Case Study: Digitizing Photo Negatives

Mandy Altimus Pond
Archivist
Massillon Museum
Massillon Museum’s Photography Collection

- Founded in 1933
- More than 60,000 photographs
- More than 3,000 glass plate negatives
- Approximately 30,000 images digitized
- 40,000 negatives, taken by news photographer Jack Worthington
  - donated in the 1990s by the local newspaper *The Independent*
Massillon Museum Storage

- 2009-2010 collections storage space renovation
- State of the art, award-winning facility
Why Negatives?

- Hidden Collections
- Negatives cannot be displayed on the wall
- Increase access to seldom-seen photographs
- Improve upon storage and digitization of photographs
- Care for emergency situations first
  - Vinegar syndrome
  - Damaged emulsion
- Increased Museum profile = increased requests for photographs
Negatives Before
Negatives Before
Negatives After
through the work of St. Paul's Lutheran church of this city in connection with the Lutheran World Action program of sending aid to refugees of western European countries, Massillon has become home for a German family of five.

coming to this country from Austria, where they had lived the past six years, the family at the present is staying in a Sunday school room in the St. Paul's Lutheran church in 2nd st NE.

they are Mr. and Mrs. Janis Rosenberg and their three children, Andreas, 7; Elsa, 4; and Gloria, 18 months.

THE ROSENBERGS will stay in the church until a suitable home can be found for them.

the Rosenberg family arrived in Massillon Tuesday morning from New York City. They came to New York from Salzburg, Austria.

before living in Austria, the Rosenberg family made its home in Latvia. They were forced to flee there, however, because of the Russian aggression. All their property was either stolen or burned.

the boy, Andreas, is attending the Lincoln opportunity school here where he will learn the English language well enough to attend an elementary school.

the rosenberg family is among the first of several hundred refugee families who through the Potsdam agreement are being sent to the United States through Christian churches.

the Lutheran rehabilitation program is not to give refugees charity, but rather to give them a chance to make their own way, the Rev. Paul Baumgartner, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran church, said today.

Massillon Evening Independent
September 22, 1950, page 10
The Massillon Museum cares for more than 80,000 photographs in its permanent collection. There are many forms including daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, tintypes, photographic prints, paper, plastic, and glass plate negatives.
two unidentified ladies, one in man’s suit. Photograph by Abel Fletcher. Digital photo of the original glass plate negative.
Gearing up for a summer full of free exhibits, free events, family activities, and fun! We wish our plans including going swimming in these fine outfits. (Unknown men c.1895, Collection of the Massillon Museum, 90.25.80)
This photograph is part of our glass plate negative collection. Unfortunately it is unidentified. Judging by the plates around it, it is from c.1917. Can anyone help identify what church is in construction?
The Thanksgiving snowstorm of 1950 was the deepest in Ohio’s history. Nearly the entire state had over 10 inches and most communities in the eastern half of Ohio measured 20 to 30 inches of snow during this storm. To read more about it, visit the Ohio Historical Society: http://ww2.ohiocounty.org/.../1950_thanksgivingStorm.htm

Jim Zorger I was alive, but only 2 😞 Thanks for posting these..... I always like seeing historical pictures.
November 21, 2012 at 10:10am · Like

Kathryn Kane Barkan Thanks for sharing these...so interesting to see photos of the past!! Doesn't look like we will be experiencing a Thanksgiving like this in 2012...unless Mother Nature comes up with a BIG surprise!!
November 21, 2012 at 10:17am · Unlike · 3

Anita Newman These pictures look like Bedford Falls (the town in "It's a Wonderful Life"). So very cool - thanks for sharing! 😊
November 21, 2012 at 10:39am · Like

Massillon Museum Glad you are enjoying the photos, everyone! And yes, Kathryn, it was nice that Mother Nature let us off the hook!
November 21, 2012 at 3:34pm · Like · 2

Laurie Kupper Baker Love those old pictures, thanks for sharing 😊
November 21, 2012 at 6:14pm · Like

Mary Hilliard Nelson This was in November 1950. My sister was born during this storm...mom had to go to hospital on fire truck!
November 22, 2012 at 10:08pm · Unlike · 1
Did you know that 2013 marks the 150th anniversary of the Massillon Independent newspaper? Here are the Independent News Boys Band, c.1911. Collection of the Massillon Museum, Gift of Mrs. Dorothy Bernstein (88.26.2)
The Gratitude Train

During WWII, the United States sent more than 700 railroad cars of supplies and food ($40 million worth) to France and Italy. To express their gratitude, Italy sent sculptures and France sent one railroad car to each of the 49 states and Washington D.C. and Hawaii (not yet a state at the time). The cars were called "Merci Trains" or "Gratitude Trains." The railroad car was filled with gifts, everything from cheeses to dolls, from the citizens of France. Many of those objects are now in the permanent collection of the Ohio Historical Society.

