Eloise Davidson

Collaborative Photographic Practice (M5X01635)

Research report and Evaluation

Proposal

For our Collaborative Photographic Practice module, we are asked to work in small groups to create a site-specific exhibition. Every member of the year group was asked to make a video proposal responding to a location, we were then asked to vote on our preferred locations and were placed into groups based on this. I chose the video proposing an exhibition on Prince of Wales Road commemorating the death of those who died when their houses collapsed in the 1950's. I chose this project as I was intrigued by the history of the road, as it was known as 'Jew's Row' at the time of the collapse and at least one of the families killed were Jewish. I was also interested in how such event could be swept under the carpet with such little effort.

As a starting point, we visited the West Glamorgan Archives and soon realised there was very little information surrounding the disaster. We soon discovered that more houses than we initially discovered had collapsed, and that eventually the entire road was torn down and rebuilt, leaving no trace of the tragic event. We also began researching the Jewish history of the road, learning that a synagogue was situated across the road from the collapsed house which was established by then recently arrived poor immigrants living in the area. We also learnt about the wider history of Jewish communities in Wales, learning that the Swansea Jewish community was the earliest Jewish community to develop in Wales in modern times but more recently the population has dwindled, to the point the synagogue was sold and now the congregation meet in small rented halls. I was particularly captivated by this aspect of the story, and how the rebuilding of the road likely caused displacement of the Jewish families living in the road.

As a group, we have decided we would like to create work together, each choosing an aspect of the story to concentrate on individually. We have also decided that we would like to raise money to buy a commemorative plaque. Currently I am unsure of exactly what work I would like to create for this exhibition; however, I would like it to concentrate on the Jewish history of the road. As part of this, I intend to contact Swansea Jewish Congregation to collect first-hand knowledge and stories.

Photos collected from the West Glamorgan archives documenting the collapsed houses before the demolition of the road in 1970

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WATKINS
Cadbury's
D&SON
EST.189
TEL.3750

Photos collected from Ian Smith, a former resident of Prince of Wales Road

Mayor of Swansea's balance sheet and accounts referring to the disaster fund

BALANCE SHEET
AND
ACCOUNTS

GORDON THOMAS & PICKARD
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
SWANSEA & CARDIFF

Thomas Gordon & Pickard
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Member Firms in Cardiff and Swansea
Telephone Swansea 55254

19, Walter Road,
Swansea.

THE MAYOR OF SWANSEA'S
PRINCE OF WALES ROAD DISASTER FUND, 1950.

Folio I - BALANCE SHEET - as at 31st JULY, 1950.

Folio II - INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

THE MAYOR OF SWANSEA'S
"PRINCE OF WALES ROAD" DISASTER FUND, 1950.
INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - for the period
9th September, 1950 to 31st July, 1951.

	EXPENDITURE	INCOME
By Subscriptions and Contributions received		6,499 17 2
To GRANTS made for:-		
Furniture	1,488 11 4	
Clothing	621 1 5	
Household Effects	1,115 18 5	
Removal and other Expenses	308 16 1	
Gratuities	161 3 8	
	3,746 10 11	
LESS Rebates and Discounts allowed by Suppliers	53 18 7	
	3,692 12 4	
" EXPENSES:- Preparation of Sl. Brun Crescent for rehabilitation of evacuated families '51 & 52. Replacement of Damaged Clothing of Workmen JD 11 5	92 4 6	
" ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES OF THE FUND:- Stationery, Cheques Advertising, Postage	18 10 3	
	3,874 6 11	
" BALANCE available for transfer to Trust Fund to be established	2,625 10 3	
	£6,499 17 2	£6,499 17 2

THE MAYOR OF SWANSEA'S
"PRINCE OF WALES ROAD" DISASTER FUND, 1950
BALANCE SHEET
as at 31st July, 1951.

