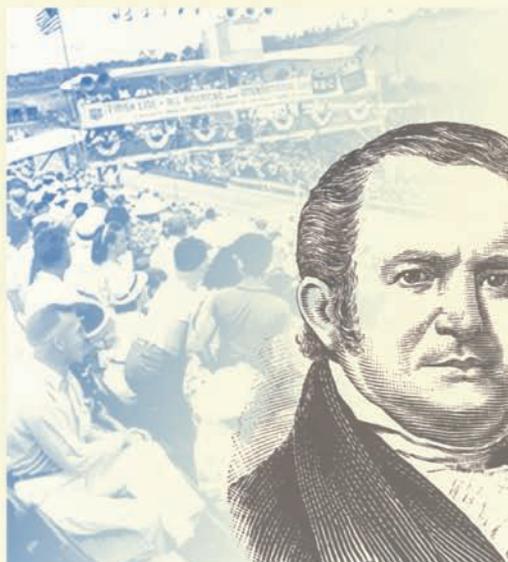# Genealogy and Local History Resources and Services

What does "Special Collections" mean?

In most libraries, it refers to unique, fragile, or hard-to-find historical documents and resources. The subject matter of these resources is often genealogy and local history. Many Special Collections materials can be damaged by excessive use, heat, light, or moisture, and preservation is one of our most important concerns. For this reason, most of our materials cannot be checked out, but you are welcome to use them in our reading room. We are happy to take your inquiries and look forward to serving you! Our goal is to collect, preserve, and provide access to the history of Summit County, and to continue to maintain one of the area's most extensive genealogy collections.

Akron-Summit County Public Library

330-643-9030

Special Collections Division
60 S. High Street, Akron, OH 44326
www.akronlibrary.org

Contents

Genealogy Resources

Whether you're new to genealogy or an experienced researcher, our collection can help! We have a large collection of how-to books that can be checked out with a valid Akron-Summit County Public Library card. Our resources concentrate on the eastern half of the United States; however, other regions are included. Many of our resources are on microfilm or CD-ROM. Books are arranged first by geographical location (state, county); then by type of record (cemeteries, marriages, or newspaper abstracts, for example). The following list offers highlights of our collection. For a more complete list, see the Special Collections Web site at http://www.akronlibrary.org/main-sc.html.

Summit County Sources (online access available where noted)

- Akron Beacon Journal obituary indexes, online through our Web site.
- Akron city directories from 1859, online up to 1968 through our Web site.
- Birth and death records and indexes, 1869-1908.
- Glendale Cemetery burial records 1839–1989
- Mt. Peace burial records 1880–1916, Springfield Township Cemetery transcriptions, and St. Vincent Cemetery transcriptions, online through our Web site.
- Cunningham Funeral Home records, 1906–1966.
- Estates, 1840–1958, and index 1840–1949.
- Indexes to deeds by grantee and grantor, 1840–1914.
- Index to deeds, grantors only,1795-1840, including townships from Trumbull, Portage, Medina and Stark Counties that eventually became part of Summit County.
- Marriages, 1840–1922, and index, 1840–1943.
- Naturalization records, online through Summit County Clerk of Courts at http://www.cpclerk.co.summit.oh.us/.
- WWI draft registration cards, online through Ancestry Library Edition.
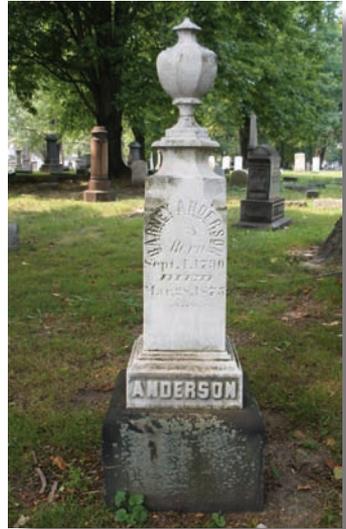
Ohio Sources (online access available where noted)

- Microfilmed vital records for Portage, Medina, and Stark Counties.
- Ohio death certificates, 1908–1953, and index, 1908–1954, online through Family Search Labs, www.familysearchlabs.org. (transcribed information) or http://fsbeta.familysearch.org (digital images).
- Directories, histories, and selected transcribed vital records for many Ohio counties.
- Ohio 1812 tax list.
- *Genealogical Data Relating to Women of the Western Reserve Before 1840–1850.*

United States Federal Census on Microfilm

(online access through Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage Quest)

- All available census records for Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Alabama through 1930.
- Partial census records for Connecticut, New York, Virginia, and eight other states.
- Extensive collection of printed indexes for most states, including available mortality and slave schedule indexes.

Databases

- Ancestry Library Edition
- Heritage Quest
- Footnote
- World Vital Records
- New England Ancestors
- *Akron Beacon Journal,* 1984-current, and Cleveland *Plain Dealer*, 1991-current.

