

Past Pursuits

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

Volume 10, Number 4

Winter 2011

This is Akron with Opie Evans: New Summit Memory Exhibit Documents Akron's African American Community

by Judy James, Manager

When 11-year-old Opie Evans arrived with his family in Akron from Alabama in 1917, he spied a sign that touted "Akron – City of Opportunity." Shortly after his arrival, Opie commenced a lifetime of entrepreneurship and community service that lasted until his passing in 2000. From his first job selling newspapers on the streets of Akron, to his work as a photographer, journalist, and public relations specialist, this modern day Renaissance man embraced our City of Opportunity.

Born in 1906 in Montgomery, Alabama, he began peddling newspapers on foot and from his father's fish cart. In 1927, while a student at Central High School, he published Akron's first African American directory, *The Akron Negro Yearbook*. As a young photographer, he used the family bathroom as his darkroom. After high school, he sold soap and



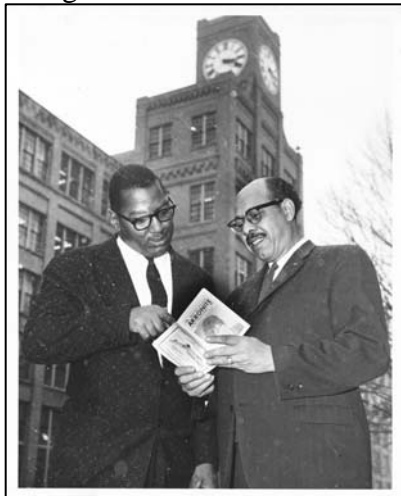
This image shows members of the Akron, Ohio Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in front of a bus used to transport Akronites on a freedom ride to Anniston, Alabama. From the Opie Evans Collection in www.SummitMemory.org.

In this issue



Coming Soon – the 1940 Census	2
Gifts to Special Collections	5
African American Genealogy	5
Photography for the Family Historian Set for Saturday, March 31, 2012	7
Summit County Births and Marriages on Ancestry	8
Late Night 2011	8
Civil War Commemorative Events in Summit County	8
Summit County Medical Society Collection	9
Workshops from Special Collections	11
Workshops from Summit County OGS	12
New to the Collection	13
Now Online	16

vanishing cream door to door and was able to save enough money to open a small printing shop on North Howard Street. The Depression's impact on his business forced him to seek employment elsewhere, however. Opie started with Firestone as a janitor, and worked his way up to become the head of the company's motion picture department, the first African American in that department. Ever the entrepreneur, Opie was involved in or started numerous enterprises, including a traveling concession truck he converted from an old bus. He also managed the Art Minson Jazz Band, worked as a projectionist for the Ritz Theater, and served as sound engineer for shows at the Akron Armory, especially wrestling matches. Later, he served as a community relations official with the mayor's office. To many Akronites of his generation, he was best known as a television and radio broadcaster and as a publisher. For 30 years, he hosted *Highlights in Brown*, a community television show on WAKR. In later years, the title was changed to *This Is Akron With Opie Evans*. He also



*In this image Opie Evans (left) is looking at the **Akronite** with an unidentified man. From the Opie Evans Collection on www.Summitmemory.org*

hosted a religious broadcast program on WCUE and WJW radio. In addition, he published *The Akronite*, an African American newspaper from 1963-1965. For forty years, he was the announcer for City Hospital's annual rummage sale. In 1984, he was inducted into the Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

In his retirement, Opie continued to devote his energy to our community. He served as Executive Director of Akron's Advisory Council on Civic Unity and was known for his work with senior citizens and youth. In his later years, he was

involved in AIDS education. Opie passed away in 2000 at the age of 94.

Throughout his life, Opie documented Akron's African American community with photographs and movies. He took many photos for numerous social, civic, and church groups, including the Akron Chapter of the NAACP. Following his death, Opie's widow donated his photographs and papers to the University of Akron. This rich collection includes hundreds of images which document Akron's African American community during the middle of the twentieth century.

With assistance and permission from The University of Akron, 125 of these compelling photographs may now be seen online at The Summit Memory Project, www.SummitMemory.org, our digital "scrapbook" of Summit County history. University of Akron archivist Vic Fleischer states, "The historic photographs in the Opie Evans Papers are one of only a few resources that visually document the history and culture of the local African American community. Digitizing these important resources and making them available to a wider audience through Summit Memory helps fulfill the mission of Archival Services." We are most grateful to the University of Akron for sharing Opie's collection and for their assistance in making this important resource available to our community.

Coming Soon – the 1940 Census

by Michael Elliott, Public Service Assistant, ret.

Much as sports fans looking forward to the opening day of the season for their team, the release of the 1940 census on April 2, 2012 is equally anticipated by genealogists. Although presumably not as rabid as your average sports fan, family researchers are clearly excited about the upcoming release – and with good reason. Using census records is the cornerstone of American family research, and the 1940 version of the U.S. census promises to be the most informative one yet made public. Valuable in themselves for the information they contain, census records can be used as "guides" leading to other sources such as probate records and obituaries. But

we're getting a little ahead of ourselves. Let's start with a bit of history on the census.

