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DE.202

RECORDS OF CHATHAM MEMORIAL SYNAGOGUE AND THE
CHATHAM HEBREW CONGREGATION 1834 - 1972

Deposited on permanent loan by Mr. G. Lancaster,
Chatham Memorial Synagogue, 15 January 1993

Brief guide to genealogical records in the
collection

Burial records 1886 - 1929 DE.202/41 - 45

Members' contributions 1834 - 1958 DE.202/23 - 32

Marriage register 1838-1946 DE.202/38A.

Kind acknowledgements are due to the following for their assistance in preparing this introduction and list.

Mr. G. Lancaster, 15 Grange Way, Rochester

Mr. H. Halpern, Boley Hill House, Rochester

MAR 1995

INTRODUCTION

The material in this collection comprises chiefly the records of Chatham Memorial Synagogue, constituted as such in 1870 by Simon Magnus, in memory of his only son Lazarus Simon Magnus, and to certain extent also those of the Chatham Hebrew Congregation for the preceding period, 1834 - 1870.

Chatham Memorial Synagogue and Minister's House and their predecessors, which stood on almost the same site in Rochester High Street (in the parish of St. Margaret, Rochester) comprise a relatively old place of Jewish worship, considerably predating the many mid-nineteenth century synagogues which sprang up elsewhere in the country.

BACKGROUND TO MODERN JEWISH HISTORY IN BRITAIN

Ancient period down to AD411

An influx of Jews almost certainly took place during the Roman occupation. No records as such survive for this period.

Norman-French period 1066 - 1290

A group of Jews originating in Rouen arrived with Duke William of Normandy at the time of the Conquest. No synagogue records exist for this period but Jews are mentioned in the Public records and in private archives held at County Record Offices. The Encyclopaedia Judaica states that Jews were recorded in Rochester from 1187 and were mentioned as a group in 1231. In 1290 the Jews were expelled from England.

The "Middle Period" 1290 - 1656

Few Jews remained in England during this period between their expulsion by Edward I and their re-admission by Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector. Those who had domicile tended to be professionals such as physicians and also to practice their religion secretly. Open avowal of Judaism might have been treated as criminal and could have resulted in the death sentence being imposed. Reasons for this treatment were theological but also largely economic, due to the King and barons defaulting on loans made to them by the Jews.

The Sephardim Period 1656 - 18th Century

Sephardim Jews were one of the two European branches of the Jewish diaspora from the middle-east, comprising those who had settled in Spain in the middle-east, the word Sephardim meaning Iberians in Medieval Hebrew. Sephardim had arrived in England as early as 1541 mostly via Portugal, due to religious persecution in both countries. Sephardim or so-called Portuguese Jews were mainly middle-class, mercantile and educated.

The Ashkenazi Period 17th Century - 19th Century

Ashkenazim Jews originated in the Rhine Valley and subsequently moved into Poland and Russia. The name Ashkenazi is from a medieval Hebrew word meaning Germans.

The Ashkenazim contrasted to the Sephardim in being poorer, less well educated except in Judaism and in being stricter in their religious observance. There was rivalry and resentment between both branches down to the 19th Century and intermarriage was not encouraged.

Ashkenazim Jews particularly distinguished themselves as pedlars of jewellery and haberdashery, seal-cutters and engravers, dealers in old clothes, shopkeepers, jewellers, opticians and naval tailors. These general trends are corroborated to a certain extent by the records in this collection and also the rentals and leases of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester (Ch2).

There is some evidence that both branches of European Judaism merged at Chatham, whose first recorded synagogue was almost certainly a newly built wooden structure reminiscent of Ashkenazim synagogues of Polish origin. The records also include cursive Hebrew script (an Ashkenazim custom) and many members' names indicate clear Sephardim as well as Ashkenazim origins, although mostly the latter.

It should be stressed that immigration by both Sephardim and Ashkenazim occurred side-by-side over several centuries but eventually the Ashkenazim culture became numerically the dominant. Ashkenazim immigration was boosted by the partition of Poland in 1736 and subsequent pogroms throughout Eastern Europe down to the twentieth century.

General

Although Jews in England in the modern period benefited from a measure of toleration from the civil and ecclesiastical authorities not consistently obtained in previous countries of abode, as Non-conformists or Jews they were still subject to exclusion from certain offices and walks of life under various Acts of Parliament and corporate regulations.

Jews were excluded from the Freedom of the City of London (and the retail trade in the City of London therefore) until 1831, from practicing at the Bar until 1833, from participating in local government until 1845, from commissioned rank in the forces until 1846, from membership of Parliament until 1858 and from Oxford and Cambridge universities until 1871.

Jewish Dating

In this collection, both the Christian Gregorian calendar (New Style) and the Jewish calendar are employed, although chiefly the former and usually both together when the Jewish year is provided. A rough but not exact (up to about one year out) calculation of the Gregorian date can be obtained by subtracting the number 3760 from the Jewish year given. (The Jewish religious year begins in Autumn, the Jewish fiscal year in Spring).

The Jews in Chatham 1656 - 1823

According to the Encyclopaedia Judaica Chatham became home to a Jewish Community in the mid 18th Century, mainly hawkers trading with sailors or acting as licenced navy agents.

Chatham had particular attractions as a Naval Dockyard town (with victualling office in Chatham Intra) and also as a busy mercantile port in its own right, with strong Baltic trading connections.