ASSETS

CASH AT LLOYDS BANK, LIMITED

On Deposit Account	2,600	
On Current Account	25 10 3	2,625 10 3
		£2,625 10 3

LIABILITIES

CAPITAL FUND

Donations and Subscriptions received	6,499 17 2	
LESS Amount distributed and expenses paid	3,874 6 11	2,625 10 3
BALANCE available for transfer to Trust Fund to be established		

Mayor
Hon. Treasurer

£2,625 10 3

We have examined the above Balance Sheet dated the 31st July, 1951, and the attached Income and Expenditure Account with the books and vouchers produced to us, and certify that such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the position of the Prince of Wales Road Disaster Fund at the 31st July, 1951, and that the Income and Expenditure Account contains a full and proper record of the monies received and expended out of such fund.

HONORARY AUDITORS

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.

Dated 24th August, 1951.

Jewish Congregation Records

	1910 cont	Lubner	M	M	
		Cohen St. Thomas	F	B.	
		Levene	F	Sol.	
		Goldstone	M	B.	
		Lipman	M	J.	
		Saul	M	D.	
		Goldstone	M	S.	
		Kosky P. of W. Road	M		
		Lewis (Chavenson) Sketty	M		
		Blush 22. Mansel St.	M		
		Pelta	M		
		Goodman Neath	F	Albert	
		Freedman Carmarthen Rd	M	E. M.	
		Cohen Ammanford	M		
		Weinberg Neath Rd	M		
		Harris Sketty	M		
		Lewis (Chavenson) Neath	M		
		Marks (Zabladofsky) Sketty	F		
		Ruck 16. P. of W. Rd	M	A.	
		Cohen	M	Sam	
		Leaky Neath	M		
1913		Struel Neath	M		
		Tobias 27. Marlborough Rd	F		
		Solomon Powell St	M		
		Rose New Orchard St	M		
		Weinberg " "	M		
		Greenberg " "	M		
	1911?	Freedman Park St	M		16
		Lewis P. of W. Rd	M		
		Weisbard	F		
		Solomon	M	Morris	
		Kosky	F		