Article one section two of the U.S. Constitution mandates that there be a decennial counting of the U.S. population. Beginning in 1790 and every subsequent ten years, a national census has been carried out by the Federal Government. Originally conducted by Deputy U.S. Marshals appointed especially for the occasion, the first few census returns recorded little other than the name of the head of household and the gender and age brackets of those living with him. These early American census returns are of limited value to the genealogist and do little more than establish a family's presence in a certain location. Fortunately for us all, that changed. Beginning in the year 1841, Great Britain instituted the practice of including the names and ages of every living person in their census. Seeing the logic of this, the U.S. quickly followed suit in 1850, thereby simplifying family research for future generations. Today, every U.S. census through 1930 (with the exception of the 1890 version, which was lost almost entirely to fire) can be readily viewed by the public. More recent census records will be released as time progresses. People new to genealogy always want to know why current census returns aren't available. The short answer is that by federal law, personal information recorded in the census is not made public for 72 years after being compiled to protect the privacy of those enumerated.

Responding to the census bureau via U.S. mail, such as in the most recent questionnaire is a relatively new option. As late as 1960, it was still standard practice for the census taker – sometimes called a “canvasser” but technically known as an enumerator – to collect and record information from each residence in his or her assigned district. Over the years, enumerators have been chosen for various reasons. Foremost among those reasons was their ability to spell correctly and to write legibly, which were not always a given in the 1800s and early 1900s. As a prime example, a logical choice in Akron was undertaker George Billow, who was charged with enumerating the *entire* city of Akron over the months of June and July in 1870. A

German native, Billow possessed the added advantage of speaking two languages, undoubtedly streamlining the questioning process for Akron's sizable number of German immigrants. Placing his own family at the very end of his enumeration, he compiled an astounding 292 pages of names – at 40 names per page! As a comparison, to show how much Akron had grown in the 70 years following Billow's Herculean effort, a small army of 150 census takers were employed within the corporate limits of Akron in 1940. Altogether, roughly 200 enumerators worked Summit County in 1940, and more than 120,000 were deployed nationally.

The content and volume of the 1940 census was much more detailed than in any previous census. Minnesota Congressional Representative Michele Bachmann was highly vocal in claiming the 10 simple questions asked in the 2010 questionnaire were too invasive. While there has always been sporadic resistance to census questioning over the years, she would be stunned to have had to provide answers to the 1940 form, which contained no less than 34

individual questions to be asked of each family member. Besides asking the standard name, age, gender and race, other questions included whether or not there was a flush toilet in the house and whether anyone in the household was employed in public emergency work such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) or the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). There was also a “supplementary”

**CENSUS ARMY SET
TO MOVE TUESDAY**

**Nose-Counters To Swarm
Over County, Nation
Asking Questions**

Photos on Page 2

A small army of more than 200 census-takers rested on its arches today waiting for Tuesday when the 1940 population census will thrust its foot in Summit county's front door.

The nose-counters will swarm not only this county, but the nation, as Uncle Sam sits down for his decennial heart-to-heart talk with his millions of nieces and nephews.

While the count doesn't begin until Tuesday, everyone alive at the zero hour, 12:01 a. m. Monday, will be counted. Babies born after that hour won't count, at least not in the census.

*Akron Beacon Journal,
Sunday, March 31, 1940.*

feature that required persons enumerated on lines 14 and 29 of every sheet to answer a further 14 questions including birthplace of parents, number of children and Social Security number. One new provision introduced in 1940 required the person supplying the answers to be identified. This was to be done by placing a circled "X" next to the name of the family member furnishing the information. In addition, if someone other than a family member such as a neighbor or landlord supplied the needed answers, their full name was to be noted alongside the family for which information was being provided.

As in earlier census forms, most of the questions that were asked were routine and not considered to be objectionable. However, there were two questions that proved to be highly controversial with the public in general and to Congress in particular. These asked how much money each person over the age of 14 earned in 1939 and whether more than \$50 had been received other than by wages. There was such sharp dissension over this in early 1940, that a Senate subcommittee advocated having the section on personal finances eliminated from the proposed form and called on the President to intervene. President Franklin Roosevelt flatly rejected their argument, prompting one notoriously conservative Senator to compare the defiant F.D.R. to Adolf Hitler for his refusal to delete or amend this section. The questions on individual economics stayed in.

As the big day approached the census bureau issued written instructions that directed each enumerator to record every individual alive on April 1, 1940, being careful to further note that the designated census time was 12:01 am on that day.

Enumerators were also instructed by the bureau to omit counting persons in "trailer camps, missions or flophouses" as those would be recorded in a supplementary count the following week. Although the public had been repeatedly told April 1 was designated as census day, the actual door-to-door questioning didn't begin until the following day as the authorities feared frivolous answers would be supplied if it were begun on April Fool's day. Over the next couple of weeks, counting proceeded

without a hitch in Akron, or if there were any major problems it went unreported in the newspaper.

In 1940, a grand total of 132,164,569 individuals were counted in the U.S. The state of Ohio was found to be the nation's fourth most populous state following only New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois. Ohio was just a few hundred ahead of fifth place California. Despite the ongoing economic depression, Ohio's official count of 6,907,612 was a 7.3 percent increase in population from 1930. As an aside, the least populous state in the union was Nevada with a scant total of 110,247 persons – less than half the total for the city of Akron.

Which brings us back to the upcoming release of the 1940 census in 2012. So how will the process go? How will the public be able to access the census? The National Archives will release full, digitized images on April 2, 2012. A very informative and helpful page (featuring a countdown clock, no less) devoted to the release of the census images can be found here:

<http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/>.

Ancestry.com also plans on making the 1940 census available and is slated to release the same images approximately two weeks after the National Archives. The Ancestry version will purportedly be free to use on your home computer through 2013. The intent is probably to spur interest in genealogy and to encourage new researchers to use their Website. As of this writing (2011), there are plans to produce a microfilm version, but it will not be made available for ordering until after the digitized images have been released.

