Community Self-Portraits: The Mass. Memories Road Show at UMass Boston



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What is the Mass. Memories Road Show?





- ✓ Public Event
- ✓ Digital Collection
- ✓ Archival Record of MA Communities



The Event

- A Road Show is a collaboration
- UMass Boston's role is to provide a detailed roadmap for the day
- Local role is to organize a well-attended event that accurately reflects the composition of the community







Road Shows to Date

COMMUNITY ROAD SHOWS

- Norwood (2004)
- Roxbury (2005)
- Dorchester (2006-2007)
- Quincy (2007)
- Deerfield (2007)
- Brewster (2008)
- Natick (2008)
- Norwell (2009)
- Truro (2009)
- Falmouth (2009)
- Reading (2009)
- Danvers (2010)
- Stoneham (2010)
- Duxbury (2010)
- New Bedford (2011)
- Sharon (2011)
- Waltham (2011)
- Lowell (2012)
- Milton (2012)

- Peabody (2012)
- Halifax (2012)
- Lexington (2013)
- Stoughton (2013)
- Provincetown (2013)
- Wayland (2014)
- Allston Brighton (2014)
- West End (2014)
- Hingham (2015)
- Martha's Vineyard (2015)
- Spencer (2016)
- Hyde Park (2016)

THEMATIC ROAD SHOWS

- Grub Street Memoir Project (2007)
- Hebrew Senior Life (2007)
- World War II Veterans (2007)
- Boston Public Housing (2008)
- Boston Public Schoolchildren (2009)
- Boston Harbor Islands (2011)
- Irish Immigrant Experience (2013)
- UMass Boston (2014)





























Bring "up to three photos that represent yourself, your family or your community..."





- Immigrant ancestors
- Family reunions
- Formal portraits
- **Snapshots**
- Community events
- Weddings, anniversaries
- Local businesses
- Cultural celebrations
- Old, new, color, B&W

The choice belongs to the contributor!



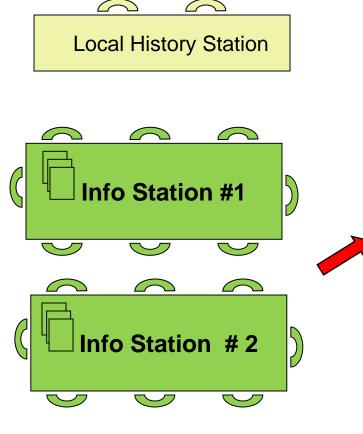




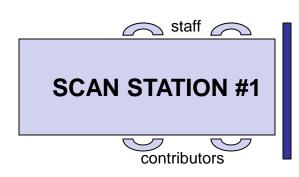


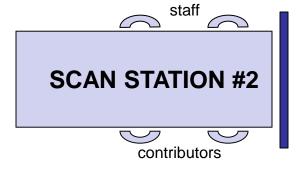
















Welcome Station

- > 2-3 Greeters
- > Explain event
- Manage nametags & registration forms



REGISTRATION FORM





All attendees get a name tag





Information Station

- > 5-10 Reviewers
- ➤ Help contributors select photos and complete Photo Forms



		YOUR PHOTO HERE
PHOTO ID #:	TIF (for staff use	
CONTRIBUTOR NAME		
Give this photo a TITLE:		
WHERE was this photo taken?	Neighborhood:	i don't know
	Town/City:	
	State: Country:	
WHEN was this photo taken?	Year: Month: Day:	I don't know
Name the PEOPLE	1.	I don't know
in this photo: List from back to front, left to right. Please use complete names.	3. 4.	L
Please DESCRIBE this photo and let us know why it is important to you:		L
Is there anything about this photo that you would like to know more about?		