It is known that Jewish immigrants from the 1650's generally were occupied as importers, exporters, wholesalers, ship's chandlers and ship owners, and the district of Chatham Intra (part of Rochester) once heavily settled by the Jews, was still strongly associated with Jewish business as late as the mid-twentieth century. Several Jews became Freemen of the City of Rochester, whose registers record their trades (RCA).

The earliest records of the Chatham congregation date from 1834, although mention is made in them of earlier material which apparently has not survived. A report in the Rochester and Chatham Times of 1889 alludes to "the books" of the Synagogue dating "back to about 1790" (DE.202/22). These "books", no doubt registers, account books or even committee minutes have not survived in this collection.

The origin in Chatham of an organised Jewish congregation or even of a synagogue, the word meaning literally "bringing together" in Greek, is not recorded. It is probable that Jews worshipped in each other's houses in Chatham until the mid-eighteenth century, with no single site formally recognised as a permanent synagogue and with no such site acknowledged by the non-Jewish community. For quorate worship, a minimum of ten male Jews was required.

The first recorded mention of a synagogue in Chatham is in 1770, when a rental of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, records one John Roberts, their tenant in respect of two tenements in St. Margaret's parish, Rochester (i.e. Chatham Intra) as sub-letting one of these to Jews, specific reference to a synagogue being made. This record is significant not only in providing us with a date, but also in giving an independently created administrative record of the existence of a Jewish congregation and synagogue in Chatham. That is to say it constitutes archival evidence from a non-Jewish source. The precise wording is as follows: [tenant's name] John Roberts [estates and where lying] two tenements in St. Margaret's [Rochester] one used

SMD

for a Jewish Synagogue [commencement] Lady Day 1766 [no. of years] 40
[reserved rent] 1/- [when in course] Lady Day 1780 (Ch2/9 [part]).

Roberts, a house carpenter (Ch2/4) seems therefore to have acquired the lease on this property in 1766, in addition to his two existing leases on premises probably in the same street, comprising four newly built (1770 = Ch2/9) tenements used as an infirmary for the Royal Marines and two other tenements. (No reference to Jews is made in this other document.)

A lease book among the St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester records tells us a little of the premises' history immediately prior to 1766, that they comprised "two small messuages, tenements or dwelling houses" and an "alley way" and that they were formerly occupied by William Scolcop and Widow Wilson and later by John Tylghman and William Harris (Ch2/13 p.446). Assuming that none of these occupants was Jewish nor hosted synagogical gatherings, the Jews must have acquired one of these tenements between 1766 and 1770 as sub-tenants of John Roberts, himself almost certainly of indigenous Christian Protestant background.

A further document, an estate book covering the period 1627 - 1822, provides us with the earliest named mention of Jewish sub-tenants, stating as follows: "August 14 1780 No. 7 a lease renewed to John Roberts of two tenements in St. Margaret's, Rochester. "One used for a Jews Synagogue, let to Levi Israel and others, etc". (Ch2/18). Presumably Levi Israel and his associates had been in occupation of this tenement since 1770 at the latest. (Israel Levi became a Freeman of the City of Rochester in 1788, RCA/02/8).

By 1780, ten years after the first mention, a further interesting development took place. In the lease book for the years 1767 - 1803, in which Roberts renews his lease on the premises, one of the two tenements is described as having been "lately rebuilt, and is now used as a Jews Synagogue" (Ch2/14 p.168). It should be noted that a widow Hewes is here mentioned as a former sub-tenant of either tenement.

It is not clear precisely when this rebuilding work took place but it could have been between 1770 and 1780 or earlier when the congregation could have decided to adapt the existing tenement to serve as a Synagogue with the architectural and social features required for their worship.

Later in the same document for 1787 (Ch2/14 p.225) there is a copy of a licence from St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester to Roberts to alienate both tenements (no doubt adjacent) described as "two small messuages, tenements or dwelling houses (one of which was lately new built and was then used as a Jews Synagogue) alleyway", etc., to Levi Israel of Chatham, silversmith and his associates, who are named as follows (excluding Israel) :

In Sources for Roman Catholic and Jewish Genealogy and Family History vol. II, p.973, E.R. Samuel states 1760 as the date of the establishment of a synagogue in Chatham but does not cite any source, although the encyclopaedia Judaica suggests c.1760

Solomon Mordecai of Rochester, silversmith
 Isreal Levi of Rochester, chapman
 Humphrey Solomon of Rochester, salesman
 Isaac Abraham of St. Margaret's, Rochester, tobacconist
 Hart Cohan of Chatham, salesman
 Michael Abraham of Chatham, salesman +
 and Abraham Moses of Chatham, salesman

This document, dated 6 January 1787, may well contain the first explicit record of the leading members of the Jewish community in Chatham and Rochester acting together and is also a useful genealogical record in itself. Subsequently on 15 July 1794 (Ch2/14 p.360) the same parties obtained a forty-year lease on the premises in their own right for the first time. The next relevant document, a renewal of lease of 1 September 1808 (Ch2/15 p.80) indicates that both Levi Israel and Israel Levi are deceased (i.e. between 1794 and 1808) which is of genealogical value, and also provides, in addition to the remainder of the parties already mentioned, the names of the following members of the Jewish community :

Lazarus Magnus of Chatham, shopkeeper
 Joshua Alexander of Chatham, shopkeeper
 Samuel Simons of Frindsbury, shopkeeper
 Lion Benjamin of Chatham, shopkeeper
 Aaron Moss of Sheerness, shopkeeper

The Lazarus Magnus mentioned is almost certainly an ancestor of the Magnus family associated with the foundation of Chatham Memorial Synagogue in 1868 and the name Lion is also one that occurs in this collection. It should be noted that in this document the names of Abraham Moses (mentioned above) are expanded to : Abraham Moses Simon Davis.

