



*ORAL HISTORY AND THE (DIGITAL)
ARCHIVE:
THE BRONX ITALIAN AMERICAN HISTORY
INITIATIVE*

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Literatures, Fordham University*

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Studies, Fordham University*

- **Wordpress:** [Wordpress](#) for the project home page. The home page will direct users to the interviews, the database, and other derivative products created in Nvivo, OHMS, and Knightlab
- **Omeka**
- **CONTENTdm**
- **NVivo**
- **Oral History Metadata Synthesizer (OHMS):** Developed by the Louis B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky, [OHMS](#) allows for the indexing and synchronizing of audio and video files based on both the videos and their transcripts. It is the only platform designed specifically for Oral History projects. The use of OHMS would be in addition to either Omeka or Contentdm and would allow us to create links on interview webpages that produce a more in-depth ADA compliant exploration of their content.
- **Knight Lab:** Similarly, the [Northwestern University Knight Lab](#) has developed a series of digital storytelling tools to design derivative products from video, audio and still images. These include Juxtapose (images), Soundcite (audio), Storymap (creating interactive maps with video and audio), and Timeline (the creation of an interactive timeline with video and audio).

CRITICAL CRITICISMS FROM NEH REVIEWERS

- How can we create a wider audience with the project beyond the Bronx, NYC, Italian American community?
- That we should apply for grants that are focused on addressing gaps in digital collections or oral history
- how can these oral histories be integrated into a more innovative format of technical design? How will the project offer new approaches to content delivery within a digital format beyond the mention of "no mediation"?

Libraries and Collections

- Bronx African American History Project
- Digital Collections
- Support the BAAHP Research
- Interview Videos
- Join the Program
- Archival Collections
- Staff
- Archival Survey

See Our Interview with Sheikh Moussa Drammeh

Read About the Interview

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Bronx African American History Project

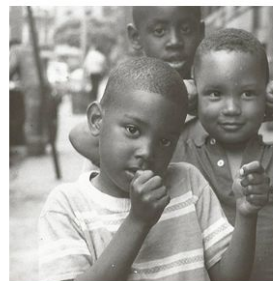
Capturing the History of African Americans in the Bronx

The Bronx African American History Project (BAAHP) is dedicated to uncovering the cultural, political, economic, and religious histories of the more than 500,000 people of African descent in the Bronx.

Oral Histories Digital Archive Open to the Public

We have captured the stories of hundreds of Bronx African Americans who have transformed the borough's character since the 1930s. Consisting of downloadable audio files and verbatim transcripts of interviews conducted from 2002 to 2013, they are available to the public in a new digital archive.

Oral Histories Digital Archive



A group of young boys on Lyman Place in the South Bronx circa 1960.

Scholarship and Community

We hope our work will be of use to scholars, students, teachers, public historians, and museum curators who are doing research on people of African descent in New York City or general scholarship on the social development of 20th century American cities. We continue to identify, preserve, catalog, and make accessible archival record collections relating to the history of people of African descent in The Bronx.

We also produce scholarly publications and teaching tools that contribute to the fields of African American studies, African diaspora studies, Urban History, and Sociology.

By building partnerships between Fordham University, the Bronx County Historical Society, and African American and Latino community leaders, ministers, citizens, and elected officials from around the city and especially in the Bronx, we strive to bring to life the rich history of our borough.

Libraries and Collections

Bronx Italian American History Initiative
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Bronx Italia...
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Bronx Italian American History Initiative, Fordham University
 about 2 months ago

We had this wonderful project blossom this year!
<https://fordhamram.com/.../student-maps-african-american-and.../>

Home / Academics / Research / Bronx Italian American History Initiative

Bronx Italian American History Initiative

Capturing the History of Italian Americans in the Bronx

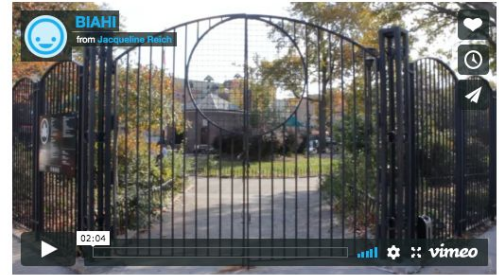
Founded in 2016, the Bronx Italian American History Initiative (BIAHI) is a collaborative oral history research project that studies the history of Italians and Italian Americans in the Bronx in the 20th century.

