OHIO

Akron, OH

147. The University of Akron

Archival Services
Akron, OH 44325-1702

Phone: (330) 972-7670
Fax: (330) 972-6170
E-mail: archives@uakron.edu
Website: www.uakron.edu/ul/archives
Hours: M-F 8 am–5 pm; appointments appreciated

Contact person:
S. Victor Fleischer, Head of Archival Services: (330) 972-7670; svfleis@uakron.edu

Finding aids: Available onsite

Overview:
Archival Services primarily collects, preserves, and makes accessible materials relating to the University of Akron and the history and development of the Akron area. As a division of the University Libraries, it is also the location for rare and special printed materials and for other special collections. Archival Services collects and preserves the personal papers and historical records of governments, businesses, and civic organizations in a nine-county region. 40,000 cu. ft. of records from 1830s–2005, especially 1900–1980.

Noteworthy collections:
  Correspondence, annual reports, financial reports, news releases and publicity, advertising, historical materials, materials relating to company history, historical materials relating to Charles Goodyear, audiovisual materials, photographs, scrapbooks, publications, aviation materials, materials relating to labor relations, employee activities, products files, materials relating to plants, plantations, realty and property, public relations, racing, scrapbooks, photograph albums, and news clippings.
• Ohio Edison Company Records (1889–1964). 300 cu. ft. Minutes, ledgers, financial and operating reports, photographs, and other records of the Ohio Edison Co. and predecessor gas light, traction, interurban, power, and holding companies.

• Goodrich, (B. F.) Company Records (1868–1990). 500 cu. ft. Board of Director’s minutes; annual reports; journals, ledgers, and other accounting records of the parent company, various domestic subsidiaries, and BFGoodrich International; advertising material; publications and news releases; speeches by corporate officials; registrations of patents and trademarks; research center reports and other files; product information; photographs and films.


Cleveland, OH

148. Case Western Reserve University

Special Collections Research Center
Kelvin Smith Library
10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106-7151

Phone: (216) 368-2993
Fax: (216) 368-6950
E-mail: askalibrarian@case.edu
Hours: M–F 9 am–12 pm and 1–5 pm

Contact persons:
Sue Hanson, Head of Special Collections: (216) 368-0189; norma.hanson@case.edu
Eleanor Blackman, Archivist: (216) 368-6504; eleanor.blackman@case.edu
Overview:
The Kelvin Smith Library's Special Collections Research Center is the repository for the papers of many men and women of national prominence.

Noteworthy collections:
  Charles F. Brush, Sr., (1849–1929) was a pioneer in the commercial development of electricity. His economical arc light system revolutionized the light industry in the 1880s.

149. Cleveland Public Library

Business Economics & Labor Department
325 Superior Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44114

Phone: (216) 623-2927
Fax: (216) 623-7008
E-mail: business@cpl.org
Website: www.cpl.org
Hours: M-Sat 9 am–6 pm; appt. recommended

Contact persons:
Maureen T. Mullin, Manager, Business Economics & Labor: (216) 623-2930
Sandra Witmer, Senior Subject Librarian, Business Economics & Labor: (216) 623-2927; sandra.witmer@cpl.org
Aaron Mason, Subject Librarian, Business Economics & Labor, Cleveland Research Center: (216) 623-2999; aaron.mason@cpl.org

Research center: Cleveland Research Center

Overview:
All aspects of worldwide business, economics and labor are represented, with special attention to American industrial history. Strong collections in transportation including railroads and shipping; business; labor, including management science; advertising and patents. Unique collections include Cleveland business history, business directories, and corporate annual reports. 22,000 lin. ft., predominantly from 1840–present.
Predominant dates: 1840–current
Noteworthy collections:

- Cleveland Business History (1800–current).
- Historical information on local companies can be found in the Cleveland Corporation File, a unique collection on microfilm consisting of newspaper clippings and Chamber of Commerce Reports. Our comprehensive collection of books on Cleveland companies, annual reports, regional business directories and unpublished materials round out the collection. The Photograph Collection has a comprehensive collection of Cleveland industrial photographs, including formal portraits of the Rockefeller, Hanna, Stone, Grasselli, Holden, and Mather families. Holdings include industrial photographs by Margaret Bourke-White, and WPA photos. Holdings include photographs from the Newspaper Enterprise Association and The Plain Dealer.
- Transportation (1840–current). 12,000 vols. Transportation, including shipping, railroads, aviation, and automobile industries
- Corporate Annual Reports Collection (1880–2000). 678 cu. ft. Collection comprised of published annual reports for ca. 8,000 corporations. A broad range of businesses are represented including all types of manufacturing, transportation, utilities, retailing, communications, energy production, publishing, food production, broadcasting and banking. The bulk of the collection covers the years 1920 to the late 1970s. Annual reports for the railroad industry include reports from the late 1800s.

