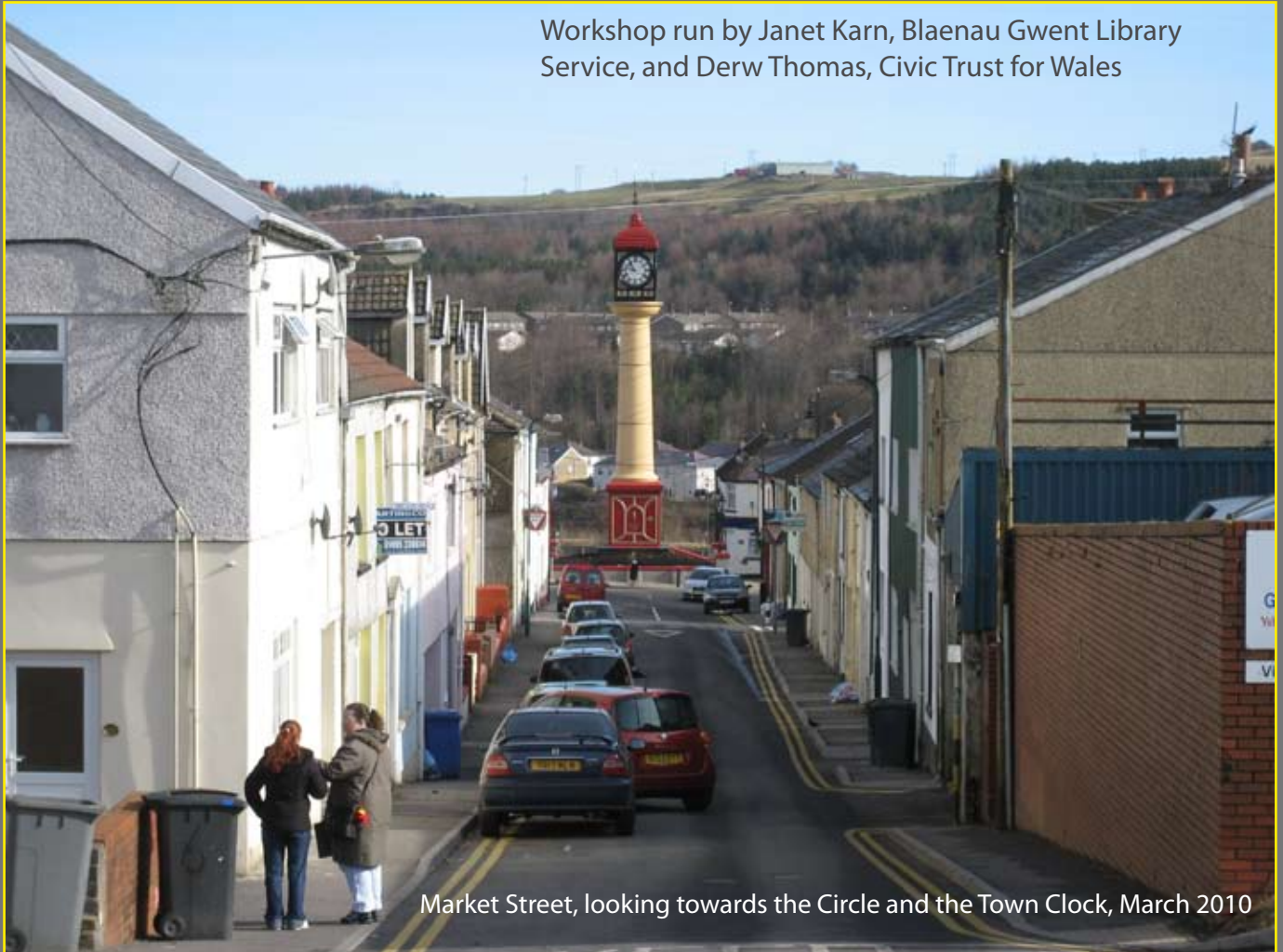


Workshop 1: Census returns and other documents

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Market Street, looking towards the Circle and the Town Clock, March 2010

Methods

This workshop was designed to allow participants to work with census and allied material to explore the character of the community of Tredegar between 1851 and 1901. The overall aim was to enable participants to make connections between building and street character and social and household structure.

Working in groups, we used aerial photographs and screen grabs from Google Maps alongside contemporary and historical photographs to enable us to visualise the streets referred to in the censuses and other documents. In order to help with legibility, census transcripts were used alongside copies of the original returns. The workshop consisted of four activities. In the first two, the social development of different streets was explored through the comparison of census returns. These were followed by activities linking census information to a telephone directory and newspaper reports.