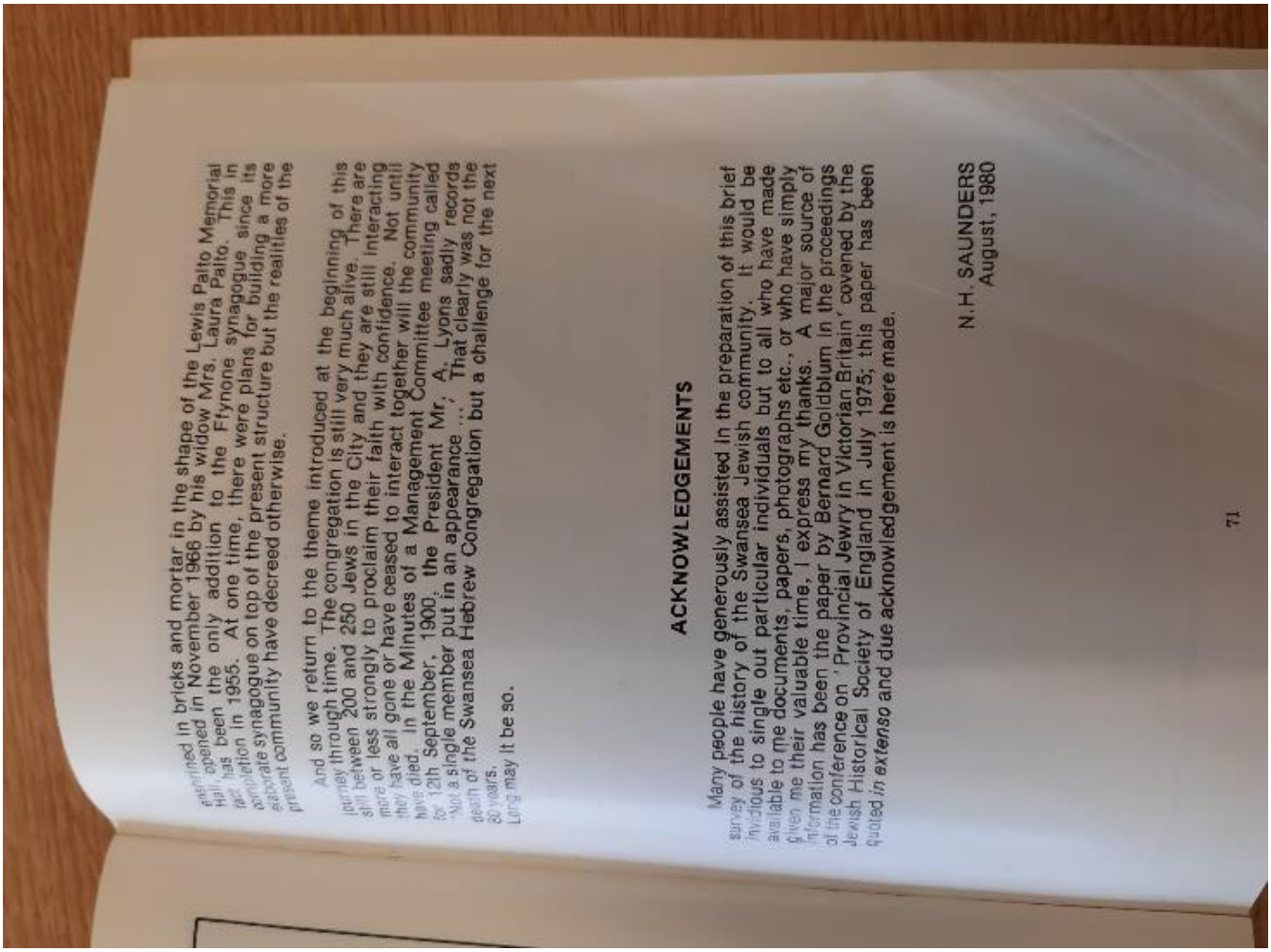
Jewish Birth Records

PLOT (4)

ROW 1.

GRAVE NO.	NAME	DATE	AGE
1	S. JOLKOFSKY	6th AUGUST 1950	76
2	ISRAEL GOODMAN	27th AUGUST 1950	73
3	SAMUEL HYMAN BELKIN	9th SEPT. 1950	74
4	ALICE GALE	9th OCT. 1950	48
5	JOSEPH STRANBAUM	10th OCT. 1950	79
6	MORRIS WINEBERG	12th OCT 1950	61
7	HARRY DAVIES	21st DEC. 1950	70
8	KATE BADDIEL	27th DEC. 1950	90
9	MIRIAM GERTRUDE PELTA	8th FEB. 1951	67
10	([redacted]) Myer Joseph Pelta	30 Nov. 1963	80.
11	ROSE JOSEPH	7th MAY 1952	70
3	MAX LAGERMAN	20th JAN 1952	65
4	JACOB HARRIS	14th FEB 1953	60
5	ANNIE FACTOR	6th MARCH 1953	64
6	SARAH BELKIN	16th MARCH 1953	75
7	MORRIS BLOOMBERG	3rd APRIL 1953	70
8	LAZARUS BLOCK	9th MAY 1953	71
9	ALFRED A. KAYE	14th JULY 1953	19
10	PHILIP MORRIS (LONDON)	13th AUGUST 1953	37
11	REBECCA E. GOLDSTONE	21st OCTOBER 1953	61
12	MYER GREEN (LLANELLY)	5th NOVEMBER 1953	68
13	SARAH MARCUS	1st DEC. 1953	68
14	Henry Moses Morris	3rd June 1956	82

Townhill cemetery burial records- including Samuel Belkin and his wife, Sarah



enshrined in bricks and mortar in the shape of the Lewis Palto Memorial Hall, opened in November 1966 by his widow Mrs. Laura Palto. This in fact has been the only addition to the Ffynone synagogue since its completion in 1955. At one time, there were plans for building a more elaborate synagogue on top of the present structure but the realities of the present community have decreed otherwise.

And so we return to the theme introduced at the beginning of this journey through time. The congregation is still very much alive. There are still between 200 and 250 Jews in the City and they are still interacting more or less strongly to proclaim their faith with confidence. Not until they have all gone or have ceased to interact together will the community have died. In the Minutes of a Management Committee meeting called for 12th September, 1900, the President Mr. A. Lyons sadly records 'Not a single member put in an appearance ...' That clearly was not the death of the Swansea Hebrew Congregation but a challenge for the next 80 years.

