remorial stone on the spot where Rev. David Bacon built his cabin when Tallmadge was literally a howling wilderness; and the purpose of the citizens in thus assembling themselves together was to attend to this same business and to listen to some account of the preacher pioneer.

PLACING THE MEMORIAL STONE

Having arrived at the grove, the horses and buggies were abandoned and left at its outer edge, while the people passed on into the shady depths, carrying their lunch baskets with them, and finally halted at a point where a platform had been erected and rows of seats arranged for the greater comfort of both































































































































