

Research Report
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The Jewish Community of Selma, Alabama

Upon completion of the NEH Summer workshop on Jews in the South, I have continued my research on the Jewish community of Selma, Alabama. I am integrating the tools and knowledge that I learned at this workshop to further my research.

At present the research expenses of this research have been supported by the Southern Jewish Historical Society and Old Dominion University. The research is under contract with the University of Alabama Press, for the publication of a full-length manuscript. The American Jewish Archives also generously supported use of their collections through their fellowship program.

I have completed the ethnographic component of the project, having interviewed over fifty individuals who have ties to Selma's Jewish community. After spending a summer in archival research at the American Jewish Archives, I now am focused on the Alabama State Archives and the newspaper holdings they have in their undigitized collection. Upon the completion of this research, I will focus on completing the book manuscript.

The book will detail the history of the early Jewish settlers in Alabama (which is what I focused my energy on during the NEH workshop), the role of Selma's Jewish community in the Civil Rights Movement, discussions of those who moved to Selma, those who left Selma, and those who stayed in Selma, and a discussion of the potential future of the synagogue.

For more about this project, the following links offer coverage of this research:

<https://www.facebook.com/TempleMishkanIsrael/videos/877544899290560/>

https://www.jta.org/2019/07/05/united-states/selmas-only-synagogue-has-4-members-and-is-fighting-for-its-life?fbclid=IwAR3V8F3w3WgJDQf4uGyAf8C4IRZWBojerImJ2350u-_Yeb6sFv0u5xR_7iU

https://www.withgoodreasonradio.org/episode/holocaust-memory/?t=00%3A18%3A57&fbclid=IwAR3HQAAbRtkNf0OtSJCX-vC5FLBV_-HY-WitMASHSOjuHfz6dlMPc-dsidmw