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

- 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

NAMETAG #: ________________________
(for staff use only)

Contributor Name: ____________________________
Address: ______________________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ________ Zip: ____________
Telephone: ____________________________ E-mail: ____________________________

Your connection to [COMMUNITY]: ____________________________________________

How did you hear about this event? ____________________________________________

Thank you for sharing your photos and stories with the Mass Memories Road Show! With your help, we are creating a state-wide digital archive online, at the Joseph P. Healey Library at UMass Boston and with local partners. To build this publicly accessible resource, it is important that we be able to use the photos, videos and text we gather without having to negotiate permissions with each contributor. Please read and sign the agreement below, which allows us to use your contributions in a variety of ways, at the same time protecting your ownership and publication rights.

The Mass Memories Road Show at UMass Boston documents the people, places and events in Massachusetts through family photographs and stories. The goal of the project is to hold public scanning events in all of the 351 communities of Massachusetts, creating a digital portrait of the Commonwealth, providing access to family photographs and stories, and building community knowledge and connections.

PHOTO RELEASE
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I am of full age. I have read this release and am fully familiar with its contents.

Signed: ____________________________________________
(Parent or guardian must sign if contributor is under 18 years of age)

Thank you for your contribution to Massachusetts history!
All attendees get a name tag
Information Station

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

“MA Memories Roadshow a Hit in Waltham” 1 min 57 sec
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)

Image ID#: 46.12.2.jpg
My father, Arthur Lenk, at work at Nashawena Mills (1940s)
After the Road Show

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

Open Archives: Digital Collections
at the University of Massachusetts Boston
The Digital Collection

Ernie, Anthony and Veronica

Title: Ernie, Anthony and Veronica
Description: "Ernie is the uncle of Anthony and his sister Veronica. Ernie was born 6 months later than Anthony in 1930. Anthony is my father. His mother is Ernie's oldest sister. Ernie was lost at sea in the sinking of the vessel "Patricia Ann" in October 1976. Pictured, from left to right: Ernest Cordero, my father Anthony R. Leonard, Jr., Veronica H. Leonard and Sparky, the dog. Location: Watson's Court.

Contributor
Name: Leonard, Susan
Decade: 1940-1949
Location Names: Provincetown, Barnstable County, Massachusetts, United States
People: Cordero, Ernest
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.
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openarchives.umb.edu
blogs.umb.edu/archives

Recommended Reading


University Archives and Special Collections
Joseph P. Healey Library, University of Massachusetts Boston

The Mass. Memories Road Show is co-sponsored by the Patricia C. Flaherty Class of ‘81 Endowed Fund.