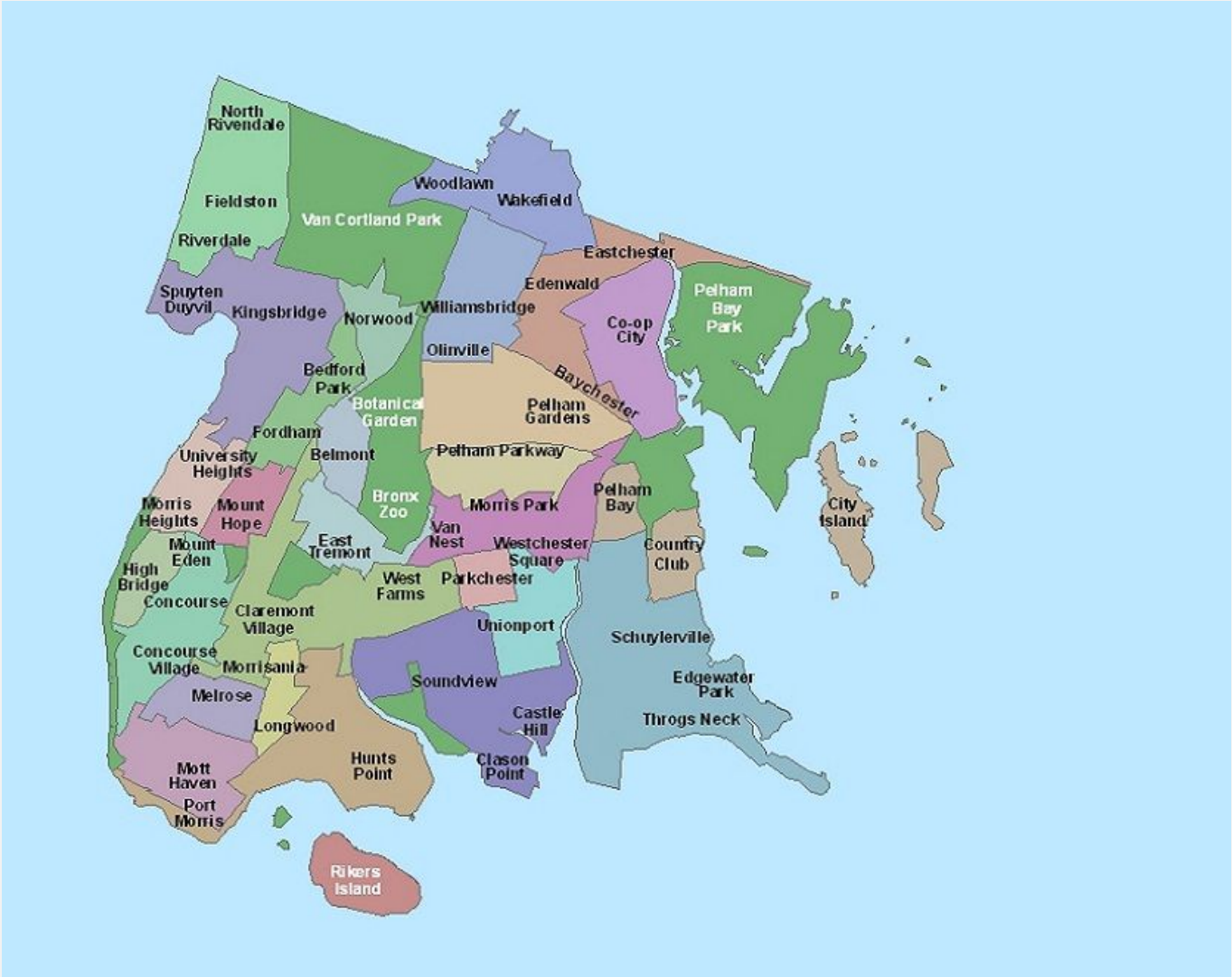


Family portrait taken in 1952 at St. Nicholas of Tolentine church

The BIAHI recovers the personal narratives of Italian and Italian American residents of the Bronx, both past and present, through an archive of catalogued video and audio interviews. Our goal is to document and map the cultural centers in which they settled, lived and worked, and how they interacted with other ethnic and racial groups as their own racial privilege shifted.

With our partner project, the Bronx African American History Project (BAAHP), we situate our work within a fabric multi-ethnicity and to thus develop a more in-depth knowledge of the relations between neighborhoods in the Bronx that were home to Jews, Irish, Italian, Latinos, and African Americans.