Columbus, OH

150. Ohio Historical Society

Archives/Library
1982 Velma Ave.
Columbus, OH 43211-2497

Phone: (614) 297-2510
Fax: (614) 297-2546
E-mail: reference@ohiohistory.org
Website: www.ohiohistory.org
Hours: Th 9 am–9 pm

Overview:
The Archives/Library of the Ohio Historical Society collects, preserves, and makes available to the public written and graphic information concerning Ohio’s history. As the State Archives of Ohio, it is the designated repository for state government records of enduring historical value. The Ohio Historical Society has long recognized the importance of business in the history of the state and advocates the collection and retention of business records. With well over 100 collections dated from the early 1800s through the twentieth century related to business among our holdings, we are dedicated to working with Ohio businesses looking to establish their legacy and historical record, such as our work on the White Castle System Incorporated Collection and the Dominion East Ohio Gas Company Collection.

Noteworthy collections:

Manuscript Collections
- Ahrens-Fox Fire Engine Company
  Cincinnati-based company that produced steam-powered fire engines.
  Creator of stationary/marine diesel and steam engines and locomotive diesel engines, including submarine engines, power plants, Liberty Ships, and Lima-Hamilton locomotives.
- Baker Art Gallery
  Established in the 1870s, the Baker Art Gallery soon became the most important photographic studio in Columbus and was widely recognized nationally.
  With its roots in an 1880s iron foundry located on the south side of Columbus, Buckeye Steel Castings went on to become one of the country’s major suppliers of steel castings to the railroads of the 1900s and beyond.
  Founded as a public-operated entity in 1972, COTA had its roots in various privately owned companies that are documented in this collection.
Founded in 1871, the Champion Bridge Company was an early creator of wrought iron bridge works and built bridges from Ohio to Florida through the 1980s.

• Crescent Silver Company of Cincinnati
A rare view of an 1870s-era silver mine, located in the Colorado Territory and owned by businessmen of Cincinnati.

• Curtis-Seeberger Family Papers (1820s–1930s). 18.75 lin. ft.
Includes the business records of Charles Seeberger, the inventor of the escalator.

Incorporated in 1898 and continues to serve Northeastern Ohio in the twenty-first century.

Company resulted from the merging of several Ohio baking companies in 1949.

• Dunzweiler Construction Company
Incorporated in 1917 for general contracting work, the Zanesville-based Dunzweiler Co. constructed a section of the National Road, the Roseville and Ohio potteries, and various churches, banks and schools.

• Humphreys/Titsworth Family Papers
A collection documenting the medical and surgical partnership of Frank Humphreys and Dr. A. W. Titsworth, 1893–1931.

• Jeffrey Manufacturing Company
Established in 1877 by Joseph Andrew Jeffrey to produce the first power-driven coal cutter used in America, remained one of the largest family-run businesses in Columbus until the mid-1970s.

The Lazarus Family founded the F. & R. Lazarus & Co. in the mid-1800s and Lazarus Department Stores became a mainstay in Ohio in the twentieth century.

• Leffel, James & Co.
In the 1860s, inventor and businessman James Leffel designed and built the double turbine water wheel and formed the James Leffel & Co. to promote the product.

• Lustron Corporation
Carl Strandlund founded the Lustron Corporation in the mid-1940s to develop prefabricated houses out of baked enamel steel.
• Roseville Pottery Company
  Incorporated in 1892 and based in Zanesville, the Roseville Pottery Co. was renowned for its clay-based products.

• Seneca Motorcar Company
  Organized in 1917 in Fostoria, this early automobile manufacturer produced cars largely for overseas buyers until 1924.

  Formed in 1875 at the first national convention of the manufacturing potters in the United States.

  John M. Waddell (1853–1922) founded the Waddell Wooden Ware Works Company in 1889 after securing a patent on a coffee mill handle. Located in Greenfield, OH, the company incorporated on January 1, 1901, as a wholesale manufacturer of store furniture, show cases, money drawers, coffee mills, swinging chairs, game traps, and cutters. Three of its four officers were Waddell family members. The company’s name changed numerous times, including the John M. Waddell Manufacturing Co., the Waddell Postal Fixture Co., Sun Manufacturing Co., and finally, the Waddell Co. The company continued to manufacture various products, specializing in display cases. In 1936, Dean T. Waddell purchased all company interests and patent rights from his brothers. Dean’s son George Waddell eventually served as president.