Due to the sheer volume involved, finding the families you are seeking will require a bit of work on your part. As there will be no every-name index for the first few months following the release of the census, researchers will need to know in which enumeration district their family resided. To do this, it will first be necessary to learn the street address where the family lived. This can be done by using the digital version of the [1940 Akron City Directory](#) on the Special Collections site or by viewing the hard copy in Special Collections Division at Main Library. Armed with an address, the enumeration

district can be found by consulting the National Archives Website or by using this very helpful link <http://www.stevemorse.org/census/1940instructions.htm>.

Unless you are extraordinarily lucky, some scanning through the images will still be necessary but, if done right, the family being sought should be found within a window of a few pages. So give it a try this coming April. Your efforts will be worth it. Happy Hunting!

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

Akron Alumnae Club of Pi Beta Phi for historical records.

Delores Jones for *A Family Built on Banks and Walls: A History of the Ancestors and Descendants of Tilla Banks and Mack & Anna Wall of Holmes and Carroll Counties, Mississippi*.

Winnetta Kennedy for *This Place We Call Home: A History of Clark County, Indiana* by Carl E. Kramer.

Munroe Falls Historical Society for Akron Public Library commemorative artifact.

Sharon Myers for *The Original Silver Lake Country Club* and *The First 119 homes in Silver Lake and How the Village Developed: 1808-1930* by Sharon Myers.

The Honorable Bill Spicer for *Recipes and Household Hints for the Bride* and photographs and historical materials pertaining to the marriage of Mina Miller and Thomas Edison.

Anne and Eddie Thomas for *The Robinson Family: Staffordshire to Akron*, and compiled research pertaining to William Robinson and his descendants.

WITAN for historical records.

African American Genealogy

by Iris Bolar, Librarian

Family history research, regardless of one's heritage, begins in the same manner for every family: you start with the present and work backward. Likewise, when researching an individual, you start with the death record and obituary because they provide some information about a person's life. Using a generation chart as your guide, you record basic information for ancestors. Every family historian must interview relatives and search for death, marriage, birth, and census records. Records of wills, estates, military service, and land ownership are also common to all family research. At some point, however, each family's research will branch out in different directions, reveal unique issues, and lead to the discovery of less common records. This is also the case with African American genealogy. This article will look at how African American family history researchers should approach some common records and present a few unique records for researchers to explore.

For African Americans, it comes as no surprise that the institution of slavery is the biggest hurdle to genealogy research. The fact that enslaved ancestors were considered property rather than people means that finding records for them will be difficult to impossible. Every case is unique, and researchers cannot assume that they must give up looking for ancestors before the end of slavery. Not only were there free blacks with records before the Civil War, but sometimes there were slaves named in antebellum records. The key in researching the slavery era is to identify the slave-owners of a particular location so that their records can be searched for names of slaves. You can do this by using the 1850 and 1860 *Slave Schedules* of the United States Census. These schedules only identify the slave owners by name; the gender, age, and race (black or mulatto) are recorded about each slave. While searching for slave-owners, researchers must not assume that former slaves took the surnames of their former owners; this was not always the case. Slave schedules can be searched on [Ancestry Library Edition](#).

Wills, Estates, and Deeds

While documents that record assets and property transactions are commonly used in genealogy research, most African American researchers must consider ancestors as having been property-owners *and* property. As property, slaves were often identified in these documents. The slave-owner's name is necessary to search these records. Wills, estates, and deeds can be found in county courthouses and library genealogy collections.

Freedman's Savings and Trust Company (Freedman's Bank)

The Freedman's Savings and Trust Company (1865-1874) was established by Congress as a banking institution for former slaves. There were 37 branches throughout the southern states. Depositor signature records and indexes for deposit ledgers exist for some locations (actual ledgers no longer exist). Information contained in many of the signature registers may include: name of depositor, date of entry, place born, place brought up, residence, age, complexion, name of employer or occupation, wife or husband, children, parents, and siblings. Some records also contain the name of the former master or mistress. These records can be found on [Heritage Quest](#).

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Freedman's Bureau)

This post-Civil War federal agency was created to help former slaves become self-sufficient. It operated from 1865 to 1872. The agency had field offices in the southern states, and its functions included helping with claims and complaints, overseeing labor contracts between planters and African Americans, helping to legalize marriages entered into during slavery, providing rations, building schools, providing transportation, and assisting black soldiers with pensions. The majority of this voluminous group of records is not indexed, and many are not microfilmed. Information about these records can be found at www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/freedmens-bureau. Records are held by the National Archives, but some can be found on the [Ancestry Library Edition](#) database. Free Websites with some transcribed records are *The*

Freedmen's Bureau Online at <http://freedmensbureau.com> and *FamilySearch* at www.familysearch.org.

Southern Claims Commission

The Commissioners of Claims, commonly referred to as the Southern Claims Commission, was established by Congress to review the claims of southerners seeking compensation for supplies, livestock, wagons and other property confiscated by the Union Army and Navy during the Civil War. The commission conducted hearings from 1871 to 1880. Claimants, regardless of race or gender, had to show proof of ownership and loss and evidence of loyalty to the Union during the war. Some African Americans were claimants, and some served as witnesses for claimants. Sometimes information regarding former slave masters or relatives is included. These digitized records are available on [Ancestry Library Edition](#).

Manumission Documents and Free Negro Registers

Slaves were sometimes freed by their masters before the Civil War. The manumission documents, or "freedom papers," were recorded at the county level. Free African Americans risked being kidnapped and sold again into slavery if their certificates of freedom were not recorded. Before the Civil War, southern states (and some northern states) had laws requiring free African Americans to register proof of their free status. Some of these records have been compiled for researchers and can be found in library genealogy collections.