The records of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester give us apparently one last glimpse of the Jewish community before their own records begin. In the renewal of their lease on 23 April 1823, a copy of which is contained in the same lease book (Ch2/15 p.343) the following groups of parties are mentioned :

Part 2. Isaac Abraham of Sheerness, tobacconist
 Hart Cohan, late of Chatham, now of Liverpool, salesman
 Michael Abraham of chatham, salesman
 Joshua Alexander of Chatham, shopkeeper
 Samuel Symons of Frindsbury, shopkeeper
 Lion Benjamin of Chatham, gentleman
 Aaron Moss of Sheerness, shopkeeper

+ Ancestor of Laurie Milbank, stockbroker

Part 3 Joshua Alexander [as above]
 Lion Benjamin [as above]
 Moses Aaron of Chatham, shopkeeper
 Samuel Symons [as above]
 Marcus Hyman of Chatham, apothecary
 Solomon Lucas of Chatham, slopseller
 Samuel Simon Lazarus of Chatham, slopseller
 Levy Simons of Chatham, slopseller
 Lewis Cohan of Chatham, slopseller
 Berman Isacher Barnard of Rochester, hardwareman
 Abraham Moss of Rochester, slopseller
 Lewis Alexander of Chatham, butcher
 Johnathan Zacharia of Chatham, salesman

This document, besides again listing numerous members of the Jewish community in the locality for the 1820's, mentions that certain parties in the 1808 document (Ch2/15 p.80) namely Solomon Mordecai, Humphrey Solomon, Abraham Moses and Lazarus Magnus are deceased (i.e. died between 1808 and 1823). This information is useful in that the burial register only begins in 1886 and the majority of the memorials in the Jewish burial ground at the Synagogue, for the period pre-1886, which might otherwise record families, are mostly eroded.

At the conclusion of the period 1656 - 1823, the Jews had emerged as an organised and acknowledged community with their own Synaguge in Chatham. The Synagogue however was leased and although apparently purpose-built, was no doubt also either decayed or out of keeping with the growing status of the wealthiest members of the community. The final lease was due to expire in 1876 (DE.202/22/p.72).

The Jews in Chatham 1823 - 1868

The early part of this period is difficult to fill out due to the paucity of the the Synagogue's records prior to 1870.

However, the Synagogue was probably served by a minister and run by a committee of the congregation, some of whose bound financial accounts have survived from 1834 (DE.202/23), a document useful for tracking the chronology of individuals' membership.

In view of this lack of further information, it is necessary to turn to printed sources for details of Chatham's Jewry in this period. Charles Dickens noted in his novel The Pickwick Papers 1836 - 1837 "the principal productions of these [Medway] towns are soldiers, sailors, Jews, chalk, shrimps, officers and dockyard men". He notes

the principal commodities as "marine stores, hardbake, apples, flat fish and oysters", in which Jewish tradesmen dealt, no doubt.

According to R.G. Hobbes in Reminiscences of 70 years Life, Travel & Adventure "in 1848 about sixty families of Jews were residing in Chatham and its neighbourhood". (vol. II p.94n.) Hobbes states in more detail, and in respect of the Jews "the humbler sort....deal in civil habiliments shed by the recruits when they assume the military or naval uniform; and the richer....purchase the furniture etc., of officers leaving the garrison, to sell to officers joining; as well as....lend money to the impecunious, etc. Some were outfitters, some jewellers".

Chatham Memorial Synagogue 1868 to date.

The present Synagogue, known by the above title, was built as a gift to the community by Simon Magnus in commemoration of his son Lazarus Simon Magnus who tragically predeceased him on 7 January 1865 aged 39. Lazarus was Captain of the 4th Corps of the 1st Brigade of the Kent Artillery Volunteers, Mayor of Queenborough in Sheppey in 1858, 1859 and 1862 a director of Chatham Railway and a member of the (original) Synagogue's Board of Management.

Lazarus is also commemorated by a large monument in the cemetery to the rear of the Synagogue.

The foundation stone of the Synagogue was laid by Simon Magnus on 5 October 1868 and the Synagogue finished in May 1870, being consecrated on 17 June 1870. The architect was H.H. Collins of 5 Queen Street, London E.C., the builder A. Naylor of Rochester and the total cost £5500 (DE.202/22p.37). Simon Magnus lived in a house opposite the Sun Hotel, Chatham (Harris).

Structurally and architecturally, the new Synagogue was wholly different from its predecessor, although it stood on the original land leased from St. Bartholomew's. The earlier Synagogue is briefly described as "a small building of brick and wood" by Samuel Bagshaw's Directory of 1847, a description corroborated by R.G. Hobbes in 1868 who described it as "a wooden structure". Presumably this was still the same tenement described as "lately rebuilt" in 1780 (see above).

Descriptions of the new Synagogue can be found in ~~Edward~~ *Edwin* (s.m.) Harris' Recollections of Rochester No. 79, the Rochester and Chatham Times 18 July 1889 (DE.202/22/pp.71-80), R.G. Hobbes' Reminiscences (1875). and J. Presnall's invoice 1923 (DE.202/15). The Synagogue is in the Victorian Baroque style and is the only one of its kind in use (Halpern).

