

**TURKEYFOOT ISLAND**  
**Special Collections – Akron-Summit County Public Library**

ACCESSION # 2012-106

LOCATION: 11 B 6

ACQUISITION: Donated by Turkeyfoot Island LLC, c/o John Perduyn, August 21, 2012.

ACCESS: Restricted access; materials fragile; access by request at Akron-Summit County Public Library's Main Library Special Collections division only.

VOLUME: 6 boxes, 5 linear feet

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:** Canton businessman Frank S. Lahm (1846-1931) purchased the Turkeyfoot Island property in 1882 after constructing the first building on the island in 1877. The Turkeyfoot Trustees formed in 1938, buying the property from Lahm and selling it to the island residents. The Turkeyfoot Island Club is still in operation as a social organization for its members.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:** Archival collection of the Turkeyfoot Island Club based in the Portage Lakes region of Akron, Ohio. Materials in this collection were created between 1920 and 2010. The collection includes records of the club's board of trustees, meeting minutes, correspondence, promotional materials, property ownership records, pamphlets, photographs, newspapers and clippings, and maps. Of note in the collection is the correspondence and documentation of the life of Frank S. Lahm and his son, General Frank P. Lahm, who became the first US military pilot. Some of David Fielder's notes and research are part of the collection, as well as materials relevant to the Portage Lakes Yacht Club, founded in the Turkeyfoot Island Clubhouse in 1936.

**ARRANGEMENT:** The collection is divided into 12 series, which are contained in 6 boxes and 1 folder.

**SERIES 1: Turkeyfoot Island Club**

**Box 1:** Agreements and rules relating to the foundation of the Turkeyfoot Island Club, meeting minutes and memos, property deeds, contracts, and lease agreements

**Subseries 1: Club History (1938-2001)**

**Folder #**

**1** Documents tracing the formation and development of the Turkeyfoot Trust, including syndicate agreements, articles of incorporation, and lists of shareholders

**Subseries 2: Trust Agreement (1938)**

**Folder #**

**2** 1938 agreement between Frank S. Lahm and the members of the board of trustees

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**Subseries 3: Club Rules (1933-1992)**

**Folder #**

- 3 Code of regulations for the Turkeyfoot Island Club Company, correspondence (1933-1992)
- 4 Revisions to the code of regulations, rules for club membership, instructions for making reservations of the clubhouse
- 5 Bound notebook labeled “Rules Regulations (Code + House)” (1987)

**Subseries 4: Meeting Minutes**

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: Includes 3 bound notebooks of meeting minutes: 1922-1933; 1933-1947; 1947-1955

**Folder #**

- 6 Board of trustees’ meeting minutes and memorandums, correspondence (1923-1955)
- 7 Minutes and memorandums; also includes a spiral notebook of planning notes (1955-2007)

**Subseries 5: Lease Agreements (1922-2008)**

**Folder #**

- 8 Original lease and copies of lease between Lahm and trustees, lease renewals and cancellations

**Subseries 6: Property Deeds and Contracts (1938-1973)**

**Folder #**

- 9 Original documents and copies including property deeds, warranty deeds, contracts for the clubhouse and other property belonging to the trust; includes contracts between the Turkeyfoot Island Club and the Portage Lakes Yacht Club

**Box 2:** Documents concerning the maintenance of the Turkeyfoot Club, including property improvement, taxes, financial records, social events, and committee meetings

**Subseries 7: Property Maintenance (1940-2007)**

**Folder #**

- 1 Correspondence, paperwork, and other documents regarding property maintenance such as moss removal, roofing, and fence installation

**Subseries 8: Road Improvement (1940-1960)**

**Folder #**

- 2 Documents relating to the road improvement plan on the island, correspondence, and agreements

**Subseries 9: Legal Documents (1944-1982)**

**Folder #**

- 3 Court and other legal documents, correspondence, especially as relevant to the case of the Turkeyfoot Island Company vs. Allenbaugh in 1944, as well as a fire safety citation in 1982

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**Subseries 10: Financial Records (1938-2006)**

**Folder #**

- 4 Bank statements, trustee reports, balance sheets, and correspondence
- 5 Funding proposals, operating agreements, analyses of assets and liabilities, memos, balance sheets, and correspondence

**Subseries 11: Property Taxes (1937-2010)**

**Folder #**

- 6 Includes property valuation and dispute of assessments, tax data and records, and correspondence for the Turkeyfoot Island Club and its property