Slavery Era Insurance Registers

These are registers of insurance policies made to cover the losses, injuries or deaths of slaves leased for work to third parties by slave owners. In recent years, California and Illinois have required insurance companies that operate in those states and which have these policies in their archives to make these records accessible. The registers contain the slave's name, location, and occupation; policy number; slaveholder's name and location; and the insurance company. The registers of California and Illinois, including information on where to locate the insurance documents, can found online at

www.insurance.ca.gov/0100-consumers/0300-public-programs/0200-slavery-era-insur/ and www.insurance.illinois.gov/Consumer/SlaveryInformation/SlaveryReporting.asp.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships provided orphaned, indigent, and illegitimate children, regardless of race and gender, a means of learning a trade from a “master” or “mistress” so as not to become burdens on the community. An apprentice was bound to serve for a specified period of time. Records include the apprentice’s name, age, master, and details regarding the apprenticeship. Some of these county records have been published and can be found in library genealogy collections.

Freedmen Listings in Dawes and Wallace Rolls

Some Native Americans were slave-owners. After slavery, some of the freed slaves were included in the Dawes Rolls and census cards. The Dawes Rolls (or “Final Rolls”) lists those who were accepted as members of the Five Civilized Tribes (Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws and Seminoles) and eligible for land allotments from the US government in return for abolishing tribal governments and recognizing federal laws. The enrollments took place from 1898 to 1907 with a few up to 1914. Information about the Dawes Rolls can be found at the National Archives site

www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/dawes/intro.html. Some listings have been published in books. The Wallace Roll was created to identify those of the Cherokee, Shawnee and Delaware tribes entitled to share money appropriated according to an 1866 treaty. The Wallace Roll of Cherokee Freedmen (1890-1893) can be searched on [Ancestry Library Edition](#). The Wallace Roll (c.1890-1896) has also been digitized on the National Archives’ online Archival Research Catalog (ARC) www.archives.gov/research/arc.

To learn more about African American genealogy records and research, check-out the following books:

- *Black Roots: A Beginner’s Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree*

- *Finding a Place Called Home: A Guide to African-American Genealogy and Historical Identity*
- *A Genealogist’s Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors*
- *Slave Ancestral Research: It’s Something Else* This is a case study of the author’s steps in her family research.

“Photography for the Family Historian” Set for Saturday, March 31, 2012

by Cheri Goldner, Librarian

For many family historians, the most sought after documents are those that show us what our ancestors actually looked like. While finding a family photograph can be a great accomplishment, our work shouldn’t end there. Analyzing a photograph may provide additional information about our ancestors, and preserving and sharing it will help make the information accessible to future generations.

To learn more about working with your family photographs, join us for a daylong program on Saturday, March 31 by Diane VanSkiver Gagel, M.A. A professional researcher, lecturer and writer and past president of the Ohio Genealogical Society, Diane is the author of several genealogy and photography books, including *Ohio Photographers: 1839-1900, Directory of Photographers in the United States 1888 & 1889 and Canada in 1889* and *Windows on the Past: Identifying, Dating, & Preserving Photographs*. She will discuss the topics of traditional vs. digital photography, finding and sharing family photographs, and dating, identifying and caring for historic photographs. Books will be available for purchase.

The program will take place in the Main Library Auditorium and is free and open to the public. Parking is free in the High-Market Parking Deck. To sign-up, contact Special Collections Division at 330-643-9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Summit County Births and Marriages on Ancestry

In 2008, the Summit County Probate Court was awarded a grant to digitize their vital records. Volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints worked diligently for over a year to scan the records. Several of us in Special Collections visited the Probate Court to meet the volunteers and see the scanning process. After the digitization was complete we waited to hear when, and on which database, these records would make their appearance. Finally, after three years, we're happy to announce that they are available on Ancestry. The cooperation between the Summit County Probate Court, the LDS Church, indexing volunteers, and Ancestry is a great example of the complicated process and effort that's often necessary for genealogical records to become available online.

The databases are *Summit County, Ohio, Marriage Records, 1840 – 1980* and *Summit County, Ohio, Birth Records, 1866 – 1908*. Remember that if you don't have an Ancestry subscription, you can access it within any ASCPL location with your library card. It's easy to search within these databases only. From the Ancestry home page, click on "all databases" at the bottom of the page. This will bring up Ancestry's searchable "card catalog" of databases. Enter "Summit County" (it's not necessary to capitalize the words) in the Keyword(s) box at the left of the page and click the orange Search button. These two databases are the only results. You can search within each database by clicking the links.

As with all digitized images in databases, search results are affected by the way names were indexed. If you cannot find what you're looking for in these databases, it's still worth it to double check using the microfilmed index and records. While Special Collections will continue to maintain Summit County marriage and birth records on microfilm, we encourage you to give the Ancestry databases a try. They are sure to become a valuable resource for Summit County researchers!

Late Night 2011

Special Collections opened its doors again for an after-hours event just for genealogists. Approximately 80 guests came out on a Friday evening for the annual research party. A group of about 25 attendees learned the layout of Special Collections on the 15-minute tour of the division and got a taste of genealogy basics in the 30-minute "Mini Getting Started in Family History" session at the beginning of the evening. Guests enjoyed refreshments, raffles, free photocopies and computer printouts during the event.

We thank the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogy Society and Barb Griffith, Registrar for the Cuyahoga-Portage Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, for their help in making this event a success.