It should be noted that Simon Magnus bought the land for the project outright, thus ending about a century of leasehold (DE.22/pp.22 - 33)

Organisationally, it is important to stress the continuity of of the congregation from c.1766 to date. As mentioned above, some families in the congregation predate the refoundation of 1870, besides which the Board of Management of the Synagogue seems to have a continuous history. Only the Trustees, to whom Simon Magnus gave his Synagogue, represent a new organisational characteristic of the congregation, involving the management committee reporting to a higher authority. In any case, the secretary of the Trustees was the chief executive officer of the management committee. This point is contradicted by E.R. Samuel in Sources for Roman Catholic and Jewish Genealogy and Family History 1974, vol.II p.973.

Regarding the ministry, it is probable that the second of the two tenements referred to in St. Bartholomew's Hospital's records was the minister's house. Both tenements were acquired by the Jews in 1787 (Ch2/14p.225) and the use of the second house by the minister may date from that time.

Harris lists the ministers of the Synagogue between 1782 and 1829 as L. Pollock (or Polack) professor of languages c.1872, Bernard J. Salomons c.1890, Moses Isaacs c.1898, M. Fenton c.1903, Joseph Babity c.1920, Abraham Samet c.1920s and Rev. Wolfe 1929 - 1942, the last minister. The Jewish House at Clifton College, Bristol, a private school, is named after Pollock (or Pollack) and Salomons was appointed to a post at Montefiore College, Lauderdale Road, Maida Vale, London.

The last major development in the history of the Synagogue was the successful fund-raising campaign culminating in the extension of the premises to include a social and youth facility, the Mid-Kent Youth and Community Centre or Centenary Hall, 1964 - 1972 (DE.202/47-51). The hon. architect and co-chairman of the centre was H. Halpern of Rochester, whose grandfather had arrived in Gillingham in 1888.

The Records

The collection has been arranged according to whether they relate to Trustees^r or Congregation in the first instance, and then under these headings, according to administrative function. Due to the secretary to the Trustees being an officer of the Congregation, there can be some overlap in function and records.

Certain of the records are of genealogical value, mainly burial records for the Cemetery or Municipal Cemetery, 1886 - 1929 (DE.202/41-45) and records of members' contributions 1834 - 1958 (DE.202/23-32). There are no circumcision registers although these are usually private family records. For duplicate marriages post 1837 enquiries should be made anyway at St. Catherine's House, London or the Register Office, 114 Maidstone Road, Chatham. Other records are still held at the Synagogue, including various scrolls.

SAD
SAD
SAD

Of special interest besides the Synagogue's architecture and history is the boundary wall at the rear of the cemetery, separating the Synagogue premises from St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, which is mentioned in (DE.202/16-17) 1929 - 1939.

Prominent Jews in Chatham and Rochester

Perhaps the best known Jewish son of Chatham was Daniel Barnard, famous as proprietor of the Railway Saloon and music hall, Chatham (subsequently Barnard's Palace of Varieties), High Constable of Chatham, Chairman of Chatham Court Leet and founder and Captain of Chatham Fire Brigade. He died aged 54 in 1879. Daniel was buried in the Synagogue cemetery where there is a monument to his memory.

Mayors of Chatham included G.H. Leavey 1895 and G.A. Rosenberg 1925 and 1926, while the Levy family, Jewish in origin, provided two Mayors of Rochester J.L. Levy in 1860 & 1865 and L. Levy in 1874, 1885 and 1886. Jewish businesses included Halpern's tobacconists, Gillingham, Gergel's outfitters, Wilson's dress shop, Isaacs, military outfitters and Greenberg's military tailors (originally Naval agents), each based in Chatham.

Of special interest not only in the local community but also internationally, was H. Wayne, a Palestinian Jew who settled here. Wayne was very much involved in the early affairs of the British Protectorate.

Most if not all of these individuals and their families are recorded in the collection.

FURTHER SOURCES sm(a) Other archival sources mentioning local Jews at
Medway Studies Centre +

Records of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester 1627 - 1948 (Ch.2, MH/Me)

Rochester Book Society 1797- 1965 (9S)

Rochester City Archives (RCA)

Chatham Borough Archives (CBA)

(b) Printed Sources (various locations) + sm

The Royal Navy and Anglo-Jewry 1740 - 1820 G.L. Green, 1989

Anglo-Jewish Trading Connections with Officers and Seamen of the Royal Navy 1740 - 1820 G.L. Green, 1984

Encyclopaedia Judaica 1972 vols. 5 and 14

Jewish Year Book 1991

Chatham Municipal Synagogue Centenary Booklet c.1971 - c.1972

The Dictionary of Genealogy T.V.H. Fitzhugh, 1988

Sources for Roman Catholic and Jewish Genealogy and Family History by D.J. Steel and Edgar R. Samuel, 1974, vol. III

My Ancestor was Jewish Ed. M. Gundy, 1982

Chatham 100 R. Foster, 1990

Reminiscences of 70 years life, travel and adventure vol. 2, R.G. Hobbes, 1895 (Y920 HOB)