• White Castle System, Inc.
  White Castle pioneered the fast food hamburger chain concept in the 1920s, and continues as a leader in the field today.

• Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company
  Organized in 1900 to manufacture and sell sheet iron and steel products.

State Archives Series (SAS)
• Ohio. Secretary of State: Index to record of incorporations, 1852–1969; SAS 3081
• Ohio. Secretary of State: Record of incorporations, 1852–1951; SAS 3080
Youngstown, OH

151. Youngstown Historical Center

Ohio Historical Society
151 W. Wood Street
Youngstown, OH 44503-1034

Phone: (330) 743-5934
Email: yhcil@ohiohistory.org
Website: www.ohiohistory.org
Hours: Wed, F 12–4 pm, Th 12–9 pm, First Sat 12–4 pm

Overview:

The Archives/Library research facility houses local government records as well as materials relating to the iron and steel industries in northeastern Ohio and the development of organized labor. At this time, the county records, selected Ohio death records, selected manuscript materials, and videotaped oral histories are available for research.

Noteworthy collections:

  Contains the photographic records and annual reports of the Buckeye Coal Co., a subsidiary of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Co. that supplied coal for its steel mills. Included the Nemacolin, Dehue, Brier Hill, Redfield, and Mahan Mines. This collection consists of 2,500 photographs and negatives documenting the operations of these mines. Also included are the annual reports for the company’s mines for 1921–1946, which have information on production, accidents, and construction and expansion programs.

  Includes photographs, negatives, and transparencies, slides (mounted transparencies), and audio recordings. The collection consists of approximately half of the audiovisual material acquired in 1981 from Jones & Laughlin Steel, Inc., successor to the Lykes-Youngstown Corporations. The remaining material is found in the Youngstown Sheet & Tube Audiovisual Archives dating from ca. 1910 to ca. 1950 and consisting of approximately
1,600 glass plate negatives, 2,300 safety negatives, 6,000 additional safety negatives reproduced from the original nitrate negatives, and reference prints of these negatives (prints produced by the Ohio Historical Society). The Lykes-Youngstown collection, however, contains over 12,000 photographs, produced from 1940s through the 1970s. Researchers seeking comprehensive visual documentation of the Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. should consult both collections. Lykes-Youngstown staff photographer Perc Kelty produced most of the material in this collection. Other items possibly were produced by Ed Salt, editor of the house organ, the Youngstown Bulletin, or by other corporations.

Consists of approximately half of the audiovisual collection given to the Ohio Historical Society by Jones and Laughlin Steel Inc. The remaining material is found in the Lykes-Youngstown Corp. Audiovisual Archives and consists of photographs, negatives and transparencies, slides, audio-recordings, and films. The contents of the collection are diverse and include processes, company sponsored social events, production of various materials, and construction sites. Researchers seeking comprehensive visual documentation should consult both collections.

Correspondence, shipping orders, lease agreements, mining records, employment office records, patent and trademark information and merger documents. The Niles Fire Brick Co. was organized in 1872 by John R. Thomas, and played a key role in the development of the Mahoning Valley’s steel industry. The company acquired high grade clay reserves in Clarion and Beaver counties, PA, to supply raw material for their fire brick works. Mining and shipping operations were handled through Thomas & Co.

Consists of manuscript materials, photos, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, books, and various other documents relating to both Mr. Griffin’s work as the District 26 Director of the United Steelworkers of America and his activities with numerous community organizations.

Records are arranged into 24 series, as received and as organized by the Archives Committee of the East Ohio Gas Company.
  Comprised of drawings for buildings and renovations created by
  Mr. D’Orazio during his career as an architect in Youngstown,
  OH. The one hundred ten projects represented were located in
  Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania, clustering in Mahoning
  and Trumbull counties. They are representative of the scope and
  style of his work.

- **Republic Steel Corp. Audiovisual Collection (1941–1979).** 16,200
  items.
  Includes photographic negatives and slides. The bulk of the
  collection consists of ca. 13,000 black and white photographic
  negatives. In addition, there are ca. 2,000 color photographic
  negatives and 1,200 35 mm slides. The photographic negatives
  and slides date from ca. 1941–1979 and document Republic Steel
  Corp.’s operations at both its main production facilities as well
  as at its subsidiary companies. Also included are photographs
  of company social events and activities such as award banquets,
  dances, and picnics.