Civil War Commemorative Events in Summit County

From now through 2015, Summit County will commemorate the 150th anniversary of Ohio's contribution to the Civil War. Be sure to attend these events in our community. For more information about events here and throughout the State, visit: www.ohiocivilwar150.org.

September 30 2011 – August 26, 2012
On the Home Front: Civil War Fashions and Domestic Life Exhibit

Kent State University Broadbent Gallery
<http://www.kent.edu/museum/index.cfm>

Civil War 150 Exhibit

Clothing and musical instruments from the Civil War period

First floor of Main Place Building, 121 South Main Street, Akron

Summit County Historical Society
www.summithistory.org

Summit County Medical Society Collection

By Mary Plazo, Librarian

Special Collections has recently acquired a collection of materials from the Summit County Medical Society. The Summit County Medical Society is one of the oldest medical societies in the state of Ohio. It was established in 1842, pre-dating even the Ohio State Medical Association. The society was created by one of the first settlers and the first physician of Hudson, Ohio, Moses Thompson, who came to the area in 1800. He discontinued practicing medicine in 1815 to tend to his farm but later became the first president of the Summit County Medical Society.

Many of the earliest records of the Summit County Medical Society no longer exist, but we do know that several of the founding members of the society were prominent members of the community. One of Akron's first doctors was Dr. Eliakim Crosby, the same Dr. Crosby who founded the village of Cascade where Market and Howard Streets now meet. Several street names you might recognize in Akron were named after members of the Society: Elias W. Howard, S.W. Bartges, A. M. Cole, just to mention a few. Even our own Benjamin F. Goodrich was a member of the Society before he started in the rubber industry.

In his book *The History of Medicine in Summit County Ohio*, Alexander McCormick describes with anecdotal stories and biographical summaries the lifestyles and practices of the first known physicians in Northeast Ohio. He writes, "The doctors in the early days worked hard, and visits to patients often took much time and were fatiguing. Payments for services were often made in kind. For one obstetric case, [a doctor] received two meals of wild turkey and a jug of homemade whiskey."

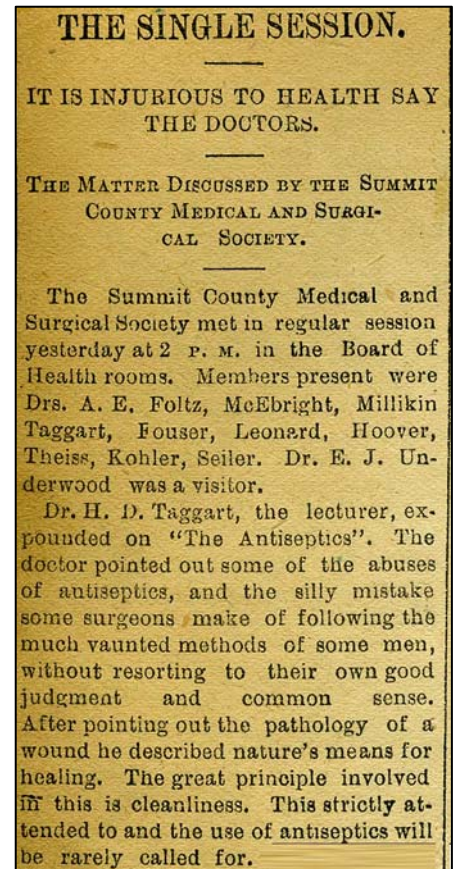
Since there would be no State Medical Examining Board for many years, just about anyone who could hang out a sign could practice medicine. There were many poorly trained people in the medical field and no sterilization practices or antiseptics. As you can imagine, this led not only to the deaths of

many patients but also put the doctors themselves at risk.

Even as late as the 1890s, there was still a strong attitude of skepticism toward the use of antiseptics. This article from the *Summit County Beacon* on April 6, 1892 reports on one of the society's annual Summit County medical sessions and the consensus that keeping wounds clean is most important and antiseptics will only rarely be needed.

As medical societies were founded and rules of ethics created, many of those doctors who did study were very opposed to the amateur practice of medicine. In a book of meeting minutes from the Summit County Medical Society Collection dated February 7, 1866, one member writes, "Quackery under every guise and in all its phases must be avoided." It wasn't until 1896 that the Board of Medical Examination and Registration, State of Ohio was established.

Included in the collection is a small selection of extremely early medical reference books dating from 1754 to 1853. One of the books, *A System of Surgery* from 1791, shows many of the primitive and almost medieval instruments that were used for different procedures. Another book, *Dispensatory of the United States* from 1849 reads, "The objects of the Dispensatory are to present an account of medicinal substances in the state in which they are brought into the shops, and to teach the modes in



which they are prepared for use.” From Absinthium to Zincum, this book gives the specific recipe for mixing each medicine as well as its medical properties and uses.

Among the other items in the collection are copies of the Summit County Medical Society Bulletin from the mid 1940s through 2006. These bulletins include announcements of featured lectures by physicians, lists of officers, and advertisements by hospitals and medical product manufacturers.

The Society’s collection also consists of ledgers dating from 1866 through the 1970s. These ledgers contain meeting minutes, names of members, budget figures, discussions of specific medical cases, brief biographies of members who died, and other miscellaneous topics of the day. Some of the most interesting reading is found in the earliest ledger books. Looking at the meeting minutes from Nov. 7, 1866, you see details regarding the rates for services, including how much to charge for a house call at night or to treat syphilis.