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Parish or Township of	Electoral District of	City or Borough of	Town of	Wards of			
Bedwelly			Swale				
Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Years	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Lame
42 4 Market Street	Joseph Coates	Head	Married	41	Coal Miner	Bedwelly	
	Michael Co.	Wife	Widow	53			
	Mary Anne Co.	Daughter	Single	11	Shoemaker	Monmouth Wales	
	Margaret Co.	Daughter	Single	5			
	James Brown	Servant	Single	18	Shoemaker		
43 5 Market Street	James Jenkins	Head	Single	35	Tailor	Cardigan St. David	
	Thomas Price	Servant	Single	15	Coal Miner	Cardigan St. David	
	Mary Co.	Wife	Widow	44		Cardigan St. David	
	John Co.	Son	Single	11		Monmouth Wales	
	James Co.	Son	Single	7		Glamorgan North Wales	
44 6 Market Street	John Walsh	Servant	Single	30	Labourer	Ireland	
	Mary Co.	Wife	Widow	30			
	David Jones	Head	Married	27	Engine Tender	Cardigan St. David	
	Ann Jones	Wife	Widow	25		Cardigan St. David	
45 7 Market Street	Edith Co.	Son	Single	1			
	Elizabeth Co.	Daughter	Single	4		Glamorgan North Wales	
	James Thomas	Head	Married	32	Cinder Filler	London	
	Elizabeth Co.	Wife	Widow	19		St. East London	
	John Co.	Son	Single	13	Labourer	St. Helen's London	
	Henry Co.	Son	Single	11	Coal Miner	St. Helen's London	
Total				5	Total of Persons	12	7

1851 Census, 4-7 Market Street

1 The Circle in 1851 and 1901

We noted the professions for people living/working on the Circle such as ironmonger, chemist and druggist, innkeepers, grocers, butcher and stationer.

We considered where people were born and the differences between 1851 and 1901. In 1901 there were more people listed as born in Tredegar, in contrast to 1851 when they were mostly incomers from rural mid Wales and the West of England. Many of the homes had live-in servants and shop employees who also lived with the owners' families.

Participants recognised that this was the commercial centre of the town and that the residents were a class of commercial business people running their own accounts and living 'above the shop'.

2 Market Street in 1851 and 1901

In contrast to the Circle, the residents of Market Street were more diverse. Trades and businesses (such as shoemaker, dealer in hardware, tailor, dealer in earthenware, blacksmith, green grocer shop keeper and pawn broker) were represented but also workers such as coal miner, cinder filler, engine tender, railway platelayer, iron ore miner, carpenter and joiner, plasterer and fireman were listed.

As in the Circle, we noted that in 1901 more people were listed as born in Tredegar in comparison with 1851 when most were incomers from rural mid Wales and the West of England.

Very few homes had live-in help or servants but some had paying lodgers who were employed locally in heavy industrial jobs.

3 Park Place, Georgetown in 1900 and 1901

To provide a contrast with the centre of the early planned town the third activity looked at Park Place in Georgetown. Delegates were given a 1900 telephone directory for Tredegar. Only two out of the seven telephone lines to Tredegar were to domestic residences. One of these was the home of the Doctor and one to Thomas Morgan, 5 Park Place, Georgetown.

Looking at the 1901 census delegates were able to locate Thomas Morgan (a Colliery Traffic Manager) living in Park Place with his wife Sybil and son Cyril. We noted some of the other professions for Park Place. These included a Wesleyan Methodist minister, a "Corresponding Clerk", an accountant, a music teacher and a mining engineer.

Delegates described this census return (alongside photographs showing semi-detached properties with front gardens) as revealing a much more "middle class" Tredegar.

4 Red Lion Square, 1881/2

The final activity enabled delegates to look at Red Lion Square, a mainly Irish community of iron labourers and their families living in close proximity to one another, sometimes with as many as thirteen people living in one house. The source material was the 1881 census, which revealed that many of these houses accommodated lodgers in addition to families with several children.

In order to add more "colour" to the census returns, delegates were given copies of extracts from the *Merthyr Express* reporting Irish riots in Red Lion Square in 1882. This helped us to establish an imaginative response to the character of the community and its way of life through insights into living conditions and social issues in the Tredegar of the early 1880s.

Conclusions

Each group varied in the comments and observations it made in response to the stimulus material. At the end of the workshop some general conclusions and considerations were drawn about what was learned from the sources that were used. Several people commented that (in some cases) they had not considered using censuses to "conjure up" a picture of what a place might have looked like and 'felt' at a certain time. We agreed that they felt that they had gained an insight into the character of a the community by considering the household make-up, professions and geographical origins of the inhabitants of different parts of town.