Long may it be so.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people have generously assisted in the preparation of this brief survey of the history of the Swansea Jewish community. It would be invidious to single out particular individuals but to all who have made available to me documents, papers, photographs etc., or who have simply given me their valuable time, I express my thanks. A major source of information has been the paper by Bernard Goldblum in the proceedings of the conference on 'Provincial Jewry in Victorian Britain' covened by the Jewish Historical Society of England in July 1975; this paper has been quoted *in extenso* and due acknowledgement is here made.

N.H. SAUNDERS
August, 1980

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Swansea Jewish Community

West Glamorgan, Wales

JCR-UK is a genealogical and historical website covering all Jewish communities and congregations throughout the British Isles and Gibraltar, both past and present.
NOTE: We are not the official website for this community.

City of Swansea

Swansea (in Welsh: *Abertawe* - "mouth of the Tawe") is the second largest city in Wales, with a population of about 240,000. It lies on the northern coast of the Bristol Channel, at the mouth of the river Tawe.

Until 1974, Swansea was a county borough in the old county of Glamorganshire. From 1974 to 1996, it formed a district in the county of West Glamorgan. In 1996, Swansea became a unitary authority (in the ceremonial, or preserved, county of West Glamorgan).

Swansea Jewish Community

The Swansea Jewish community was the earliest Jewish community to develop in Wales inmodern times, thare being records of Jews settling in Swansea from the 1730s. (see *The Rise of Provincial Jewry*, C. Roth.) The first (wooden) synagogue was built in the 1740s and the Swansea Hebrew Congregation develped over subsequent decades. In 1768, the Jewish community received the grant of a plot of land for use as a cemetery. In 1906, an additional congregation was established, primarily by new Yiddish-speaking immigrants, initially as supplementary to main synagogue, but developed as a separate synagogue, until both congregations merged in 1955. In recent years numbers have dwindled and the synagogue building was sold in 2009 and the congregation subsequently rented a small hall for services.

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the former

Swansea Beth Hamedrash

Swansea, South Wales

Congregation Data	
Name:	**Swansea Beth Hemedrash** *(also known as the "Greeners' Shul")*
Address:	Prince of Wales Street, Greenhill, Swansea SA1
Date Founded:	Established in 1906, primarily by then recently arrived poor immigrants, who were primarily Yiddish-speaking, who were generally more orthodox than the established congregation. It was initially as supplementary to main synagogue, but developed as a separate congregation.
Current Status:	Closed about 1954[(i)], incorporated into Swansea Hebrew Congregation.
Ritual:	Ashkenazi Orthodox

Notes & Sources (↵ returns to text above)

- (i) The last separate listing of the congregation in the *Jewish Year Book* was in the 1953 edition. ↵

Swansea Jewish Community

West Glamorgan, Wales

Page created: 13 December 2018
Latest modification: 23 December 2019

Townhill & Oystermouth Cemeteries

One of the first corporate actions of the early Swansea Jewish Community and the Swansea Hebrew Congregation was the leasing of a plot of land to be used as a burial ground. A Hall Day Minute dated 5th October, 1768 in the Swansea City Archives records the agreement of the Burgesses of the then Borough to the lease, and the lease itself is dated 28th November, 1768. It was for 99 years on a plot of land 30 yards by 15 yards which was part of the Town Hill and exists there today. This is usually referred to as the old cemetery, Townhill.

The Townhill cemetery is organised in five sections as shown here. Section 1 is the original and oldest part of the cemetery. Sections 2-5 were added over the years as the Congregation grew and the adjacent land was acquired. Rows within each plot are numbered from the rear wall and graves within each row are numbered from left to right.

Townhill Cemetery continued in use until the mid-1970s when a new cemetery, known as Oystermouth, was acquired, and consecrated on 7 December 1975. Since then, only a small number of burials have taken place at Townhill (largely reserved plots) with the large bulk being carried out Oystermouth. Burials at Oystermouth are arranged in three sections with rows ordered from the front and graves ordered from left to right. Paths divide the sections and run between grave numbers 9-10 and 18-19 as shown here.