Recollections of Rochester No. 80 E. Harris

Various trade and street directories and Navy Lists

The Pickwick Papers C. Dickens, 1826 - 1837

Rise of Provincial Jewry, Cecil Roth x

* This item gives a fuller general bibliography

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TRUSTEES 1870 - 1962

Minutes 1871 - 1957

- /1 Trustees' minute book 1871 - 1940,
 [See (/2, 6, 9, 15 & 17) for removed enclosures] 1956 - 1957
 [It appears that the original leather binding
 of this volume has been covered with buckram]
 1 vol./c.140pp.
- /2 Loose items removed from (/1) comprising draft or c.1914 - c.1950's
 rough minutes of Trustees' meetings, fair
 drafts or transcripts or minutes, notes
 and agenda
 1 bundle/18pp.
- /3 Rules for guidance of committees, removed c.1920
 from (/5)
 1p.
- Accounts 1870 - c.1940
- /4 Ledger comprising accounts of transactions 1870 - 1919
 with London & County Bank, Chatham and on
 behalf of Synagogue Trustees, recording payments
 for tradesmen's work, salaries, expenses,
 dividends and insurance etc.
Inc. record of investment made by John and Lewis
 Levy by Trust deed for maintenance of cemetery,
 March 1872.
 [See (/7, 16, 19, 36, 45) for removed enclosures
 1 vol./36ff. used
- /5 Cash book 1872 - 1938
 [See (/3, 8, 12, 18, 43 & 53) for removed enclosures]
 1 vol./24ff. used
- /6 Table of members' contributions and c.1920's - c.1940's
 congregation expenses
 [Removed from (/1)]
 1 item

Correspondence 1927 - 1957

- /7 Correspondence between J.F. Packer, Hon. Secretary, Chatham Memorial Synagogue, 287 High Street, Chatham and Lord Bearsted, The Moat, Maidstone/Gloucester House, Park Lane, London W., offering and accepting condolences on death of previous Lord and Lady Bearsted. 23 - 25 Jan. 1927
- [Removed from (/4)]
- 1 bundle/2pp.
- /8 Letters from B.A. Fersht, Secretary, and Herbert M. Adler, Director of Jewish Education, Central Committee for Jewish Education, 20 Gt. St. Helens, London EC3 to I.L. Packer, 287 High Street, Chatham granting financial assistance for children's Biblical, Hebraic and Jewish cultural education at the Synagogue and covering Adler's first report on the classes, also giving some background historical and social information on the congregation and premises. 16 - 20 Feb. 1931
- [Removed from /5)]
- Inc. list of books sent on loan
- Inc. some Hebrew script
- 1 bundle/7pp.
- /9 Copy letters from L. Morris, Chairman, Chatham Memorial Synagogue, of 56 High Street, Strood to Town Clerk, Town Hall, Chatham and Secretary, Chief Rabbi's Office, Creechurch Place, London E.1, concerning cost of chapel of rest or prayer house at Chatham Corporation Cemetery, Maidstone Road, Chatham, with draft letter to Town Clerk[?] c.9 - c.10 March, 1957
- [Removed from (/1)]
- 1 bundle/3pp.

Trust Property 1870 - 1962

Synagogue and cemetery, Rochester 1870 - 1939

- /10 Facsimile of extract from Simon Magnus' conveyance of title 2 August 1870 c.1870
[Removed from (/22)]
1 bundle/7pp. plus envelope
-
- /11 Printed notice removed from (/23) comprising summary of Chatham Memorial Synagogue Trust Deed, deed dated 5 August 1870. c.1870
N.B. another copy of this notice is to be found in the entrance hall of the Synagogue
[Another copy (/12)]
1 item 22½" x 17¼"
- /12 As (/11) [Removed from (/5)] Has been used for notes c.1870
[Mutilated]
1 bundle/2 items
- /13 Cemetery maintenance account book, giving income from dividends on money invested (see below) and payments to bank, to S.T. Jolley and J. Thorne, gardeners and their successors, and to other tradesmen, for work performed in cemetery behind Synagogue 1873 - 1938
Inc. copy of Declaration of Trust as to £215.12.8 £3% Consolidated Bank Annuities for maintenance of cemetery, naming John Levy of Rochester, brewer, Manuel Castello, Grove House, Jews Walk, Sydenham, London, gent., Rev. Philip magnus, Portsdown Road, Middx, B.A., B.Sc., and Isaac George Marks, Chatham, outfitter, 11 March 1872
1 vol./41ff. used
- /14 Docket bearing inscription "Messrs. F.N. Solomon & J. Wilson, Treasurer and Secretary, Chatham Memorial synagogue, [signed] Robert [?] Chester" c.1900
[Removed from /22)]

Trust Property 1870 - 1962 Contd.

Synagogue and cemetery, Rochester 1870 - 1939 contd.

- /15 Invoice from J. Presnall, Phoenix Buildings, 4 July 1923
323 High Street, Chatham, to F. Solomon, 212
High Street, Chatham, of Chatham Memorial
Synagogue, for interior decoration of Synagogue,
giving detailed description of work undertaken
throughout

[Removed from (/1)]

1 bundle/2pp.

- /16 Drawings of plan and elevation of boundary June 1929
wall between St. Bartholomew's Hospital and
Chatham Memorial Synagogue burial ground,
Rochester, by Read and MacDowell, 2 Bloomsbury
Place, London WC1, architects

Starched linen. Scale 10' : 1¼" 18" x 13"

With letter covering plan from C. Speyer,
Secretary, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 12 June
1929 (16/2)

[Removed from (/4)]

- /17 Loose items removed from (/1) comprising 1936 - 1939
correspondence between L. Morris, Hon.
Secretary, Chatham Memorial Synagogue, L.B.
Castello, 3 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn,
London WC, S.M. Castello of David Castello & Sons,
1-4 Copthall Chambers, Copthall Court, London
EC2, Read & McDermott, 8 High Street, Rochester,
architects & Surveyors and others, discussing
extensions to boundary wall between synagogue
cemetery and St. Bartholomew's Hospital,
Rochester 1936 and between Morris as above and
Bull & Bull, 267 - 269 King Street, Hammersmith,
London W6, solicitors and Read & McDermott as
above, discussing same project and ground rents
from Trust properties in London and other Trust
matters, 1936 - 1939

[Sorted into chronological order]

1 bundle/31pp.