Scanning Station

- 2-6 scanners and 2-6 paperwork managers
- Scan & project images
- Work with original material
- Keep track of scans and paperwork









Video Station

- Videotape "the story behind the photo"
- > 1 paperwork manager
- > 1 professional videographer



Local History Station

- > 2-3 local historians and/or reference librarians
- Written mini-history of community
- ➤ Identify images, locations
- > Flag unique material for possible donation



Preservation Station

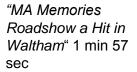
- > Partnership with NEDCC
- Preservation advice from professional archivists



Keepsake Photo Station

- > 1 photographer, 1 paperwork manager
- Documentation of the event
- ➤ Take-away for contributors





























Volunteer Training: Main role is facilitation

- **Help** the contributor tell his/her own story and describe their photographs in their own voice
- Start with a conversation about the photograph(s)
- **Encourage** the contributor to reflect on their connection to the photograph and why it is important to them

- Guidelines for photo titles and descriptions:
 - First person is preferred (*I*, me, my, we, our...)
 - Relatively concise
 - "Enough" detail but not "too much" ©
 - In the end, the contributor decides!





Which title better fits the MMRS guidelines?



- a) Nashawena Mills, New Bedford, ca. 1940
- b) My father, Arthur Lenk, at work at Nashawena Mills



Descriptions: best in the contributor's own words



Arthur Lenk working at Nashawena Mills, New Bedford

Comments: My father, Arthur Lenk, came to America from Germany in

1913. He met another gentleman and both attended New Bedford Textile School to learn textile design. Reason for leaving Germany was because his father wanted him to follow his footsteps in the textile business. My dad wanted to be a baker to make fine French pastries. Photo taken

circa 1940s.

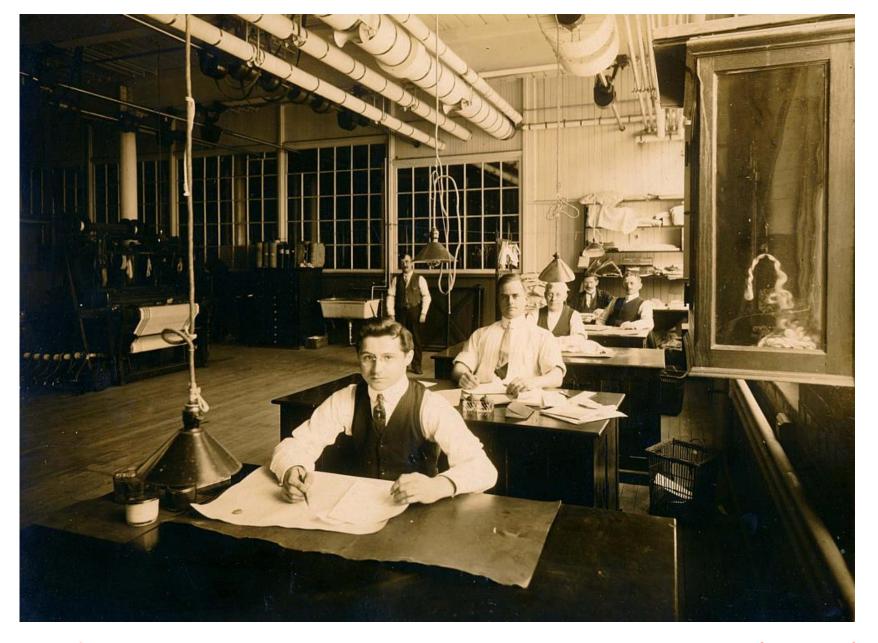
Contributor: Elizabeth Wolstenholme

When: 1940 (ca.)