The information provided in this database covers 250 years of Jewish burials in the Townhill and Oystermouth Cemeteries. It has been assembled largely from details given on the tombstones themselves plus additional information taken from the Congregation's burial registers. Information for any individual may be displayed by first selecting the appropriate surname letter from the list below and then selecting the required name from its corresponding drop-down list. Navigation to the next or previous burial plot in the Section/Row is achieved by clicking the appropriate link on the individual burial page.

Description

These two photographs portray members of the Swansea Beth Hamedrash who had immigrated into Wales in the 1890s. Initially founded as a supplement to the anglicised Swansea Hebrew Congregation, the Yiddish-speaking Beth Hamedrash soon developed its own practices and even built its own synagogue on the Prince of Wales Road in Greenhill. The two congregations continued to collaborate and as the members of the Beth Hamedrash became more affluent, an increasing amount of them joined the Swansea Hebrew Congregation. In the 1950s, the Beth Hamedrash was incorporated into the Swansea Hebrew Congregation and the Prince of Wales Road synagogue closed. The decaying building was sold in 1961.

The Swansea Jewish Community is the oldest modern Jewish community in Wales with records going back to the 1740s. The first formal mention of a congregation dates in 1768 when a small Jewish cemetery was established on Town Hill. After worshipping at several temporary locations, a purpose-built synagogue was erected for the Swansea Hebrew Congregation in 1818. It was replaced by a bigger synagogue on Goat Street in 1859. In 1906, a group of recently arrived Yiddish-speaking immigrants set up a more orthodox congregation as supplementary to the main synagogue. This community, the Swansea Beth Hemedrash, developed independently while maintaining close ties to the Swansea Hebrew Congregation. In 1941, the Goat Street synagogue was destroyed in a German air raid and the congregation continued to worship in temporary premises at Cornhill House on Christian Street. A new synagogue was finally built in 1955 on Ffynone Street. Around the same time, the Swansea Beth Hemedrash was incorporated into the Swansea Hebrew Congregation. The Ffynone Street synagogue was sold in 2009 but the congregation continues to rent a hall in the building for worship.

The forgotten stories of the Jews leaving Wales after a century

A century ago, thousands of Jews lived in small but thriving communities dotted around Wales yet few are left

SHARE 440 SHARES

By Anna Lewis Reporter

05:00, 16 JUN 2019 UPDATED 13:37, 19 JUN 2019

NEWS

Enter your postcode for local news and info Enter your postcode Go In YourArea

RECOMMENDED

Covid-19 coronavirus

Carrie Symonds

https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/jews-wales-jewish-history-welsh-16432194

THE JEWS IN SWANSEA.

NEW SYNAGOGUE TO BE BUILT.

The Jewish community in Swansea now worshipping at No. 3, Burlais-crescent, have acquired from the local Tramways Co. on lease a piece of land in Prince of Wales-road, situate between Crug Glas Chapel and the Christian Mission New Hall, on which operations began on Thursday, in view of the erection of a synagogue.

The Jews generally in the town are contributing to the fund for the provision of the new building, which will take probably six months to complete. The holding capacity is intended for about three hundred people.

The South Wales Daily Post

23rd January 1896 (Extra special) « Previous Issue ‹ Page 3 ▾ › Next Issue »

The first circumcision service in connection with the newly-established congregation of foreign Jews in Swansea was performed to-day (Thursday) at No. 15, Prince of Wales-road by the new rabbi, the Rev A. Cohen. The child—which was, of course, eight days old—was named Harris Silverstone, and was presented by its uncle, Mr Padines, the whole ceremony being performed strictly in accordance with the tenets of the Mosaic Law. The offering made to the rabbi by the friends of the infant amounted to £2 15s. Prayers for the Queen and Royal family concluded the service.

The South Wales Daily Post

5th January 1894 (Extra special) « Previous Issue ‹ Page 3 ▾ › Next Issue »

Swansea. a540

A GIRL Wanted as Servant, at once.—Apply M. Cohen, 15, Prince of Wales-road. a541

South Wales Daily Post

8th December 1917 « Previous Issue ‹ Page 3 ▾ › Next Issue »

TAILORS, TAILORESSES, DRESS-MAKERS, Etc.

