

DOCUMENTING OUR DOUGHBOYS:

Commemorating the World War I Centennial in Summit County

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OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 6, 2017

PANELISTS:

Victor Fleischer, University Archivist, The University of Akron

David Lieberth, Board Chairman, Summit County Historical Society

Toivo Motter, Director of Education, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens

Rebecca Larson-Troyer, Special Collections Division, Akron-Summit County Public Library

SUMMIT COUNTY AND THE GREAT WAR

A collaborative partnership between the Akron-Summit County Public Library, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, Summit County Historical Society and The University of Akron Archival Services, formed to commemorate Summit County's contribution to the U.S. war effort during World War I (1917-1918).

COMMEMORATING WORLD WAR I IN SUMMIT COUNTY

Thousands of Summit County residents served, and hundreds never returned home. Efforts from the home front, particularly in our industrial cities, helped win the war. These are stories worth telling.

PROJECTS:

- Kickoff event with local dignitaries, veterans and musicians
- Digitization projects
- Military genealogy program
- History hikes
- Vintage Days
- Veteran cemetery and sites Google map

WHY COLLABORATE?

- Share ideas and stories
- Pool resources and expertise

GETTING STARTED:

- Establish a point person to organize and lead meetings.
- Brainstorm together, in person if possible.
- Know what you/your organization can bring to the table.
- Look for inspiration in what other organizations have done.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES:

- **Scheduling** – Use tools like Doodle to plan meetings and document sharing services like Google Drive to share meeting notes and action items.
- **Time constraints** – Adapt programs, events, exhibits and projects you already do to suit the collaboration, rather than creating all new; use the collaboration as motivation to move forward existing projects, such as creating a new exhibit or digitizing a collection.
- **Funding** – Seek funds as a group; share costs for events or marketing.
- **Getting noticed** – Promote as a group; send a single press release, share an events calendar, coordinate social media efforts, establish a hashtag; promote each other's events.