Play (k)



A BRONX TALE

THE SADDEST THING IN
LIFE IS WASTED TALENT

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FERRAGOSTO

Sunday, September 9th from 12noon - 6pm

Great Food · Great Music · Great Fun

Entertainment By:
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 Steven Maglio, Rock Steady, and Nick Vero

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Ferragosto is a chance for people to experience first-hand the neighborhood's old-world charm and tradition of good taste!



For more information:
www.Ferragosto.com / (718)BX-ITALY

Parking available at Fordham University 685 E Fordham Rd. with Free Shuttle



Bronx Little Italy 2018 Events

Health Fair June 3 · Crescent Ave · 11-3pm

Summer Concert Series Fridays in July · Saturdays in August
 East 186th St · 12-3pm

Blue Knights Motorcycle Run August 11 · Hughes Ave · 4-7pm

Ferragosto September 9 · Arthur Ave · 12-6pm

Columbus Day Festivities October 8 · East 186th St · 12-3pm

Christmas Tree Lighting December 2 · Ciccarone Park · 4-6pm

For more information: www.BronxLittleItaly.com / (718)BX-ITALY

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112th Annual Feast

IN HONOR OF
St. Anthony
 The Real Little Italy
 Belmont, The Bronx, New York



Attractions
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 WEDNESDAY JOE PISCOPO · THURSDAY FRANCESCO CASTIGLIONE · ALBANIAN ENSEMBLE
 FRIDAY ALFIO · SATURDAY VANESSA RACCI · SUNDAY GERARDO CONTINO Y LOS HABANEROS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13-SUNDAY, JUNE 17
 WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY: 6-10PM · FRIDAY: 6-11PM · SATURDAY: 2-11PM · SUNDAY: 2-10PM

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DIGITAL CONTACT ZONES IN ORAL HISTORIES OF THE BRONX

Description: Drawing upon oral history narratives from the [Bronx African American History Project \(BAAHP\)](#) and the [Bronx Italian American History Initiative \(BIAHI\)](#), this poster maps stories of encounters as told from racialized and ethnic vantage points by African, Haitian and Italian American residents of the Bronx. **Research Question:** How does a mapping of oral histories contribute to knowledge about personal experiences and memories of race and ethnicity in the 20th century?

Legend: The space shown is located in the north central Bronx. borders of Belmont, a historically Italian Am. neighborhood. The colors on the map correspond to these encounters and their narrators based on shade.

Encounter 1: Washington Ave/Belmont

- (b. mid-1950's, African Am., Haitian): told not to cross 3rd avenue to the "white" neighborhood. Attended church at Our Savior (shown left), a mostly Irish and Italian parish.
- (b. 1942, Italian Am.): on Washington Avenue/189th (shown center, right) the periphery of the Italian neighborhood but orientated towards church and school on E. 187th Street. Only remembers Italians in the neighborhood.



