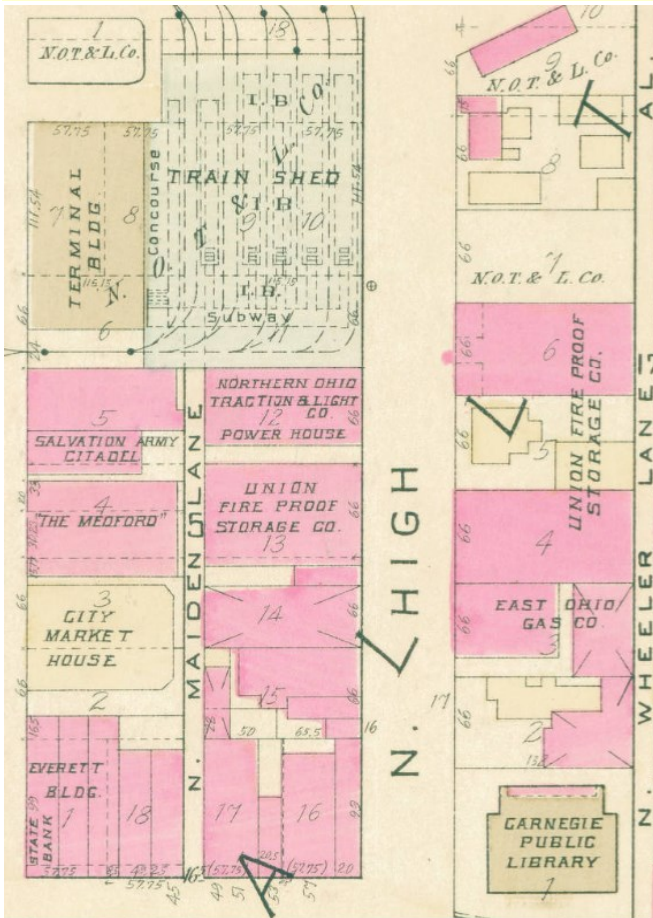
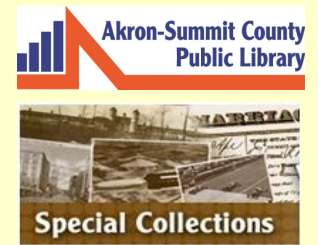


# Past Pursuits

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

Volume 18 Number 3 Autumn 2019



Plat Book of the City of Akron and Vicinity, 1921. Image from the Online Map Room, Summit Memory.

## Online Map Collections

by Iris Bolar, Librarian

Maps help to create snapshots of the times and places in which ancestors lived. Whether looking at migration routes, neighborhoods, land ownership, or city and county boundary changes, maps can help the researcher to reconstruct an ancestor's daily life and story. Though most maps in archival repositories are not currently available digitally online, there are many existing digital map collections that can fill in gaps of information found in other genealogical records.

Plat maps show the division of a piece of land into lots and are mainly held at the local government level. These maps show ownership and legal descriptions of individual parcels. The details included on plat maps vary, but the information can direct the researcher to additional land records. Examples of plat maps can be found in the [Cities and Towns](#) collection of maps on the Library of Congress website. Filters with this online collection allow the user to narrow results by location, date, and other variables.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (1867-1977) were created to aid in the estimation of fire insurance liabilities. These color-coded detailed maps include information about a building's layout and construction material, number of stories, windows and doors, street utilities, and other data. The Library of Congress has thousands of [Sanborn Maps](#) online. Basic black and white Sanborn Maps of Ohio cities and towns are available on [Ohio Web Library](#), a state-wide library service for Ohio residents. Look for online Sanborn Maps digitized by libraries or universities in your state of interest.

The [Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection](#) from the University of Texas includes over 250,000 maps from all over the world, but only about 20% of the collection is currently online. The [David Rumsey Map Collection](#) is another large online resource. You can search the collection, but a good way to see what's available is to select "Browse by Category" in the "Quick Links" menu on the right of the screen and use filters to narrow selections.