Where: New Bedford Nashawena Mills

Who: Arthur Lenk (front)

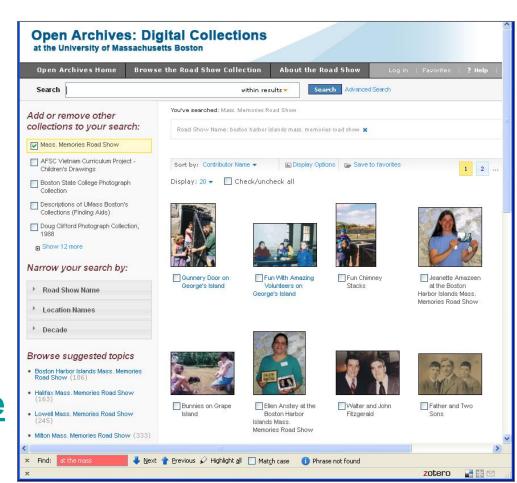
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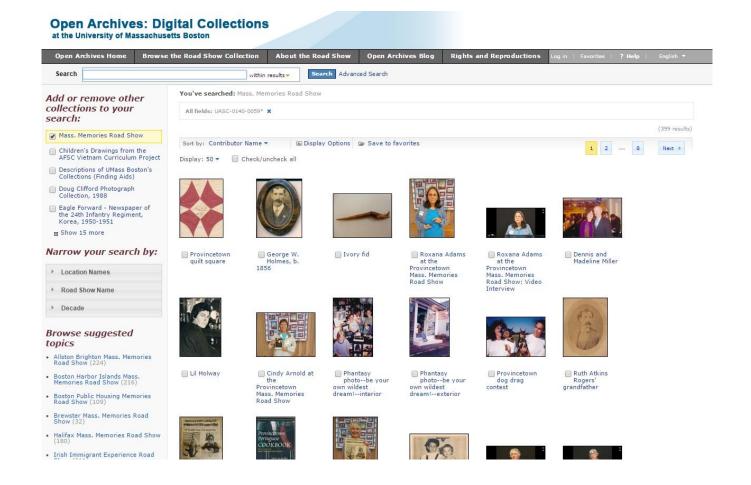
My father, Arthur Lenk, at work at Nashawena Mills (1940s)

After the Road Show

- UMass Boston handles image, data and video processing and postproduction to include in Road Show archives.
- Photos, videos, data and other documentation are housed in UMass Boston Archives
- Available online:
 http://openarchives.umb.e
 du
- Digital copy of all material given to local team

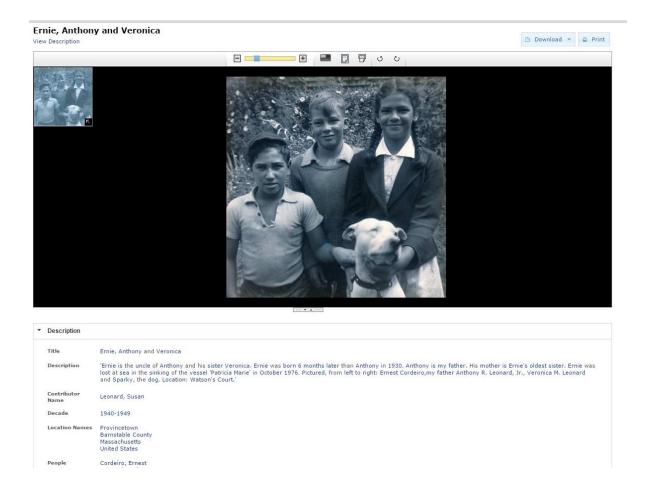


The Digital Collection





The Digital Collection







IreneDupreyGutierrez23NB.mov



JimSullivan5NB.mov



KirstenBendiksen70NB.mov



LeonoraKyddWhyte14NB.mov



JackieRamos52NB.mov



KennethRamos2NB.mov



LanceGunberg48NB.mov



LindaWhiteBurrell13NB.mov



JeanneCostaVolunteerNB.mov



KimWilson68NB.mov



LauraPiresHester25NB.mov



LizWolstenholme12NB.mov





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UMASS BOSTON

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MMRS: an Event, an Experience and an Archival Record of MA Communities













MMRS Handbook and application info available online

- blogs.umb.edu/archives
- OpenArchives.umb.edu

- We are now accepting applications for the 2017 calendar year.
- The deadline is **July 15**,
 2016.



The Mass. Memories Road Show Project Handbook

A Planning Guide for Local Communities (rev. 6/2014)



