

Local History Resources

Special Collections Division
Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 S. High Street, Akron, Ohio 44326
330-643-9030
speccollections@akronlibrary.org

The Akron-Summit County Public Library provides access to material relating to the growth and development of Akron and its surrounding communities. Please contact us for assistance in locating or using any of these sources.

Online sources

Many of our sources have been fully digitized online or are available in electronic form. All are freely accessible.

- Summit Memory, www.summitmemory.org, provides digitized documents including photographs, newspapers, oral history interviews, and more. Significant collections include the *Wingfoot Clan* newsletters of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, the Tallmadge History Collection, and the Online Map Room featuring maps and atlases of Akron and Summit County 1825-1921.
- Online books, www.akronlibrary.org/locations/main-library/special-collections/online-books, cover specific aspects of local history. Significant items include *The Contribution of Blacks in Akron, 1825-1975* by Dr. Shirla McClain and an 1880 Division Report of the Ohio and Erie Canal.
- Akron City Directories, 1859-1969, www.akronlibrary.org/locations/main-library/special-collections/genealogy/historic-city-directories, list area residents and businesses. Resident listings may include occupation and/or place of employment.
- *Akron Beacon Journal* database, 1984-current, includes full-text articles and obituaries, but does not include advertisements or images. It is available online with a valid ASCPL library card through our Library database list at www.akronlibrary.org/research/databases-a-z.
- National Register of Historic Places in Summit County, www.akronlibrary.org/locations/main-library/special-collections/local-history/national-register-of-historic-places-summit-county, includes links to digitized original nomination forms.

Books, microfilm and archival sources

Online catalogs, finding aids, indexes and databases can help you locate books, microfilm and archival sources in our collection. Many of these are stored in our workroom. Once you find an item of interest, please ask at the reference desk to view it in the research area.

- Special Collections holds the document and photograph collections of the Summit County Historical Society, www.summithistory.org.

- Archival collections contain records relating to specific families, businesses and organizations in Summit County. Significant collections include the Bain E. “Shorty” Fulton Collection and the Trucking History Collection. A full list of finding aids may be found at www.akronlibrary.org/locations/main-library/special-collections/local-history/archival-collections.
- The Local History Database, www.akronlibrary.org/DBS/SpecColldbO/Default.aspx, contains descriptions of thousands of photographs and documents significant to Summit County’s history. The database may be searched by name, subject or keyword.
- *Akron Beacon Journal* microfilm, 1841-current, contains exact images of the newspaper. There are some missing issues. Indexes are available online at www.akronlibrary.org/locations/main-library/special-collections/genealogy/akron-beacon-journal-subject-indexes (covering 1841-1939), and www.akronlibrary.org/locations/main-library/special-collections/genealogy/akron-beacon-journal-obituary-indexes (covering obituaries from 1937).
- Other Akron and Summit County newspapers, such as the *Akron Times-Press* and the *Cuyahoga Falls Reporter*, are also available. These are not indexed. Please see our microfilm holdings at www.akronlibrary.org/images/Divisions/SpecCol/images/microfilm-with-info-edit.pdf for a complete list.
- Vertical files located in the research area are organized by name or subject and contain clippings from newspapers and other publications.
- We carry many Summit County high school and University of Akron yearbooks.
- The Sounds of Summit collection includes recordings and material from local professional and amateur musicians, past and present.
- The Library’s [catalog](#) may be searched for local history books (mostly secondary source material) and other items.

Selected local history books

These popular general histories may help you get started with your research.

- *History of Summit County*, William H. Perrin (1881)
- *Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County*, Samuel A. Lane (1892)
- *Centennial History of Summit County and Its Representative Citizens*, William B. Doyle (1908)
- *A Centennial History of Akron, 1825-1925*, Oscar E. Olin (1925)
- *Akron and Summit County, Ohio, 1825-1928* (3 vols.), Scott Dix Kenfield (1928)
- *Akron and Summit County*, Karl H. Grismer (1952)

Local history resources in other Library divisions

- The Business & Government division holds clippings files and other information on many local businesses.
- The Culture & AV division holds biographies as well as books and clippings on sports and sports figures.
- The Science & Technology division holds a large collection of books on the polymer industry (rubber and plastics) and can assist with information on local inventors and patent holders.

- Books on Ohio history are divided among Library divisions depending on the specific subject. Check the catalog, or ask at the reference desk if you need assistance.

Local history resources from other repositories

- Many Summit County communities have public libraries and historical societies with available resources. For a list of repositories and contact information, see www.summithistory.org/museum_brown.htm.
- University of Akron Archival Services, www.uakron.edu/libraries/archives
- Western Reserve Historical Society, www.wrhs.org
- Ohio History Connection, www.ohiohistory.org
- Ohio Memory, www.ohiomemory.org
- American Memory (Library of Congress), <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>