The [National Archives and Records Administration](#) provides descriptions and links to some items in its map

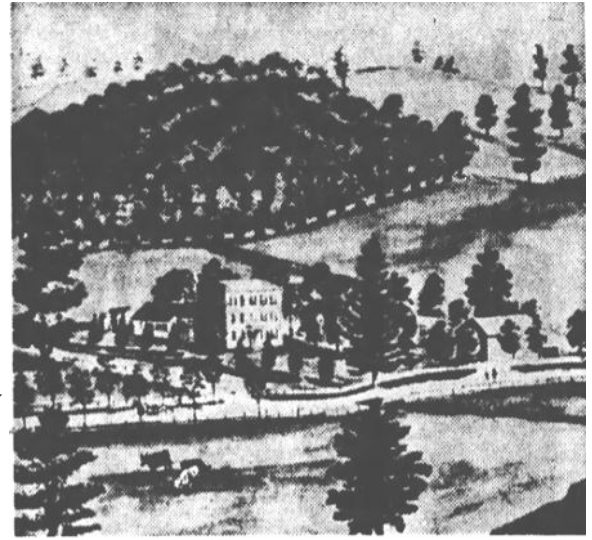
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(though later released) as a spy while at work.

Despite his wide travels, it's clear that Ruger hadn't forgotten his home in Ohio. He returned to live in Akron by the late 1870s. City directories first list him as a resident employed as a "landscape artist" in 1879-1880. He also had ties to the well-known early Summit County family of Jonathan Hale. Ruger's wife was the former Charlotte Hanson, sister-in-law to Othello Hale, Jonathan Hale's grandson. The *Beacon* reported that Ruger created several drawings of Hale homestead that were in the possession of the Western Reserve Historical Society and that further Ruger drawings "can be located in other Cuyahoga Valley homes."

