Summit County Preparing to Celebrate its 175th Anniversary

In the coming months you are going to hear a lot about a big word, “Centeseptequinary.” March 3, 2015 marks the 175th Anniversary of Summit County....the Centeseptequinary.

The creation of Summit County out of portions of Portage, Medina and Stark counties in 1840 is a tale of power and politics. Akron historian Dave Lieberth wrote in a recent paper, Celebrating the Centeseptequinary of Summit County, A Brief History of the County, “Summit County was created amidst the turmoil of competition between cities and among rival counties, with its godfather, Colonel Simon Perkins using his personal wealth and prestige to champion the county.”

Plans to celebrate this historic milestone will be without the acrimony and intrigue that preceded the birth of Summit County 175 years ago.

Starting in March, each week, one of the county’s 31 communities will be highlighted and honored with a proclamation read into the Summit County Council record. In addition, the highlighted community will have a special “Then and Now” history brief published on the portal page of the Summit County website: https://co.summitoh.net/

The celebration will also feature an historic Chautauqua Ohio cultural encampment June 23-27 at Hardesty Park in Akron. A Akron industrialist Lewis Miller was one of the founders of the Chautauqua movement in the late 19th century.

Summit County employees will help kick off the celebration March 3, 2015 by helping a good cause. Pieces of a Special 175th Anniversary Cake will be sold for $1.75 with all the proceeds going to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank’s Harvest for Hunger campaign.

“We are excited to be able to share our heritage with our residents as we reflect back on where we came from and the events that have shaped this great community into what it is today,” said Summit County Executive Russ Pry.