In July 1950, the Ohio car made a day-long stop at the Massillon Museum where 880 people came to visit it. This photo was taken in Massillon by Evening Independent photographer Jack Worthington (91.47.2226).

To read more about the Merci (Gratitude) Train, see links below!
http://ohiohistory.wordpress.com/.../whatever-happened-to-oh.../
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merci_Train
Documenting American Prosperity:  
Massillon Independent Negatives 1947-1950

After the end of WWII, the United States saw a boom in prosperity as soldiers returned home from the conflict overseas. Men went to college, the generation of Baby Boomers was born, and new housing developments sprawled across Massillon to accommodate the population. Peacetime was cut short, however when the Korean War began in 1950.

The images in this exhibit were taken by Massillon Independent photographer, Jack Worthington, who, as a news photographer, captured what the everyday citizen never could.

Through Worthington's lens, viewers can experience a close-up view of many places and events: on the football field or in the rafter's of the stadium, on the construction site of bridges, in the office of the Mayor, and in peoples' homes. These priceless images shed light on everyday life in Massillon, interior design, the evolution of fashion across all generations, and major events in Massillon history.

ABOUT THE COLLECTION:  
In 1991, the Massillon Independent, under the direction of editor Jim Davis, donated a collection of film negatives taken by news photographers between the years 1947-1989. The collection contains more than 40,000 negatives—only a small selection of which are exhibited here—documenting life and events in Massillon.

Longtime Massillon Museum volunteer, John Sparks, carefully placed the photographs in chronological order and gave each an object identification number. The project of cataloging the negatives began in January of 1992 and was completed in November 1993.

Unfortunately there is not a lot of recorded information for these photographs. It is possible to find some information if these photographs made their way to the pages of an Independent newspaper. Not all of the photos taken in this collection were published, making it difficult to identify many of the special events and portraits. If you recognize people, places, or events, let us know!

DIGITIZATION:  
Digitized in 2013 by volunteer Mark Piocco, these negatives now have a life in positive within the archives of the Massillon Museum, where they can be accessible for research and future exhibitions. This exhibit highlights only a fraction of the more than 1,500 negatives Piocco has digitized to date.

STORAGE:  
Negatives will last hundreds of years longer if they are taken out of regular temperatures and stored in freezers.

ONLINE EXHIBIT:  
For additional images, visit our website: massillonmuseum.org/virtual-exhibits
Documenting American Prosperity:
Masonite Housewife Negatives 1947-1958

The exhibition showcases a collection of photographs from the Masonite Housewife Negatives, capturing everyday life during the mid-20th century. These images provide a glimpse into the lives of American women during this period, highlighting their contributions to the workforce and the home.

The exhibit is located on the first floor of the museum and is open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM. Admission is free, and all visitors are encouraged to take a moment to explore this unique and informative collection.
'One Shot' Worthington's daughter visits exhibit

Daughter of Former Inde photographer, Jack “One Shot” Worthington, visits Massillon Museum exhibit featuring dad's photos.

Carol Worthington-Murphy delights in telling stories about the photographs of her father, former Independent
Sisters Reunited After 17 Years

As they were reunited and Butter, who was meeting his wife's sister and brother-in-law for the first time, beamed with happiness at the thought of taking up a new life here.

Much has taken place in the lives of the sisters since Mrs. Butter, then a girl of 13, said goodbye to Mrs. Kovacevic, then Anna Kasunic, 17, who had been invited by her aunt, Mrs. Peter Turkal of 1120 12th St SE, to come to America to further her education.