**Subseries 12: Events (1936-2007)**

**Folder #**

- 7 Announcements, invitations, and promotional materials for parties and other social gatherings held at the Turkeyfoot Island Club

**Subseries 13: Organizations and Committees (1938-2002)**

**Folder #**

- 8 Documentation of the Portage Lakes Yacht Club, Great Expectations Investment Club, and Turkeyfoot Island Club Garden Committee; formation and regulations, meeting minutes, announcements, lease agreements (1938-2002)
- 9 Portage Lakes Yacht Club Yearbooks (1958-2002)

**SERIES 2: Island History**

**Box 2**

**Subseries 1: Local History (1977-1999)**

**Folder #**

- 10 History of Portage Lakes and Turkeyfoot Island, reminiscences of island residents and former residents, survey of plants in the area

**Subseries 2: Club Members and Residents (1941-1994)**

**Folder #**

- 11 Rosters of members and residents of the island with years and location of residence

**Subseries 3: Property History (1940s-1980s)**

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: 3 folders: rosters detailing property ownership, property transfers and sales

**Folder #**

- 12 Lists of shareholders and residents, copies of warranty deeds, survivorship deeds, property size and valuation
- 13 2 spiral notebooks detailing the history and ownership of Turkeyfoot Island properties
- 14 Lists of property owners, value of property, miscellaneous notes

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**SERIES 3: Island Property**

**Box 2**

**Subseries 1: Property Deeds (1882-1970s)**

**Folder #**

15 Original deeds and copies of deeds

**Subseries 2: Property Documents (1900-2008)**

**Folder #**

16 Lease agreements and other property agreements, including the sale of the Lahm property to the residents of the island

**Subseries 3: Correspondence (1936-2008)**

**Folder #**

17 Letters relating to the buying, selling, renting, and leasing of property, announcements of property sales and new island residents

**Subseries 4: Maps**

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: Other maps of Turkeyfoot Island property and area located in oversize storage (see Series 12)

**Folder #**

18 Photocopies of maps of island property and the Portage Lakes area

**SERIES 4: The Lahms**

**Box 2**

**Folder #**

19 Correspondence, biographical sketches, newspaper and magazine articles and clippings of or about Frank S. Lahm and Frank P. Lahm

**SERIES 5: David Fielder**

**Box 1**

**Subseries 1: Notes and Correspondence (1993-2000)**

**Folder #**

- 1 Fielder's notes and correspondence about Turkeyfoot Island in relation to writing his book on the history of the area.
- 2 Fielder's notes about Turkeyfoot Island; contents removed from plastic binder and rehoused in archival folder

**Subseries 2: Drafts (1993-2000)**

**Folder #**

- 3 Master History Manuscript of *Turkeyfoot Island History*
- 4 Draft with pictures

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5 Draft without pictures (text only)

**SERIES 6: Correspondence**

**Box 1**

**Subseries 1: News and Announcements (1941-2003)**

**Folder #**

6 General announcements and notices to island residents and stockholders

**Subseries 2: Membership Information (1992-2000)**

**Folder #**

7 Pamphlets and letters detailing the history of the club, benefits of membership, procedures, and greetings to new members

**Subseries 3: Membership Applications (1937-1972)**

**Folder #**

8 Applications for membership to the Turkeyfoot Island Club

**Subseries 4: Confirmation of Membership (1940-1987)**

**Folder #**

9 Letters from the board of trustees to new club members

**Subseries 5: Trustee Correspondence (1936-2007)**

**Folder #**

10 Correspondence between trustees and businesses, attorneys, members of the club, and island residents (1936-1964)

11 Miscellaneous trustee correspondence between Belden, Brooks, Fielder, and others primarily during the 1940s-1950s, 1970s, and 2000s; removed from original folder and rehoused using archival folder (1945-2007)

**Subseries 6: National Register of Historic Places (1948-1986)**

**Folder #**

12 Correspondence with the Ohio Historic and regional organizations regarding applications for recognition of the Turkeyfoot Island Club on the National Register of Historic Places

**Subseries 7: Forest Land Status (1940-2007)**

**Folder #**

13 Correspondence between trustees and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Office of the State Forester, and other bureaus regarding recognition of Turkeyfoot Island Club property as forest land

**Subseries 8: Personal (1953-2002)**

**Folder #**

14 Includes cards and announcements of events such as weddings, funerals, graduation ceremonies, and retirement

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**SERIES 7: Newspaper Clippings**

