

GOING TO WORK

Twentieth Century Settlers in the Blackstone Valley

Museum of Work & Culture, Woonsocket, Rhode Island

New Exhibit at the Museum of Work & Culture Highlights 20th Century Immigration!

Immigrants

settled in the Blackstone Valley for many different reasons. Some left their native countries to find better jobs, while others were pushed to relocate by war, famine or civil unrest. But once here, they all had a common goal—to find work.



Bousquet family photo, Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, c. 1880, courtesy of Deborah A. Bousquet

In this exhibit, you'll find stories of 20th century immigrants who came to the Blackstone Valley to work in the mills, just as earlier workers did. You'll also be introduced to the restaurateurs, merchants, religious leaders, and others who fueled the economy by providing services for local residents.



Sadwin Bros. Dry Goods, Woonsocket, 1914, collection of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society

Life in an adopted community is not only about work, of course. It is also about creating a new home and community. New arrivals established social organizations to help fellow immigrants adapt to the United States and to preserve their unique ethnic traditions. When the next generation took leadership,



Greek Social Club members in front of Club building, East Avenue, Pawtucket, 1942, courtesy of Marion K. Manickas

these institutions often evolved to focus on local issues while still maintaining a social network based on a common cultural heritage. Many of their traditions persist.



Poster for Clube Juventude Lusitana's annual St. John Festival, photo by Dalila Goulart



First Communion procession of Holy Trinity Church, Central Falls, c. 1977, courtesy of Gloria Isabel Hincapie

Through the stories and images in this exhibit, you'll meet these 20th century settlers—the people who make our communities work.



Singing the Colombian national anthem at the annual Colombian Independence Day Festival in downtown Pawtucket, photo by Dalila Goulart

Clockwise from center:

*Tyra Club meeting, Woonsocket, from *The Woonsocket Call**

Jack Kirsh at Bobs Men's Store, courtesy of Shirley Kirsh

Giuseppe and Francesca Viola with family, c. 1947, courtesy of Christina Vallone-Ramos

Claire Emma Bousquet's First Communion, 1936, courtesy of Deborah A. Bousquet