WANTED, good Trousers Hands; also Improvers; at once; good wages.—Apply 15, Prince of Wales-road, Swansea (side door). 1,000a12-11

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedule 61
(To be filled in by the Enumerator when collecting.)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder or Servant, who (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family. State whether "Head" or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX. For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc. Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE. Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of:— Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no Children born alive write "None" in Column 7.) Total Children Born Alive.	Children still Living.	Children who have Died.	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards. Personal Occupation. The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c. If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated. (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Industry or Service with which worker is connected. This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here. No entry needed for Domestic Servants in private employment. If employed by a public body (Government, Municipal, etc.) state what body. (See Instruction 9 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account. Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry: (1) "Employer" (that is employing persons other than domestic servants), or (2) "Worker" (that is working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer).	Whether Working at Home. Write the words "At Home" opposite the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.	BIRTHPLACE of every Person. (1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County and Town, or Parish. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Previous or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea." Note.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor" in this Country.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country. State whether:— (1) "British subject by parentage." (2) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation. Or (3) If of Foreign NATIONALITY, state whether "French," "German," "Russian," etc.	INFIRMITY. If any person included in this Schedule is:— (1) "Totally Deaf" or "Deaf and Dumb." (2) "Totally Blind." (3) "Lunatic." (4) "Imbecile" or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became affected.	LANGUAGE SPOKEN. (1) If able to speak English only, write "English." (2) If able to speak Welsh only, write "Welsh." (3) If able to speak English and Welsh write "Both." No entry to be made in this column for children under three years of age.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.
1 Joseph Belkin	Head	40		Married					Grocer Salesman	320	Employer	4	Russia (Reader)	Russia	800	Neither
2 Genneva Belkin	Wife		38	Married	13	4	0	4					Russia (Reader)	Russia		Neither
3 Rachel Chefets	Niece		21	Single									Russia (Reader)	Russia		Neither
4 Abraham Kaplan	Servant	24		Single					Grocer's Assistant	320	Worker	4	London St George		000	English
5																
6																
7																
8																
9																
10																
11																
12																
13																
14																
15																

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that:—
(1.) All the ages on the Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns.
(2.) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.
(3.) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator S.M.R.

	Total. Males.	Females.	Persons.
	2	2	4

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

Six

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature Joseph Belkin

Postal Address 31 Prince of Wales Rd

NAME AND SURNAME of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder or Servant, who (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family. State whether "Head" or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX. For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc. Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE. Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of :— Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no Children born alive write "None" in Column 7.) Total Children Born Alive.	Children still Living.	Children who have Died.	Personal Occupation. The reply should show the precise Profession, Trade, Manufacture, If engaged in any Trade or Ma the particular kind of work do Article made or Material work in should be clearly indicated. (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examp of Schedule.)
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
1 Joseph Belkin	Head	40		Married					Grocer Sale
2 Gennessa Belkin	Wife		38	Married	13	4	0	4	
3 Rachel Chefets	Niece		21	Single					
4 Abraham Kaplan	Servant	24		Single					Grocer's Assi
5									
6									

than the preparation of ... for any other purpose

	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards. Personal Occupation. The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c. If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated. (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Industry or Service with which worker is connected. This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here. No entry needed for Domestic Servants in private employment. If employed by a public body (Government, Municipal, etc.) state what body. (See Instruction 9 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account. Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry, (1) "Employer" (that is employing persons other than domestic servants), or (2) "Worker" (that is working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer).	Whether Working at Home. Write the words "At Home" opposite the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.	BIRTHPLACE of every Person. (1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town, or Parish. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea." NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor" in this Country.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country. State whether :— (1) "British subject by parentage." (2) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation. Or (3) If of foreign nationality, state whether "French," "German," "Russian," etc.	INFIRMITY. If any person included in this Schedule is :— (1) "Totally Deaf" or "Deaf and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blind," (3) "Lunatic," (4) "Imbecile" or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted	LANGUAGE SPOKEN. (1) If able to speak English only, write "English." (2) If able to speak Welsh only, write "Welsh." (3) If able to speak English and Welsh, write "Both." No entry to be made in this column for children under three years of age.
19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	
	Grocer Saleman	320	Own account	V	Russia (Resident)	Russian	800		Neither
4					Russia (Resident)	Russia			Neither
					Russia (Resident)	Russia			Neither
	Grocer's Assistant	320	Worker	4	London St George		000		English