Mrs. Kovacevic studied at Mount Maria academy and, instead of returning to Yugoslavia, was married two years after her arrival here. Her husband, who also is of Yugoslavian extraction, is a native of Massillon. At the age of four years, his mother, Mrs. Mary Kovacevic took him to her native Yugoslavia where he remained until 1927 when he returned to America. His mother, however, remained in Yugoslavia.

Mr. and Mrs. Butter were taken prisoners by the German army while en route from their home in Zagreb to Novi Sad, Butler's home town, in neutral Yugoslavia, in 1948. They were transported to Italy where they remained almost two years before being moved to a displaced persons camp in Munich, Germany, from which they recently were released.

While in Italy, Mrs. Butter gave birth to a baby but it lived only a short time. Mr. and Mrs. Butter also became the parents of a child while living in Yugoslavia. The child, however, died in infancy.

Although life was more pleasant in their camp in Germany, Mr. and Mrs. Butter, who speak no English, relayed the information through Mrs. Kovacevic that Germany is a pretty good place for the German to live but persons from other countries feel just like what they are—foreigners.

Six women, they said, occupy a room in large government buildings and the men are housed similarly in such buildings. The men work during the day and the women assist with work at the buildings. They have separate living and sleeping quarters but meet in a common dining room for dinner in the evenings.

IN THE ABOVE PHOTOGRAPH, a Massillon couple is shown welcoming relatives who have spent the past two and a half years in a displaced persons camp in Munich, Germany. From left to right are Stephan Kovacevic of 628 Pennock Ave SW, shaking hands with his brother-in-law, Oliver Butter of Yugoslavia, while Mrs. Butter is embraced by her sister, Mrs. Kovacevic, whom she had not seen for 17 years.

By ISABELLE MCGORMICK

Two displaced persons, a Yugoslav husband and wife who have been living in the American zone of Germany during the past two and a half years, found the warm arms of Massillon relatives outstretched to them this morning when they alighted from a train at the Pennsylvania railroad station.

The couple who became refugees as a result of World War II are Oliver Butter, 46, and his wife, Angela Kasunic Butter, 30. Their benefactors, with whom they expect to make their home, at least for the present, are Mrs. Butter's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Stephan Kovacevic of 628 Pennock Ave SW, who are the parents of five children.

THE SISTERS, who had not seen each other for 17 years, went (See SISTERS—Page 10)
10th Annual Washington High School Football Frolic
Jack Worthington (1921-2009)

10th Annual Washington High School Football Frolic
May 14, 1948

The Football Frolic dance was created to honor athletes at Washington High School, and traditionally held in the fall. The football captain and his date were crowned King and Queen. Charlie Fisk and his orchestra entertained guests from 8:30 to midnight.

Gift of the Evening Independent
(91.47.3285)
Visit these galleries online:

- massillonmuseum.org/virtual-exhibits
- massillonmuseum.org/gallery/documenting-american-prosperity-massillon-independent-negatives-1947-1950
Here’s a hint:

YOU CAN DO IT TOO!
Stay True to You

• Do what you can with the resources you have
  – Budget/grants/corporate sponsor
  – Staff or volunteer time
  – Access to equipment/technology

• Will you have time to fully document these images?
  – Condition reporting
  – Accessioning/inventory
  – Enter into collections database
  – Post online
What collections do I chose first?

- Which items are accessed most frequently?
- Which items do researchers request?
- Which items are in the worst shape?
  - Do they smell like vinegar?
  - Poor conditions? Might as well rehouse them while you’re here!
- What is most important to your collection? To your city or township?
What is the end goal?

- Preserve the digital files and the original negatives
- Exhibit online, exhibit in gallery, both?
- Think about your digital space capacity
  - Can you scan high resolution images in mass quantities?
  - Do you need high resolution print files for an exhibit or for publication
  - Medium size for reference and web use
Digital Cameras

- Higher megapixels=better quality
- Point and shoot cheap cameras do not let you adjust exposure and flash like DSLR cameras do
- Point and shoot usually have lower megapixels
- May get a grant to offset the cost
- Add a camera to a wishlist in your newsletter. Someone may sponsor your equipment!