Encounter 2: Belmont South/East Tremont

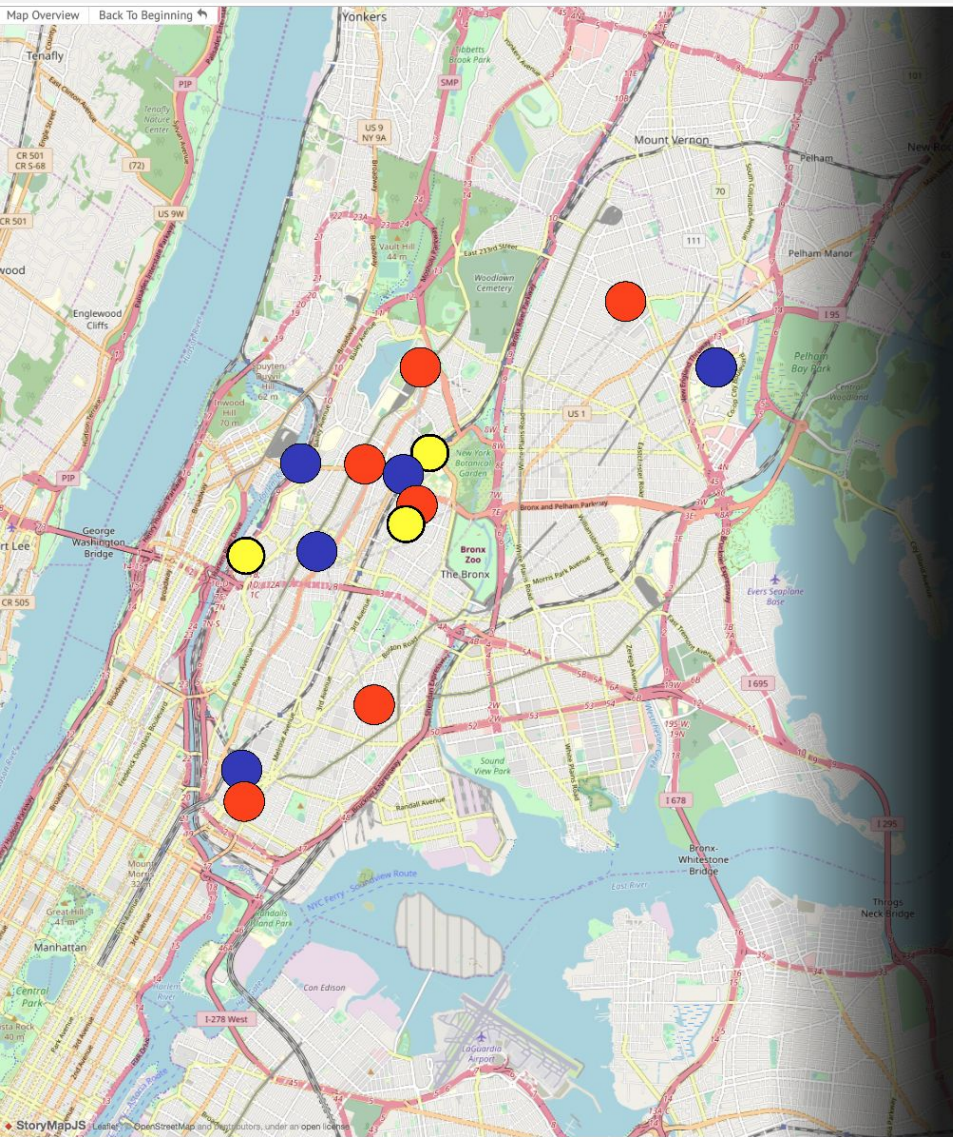
- (b. ~1928, African Am.): ran a laundromat in Italian and Jewish neighborhood. Only black people; children came home with bruises, "Italians weren't used to black people in the neighborhood" (c. 1950); house at 2121 Belmont (shown right) obtained through lawyer.
- (b. 1939, Italian Am/White Anglo Saxon Protestant): mixed Jewish, Irish, Italian neighborhood. Went to St. Thomas Aquinas School on Daly Ave. Picture of Marmion Ave before Cross Bronx built (left); and of school c. 1952 (center)



Directions: Putting oral histories in contact with one another helps us to visualize how racialized individuals experienced and remember in the multi-ethnic and common spaces of their past. Plotting the instances of verbal and physical violence – manifest here in naming, assault and absence- gives these events a presence in the geo-spatial and physical settings of the present day and represents a first step in coming to terms with the loss and recovery of these stories.

STUDENT OUTPUTS

- STORYMAPS (Alison Rini): <https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymaps/4dbf7bf77f1d5921a1b13cf336915bc0/research/index.html>
- VIDEO (Justine Engel): <https://vimeo.com/243312485>



Initiative CROSSROADS: MAPPING NARRATIVE INTERSECTIONS OF THE BRONX AFRICAN- AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT AND THE BRONX ITALIAN-AMERICAN HISTORY INITIATIVE

Bronx Italian American History Initiative

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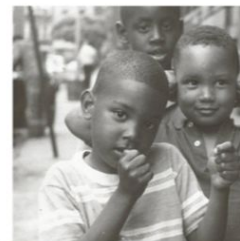
Family portrait taken in 1952 at St. Nicholas of Tolentine church

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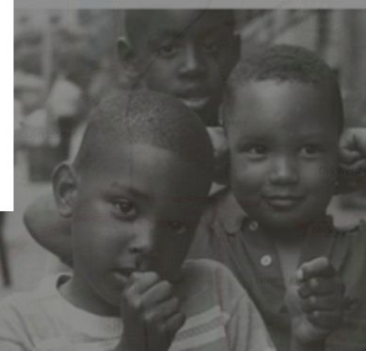
economic, and religious histories of the more than 500,000 people of African descent in the Bronx.