Trust Property 1870 - 1962 Contd.

Synagogue and cemetery, Rochester 1870 - 1939 Contd.

- /18 Receipt for policy premium payment from 11 Jan. 1937
 Liverpool and London & Globe insurance Co. Ltd.,
 18 High Street, Maidstone, to Trustees of
 Synagogue for buildings and contents cover on
 Synagogue

[Removed from (/5)]

1p.

Hartismere Road, Fulham, London SW 1903 - 1962

- /19 Loose accounts and correspondence between 1903 - 1931
 Hon. Secretary, subscribers and others relating
 to payment of subscriptions to Trust securities,
 and to estate at Hartismere Road, Fulham,
 London SW and to insurance matters, removed
 from (/4)

Inc. balance sheet mentioning collection for
 Russian Fund 1921 - 1922 (/19/3)

Inc. letter from A. Goldstein, Gertrude House,
 104 Trinity Rise, Brockwell Park, London SW2,
 to I.L. Packer, 287 High Street, Chatham, Hon.
 secretary, remembering his time in Gillingham
 and wishing the Synagogue well, 25 Jan. 1928
 (/19/5)

Inc. letter from L. Cohen, 3 Holborn Lane,
 Chatham, to A. Samet [minister], reducing his
 subscription due to giving up business in
 Chatham, 6 Feb. 1928 (/19/7)

Inc. complete list of contributions with names
 of contributors and some addresses 1928
 (/19/23)

Inc. blank headed Synagogue letter paper
 (/19/29-34)

1 bundle/34pp.

- /20 Schedules of dilapidations to 5-9 Hartismere March-April 1962
 Road, Fulham, London, with covering letter from
 Bull & Bull, 11 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn,
 London WC2, 4 April 1962

With envelope addressed to G. Lancaster, 176
 Maidstone Road, Chatham

[Removed from (/22)]

1 bundle/7 items

Hartismere Road, Fulham, London SW 1903 - 1962 Contd.

/21 Rental account for 5-9 Hartismere Road, 1962
Fulham, London, for year 1961 - 1962, in favour
of Trustees of Chatham Memorial Synagogue.

With envelope addressed to G. Lancaster, 176
Maidstone Road, Chatham

[Removed from (/22)]

1 bundle/2 items

Record of foundation and early history of Synagogue
c.1870 - c.1902

/22 Record Book, containing history of synagogue, c.1870 - c.1902
pp. 2-13, copies of correspondence between
Simon Magnus and Trustees of St. Bartholomew's
Hospital, Rochester 1866 pp. 13-19, correspondence
between Simon magnus and Charity Commission,
York Street, London SW, 1866 - 1867 pp. 19 - 22,
copy of conveyance of fee for Synagogue, 27 May
1867, pp. 22-33, copy of Land Tax redemption
certificate on Synagogue site, 7 Aug. 1868 pp.
33-36, further record of Simon Magnus' actions
as founder of Memorial Synagogue and its
consecration, 1868 - 1870 pp.37-44, copy of
conveyance of Simon Magnus' title 2 August 1870
pp. 44 - 62, inventory of vestments, scrolls
and fixtures belonging to Synagogue c.1870[?]
pp. 62 - 63; declaration of trust for burial
ground 11 March 1872 pp. 64 - 70; extract from
Rochester and Chatham Times 18 July 1889,
describing Synagogue. pp. 71 - 80; extract
from Chatham & Rochester News 21 Dec. 1889
describing special service in Synagogue on
occasion of visit of High Sheriff of Kent,
(15 Dec. 1889) pp. 81 - 96; memoranda and copies
of correspondence between John L. Lyons, Hon.
Secretary to Trustees of Synagogue and House
Cttee. of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester
and H.H. Collins of 61 Broad Street, London EC
[solicitor?], concerning repair of wall
between hospital and burial ground, 1902
pp. 98 - 101

[See (/10, 14, 20, 21, 54 & 55) for removed enclosures]

1 vol./101pp. used

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND CONGREGATION 1834 - 1972

Accounts 1834 - 1958

- /23 Ledger, labelled "Chatham Hebrew Society", 1834 - 1865
 comprising : in front portion of volume and
 ff. 179 - 187
 record of subscriptions received from members
 of congregation and outgoings, etc.
 1835 - 1864
 secondly, in middle-rear portion of volume, record
 of
 individual members' subscriptions to congregation
 per folio, giving members' name, detailed and
 summary totals and how paid, 1837 - 1865, ff.
 1 - 176
 N.B. Some members' entries are continued forwards
 to another folio
 N.B. Contains cursive Hebrew duplicate entries and
 headings
Inc. front index to members' names
 [See (/11, 24 & 56) for removed enclosures]
 1 vol./c.280pp.
- /24 Loose items removed from (/23) comprising 1858 - c.1958
 mainly loose accounts, arrears of subscriptions
 and several incoming letters
 Inc. letter from Simeon Oppenheim, Secretary,
 Great Synagogue Chambers, London to the president
 of Chatham Synagogue, covering copy of resolution
 from Chief Rabbi's Committee, demanding payment
 of subscription arrears, 18 Jan. 5618 [1858?]
 1 bundle/10pp.
- /25 Ledger as (/23) 1933 - 1934
Inc. fees received for Hebrew school classes
Inc. Cemetery expenses [i.e. Chatham Corporation
 Cemetery
Inc. Minister, Rev. Wolfe's salary
Inc. donations to Central Fund for German Jewish
 Refugees p.106
Inc. names and addresses of local and distant
 members of congregation per account, some
 businesses stated
Inc. front index to names of members
 [See (/26) for removed enclosures]
 1 vol./256pp.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND CONGREGATION 1834 - 1972 Contd.