For opinion in writing or special advice	\$ 3.00 to \$ 5.00
For Consultation (mileage added)	5.00
For Vaccination in Office	1.00
" " at patients residence as ordinary visit	
" Leverhoew (cost of med. added)	\$ 5.00 to \$ 10.00
" Syphilis (7 inst. prescription)	10.00
<u>Obstetrics</u>	
Natural Delivery	\$ 5.00 to \$ 10.00
Use of Forceps!	10.00 to 25.00

A portion of the minutes from November 7, 1866 describing the rates for various medical procedures. From the Summit County Medical Society Collection.

Reading the wide range of topics discussed by each individual doctor makes you realize that specialists were rare and that each doctor had to attend to whatever case he was called upon. The notes reveal discussions covering topics such as eye disease, lip cancer, broken tibias, treating children with pneumonia, and how much anesthetic is necessary during operations. The use of carbolic acid for diphtheritic inflammations, measuring expirations from the lungs, and sad descriptions of attempted

tumor removals that resulted in death are also described.

The notes shed some light on the Society’s evolving place in our community. In the notes of August 9, 1887, it is mentioned that the Women’s Christian Temperance Union requested that the Medical Society “take some action relative to the special temperance legislation for instruction in the public schools on the effects of alcohol.” This is later resolved by the Society in the meeting notes with, “while we as a body are fully in favor of any and all methods to prevent the abuse of intoxicating liquors and opium, we do not believe it judicious to introduce such study into our common schools.”

Also in the same notes, a prominent and much admired doctor by the society, Dr. Akin C. Miller, died suddenly the previous June and his death was noted along with these words: “The members are at once twice and again reminded that physicians are no exception to the rule that consigns all living to the impenetrable realm of death.”

In 1910, there were still only two kinds of doctors: surgeons and the eye, ear, nose and throat specialists. There were only two operating rooms in Akron, both in City Hospital with unreliable electric lighting. Doctors were leery of gas lighting because of the dangerous potential fire hazard with the use of ether.

By 1913, the need for a tubercular hospital became urgent. It was in this year that doctors and officials from Summit, Mahoning, Portage, Columbiana, and Stark counties came together to build Springfield Lake Sanatorium, which later became the Edwin Shaw Sanatorium. In fact, one of the items in the Society’s collection is a manual from 1926 titled, *Diagnostic Standards: Pulmonary and Glandular Tuberculosis* from the Springfield Lake Sanatorium.

After the turn of the century, the demand for hospitals became greater in Summit County. The Medical Society had been instrumental in founding Akron City Hospital in 1887 and Children’s Hospital in 1905. It went on to help establish People’s Hospital (now Akron General Medical Center) in 1914 and Citizen’s Hospital (Barberton) in 1915.

The Summit County Medical Society was also known for surpassing all other Ohio county medical societies for the number of members who served as physicians in wars from the War of 1812 through to the First World War. More than 180 members of the Society also served in World War II. It was during this time that more people began to be treated in emergency rooms in hospitals because there were not enough physicians available to attend to patients. After World War II, many doctors returned home from the war and wanted to open their own private practices. This is when we start to see more changes in the curriculum for medical students and as well as a huge growth in specializations. By 1950, there were 497 doctors in Summit County, which produced a ratio of one doctor to 804 people in the county.

The Society also became more involved with the Health Department and other local health agencies. For example, the Society would form councils to support county-wide health protocols such as adding fluoride to the water supply, enforcing the requirement of certain vaccinations, and negotiating rates of medical expenses for local unions. They also supported the enactment of rules and legislation that would benefit those in need in the community.

In 1995, a group of doctors split from the Summit County Medical Society and formed a separate organization, the Medical Society of Greater Akron, because of conflicts of interest with the Ohio State Medical Association. After a split that lasted over a decade, the two societies finally merged again in 2007 to re-form the Summit County Medical Society.

A few other special items in the collection include a brief written history about the “Akron Doctors Orchestra” that began in 1926 and was one of the earliest and most active orchestras in the country. The name was changed to the Akron Pops Orchestra in 1986, and is still thriving today. You can see their schedule at <http://www.akronpops.org/>. And if classical isn't your taste, you can always keep an eye on the doctors who play more modern music

every year by checking out “Docs Who Rock” at <http://www.docswhorock.com/>.

The Summit County Medical Society is still alive and strong today. Their Website, <http://scmsoc.org/>, provides many links to individual medical facilities in Summit County, lists of doctors available in a variety of networks, articles about health programs and much more.

Workshops from Special Collections

Getting Started in Family History

Saturday, January 14, 10 am – noon

Saturday, March 17, 10 am – noon

Join the Special Collections Division for an introduction to genealogy for new family historians. This session will include an overview of genealogical sources available at the Library, suggestions for getting started, and tips for organizing your research. This workshop meets in the Special Collections Division, Third Floor, Main Library. For more information and to sign up, contact the Special Collections Division, 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Getting Started in African American Genealogy

Saturday, February 11, 10 am – noon

Do you want to trace your African American family tree? Not sure how or where to begin? The Special Collections Division presents a class for genealogy beginners who have a specific interest in African American ancestral research. This workshop meets in Meeting Room 2AB, Main Library. For more information and to sign up, contact the Special Collections Division, 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Using Ancestry in Your Genealogy Research

Saturday, February 18, 10 am – noon

With more than 7,000 databases and 200 billion images, Ancestry is the premier online genealogy resource—and it's available to you for free within any ASCPL location. This workshop will introduce you to the many features of Ancestry Library Edition and show you how to do efficient and effective searches. Because electronic resources are used, basic

computer skills are recommended. This workshop meets in Computer Lab 2, First Floor, Main Library. For more information and to sign up, contact the Special Collections Division at speccollections@akronlibrary.org or 330.643.9030.