[Start Exploring](#)

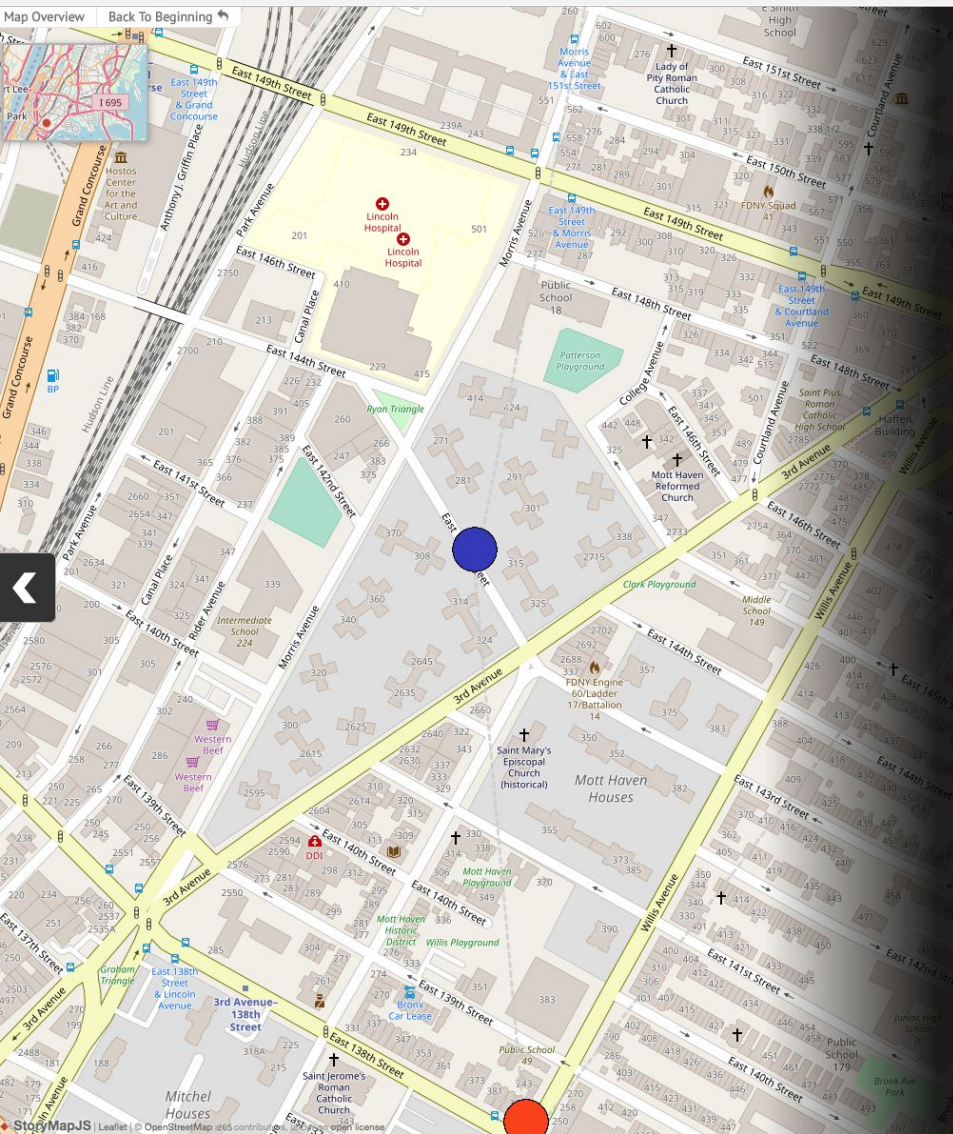


Portrait taken in 1952 at St. Nicholas of Tolentine church

ican History



Oral Histories Digital

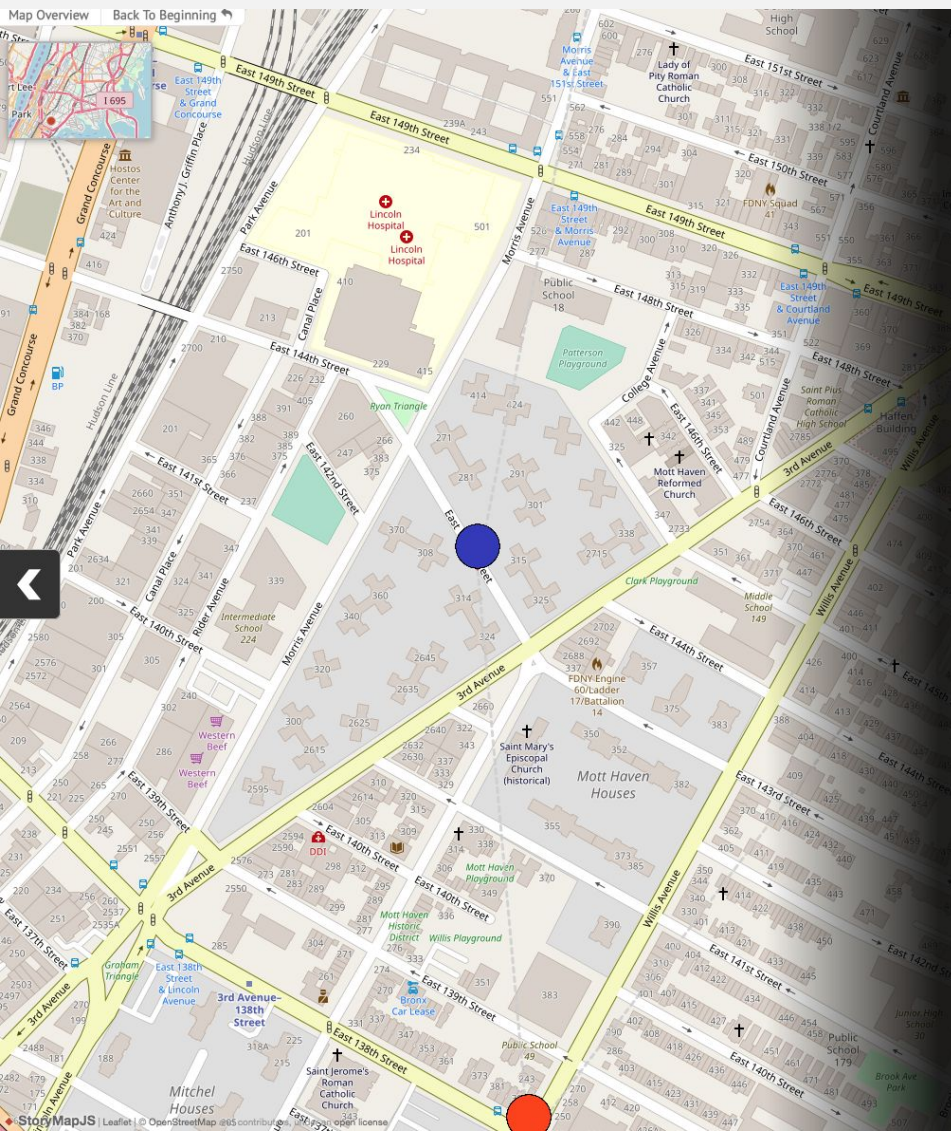


Patterson Houses, 1960s

"Patterson Houses NYC." Pinterest, Pinterest, www.pinterest.com/pln/500814421036710395/?lp=true.

PATTERSON HOUSES

BAAHP's N.D. described the Patterson projects in the late 1950s and early 1960s as the perfect place to grow up, "everyone looks out for each other, if another adult saw you go the wrong way, they'd tell your parents and you'd get a whooping." He also explained the pride the Patterson community took in its women, saying "the women were the finest women in the world. They were well protected; they knew that, you know, if you messed with a Patterson woman, I don't care anything nasty to a Patterson woman, you were in trouble. If you denigrated a Patterson woman, I don't care from what projects you were coming from, or wherever you lived, if you denigrated a Patterson girl or a mother you were in trouble, believe me when I tell you." However, he describes the summer of 1965 as the point when the "family atmosphere" began to disintegrate and you couldn't trust your neighbors anymore, "that was when people were basically starting to leave and move out, you know...And you began to see people talking, 'I gotta get out of here'."



"Patterson Houses." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 30 Dec. 2011, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patterson_Houses#/media/File:Window_view.JPG.

PATTERSON HOUSES

The BAAHP's R.H.'s family, from St. Croix, were one of the first families to move into the Patterson Houses in the mid 1950s. He recalls all families "looking out for each other, no matter what ethnicity." He even refers to the projects "a bubble," with gangs like the Fordham baldies on the outskirts.









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2:04 / 59:50

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EXAMPLES OF DIFFERENT PLATFORMS

OHMS:

<http://nunncenter.net/ohms-test/render.php?cachefile=OHMS-Sample-002.xml>

ITALIAN CINEMA AUDIENCES:

<http://italiancinemaaudiences.org/>

GUIDELINES:

<http://ohda.matrix.msu.edu/2012/06/designing-an-oral-history-project/>

SAMPLE: Interview with Steve Zahn, May 29, 2013

Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, University of Kentucky Libraries
Doug Boyd, Interviewer | 2013OH132 WW 401
Colonel Arthur L. Kelly American Veterans Oral History Collection | [From Combat to Kentucky: Student Veteran Oral History Project](#)