Accounts 1834 - 1958 Contd.

- /26 Loose items removed from (25) comprising loose accounts recording offerings taken, with names and some addresses, object of offering and printed leaflet entitled Boycott Bulletin Vol. II. No. 7, issued by the Jewish Representative Council for the Boycot of German Goods and Services, 21 June 1935, containing articles on events in Nazi Germany and Nazi Germany in an international, moral and economic context (/26/12)
1 bundle/18pp. c.1933 - 1935
- /27 Cash Book 1921 - 1936
Contains record of synagogue receipts e.g. subscriptions, naming members of congregation or donors, collections, school fees and Imperial War Graves Commission, etc. and expenditure, e.g. salaries, public utilities and expenses, etc., also mentioning members' names
[See (/28) for removed enclosures]
1 vol./75ff. used
- /28 Loose items removed from (/27) comprising TS list of names and addresses of members from Rochester, Gillingham, Chatham, Strood, Maidstone and Gravesend, expenditure page torn out from (/27) and note of subscriptions received from S. Dancer and S. Gold c.1921 - c.1936
1 bundle/3pp.
- /29 Ledger as (/23 and /25) containing record of members' contributions, pp. 2 - 155 [gap] 1936 - 1947
Inc. accounts for relief offerings inc. Children's Polish Relief, 1936 and and other business accounts, at rear, 1936 - 1938, pp. 225 - 255
Inc. front index to members' names
1 vol./c.200pp. used

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND CONGREGATION 1834 - 1972 Contd.

Accounts 1834 - 1958 contd.

- /30 Account book containing record of members' weekly contributions, giving members' names 1940 - 1951
Inc. record of school [i.e. Hebrew Class] fees Jan - March 1940, naming D. Gee and A. Halpern as contributing, at rear
1 vol./17pp. used
- /31 Circular from C.H.L. Emanuel, Solicitor and Secretary, Board of Deputies of the British Jews, 23 Finsbury Square, London, to secretary of Chatham Synagogue, assessing latter for 5/- for half-yearly contribution 3 Jan. 1919
[Removed from (/41)]
1p.
- /32 Contributions account book, naming contributors and recording weekly payments c.1933 - 1935
1 vol./4pp. used

Ministry 1871 - 1929

Office of Minister 1919 - 1923

- /33 Letters from A.H. Valentine, Asst. Secretary, Offices of the United Synagogue, St. James Place, Aldgate, London EC3 to John S. Lyons, President Chatham Memorial Synagogue, 346 High Street, Rochester, enquiring about appointment of minister to succeed Rev. M. Fenton, especially in connection with associated post of visiting Minister to Jewish boys at the Borstal Institution.
Feb. - April 1919
[Removed from (/41)]
1 bundle/5pp.
- /34 Draft letter from John S. Lyons[?], to P. Ornstien, Secretary, Offices of the United Synagogue, [both as (/33)], concerning appointment of J. Erlich as minister. Partly superimposed on circular from Frank Windsor, 228 - 232 Cambridge Road, Bethnal Green, London E2, wholesale cabinet maker, addressed to J. Lyon, Rochester, 29 March 1919
c.March 1919
[Removed from (/41)]
1p.
- /35 Letter from J. Erlich, 114 White Horse Lane, Stepney, London E1, to J. Lyons, President, Chatham Memorial Synagogue, accepting the post of Minister
26 March 1919
[Removed from (/41)]
1p.
- /36 Agreement
10 Jan. 1923
(i) Mark Samuel, 184 High Street, Chatham, clothier : President
Francis Naphthali Solomon, 212 High Street, Chatham, house furnisher : Treasurer
John Wilson, 254 High Street, Chatham, draper : Secretary, Hon. Officers of Chatham Memorial Synagogue

Contd.

Ministry 1871 - 1929 Contd.

Office of Minister 1919 - 1923 Contd.

- /36 (ii) Abraham Samet of Russell Street, Reading Berks., The Minister
Appointment and duties of The Minister
Witnessed by Horace I. Smith, 80 Victoria Road, Chatham, clerk

[Removed from (/4)]

1 item

Functions of Minister 1871 - 1929

- /37 Letter book containing copies of out-going letters from Lazarus Polack, Minister's House, Chatham Memorial Synagogue, to Trustees, arranging meetings, discussing finance and asking remedy to bad drainage problem, mentioning a Mr. Naylor as builder of house and Synagogue 1871 - 1872
1 vol./7pp. used
- /38a Marriage register 1838 - 1946
1 vol./ 23pp. used.
~~[Deposit pending as at 6 April 1993]~~ SMD
- /38 Printed circulars from General Register Office concerning Naval Marriages Acts 1908 and 1915, to Authorised Persons c.1909 - c.1915
[Removed from (/41)]
1 bundle/3 items
- /39 Promisory note from S. Gergel to President of Chatham Memorial Synagogue, undertaking to pay minister's fee of three guineas and one guinea to synagogue fund, in respect of marriage of his daughter Miss. B. Gergel to E. Gluck 29 Jan. 1919
[Removed from (/41)]
1p.