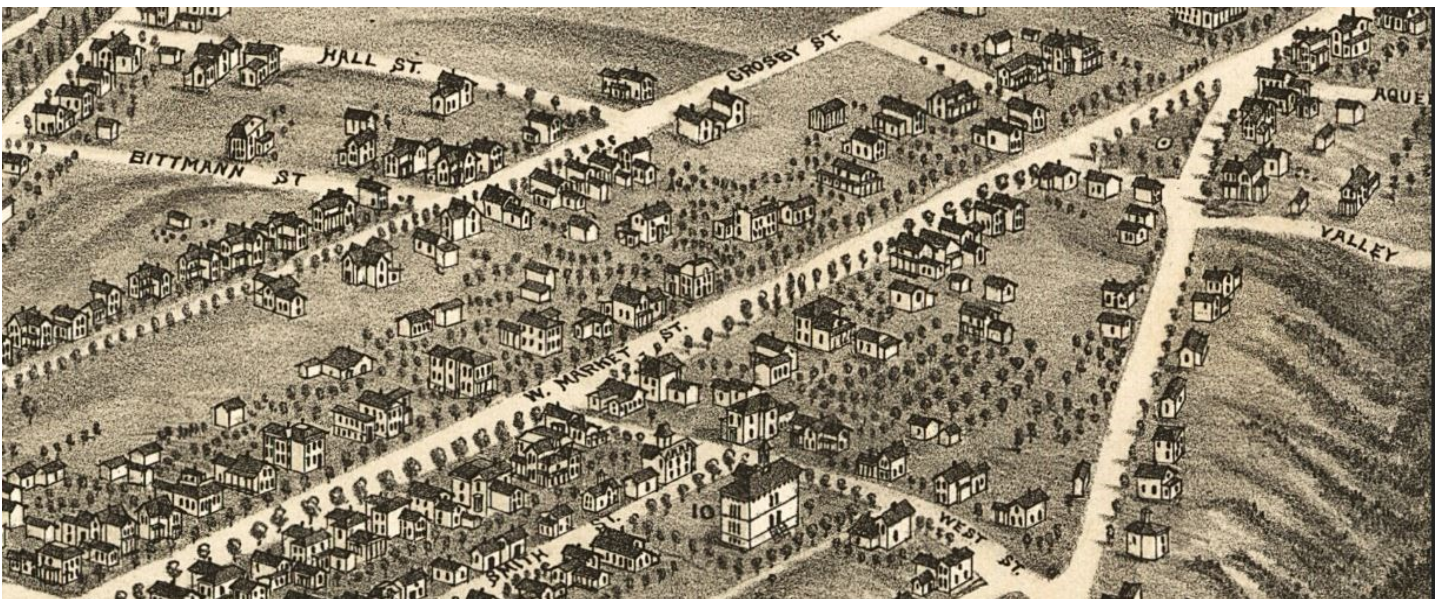


RUGER'S HALE HOMESTEAD

Akron Beacon Journal,  
*September 20, 1964.*

Although some of Ruger's work may have ended up in private hands, the Library of Congress reports purchasing a large portion of his collection from John Ramsey of Canton, Ohio in 1941. In all, there are 213 items drawn by Ruger or Ruger & Stoner publicly available in their collection of [panoramic maps](#). Digital versions can be downloaded in high-resolution TIFF, enabling close-up views in stunning detail. If you have ancestors who were living in any of the cities that Ruger and other panoramic map artists sketched during the late 1800s, try combining those maps with a street guide from a city directory. You may catch a rare and creative glimpse of your forebears' neighborhood. Tiny, unique, and fanciful figures decorate Ruger's city streets, including trees, homes, carriages, and people on the move. He was living in Akron when he created a second map of the city in 1882. A study of his address at 534 West Market Street in city directories reveals that it was on the south side of Market, west of Maple and close to Valley. In the 1882 map, he may have left us a record of his own home.

Albert Ruger died in Akron on November 12, 1899 at age 71. As a chronicler of his era through maps, Ruger left a substantial cultural legacy of meticulous images that are valuable to historians and genealogists. He is buried in Markillie Cemetery in Hudson.



*Section of West Market Street possibly showing Albert Ruger's home. Panoramic View of the City of Akron, Summit County, Ohio 1882, from the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, Washington, D.C.*

If maps have always held a fascination for you or if they fuel your wanderlust, the Library database Historic Map Works Library Edition is for you. To access the database whether you're at the Library or at home, visit the Library's home page and hover over "Research" at the top of the page. Select "Databases by Subject," then "Genealogy & Local History" to find Historic MapWorks. You will need your Library barcode to log in from home.

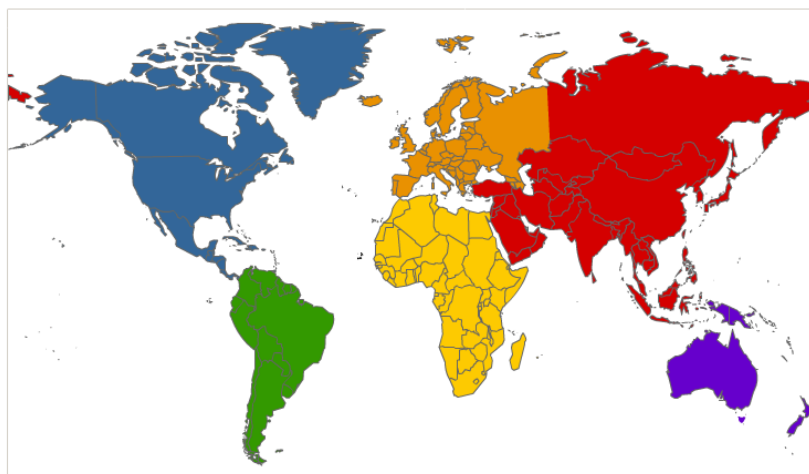
This instrumental database can help you explore or pinpoint ancestral information in the places of the past. Along with vital records, maps are used in genealogy research to help researchers gain insight into how family and ethnic groups developed. Historic Map Works contains about 1.5 million digitized, high resolution, full-color maps. The majority are land ownership (cadastral) maps that help show changes in ownership over time. This unique collection allows a researcher the ability to follow the "residential genealogy" of their ancestors.

### Welcome to Historic Map Works™ Library Edition



The home page of Historic Map Works contains a variety of search options on a main navigation bar. The "Browse" tab shows a world map and allows the ability to click on an area to view available maps. (Note that you'll need Adobe Flash Player enabled on your computer to view this.) The "Search" tab allows the use of keywords to locate maps. Want to search by address? Choose the "Address" option. This queries a limited database of geocoded U.S. maps and returns those containing the address. Note that if exact matches are not found, results for the city or town entered are displayed. For the more math-minded, the "GPS Mapfinder" option enables entry of latitude and longitude to locate maps by specific geographic coordinates. In addition to maps, images of portraits, buildings, and documents related to a particular geographic location can be found through the "Illustrations" tab. In the "Directories" tab, you'll find keyword searching available for a variety of city directories, telephone books, and other publications. Lastly, a new addition, "Points of Interest," categorizes particular places, buildings, and geographic features and points you to maps containing them.