0:00 - Interview Introduction

0:43 - Brief biography

2:02 - Moving to Kentucky

4:42 - Lifelong interest in the military

10:20 - Becoming a professional actor

16:48 - Working in films

24:50 - Lifelong Interest in the military and acting

28:10 - Visiting the Troops in Iraq

38:33 - Into the Combat Zone

42:38 - Interacting with the troops in Iraq: Part I

48:27 - Interacting with the troops in Iraq Part II

53:32 - Interacting with the troops in Iraq: Part III

58:01 - Boosting morale: An unforgettable trip

64:20 - Connecting with veterans back home

69:48 - Honoring Veterans: The Importance of Oral History

Transcript Index

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Series Link: [From Combat to Kentucky: Student Veteran Oral History Project](#)

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ITALIAN CINEMA AUDIENCES

A Collaborative Research Project on Cinema-going in 1950s Italy

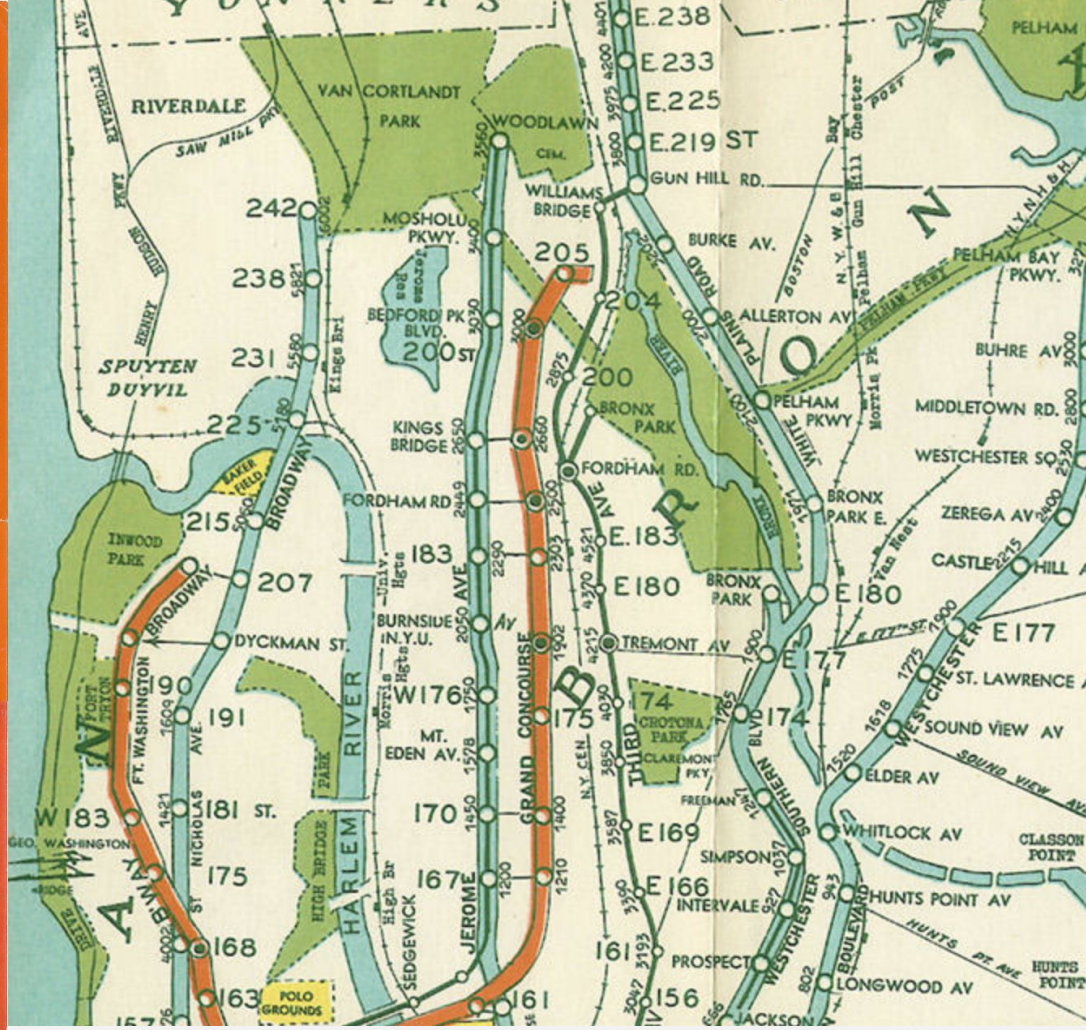
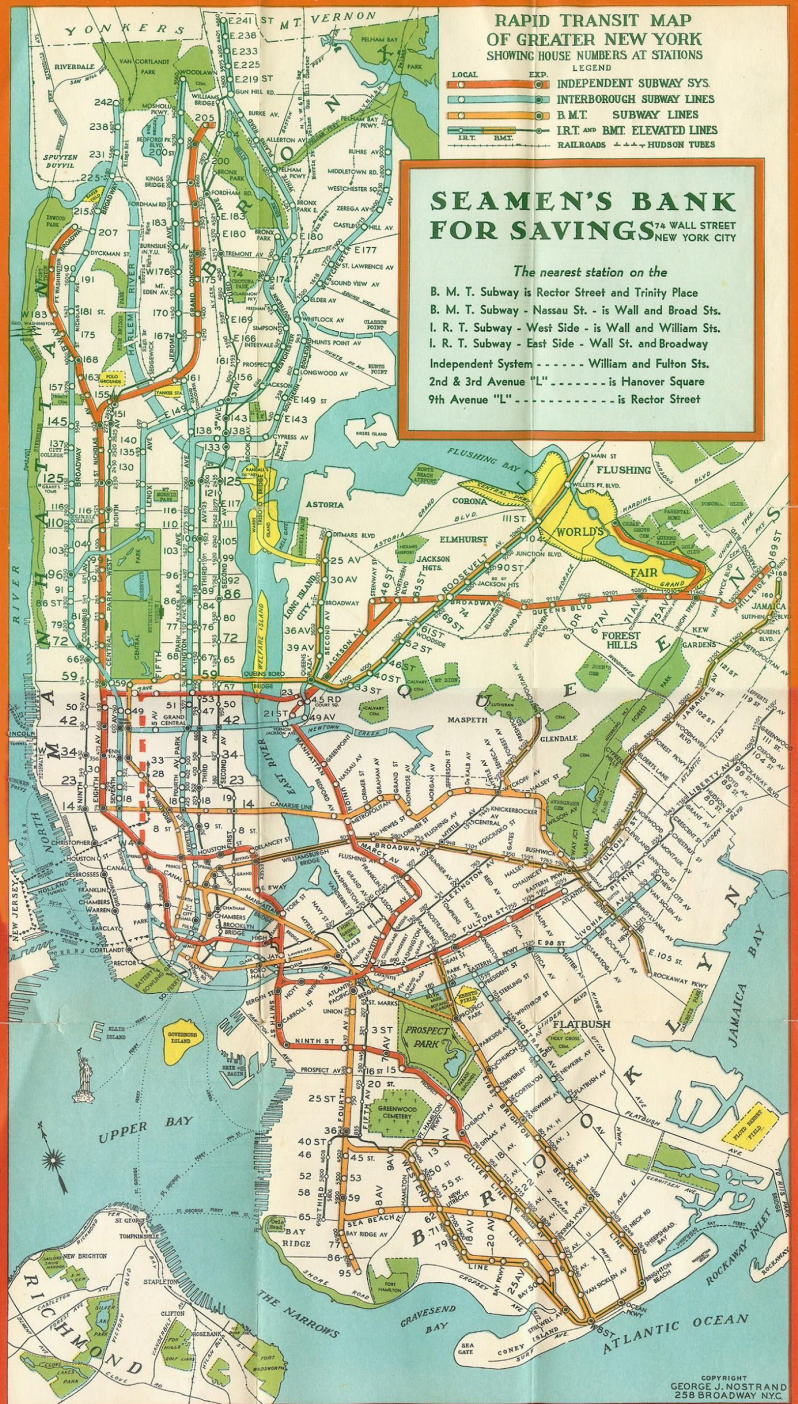
**RAPID TRANSIT MAP
OF GREATER NEW YORK**
SHOWING HOUSE NUMBERS AT STATIONS

LOCAL **EXP.** **LEGEND**

 INDEPENDENT SUBWAY SV'S
 INTERBOROUGH SUBWAY LINES
 B. M. T. SUBWAY LINES
 I. R. T. and B. M. T. ELEVATED LINES
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 I. R. T. Subway - West Side - is Wall and William Sts.
 I. R. T. Subway - East Side - Wall St. and Broadway
 Independent System - - - - - William and Fulton Sts.
 2nd & 3rd Avenue "L" - - - - - is Hanover Square
 9th Avenue "L" - - - - - is Rector Street



1939 Subway System Map:
https://www.nycsubway.org/perl/caption.pl/?img/maps/system_1939.jpg