- Access NewspaperArchive
- CD-ROM collection.
- Note: Access to databases varies and can change with company policy. Some are available in the Library only; some offer home access with a library card. Check our database page at http://www.akronlibrary.org/databases/index.html#genealogy for current availability or call if you have questions.

Geographical Sources
- Large selection of historical gazetteers.
- 19th century county atlases for Ohio, Pennsylvania, and other states.
- *Township Atlas of the United States.*
- Online Map Room on Summit Memory, www.summitmemory.org.

Immigration and Naturalization
- Filby's *Passenger and Immigration List Index.*
- *Germans to America*, *Italians to America*, and additional series.
- *Famine Immigrants*, 1846–1851.

Military Resources
- Indexes to pension files.
- Rosters of Ohio soldiers for most wars through World War I.
- Histories of <u>selected</u> Ohio Civil War regiments.

Newspapers and Periodicals in Print and on Microfilm
- *Akron Beacon Journal*: see under Local History Resources below.
- Cleveland *Plain Dealer* 1975–1999
- *The New York Times* 1914–present (located in Magazines and Newspapers Division on the first floor).
- Large collection of genealogical and local history periodicals, including newsletters and publications of the Ohio Genealogical Society, its affiliated chapters, and many other genealogical societies.
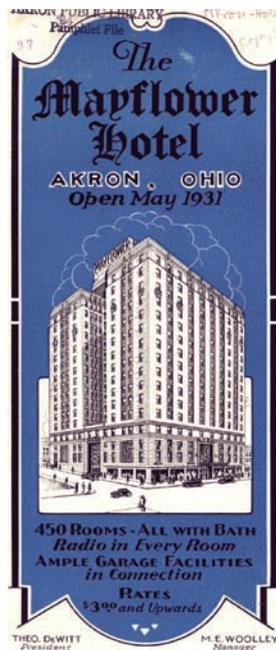
Additional Resources
- Compiled family histories.
- Lineage society publications.

Classes
- New to genealogy? Consider attending one of our free instructive sessions: Getting Started in Family History; Finding Your Family in the U.S. Census; Getting Started in African American Genealogy; Branching Out: Second Steps in Genealogy Research; Internet Genealogy I; Internet Genealogy II; and Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors. Check our Web site for upcoming classes.

Research Guides
- Looking for more detailed information on how to do genealogy research? Check our Web site under Electronic Resources and click on Research Guides. We have created guides for specific kinds of research and records, such as Getting Started in Family History, Cemeteries of Summit County, and the Ohio Death Certificate Collection.

Local History Resources

Our local history collection includes a variety of materials pertaining to all aspects of Akron and Summit County history. Did you know that most of our local history documents are donated? We are actively collecting new materials. For more information, see:
http://www.akronlibrary.org/internetresources/sc/donating.html.
If you would like to donate, please contact Judy James, Special Collections Division Manager, at 330-643-9041 or jjames@akronlibary.org.
Below are just some of the resources available in Special Collections:

Books about Akron and Summit County
- Akron and Summit County histories.
- Church histories.
- High school yearbooks.
  (selected schools and years
  – contact us for availability)
- History of the rubber industry.

Vertical File
- Newspaper and magazine clippings about local people, places, and events.

AKRON TIMES-DEMOCRAT
TY-SEVENTH YEAR   AKRON, OHIO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 1894

THE SUMMIT COUNTY BEACON.
YEAR—NO. 22.   AKRON, OHIO, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1901.   WHOLE

Akron Times-Press
WANT ADS — COMICS   AKRON, OHIO, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1934   EDITORIALS

Akron Beacon Journal and other area newspapers on microfilm
(online access available where noted)
- *Akron Beacon Journal* from 1841; index, 1841-1939 and full-text database, 1984 -present available online through our Web site.
- *Akron Times-Press*, *The Reporter*, *Akron Jewish News*, *Akron Legal News*, and others.
- Digital images of the *Akron Daily Democrat*, 1899-1902, are available through the Library of Congress' Chronicling America project, http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84028140/issues/.

Individual collections include:
- Bain E. "Shorty" Fulton.
- German American Club.
- Northern Ohio Golf Charities.
- Ohio Ballet.
- Sounds of Summit Local Music Project.
- Trucking History.
- Lawrence Collection: Extensive collection of historical materials pertaining to the history of Tallmadge, Ohio located at the Tallmadge Branch Library.

Sounds of Summit

More collections, and finding aids for all collections, can be accessed from our Web site.

Local History Database
- This searchable database, available from our Web site, provides information on thousands of individual historical documents, such as photographs, clippings, and pamphlets, which are stored in our division. To see these documents, ask at our reference desk.

Summit Memory Project

- We are proud to present Summit Memory, www.summitmemory.org, an online scrapbook of historic Summit County images and documents, produced in collaboration with our partner institutions. Collections include our general photograph collection, digitized atlases of Akron and Summit County, newspaper clippings about local rubber companies, and postcard collections containing hundreds of images of Summit County landmarks. Discover our past and watch us grow for the future!

