

Akron in the Gilded Age

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The contributions of Akron's moguls of the Gilded Age can be traced through such notables as: Ferdinand Schumacher, Otis and John Hower, Paul Werner, O.C. Barber, John F. Seiberling, George Tod Perkins, Michael O'Neil, John R. Buchtel, and Lewis Miller. These men, through their domination of Akron's economy of the period (farm machinery, milling, cereals, publishing houses, clay products, matches, and rubber products), shaped the future of the community, leaving the manifestations of their power. Magnificent mansions, community improvements (such as electrical power distribution, public transportation, hospitals and cemeteries, and municipal buildings), and the physical layout of the city itself were created during this period. The legacy of their influence is still quite visible today.