

News Release

Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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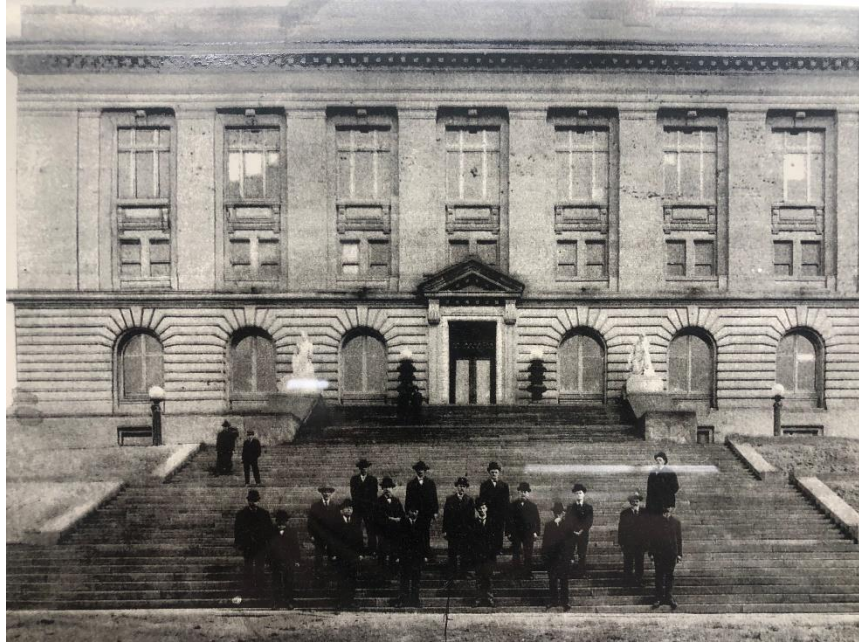
Summit County Celebrates 180th Anniversary

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—Today, March 3, 2020 marks 180 years since the State of Ohio authorized the formation of Summit County. The area that now comprises the county was originally split between Medina, Stark and Portage counties. In 1840, Colonel Simon Perkins, then a state senator, convinced the state legislature the communities along the canal lands should become Summit County. The county was named for the Portage Summit, the highest point along the Ohio and Erie Canal. In 1842, the voters of Summit County selected Akron as the county seat.

Summit County grew quickly and by the twentieth century became a hub for manufacturing, most notably rubber, match and cereal manufacturing. Today, the county has grown to the fourth largest in the state, home to more than 541,000 people. It has become “America’s Polymer Valley,” known around the world for polymer and advanced material research, development and manufacturing. Summit County has also become known for its strong biomedical and medical device industry, as well as finance, information technology and professional service operations.

Summit County became the first Charter form of government in Ohio in 1979. The switch was made official in 1981 when a County Executive, County Council and five other charter officeholders replaced commissioners. In 2016, Ilene Shapiro became the first woman in the state of Ohio to be elected County Executive.

“One hundred and eighty years ago our forbearers convinced the state legislature that the communities around the Ohio and Erie Canal were unique and should encompass their own county. Today, I believe Summit County continues to distinguish itself from our peers,” said Executive Shapiro. “I am so proud of all that we have achieved and I feel privileged to be leading this county into the future.”



The Original Courthouse. 1st group of Akron Jurors, dated 1840.



Original Goodyear Blimp.

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