Finding Your Family in the Census

Saturday, February 4, 10 am – noon

United States Census records are rich sources of genealogical information. Join us as we learn more about using these valuable records in your family research. 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 and to sign up, contact us at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors

Saturday, March 3, 10 am – noon

Most of us will find immigrant ancestors somewhere in our family tree. Join staff from the Special Collections Division for a discussion of identifying immigrant ancestors and locating 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 and to sign up, contact us at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Branching Out: Second Steps in Genealogy

Saturday, January 21, 10 am - noon

A detailed continuation of *Getting Started in Family History*, this class is geared toward those who have already done some research. Participants will learn what to expect when working with vital records and obituaries and basic search strategies for finding them in both online and traditional sources. This workshop meets in Meeting Room 2AB, High Street Level, Main Library. For more information and to sign up, contact us at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Putting It All Together

Saturday, March 10, 10 am - noon

Family history research can produce a lot of documents, photos, and memorabilia. This class offers ideas and resources for recording, storing, preserving, displaying and sharing your research. This workshop meets in meeting Room 2AB, High Street Level, Main Library. For more information and to sign up, contact us at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Workshops from Summit County OGS

The 1940 Census is Coming!

Saturday, January 21, 1 pm

What do you mean no surname index!?!?! Julie Wilson will point us to the available tools to help locate our relatives and ancestors, even without the use of an index. The questions our ancestors answered changed with every census. Learn what we can find out from the 1940 Census. For more information please visit <http://www.summitogs.org/>.

Finding and Using Deeds In Your Genealogical Research: Location Isn't Everything

Saturday, February 18, 1 pm

Deeds are an underutilized resource that can be intimidating and difficult to understand. Join Chris Staats as he discusses the wealth of information to be found in these records and shows how deeds are about far more than learning where your ancestor lived. For more information please visit <http://www.summitogs.org/>.

Sailing Into the Sunset: Tips for Finding Your Ancestors on Passenger Lists

Saturday, March 17, 1 pm

Presented by Elissa Scalise Powell, CGSM, CGLSM. Passenger lists are a wonderful resource for finding out more about the origins of immigrant ancestors. This program reviews the history of why passenger lists were recorded in an attempt to understand what types of records exist. Various indices, research aides, examples of records and where to find them are all discussed. For more information please visit <http://www.summitogs.org/>.

New to the Collection

Alabama

Cemetery records of Calhoun County
DeKalb County marriage index, 1916-1925
Marriages of Etowah County prior to 1900

Connecticut

Abstracts from the Connecticut Gazette, 1777-1779
Abstracts from the New London Gazette, 1763-73
Annals and family records of Winchester [Litchfield County]

Delaware

Index to Sussex County wills, 1800-1851
Land records of Sussex County
Marriages, births, deaths and removals of New Castle County
Sussex County marriage references, 1648-1800

District of Columbia

Freedom & slavery documents in the District of Columbia, 1793-1822

Georgia

Bleckley County cemeteries
Bleckley County marriages, 1913-2004
Carroll County cemeteries
Cemeteries of Macon County, 1838-1904
Laurens County cemeteries
Marriage records of Pulaski County, 1810-1855
Wills of Pulaski County

Kentucky

Ballard County, cemeteries
Carroll County cemeteries
Cemeteries of Carlisle County
Crittenden County cemeteries
Daviess County marriage records
Eternal rest: Owen County cemetery records
McLean County cemeteries
McLean County marriage records, 1854-1971
Meade County records [marriages]
Ohio County cemeteries
Pulaski County cemetery records
Pulaski County marriage records
Simpson County cemeteries
Simpson County marriages, 1882-1910

Trimble County cemetery book

Maine

Burial records, 1811-1980, of the Western Cemetery, Portland
Vital records of Cape Elizabeth, Maine
Vital records of Castine, Maine
Vital records of Litchfield, Maine
Vital records of Rome, Maine
Vital records of Wiscasset, Maine

Maryland

Beneath these stones: cemeteries of Caroline County
Black Baltimore, 1820-1870
Caroline County marriage references, 1774-1850
Colonial families of the Eastern Shore
Death and burials in St. Mary's County
Marriages and deaths from Baltimore newspapers, 1817-1824
Marylanders to Ohio and Indiana: migrations prior to 1835
Marylanders to Tennessee, 1775-1835
More Marylanders to Ohio and Indiana: migrations prior to 1835
Prince George's County marriage references and family relationships, 1695-1800
Queen Anne remembers: tombstones of Queen Anne's County
St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Baltimore, baptisms: 1825-1871
Talbot County marriage references, 1662-1800
The tents of Baltimore: ohelims in the Jewish cemeteries
Tombstones of Talbot County
Tombstoning in Kent County

Michigan

Family maps of...Michigan. multiple counties
Knapp Cemetery [Oakland County]
Michigan genealogy research
Midland County marriage records, 1855-1910: including groom & bride indexes
Northville First United Methodist Church, 1834-2009 [Oakland County]
Waterford Cemetery [Wayne County]
Southeastern Michigan pioneer families, especially Lenawee County and New York origins [volumes also for Calhoun and Ingham counties]

Mississippi

Enumeration of educable children in Kemper County, 1896

New Jersey

Early Union County church records, 1750-1800

Ohio

Belle Center Herald Voice newspaper abstracts, 1918-1931 [Logan County]

Bellefontaine Examiner obituaries, 1978 [Logan County]

Births at Mercy Hospital [Knox County]

Branches and Twigs [Logan County Genealogical Society newsletters], 1979-2008

Clark Cemetery and Oak Hill Cemetery [Holmes County]