Fujifilm FinePix S4500 Digital Camera (Black)

Price: $149.00

Product Highlights
- 14.0Mp Resolution
- 3.0" LCD Monitor
- 24-720mm Fujinon 30x Optical Zoom Lens
- SD/SDHC/SDXC Memory Card Storage
- 1280 x 720 HD Video Capture
- 64-6400 ISO Sensitivity
- CCD Shift Type Image Stabilization
- 30x Optical Zoom
- 42-Step Electronic Powered Zoom
- Electronic Viewfinder

Buy Together & Save
Click Here To Save $20 On Adobe Photoshop Elements 11
When Purchased Together With This Item
Copystand/Tripod

- B&H Photo- just stand $58
Digitize with camera and copystand
What do I do with my digital files?

• Naming and sorting your data
• Backup your data
• Add to a collections database
• Allow researchers to safely use them in-house
• Share them online
Naming & Sorting Data

• Develop a system for standardized file naming.
• Make sure staff and interns are informed of these rules.
• For MassMu, we use the accession # and a description. This allows us to sort by number, and search by keyword later.
• We save a high resolution TIF for a digital original for printing purposes.
• We also save a lower resolution JPG for preview or web purposes.
Backup Data

• Hard drives
  – $100 for 1 TB drive
  – Purchase two, one offsite for emergency

• Offsite storage
  – Example: Carbonite Online Cloud storage

• Capacity vs. cost

• Possible to get grant funding
External Hard Drive

• 1 TB drive, $79-100
• 2 TB drive, $150-200

• May consider purchasing 2:
  – One for onsite backup
  – One to take offsite and a secure location in case of emergency
  – Be sure it goes home with trustworthy people!
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**Provenance**

- **Orig/Copy**: Original
- **Print Size**: 16.5 x 11.6 cm
- **Film Size**: |
- **Dimension Details**: 6 1/2" H (16.5cm) 4 1/2"W (11.6cm) without mat
  10"H (25.0cm) 8 7/8"W (20.0cm) with mat
- **Copyrights**: |
Past Perfect
Collections Database Options

• Picasa 3
  – Photo sorting and editing
  – With online storage
  – Can tag faces
  – FREE!
Share Them online

• Fears about people using your images
  – Watermark your images
  – Make sure they are low resolution so that others will not reprint your images

• Where to share them safely?
  – Picasa (google)
  – Flickr
  – Your own website
  – History Pin
Virtual Exhibits

FEATURED:

Flood of 1913

March 2013 marks the centennial of one of the great floods in Massillon, Ohio. It marked the end of the Ohio & Erie canal that ran through downtown Massillon, caused damage to homes and businesses across the city. Because of the availability and popularity of photography at the time, the flood of 1913 is one of the most well-documented events in Massillon history. Enjoy more than 120 photos from the Massillon Museum's permanent collection.

Let it Snow!

Winter Photographs from the Permanent Collection

Click here to view these photographs.

Faces of Rural America: Henry Clay Fleming & Belle Johnson

The staff of the Massillon Museum completed research about two of its photography collections: photographs by Belle Johnson of Monroe City, Missouri and Henry Clay Fleming of Ravenswood, West Virginia. If you would like to see these two collections in their entirety, please visit our project site: Faces of Rural America website.
Massillon Museum History Pin page:
http://www.historypin.com/channels/view/12106042/
Massillon Museum

The Massillon Museum is an art and history museum founded in 1933. With more than 60,000 images in the collection, we hold a large group of images relating to the history of Massillon, Ohio, founded in 1826, and its predecessor Kendall, Ohio, founded in 1812.

Find out more at: www.massillonmuseum.org

Find us on Facebook

Profile Details
Profile views: 6614
Pins: 143
Tours: 0
Collections: 5

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Sort by: Most Recent, Most Popular
Show: Content, Favourites

Boston Store, 1912
1912
130 Erie Street South, Massillon, OH 44646, USA
Views: 25

1950s Parade, downtown Massillon
1952 - 1959
1-37 1st Street Southeast, Massillon, OH 44646, USA
Views: 26

Harsh Block at Lincoln Way West and Erie Street, 1908
1908
34-99 Lincoln Highway
Massillon, OH 44647, USA
Views: 26

Beehive Block, downtown Massillon c.1920s
1923 - 1927
1-59 Ohio 241, Massillon, OH 44646, USA
Views: 46

Zips Hamburgers, 1973
1973
117-149 Lincoln Highway, Massillon, OH 44647, USA
Views: 49
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