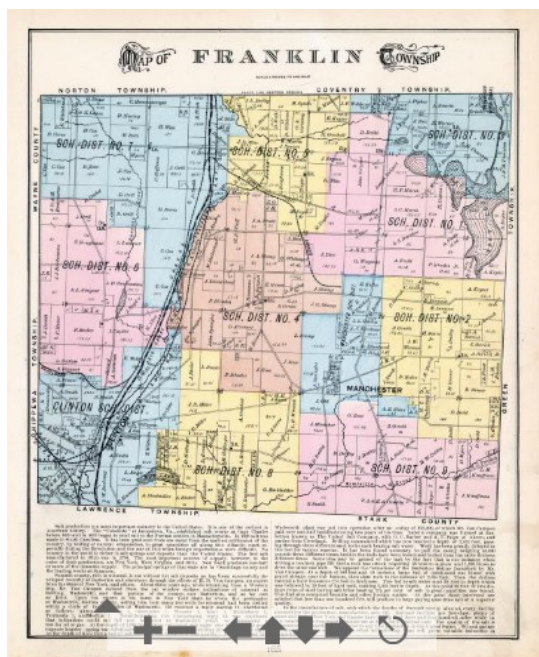
Browse the World by Continent



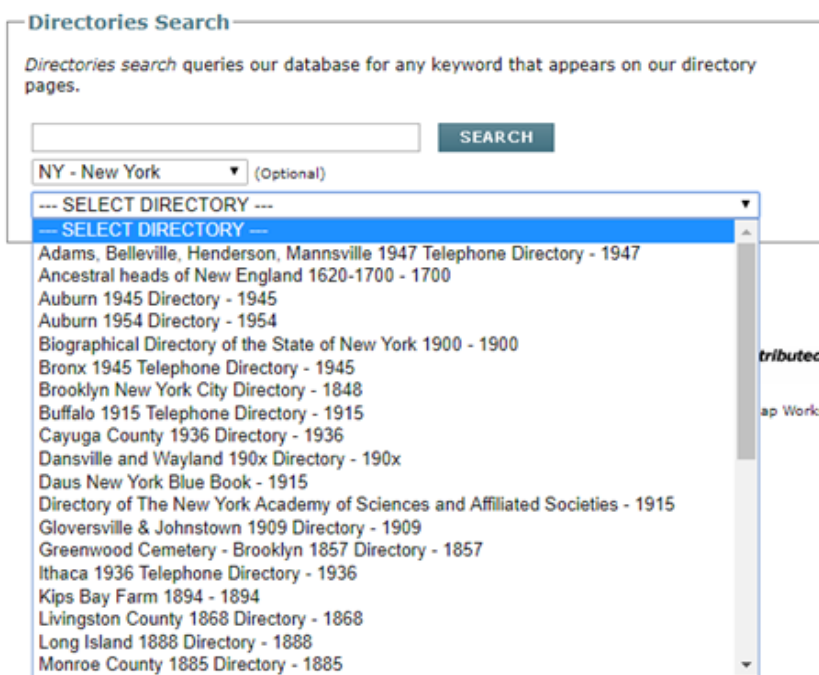
*Click on the world map and navigate to specific locations to discover which maps are available.*

Maps in this database include several beneficial viewing functions. Once you've reached the map you're looking for, you can use the image viewer to navigate the image and zoom in to view detail. You can also print, save and crop an image for further use. Map source information is given below the viewer.

Historic Map Works offers many interesting and unique sources to help pinpoint the journey of your ancestors. Enjoy exploring all the nuances of the world through the options available on this database.



Use the plus and minus signs to zoom in or out and the arrows to navigate up, down, left and right. The upward-pointing triangle at the left indicates zoom level and the broken circle with arrow resets the image.



Browsing under the "Directories" tab will lead you to a small selection of unusual but very useful sources you might not expect in a maps database, including digitized city, county, and telephone directories.