ancestry

1911 Wales Census

Name:	Joseph Belkin
Age in 1911:	40
Estimated Birth Year:	1871
Relation to Head:	Head
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Russia (resident)
Civil parish:	Swansea
Search Photos:	Swansea, Glamorgan, Wales
County/Island:	Glamorgan
Country:	Wales
Street Address:	31 Prince Of Wales Rd
Marital Status:	Married
Occupation:	Grocer Saleman
Registration district:	Swansea
Registration District Number:	594
Sub-registration district:	Swansea
ED, institution, or vessel:	27
Household schedule number:	66
Piece:	32784

Household Members:

Name	Age
Joseph Belkin	40
Gennessa Belkin	38
Abraham Caplan	24
Rachel Chefets	21

ource Citation: Class: *RG14*; Piece: *32784*; Schedule Number: *66*

Information

South Wales Weekly Post

27th July 1918 « Previous Issue Page 1 » Next Issue »

SWANSEA'S ALIENS.

At the Swansea Police Court on Thursday, Rachel Chefetz (otherwise Belkin), tailoress, was summoned for failing to furnish the usual particulars to the aliens' officer; and Joseph Belkin (49), travelling draper, was summoned for failing to notify her presence in his house at Prince of Wales-road.—Detective Clifford proved the case, and Mr. David Seline (defending) admitted technical offences, and said they were committed in ignorance.—Defendants were fined 20s. each.

Evening Post
Reds' heavy losses in Korea

Evening Post

This plaque commemorates
those who died or were effected by the
Prince of Wales Road
tragedy on the 9th September 1950
May we never forget

Evaluation

For our Collaborative Photographic Practice module, we were asked to work in small groups to create a site-specific exhibition. Every member of the year group was asked to make a video proposal responding to a location, we were then asked to vote on our preferred locations and were placed into groups based on this. I chose the video proposing an exhibition on Prince of Wales Road commemorating those who died when their houses collapsed in the 1950's.

As a starting point, we began researching the Disaster together and soon realised there was very little information surrounding the event online. While researching online we discovered that more houses than we initially discovered had collapsed in the days after the initial collapse. We also learnt that the road was once known as "Jews Row" as it was home to a large population of poor Jewish immigrants and a synagogue, and that one of the victims of the disaster was Jewish. We then visited the archives on several occasions, and again found it incredibly difficult to find information. To find information, we often had to search terms that seemed irrelevant to the disaster or scroll through hundreds of documents before we found what we were looking for.

After speaking to a member of staff at the archive, he suggested we spoke to Ian Smith, a archivist at the Waterfront Museum who had grown up on the street after the disaster. Ian informed us that the remains of the houses stood until 1970, when the entire road was torn down and rebuilt, leaving no trace of the tragic event. Ian was able to confirm parts of the story we had gaps in and provided us with personal images of his childhood on the street. After speaking to Ian, we decided to return to the archives and begin searching with a new approach, searching for documents of the demolition rather than the disaster itself. Searching this way was more successful, and we finally found photos documenting what was left of the houses after the initial clear up of the disaster.

I also began researching the Jewish history of the road and Swansea, I was particularly interested in what had happened to the Jewish community after the demolition of the road as Swansea no longer has a large Jewish congregation. While researching, I learnt that the synagogue on the road closed in 1954, just 4 years after the disaster. With the help of the staff at the archives, I discovered that the synagogue situated on the road was opened in 1906 by poor immigrants living in the area who were unhappy with the way the main synagogue was being run. We also learnt about the wider history of Jewish communities in Wales, learning that the Swansea Jewish community was the earliest Jewish community to develop in Wales in modern times but more recently the population has dwindled, to the point the synagogue was sold and now the congregation meet in small rented halls. I was particularly captivated by this aspect of the story, and how the rebuilding of the road likely caused displacement of the Jewish families living in the road.