**Box 1**

**Subseries 1: The Akron Beacon Journal (1905-2004)**

**Folder #**

**15** Photocopies of clippings published in *The Akron Beacon Journal* between 1905 and 1972

**16** Photocopies of clippings from 1972-2004

**Subseries 2: Miscellaneous Publications (1924-2006)**

**Folder #**

**17** Photocopies of clippings originally published in *The Akron Legal News*, *The Canton Repository*, *The Plain Dealer*, *The Portage Lakes Herald*, *The Suburbanite*, and other miscellaneous newspapers (1924-2006)

**18** Photocopies of *The Suburbanite* (1990) and *The Portage Lakes Herald* (1986)

**Subseries 3: Miscellaneous (Undated)**

**Folder #**

**19** Photocopies of clippings from *The Akron Beacon Journal*, *The Portage Lakes Herald*, and other miscellaneous publications

**SERIES 8: Pamphlets and Publications**

**Box 1**

**Subseries 1: Portage Lakes**

**Folder #**

**20** Includes copies of Frank S. Lahm's booklet *Turkeyfoot Island*, pamphlets about the legends and memories of Portage Lakes

**Subseries 2: Ohio**

**Folder #**

**21** Pamphlets on Ohio land, land grants, geology, canals, and boating

**SERIES 9: Miscellaneous**

**Box 1**

**Folder #**

**22** Songs and poems about Turkeyfoot Island, information about Turkeyfoot Island Club facilities, correspondence, scrap book, guest books, photocopies of the Hunkers' documents and clippings, and other miscellaneous items

Guest book, scrapbook (primarily newspaper clippings), and photo album stored separately on shelf

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**SERIES 10: Photographs**

**Box 1**

**Subseries 1: Turkeyfoot Island Club (1960-1999)**

**Folder #**

- 1 4 photos removed from envelope labeled "Lahm Drive 1999 4<sup>th</sup> of July set up on Mason's Point; Fallen tree at TIC"
- 2 Exterior of Turkeyfoot Island Clubhouse
- 3 Exterior of Turkeyfoot Island Clubhouse; includes postcards (1960-1992)

**Subseries 2: Properties (1906-1992)**

**Folder #**

- 4-8 Exterior of houses and property on the island (1906-1992)

**Subseries 3: Businesses**

**Folder #**

- 9 Businesses on or near the island; includes postcards

**Subseries 4: Miscellaneous**

**Folder #**

- 10 General images of island, lake, and landscapes; fallen trees and other evidence of storm damage from 1991-1992

**Subseries 5: Negatives**

**Folder #**

- 11 Negatives removed from labeled envelopes and retained in original groupings including Mrs. Knight 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party, Wedding, Island Houses 1991-92, Aeroplane negatives, T.I. Club picture negatives, Black and white tri-x pan film, Island houses from ice side, Lahm Drive, and Miscellaneous

**Box 2**

**Subseries 6: Turkeyfoot Lake**

**Folder #**

- 1 Photos of Turkeyfoot Lake and the Portage Lakes; includes postcards and an 8x10 in. photo of the lake (1930-1991)

**Subseries 7: Boating**

**Folder #**

- 2 Images of boats, docks, and people boating or sailing on Turkeyfoot Lake; includes 11x14 in. photo

**Subseries 8: Aerial Shots**

**Folder #**

- 3 Aerial shots of Turkeyfoot Island and the Portage Lakes area; mostly 11x14 in. photos

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**Subseries 9: People (Identified)**

**Folder #**

- 4 Photos separated from the correspondence of Ben Ansley
- 5 Photos removed from envelope labeled “Wedding”
- 6 Photos removed from envelope labeled “Mrs. Knight 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party at club (2-21-1976)”
- 7-8 Primarily photos of parties and social functions; attendees labeled on back of image

**Subseries 10: People (Not Identified)**

**Folder #**

- 9-11 Primarily photos of parties and social functions in which attendees are not identified

**SERIES 11: Newspapers (1986-2006)**

**Box 1**

**Folder #**

- 1 Local newspapers featuring articles about Portage Lakes, including *The Coventry Quill*, *The Suburbanite*, *The Portage Lakes Herald*, inserts from *The Akron Beacon Journal*, programs from the Portage Lakes Boat Parade, *The Portage Lakes Spotlight*

**SERIES 12: Maps**

**DESCRIPTIVE NOTE:** Located in oversized storage drawer D1

**Box 1**

**Folder #**

- 1 Maps of the Turkeyfoot Island and Portage Lakes area, land and property surveys of island (1995-2006), building plans, notes and comments on surveys and landmarks