The question is often asked, why there were two Jewish neighborhoods in the 1920’s thru the 1950’s on the east side of Cleveland. Those being, Glenville and Mt Pleasant. This document provides insight based on the movement of the Jewish community based on the movement of the twenty congregations from the Woodland Scovill, Orange Ave neighborhood.

**Background**

Cleveland’s first permanent Jewish community was established in the Haymarket district by relatives and friends of Simon Thorman from Unsleben Bavaria in 1939. Thorman, a fur trader had arrived just a few years earlier. Many of the settlers arrived with the financial strength to continue their skills as merchants, many in the garment industry.

Today that neighborhood would be described as the northern bank of the Cuyahoga River north to Eagle Street and Ontario, east to Brownell, now East 14th street. The center of the Haymarket was Erie street, today East 9th and Woodland Ave.

Thorman and others established the Israelite Society, first meeting in members’ homes- In 1842 the Anshe Chesed Congregation (Fairmount Temple) was formed and built Cleveland’s first new synagogue just north of the Haymarket on Eagle Avenue. In 1850, Congregation Tifereth Israel was formed and built a new synagogue on Huron road in 1855.

According to the 1840 Census, Cleveland’s population reached 7,500. The Encyclopedia of Cleveland indicate the Jewish population consisted of 20 families and approximately 20 single men. Lloyd Gartner, author of The Jews of Cleveland published in 1978 references an article published in July, 20, 1860 by the American Israelite stating the population for Cleveland had reached 1,200, while the total population if Cleveland was just over 43,000.
The Jewish population continued to grow as small groups of immigrants from Poland formed Anshe Emeth (Park Synagogue) in 1857, Lithuanians established Beth Hamidrosh Hogodol Beth Israel in 1860 and the largest group arrived from Hungry forming B’nai Jeshurun in 1866.

The first congregation to relocate east of the Haymarket district was Anshe Chesed, building a new structure at East 25th and Scovill Ave. Their former location on Eagle would be occupied in 1887 by B’nai Jeshurun until 1906 when they moved east to their newly built synagogue on East 55th and Scovill. It should be noted that by the time the building on Eagle was sold, the area around it including the large homes on Euclid Avenue were transitioning to retail and office building. That change and the movement further east was driven by, but not limited to the increase in the value of land, population, prosperity, the decay of over populated and aging tenement housing, and pollution

The financial and political strength of Cleveland’s Jewish population would be tested in the early 1880’s as immigrants fleeing the pogroms of Eastern Europe adding to Cleveland’s population continuing into the 1920’s. A substantial amount of these immigrants were from Russian, Romania, Serbia, Galicia a province of Austrian Poland and Marmaresher Sziger a province of what is now Hungary. They arrived before immigration laws required them to have a local sponsor necessitating assistance from the families of the initial group of Jews that arrived 40 years earlier.

The majority of the second wave of Jews established residency and their synagogues in the aging and impoverished southern portion of the Haymarket. Over time these smaller congregations would move multiple times as they followed the financially secured first wave of immigrants east up Orange Woodland and Scovill road.
Of the sixteen “second wave” only one relocated from upper woodland to Mt, Pleasant, that being Ohel Jacob Anshe Sfard. Chibas Jerusalem relocated to Midtown, however in 5 years relocated to Glenville. Ohave Emuno also relocated to Midtown, however merged soon after with Beth Hogodol Beth Israel in Glenville.

The remaining fourteen relocated to Glenville. In addition, Oheb Zedek, formed in 1902 by disenchanted members of B’nai Jeshurun who had built a new synagogue on Scovill at E 37th also relocated to Glenville. An additional three would be established in Glenville resulting the number of synagogues in Glenville.

Anshe Chesed and Tifereth Israel chose to relocate to Midtown. B’nai Jeshurun relocated to Cleveland Heights. The additional eight congregations established in Mt Pleasant were;

1. Samuel Levine established Ohel Yavne in the rear of his home at 3448 E. 149th in 1922. Levine was a tile setter by trade. He and members of his congregation joined the Kinsman Jewish Center when their new building was completed, and served for many years in various leadership roles at the Jewish Center.

2. Tifereth Israel of Mt. Pleasant, having no connection with Tifereth Israel at E.55th incorporated in 1922 and held services at 3386 E. 119th. Information found at the Western Reserve Historical Society make mention without supportive documents that members formerly affiliated with Oer Chodosh, one of many that relocated from Woodland to Glenville.

3. N’vai Zedek was established by Lithuanian Jews in 1922. The congregation built a new house of worship at 11901 Union Ave.


5. Ohel Jabneh was formed in 1930 and met at 3310 E. 149th. The home of their Rebie, Samuel Bilchik.

6. Shomre Hadath was established in 1924, first meeting at the corner of Buckeye and E. 103rd. In 1926 the congregation the majority being Hungarian built a new synagogue at Parkhill Rd. and E.12rrd

7. Bnai Jacob Kol Israel (Kinsman Jewish Center) was established by former members of the First Maramaras B’nai Jacob. The group met in several buildings within the neighborhood, until 1932 when their new building on East 147th just north of Kinsman was completed.

8. During the mid-1950’s a move east was under consideration, a portion of the membership along with their Rabbi chose to start Temple Beth-EI in 1950 just east on Kinsman within the boarder of Shaker Heights. This was the last congregation to relocate from the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood and continues today, known as Beth-el, The Heights Synagogue.

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**Movement of the sixteen “second wave” of Congregations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Established</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>Glenville, Mt. Pleasant or Midtown</th>
<th>Date of move</th>
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<th>Glenville, Mt. Pleasant or Midtown</th>
<th>Date of move</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1882</td>
<td>Ohave Emuno</td>
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<td>Midtown</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>1903</td>
<td>Galician – Sinai</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Glenville</td>
<td>1922</td>
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<td>1884</td>
<td>Oer Chodosh</td>
<td>Ukrainian</td>
<td>Glenville</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>1904</td>
<td>Chibas Jerusalem</td>
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<td>Midtown</td>
<td>1936</td>
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<td>Dissolved</td>
<td>1912</td>
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<td>1906</td>
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<td>1920</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Maramaras B’nai Jacob -Green Rd</td>
<td>Hungarian</td>
<td>Glenville</td>
<td>1923</td>
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</table>

**K* maintained a branch at 10307 Buckeye from 1920 to 1923. They continued to operate their synagogue in Glenville until 1955.
Summary

Clearly the majority relocated from the Woodland E.55th neighborhood to Glenville. Only one relocated to Mt Pleasant. That being, Ohel Jacob Anshe Sfard from E.57th and Scovill to E.140th. 500 feet north of Kinsman. N’vai Zedek was established in Mt Pleasant, as was Shomrie Hadath, Sherith Jacob, The Kinsman Jewish Center, Belchik’s Shul, Tifereth Israel of Mt. Pleasant and Temple Beth-El, established by members of Kinsman Jewish Center in 1957.
And to answer another question

Where does the name Mt. Pleasant originate?
Limited information can be found. Here is what is known. Prior to 1908 north and south streets were named generally by the developer of the sub-division. As the community grew the names were changed to a simplified numbering system. Mt. Pleasant St. was 128 streets east of the river, hence became E.128th.

A newspaper article in the Cleveland Press dated published September 2, 1971 states “The Mount Pleasant area took its name years ago from a country picnic grove a short distance from what is now Shaker Heights”

The notice shown below was published in the Cleveland Plain Dealer 10/19/2018

Original plat map filed with the Cuyahouga County Recorder in 1889 establishing the parcels for development. This would be known as the W. M Kelly Allotment. 14-30