I then decided to research further into the life of Samuel Belkin, one of the victims of the disaster, who was a Russian war veteran and member of the Jewish Congregation. Belkin moved to the road in the early 1900's with his wife, Sarah and according to the 1911, had no children and spoke no English. I was interested to discover what had happened to Samuels wife after his death and while searching in the archive, I found documents showing that both were buried in the cemetery at Townhill, and that Sarah died in 1953. While researching, I also discovered that another Belkin family lived on the road who were also Russian immigrants. I decided it was likely that the two families were in fact related. While researching both these households, I discovered in 1918, Belkin was charged for failing to notify the police of his nieces' presence as was required of immigrants, (known as Aliens) during the first world war. I became particularly interested in this story and decided I would like to create work inspired by this story; exploring what it must have been like for

the members of this family when they had no means of understanding what was happening around them.

I decided I wanted my work to induce feelings of disorientation and confusion, mirroring the feeling of being in an unfamiliar place with no means of understanding what is going on, just as the Belkin's may have felt themselves. I decided I would use the middle room of the ground floor of the house as an installation space, completely blacking out the room and playing sound that aimed to induce discomfort. Before the viewer entered the room there would be no explanation as to what was in the room, except for a title on the door, "Alien", by doing this I aimed to play with the viewers perception of sound and space. Initially my intention was for the room to be completely empty and devoid of furniture, however we quickly realised it wouldn't be possible as the house still needed to function as a domestic setting outside of the exhibitions opening hours. However, I quickly realised that this might add to the work, as when viewers entered the room they would be confronted with the outlines of modern furniture. The context of the work would only be revealed once the viewer left the space, either explained by me or another one of the group or via the information within our leaflet.

I initially intended for the audio I played in the space to be ghost frequencies; audio that is inaudible to the human ear but induces feelings of discomfort. However, these frequencies required specific speakers which we did not have access to. I then decided I would play audio of people speaking in Russian or Yiddish, nodding to the Belkins story, however I couldn't find any audio online which was suitable. I then found audio with strange unintelligible which intended to make the listener uncomfortable, much like they use in horror films. I wanted to play this audio through speakers placed throughout the room, making it difficult for the viewer to work out where the sound was coming from but again, due to lack of resources, I could not do this.

As a group we decided we wanted to transform the entire downstairs of the house to feel abandoned and almost like a time capsule, using the space itself as an installation. However, we had also decided we wanted to use the exhibition as a platform to tell the story and needed to do this in a sensitive way. Initially we struggled to agree on ways to make the space feel informative while still having an artistic perspective and not becoming a museum piece. I suggested we filmed a video in which we discussed our findings, that viewers would view before they viewed each of our individual work. We decided to make the video more artistic, we would project it onto the photos we had collected which would be laid out in a collage format on the wall of the living room. We then decided that the visuals for the film should be a clip of the site of the collapse at 6am, the time the houses collapsed which then fades to white to light up the photos behind it. For the audio, we decided each of us would write a paragraph detailing what we'd learnt and then two of us would read them out. We decided we wanted the audio to feel relaxed, as though we were having a conversation. After installing the exhibition, we realised this made the audio feel unprofessional and let the visuals of the piece down.

As a group we delegated roles for the putting on of the exhibition, for example I was in charge of buying all the materials needed to install the work e.g black card to black out windows, double sided tape etc. I was also in charge of printing the leaflets and photos for the group work. Overall I'm really impressed with the exhibition and think we met our goal of raising awareness of the event and paying tribute to those lost really well, during the exhibition we had several family members of those lost and former residents of the street visit and thank us for work. I think we also did a really good job of navigating a domestic setting as an exhibition space.

However, I feel my work somewhat lets the exhibition down and doesn’t fit well with the other work. I feel that while conceptually my work is strong and works very well with my subject, I feel that it does not work well in the space and that I didn’t consider the audience of the work enough and that the work to some degree feels insensitive.