Clermont County: as extracted from Henry Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio

Community news, 1885, Hillsborough Gazette [Highland County]

Early history of Zanesville...[Muskingum County]

Early settlers of the Firelands

Four generations of descendants from 1807 eligible voters' list, Highland County

History of Clay Township, Highland County: sesqui-centennial, 1805-1955

Haunted history of the Ohio State Reformatory

History of Smithfield: 1800-present [Jefferson County]

Hocking County death index

Hocking County estates

Holmes County marriages, 1825-1859

Index to A Portrait and Biographical Record of Portage and Summit Counties 1898

Index, 1911 Morrow County history

Index to century family files, Coshocton County

Index to the records held in the Cowling-Truman Funeral Home of Wellington, Ohio [Lorain County]

Lawco lore: the first decade, 1984-1993, Vol I- X

Liberty Township cemeteries [Hardin County]

Logan County 1880-1930 Infirmary and Children's Home inmates

Logan County birth index & certificates, 1924-1930

Logan County, Ohio interments, 1995-2005

Lorain County probate court deaths

McGuffey in the marsh: scrapbook collections of Georgianne Comstock [Hardin County]

Mapping our oldest roads [Highland County]

Marriage records, Hocking County

Monroe County cemetery inscriptions: Adams, Franklin

An old-timer's recollection of Belfast: or, livin' as it was in early days [Highland County]

Pension list: Highland County, 1886

Pickaway County place names: a collections of toponyms and historic maps

Porter Funeral Home records [Harrison County]

Probate Court birth records, Mercer County

Probate Court estate releases, 1987-1990 [Hocking County]

Randolph Park (Chautauqua) at Crystal Lake [Portage County]

Rebecca Muntz scrapbook [Highland County]

Records of the Ayres Drug Store, Hillsboro, 1866-1898 [Highland County]

Reynoldsburg High School, Class of 1966: 40th anniversary reunion

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Danbury [Ottawa County]

St. Thomas Episcopal Church: Port Clinton baptisms 1896, 1900-1920 [Ottawa County]

Township, Ottawa County: records from 1845-1952

Sanders Funeral Home records: Port Clinton [Ottawa County]

Scioto County: as extracted from Henry Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio

Smithfield High School, 1885-1972 [Jefferson County]

Supreme Court journal, 1814-1832 [Harrison Co.]

To all whom it may concern: Morrow County discharge records, 1861-1870; 1870-1924

The Weekly Examiner newspaper abstracts, 1895 [Logan County]

Wellington, Lorain County First United Methodist Church records, 1858-1974

Wellston family history [Jackson County]

Westlake, Cuyahoga County early inscriptions of Evergreen Cemetery and death records of old Dover Township

Pennsylvania

Berks County church records of the 18th century
The Blue Mountain Legion: a history of the
Hamburg Unit of Pennsylvania Army National
Guard
Bucks County miscellaneous deed docket, 1857-
1900
Bucks County orphans' court records, 1685-1852
A history of the Goshenhoppen Reformed charge,
Montgomery County (1727-1819)
Marriages and deaths of Cumberland Co., 1821-30
Philadelphia County land records, 1706-1713
A sketch of St. James' Parish: from its foundation in
1807 to 1899 [Philadelphia County]

Texas

Texas Ranger service records, 1838-1846

Lineage Societies

National Society, Colonial Daughters of the
Seventeenth Century: lineage book, 1896-1999

Military

Bayonets in the wilderness: Anthony Wayne's
legion in the Old Northwest
Flying officers of the United States Navy
Frontier retreat on the upper Ohio, 1779-1781
History of the First Battalion, Pennsylvania Six
Months Volunteers and 187th Regiment
Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry
A record of the officers, enlisted men and nurses of
Lancaster County, Penna. in the World War,
1917-1918
Their horses climbed trees: a chronicle of the
California 100 and Battalion in the Civil War,
from San Francisco to Appomattox
Wooden ships and iron men: the U.S. Navy's
coastal and inshore mine-sweepers and the
minecraft that served in Vietnam, 1953-1976
Rosie's mom: forgotten women workers of the First
World War

Reference

African American genealogy research
Crash course in genealogy
Ellis Island research
Getting started in Jewish genealogy
Revolutionary War genealogy research

Germany

German genealogy research

Family History

The Henry Royer and Sebastian Royer families
McPherson and Pfalzgraf: building an American
heritage

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

Contact Special Collections:

By telephone:
330.643.9030

By mail:
Special Collections
Akron-Summit County
Public Library
60 S. High Street
Akron, Ohio 44326

By email:
speccollections@akronlibrary.org

Visit us online at:
<http://sc.akronlibrary.org>

Find us on Facebook:
[Special Collections at ASCPL](#)

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

Now Online:

National Register of Historic Places Applications

Summit County boasts 161 historic properties that are included in the National Register of Historic Places. This is the official list of properties recognized by the federal government as worthy of preservation for their local, state, or national significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture. As part of the application process, detailed information must be submitted about each site to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. These applications, which include historical and physical descriptions of each property, are now available from our [Local History](#) page.

Ordering LDS Microfilm

Ordering microfilmed records from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City is now easier than ever thanks to their new online ordering program. Instead of ordering and paying through the library, you can now order and pay online in a few easy steps. The first step is to [create a free account](#) with Family Search. If you already have an account, simply go to their new film ordering page: www.familysearch.org/films, and sign in. The rest is easy, much like ordering from any online vendor. Once the film arrives, you will receive an email notification that it is available to be used here in Special Collections. For more information and detailed instructions, you can read or download their [User Guide](#).