Dani Shapiro  
© Michael Maren

## Main Event Speaker Series: An Evening with Dani Shapiro, Author of *Inheritance*

Wednesday, October 9, 7-9:30 pm, Main Library Auditorium

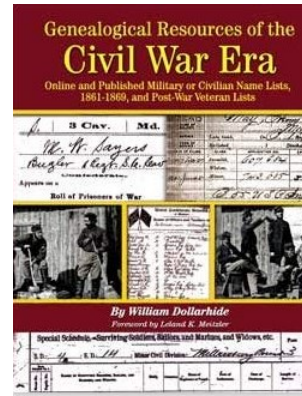
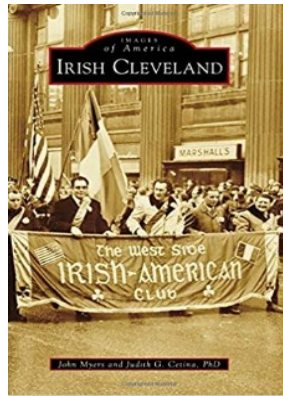
Having long been fascinated with her family history, author Dani Shapiro, on a lark, took a DNA test. What she discovered would upend and change her life forever. Hailed by critics and readers everywhere, Shapiro's memoir *Inheritance* is an evocative and fascinating tale of the mysteries of family, history, memory, and secrets. Don't miss this very special Main Event! Books will be available for purchase and there will be a book signing after the program. No registration necessary.

This program is co-sponsored by the Culture and AV Division, Special Collections Division, and the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society.

Be sure to check the [Classes & Programs](#) page on the Special Collections website for class schedule updates. Genealogy classes will be on hiatus over the winter and resume in March 2020.

## New Books

Special Collections recently acquired a large number of Popular titles from Arcadia Publishing including many from the “Images of America” series. Researchers may find them useful for general local historical background. You’ll appreciate the unique photos and condensed histories of your areas of interest. The majority of these books are available for checkout.

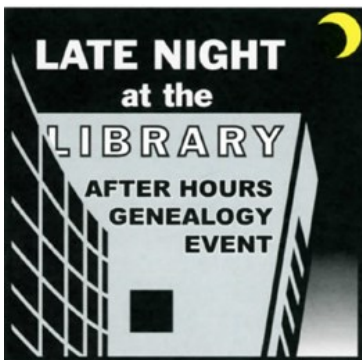


If you’re researching Civil War ancestors, you’ll benefit from the newest edition of William Dollarhide’s *Genealogical Resources of the Civil War Era*. It’s packed full of updated detailed sources and helpful pointers on how to locate and use them.

For more recently added titles, check our [New Books](#) list on our website.

## Late Night at the Library Friday, October 11, 6:30-10:30 pm, Special Collections Division

Join us once again as the Special Collections Division and the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society team up for Late Night at the Library. Late Night is an annual after-hours genealogy event when Main Library reopens for genealogists. Mingle with fellow researchers while uncovering your family history, take a tour of Special Collections, or sit in on a short “Getting Started” session. **NEW** this year is a small DNA discussion group available from 7-8 pm. We will also have DAR representatives from our local chapter on hand to consult with you about your Revolutionary War ancestors. Door prizes and refreshments and will be available, and parking is free for those entering the parking deck after 6 pm. No registration necessary. For more information, call us at 330-643-9030 or email us at [speccollections@akronlibrary.org](mailto:speccollections@akronlibrary.org).



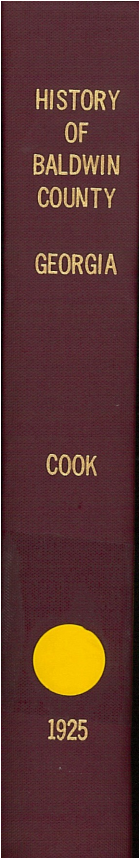
## Follow the Yellow Round Dot: New Circulating Books

Traditionally, genealogy books in many libraries are strictly not available for checkout. We’d like to begin changing that in a small way.

While we already have a circulating “how-to” and general interest book section, we’ve started to designate some books in our much larger research-oriented area as available for checkout. In general, we’re focusing on duplicate copies, narrative histories, reprints of works that are out of copyright, and books that aren’t indexed. The goal is to let a little of us come to you. As with all circulating library books, it’s possible to place holds on specific titles. We’re not being quite as lenient with our Summit County and Ohio books, which are our priority. This also doesn’t apply to our archival collections, which are irreplaceable.

You can find these new circulating research books shelved with the non-circulating collection, but they’ll be marked with a yellow dot on the spine, as well as a “14 DAY LOAN” label on the spine or the front so you can distinguish them.