Ministry 1871 - 1929 Contd.

Functions of Minister 1871 - 1929 Contd.

- /40 Circular from C.H.L. Emanuel, solicitor and Secretary, Board of Deputies of the British Jews, 23 Finsbury Square, London EC3, certifying officer of Synagogue as appointee for marriage registration purposes, with associated correspondence mentioning John Lyon in that capacity Jan. - April 1919
[Removed from (/41)]
1 bundle/6pp.
- /41 Burial Register - Synagogue Cemetery 1886 - c.1921
Giving deceased's name, address, date of burial, age and name of officiant
[N.B. after c.1921 burials were mainly discontinued at the Synagogue cemetery, although one further burial took place in 1982. One burial (a suicide) took place at the Corporation Cemetery, Maidstone Road, Chatham, c.1923, with Jewish burials mainly at this site from c.1965. See CBA/B]
[See (/31, 33-35, 38, 38, 39, 40 &42) for removed enclosures]
1 vol./9pp. used
- /42 Loose item removed from (/41) comprising 1897 - 1921
certificates of registry of death, coroners' orders for burial, certificates of notification of death, one medical certificate of the cause of death, arranged in alphabetical order, each form usually stating name of deceased age at death and address. Families inc. Barnard, Barnett, Belisha, Cohen, Isaacs, Jacobs, Lyon/Lyons, Marks and Woolf.
[These forms presumably relate to burials of members of the congregation (or outsiders) in the cemetery adjacent to the Synagogue in the period prior to burials being transferred to chatham Corporation Cemetery, Maidstone Road, Chatham]
1 bundle/45 items

Ministry 1871 - 1929 Contd.

Functions of Minister 1871 - 1929 Contd.

- /43 Loose item removed from (/15) comprising certificate of registry of death of Catherine King, aged 16 days. W. Maidstone Sub-Dist. 23 August 1899
1 item
- /44 Burial certificate counterfoil book, counterfoils giving folio and entry nos. in original burial register, date of burial, name and sometimes address of deceased interred and date of certificate [1886]
1887 - 1902
1 vol./15pp. used
- /45 Coroner's orders for burial of Sarah Esther Heiser and Samuel Heiser, both of 9 Cricket Field Road, Clapton, [London] May 1929
[Removed from (/4)]
1 bundle/2 items
- /46 Printed booklet containing table of fees, payments and sums and rules and regulations of Chatham Borough burial ground c.1906
[Maidstone Road, Chatham]
[removed from (/4)].
1 booklet/12pp.

Community and Worship c.1850 - 1972Mid-Kent Youth and Community Centre/Centenary Hall
1964 - 1972

- /47 Booklet of three grand draw raffle tickets in aid of Mid Kent Youth & Community Centre, to be held at Garden Party, "Fairlawn", Queens Road, Maidstone 21 June 1964. Inscribed with names of Mr. & Mrs. Warner, 19 Langdale Rise, Maidstone c.May 1964
1 item/4pp.

Community and Worship c.1850 - 1972 Contd.

- /48 Printed, illustrated leaflet advertising British Anzani out-board motors [See also/49].
Inscribed Mr. Kay.
[The British Anzani Engineering Co. (Manufacturing) Ltd., of Dove Hill works, Boxley Road, Maidstone, was owned at the time by a member of the congregation, Gerald Faull]
With second colour leaflet advertising Avon Redcrest inflatable dinghies, possibly associated with the above item
c.1964 - c.1972
1 bundle/2pp.
- /49 Artwork for design of posters or tickets for grand draw at Great Danes Hotel, Hollingbourne, in aid of Mid-Kent Youth and Community Centre, prizes comprising hamper of wines and spirits to value of at least £100, British Anzani outboard motor and weekend for two at Cumberland Hotel, Bournemouth, Hants.
c.May 1972
1 item 4pp.
- /50 Printed order of service at the laying of the foundation stone of the new Centenary Hall by Marcus Cohen, 29 Nov. 1971. Illus. with street elevation. With duplicate Hebrew text
c.Nov. 1971
Inc. list of officers of congregation at rear (p.8)
1 bundle/9 copies/8pp. each
- /51 Printed booklet published to celebrate Centenary Plus 1965/1972 : Mid-Kent Youth and Community Centre on occasion of dinner and dance at Great Danes Hotel, Hollingbourne, 11 June 1972, with message from Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, Chief Rabbi, in aid of above-mentioned centre, elevation of which is depicted on front cover.
c.May 1972
Inc. many business advertisements and messages of goodwill
1 vol./c.40pp.

General c.1850 - 1972

- /52 Printed pamphlet comprising constitution of The Board of Deputies of British Jews, adopted 18 Jan. 1931, with stamped envelope Jan. - Feb. 1931
 [Removed from (/4)]
 1 bundle/2 items
- /53 Loose items removed from (/5) comprising order of service for Jewish members of H.M. Forces, 28 Jan. 1946. (Duplicates) Jan. 1946
 1 bundle/2 items
- /54 Page from The Observer containing article entitled Christians and Jews : Like and Unlike by James Parkes 22 Dec. 1963
 [Removed from (/22)]
 1p.
- /55 Newscutting containing obituary and photograph of Leopold Morris, successively Secretary and chairman of Synagogue from Jewish Chronicle 6 Oct. 1972
 [Removed from (/22)]
 1 item
- /4 Fragment of quill feather removed from (/23) Mid. 19th. C.
 1 item 1½" x 1"

City Archivist.

March 1993