Summit County Myths Wiki

- Do you know a Summit County myth or legend? Be a part of our Wiki! Located at http://summitcountymyths.pbwiki.com/, this interactive Web site lets you submit and edit Summit County myths.

Correspondence Service

In addition to providing telephone and in person reference services, we also offer a correspondence service to patrons. You can submit your genealogy or local history questions via postal mail or email at speccollections@akronlibrary.org. All correspondence is answered within five weeks.

Guidelines:

- Please include your full name and complete mailing address with each request.
- Please limit each request to five items and submit only two requests per month.
- Although Ohio death certificates (1908-1953) are freely available online through Family Search Labs (http://fsbeta.familysearch.org), we will continue to offer mailed photocopies for those who prefer this service. Your request should include each person's name, approximate date of death (at least the year) and, if available, the certificate number and county where the death occurred. To find the certificate number, you can use the Ohio Historical Society's online certificate index at http://www.ohiohistory.com/dindex. If you have access to Ancestry.com or Ancestry Library Edition, you may use the Ohio Deaths database.
- No fees are required up front for research services. An invoice will be sent with any requested photocopies. Our fee schedule includes a $1.00 processing fee plus $.05 for each copy.
- Please be as specific as possible in your research request, including sources you have already consulted and what information you already have.

Past Pursuits

Subscribe to our Special Collections email newsletter *Past Pursuits* to receive information and news about recent genealogy and local history acquisitions, interesting facts about our community's history, tips for genealogy research, and upcoming events. To subscribe, email us at speccollections@akronlibrary.org or call 330-643-9030.

Researching in the Special Collections Division

Whether you live in town or out of state, knowing some key information about us can make your research trip easier and more comfortable. Here are some useful hints:

Copying:
- 9 microfilm reader-printers and a photocopier are located in Special Collections. Computer printouts require prepayment and are released at the photocopier.
- Photocopies and computer printouts are $.05 each for letter or ledger size paper. We do not have legal size paper.
- Microfilm reader-printers accept coins only but will give change. The photocopier accepts dollar bills and gives change. You may want to bring coins with you. If you forget, you can always request change at the checkout desks on the first or second floors.
- Some materials cannot be photocopied. Please check with a staff member.

Food and drink:
- No food or beverages are allowed in the Special Collections Division. Water fountains are located nearby.
- Hattie's Café (www.hattiescafe.org) is located on the first floor of the Library near the Main Street entrance. Hours: weekdays 7:30 am-4 pm; Saturdays 9 am-3 pm; they are closed on Sundays.
- A number of sandwich, pizza and coffee shops are located within a short walk from the Library. Some are only open during the day on Monday–Friday. Downtown Akron Partnership (DAP) offers downtown dining information at www.downtownakron.com/enjoy/dining.

Parking:

- A parking deck is next to the Library at the corner of Market and High Streets. You can enter the Library directly from the second floor of the parking deck. Parking is $1.00 per 30 minutes and maximum fee is $6.25 (as of August 2010). Library patrons receive the first hour free. Take your ticket stub to the second floor security desk to be stamped before exiting the Library. The parking deck is free on weekdays if arriving after 6 pm, and on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Some street/metered parking and nearby lots are also available. See http://www.downtownakron.com/getting-around/parking for more downtown parking information.

Personal Items:

- Temperature is kept cool. As with most special libraries, layers and an extra sweater are always a good idea.
- Self-serve lockers are located in the Special Collections Division. Lockers are free but do use a quarter key-return. A coat rack is also available.
- Containers such as purses and tote bags may be brought into the research area. However, these items will need to be stored in a locker if you are using manuscript, photograph, or other archival collections.
- Pencils, binders, notebooks and laptop computers are welcome. Pens are not permitted in the research area.
- Check with a staff member regarding use of cameras and hand held scanners.

Technology:

- Public computers with Internet access are available in Special Collections. While the public may use the computers in Special Collections, priority is given to genealogy and local history patrons.
- We are laptop friendly with plenty of outlets and wireless Internet access.
- You will need an Akron-Summit County Public Library card to use the Internet and research databases at the Main Library or any of the 17 branches. Anyone living, working, or attending school in Ohio may obtain a FREE library card by registering at Main Library, a branch library, or the bookmobile. Stop at the checkout desk on the first or second floor to obtain a library card.

Akron-Summit County Public Library
Special Collections Division

60 South High Street
Akron, Ohio 44326
330-643-9030
speccollections@akronlibrary.org
http://www.akronlibrary.org/main-sc.html

Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9 am–9 pm
Friday 9 am–6 pm
Saturday 9 am–5 pm
Sunday 1–5 pm

Closed major holidays. Call ahead to confirm.

Akron-Summit County
Public Library

PROCEEDINGS

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE

Fiftieth Anniversary

OF THE

Settlement of Tallmadge,

WITH THE

HISTORICAL DISCOURSES

E. N. SI...

PHICAL SK...
E TOWNSE...
TOGETHE...
CORR...

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company's
great Factory, Akron, Ohio.