Selecting circulating titles and determining the outcome of this experiment will be a work in progress for the foreseeable future, so stay tuned. In the meantime, take advantage of this opportunity and do some of your research at home!

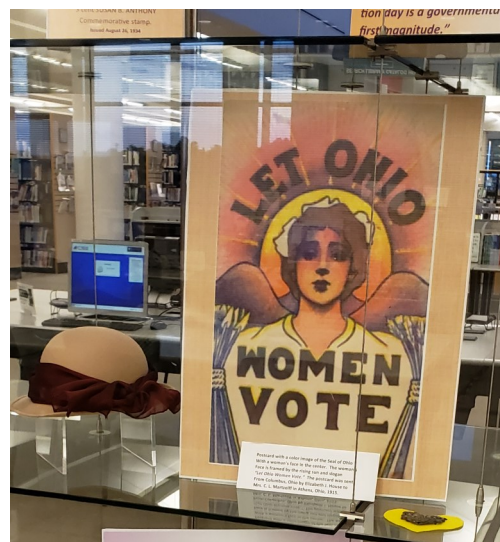


*Take me with you!*



## On Display: Women's Suffrage

In honor of the nineteenth amendment passed by Congress on June 4, 1919 and ratified on August 18, 1920, Special Collections' newest display focuses on the efforts of local women and men as they fought for women's rights over several decades. Visit us to view historic documents recording the local suffrage movement and period artifacts generously on loan from the Summit County Historical Society. The display will evolve throughout 2020, eventually including records, images, and artifacts documenting Akron's experience through the early days of Prohibition.



Thank  
You

### We would like to thank the following for their generous contributions:

Akron Chapter DAR for *Newspaper Datelines of the American Revolution*, vols. 1-4, in memory of Joanne Volke Ryan and Lois Rose

Shirley Aschenbrenner for B. F. Goodrich secretarial manuals, ca. 1965

Cuyahoga Portage Chapter DAR for *Connecticut Families of the Revolution* and *The Battle of Bennington: Soldiers and Civilians* in memory of Peggy

Sawyer Manly

Emma Glass for Employee Manual and Safety Rules Guidebook from B. F. Goodrich, 1936-1937

Jeanne M. Harrington for Akron phone books, 1927, 1932, 1933, 1936, 1938

Ohio Genealogical Society Library and Barbara Ferrell for Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy yearbook, 2008, and 33 East High School yearbooks, various years 1940-2015

Shirley Petrich for employee manuals and other items from B. F. Goodrich

Marjorie Recht for panoramic photo of Akron Lamp and Manufacturing Company picnic at Munroe Falls Park, 1935

Dr. Cheryl S. Sadler for *Black Americans in Defense of Our Nation* by United States Office of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Equal Opportunity and Safety Policy

Cindy Starr for Springfield yearbook, 1964, and University of Akron yearbooks, 1948, 1968, 1970

## Summit County Chapter OGS Donation

We would like to extend special thanks to our local chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society for an extremely generous donation to Special Collections toward our genealogy programs for 2019. We are so proud of this continued collaboration and of the success of this year's programs featuring Deborah Abbott and Judy Russell. We look forward to An Evening With Dani Shapiro on October 9 and Late Night at the Library on October 11, also made possible with SCCOGS' support. Thank you to chapter president Rita Smith and to everyone at SCCOGS for keeping the Library and Special Collections going strong!



For . . .  
**Thanksgiving  
Dinner**

if you want a glorious Thanksgiving Dinner—one that will send you away from the table with a genial-good-will-feeling—let me urge you to finish with some of Kaase's delicious desserts.

**Here is their Bakery Menu for Thanksgiving**

PLUM PUDDING WITH BRANDY SAUCE  
ENGLISH FRUIT CAKE  
FRENCH FRUIT CAKE  
PUMPKIN PIE            MINCE PIE

*and don't forget Kaase's also have delicious Candies, Mints and Salted Nuts*

***Kaase's***  
Seventeen Pastry Shoppes

Where Quality Is Inexpensive

*Thanksgiving dinner advice from Kaase's Bakery. Akron Topics, November 1931.*

The Akron-Summit County Public Library  
Special Collections Division  
is located on the third floor  
of the Main Library.

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