

ALTER B. Z. SHAPIRO, BENEFACTOR, DIES

Founder of Hebrew Free Loan Society Had Assisted Scores of Charities for 50 Years.

AIDED MANY IMMIGRANTS

Native of Russia, He Took New Arrivals Into His Home Until They Became Oriented.

Alter Ben Zion Shapiro, founder of the Hebrew Free Loan Society, the United Hebrew Community of New York and the United Hebrew Protective Association, and a benefactor of New York Jewry for almost fifty years, died at 6 A. M. yesterday at his residence, 215 East Fourth Street, after a long illness. He was 73 years old. He contributed generously to the support of many Talmud Torahs and Yeshivahs and Jewish hospitals, charitable societies, orphanages and homes for the aged.

Born in Russia, he came to this country as a young boy. He was engaged in the cotton goods and trimmings business at Eighth Street and University Place for many years, retiring several years ago.

The Hebrew Free Loan Society, at 108 Second Avenue, which he founded in 1891, annually lends, interest free, about \$2,000,000 to persons of all creeds. It has branches all over Greater New York.

Mr. Shapiro established the United Hebrew Community of New York, or Adath Israel, as it is more familiarly known, a burial society, in 1901. The community has a membership of more than 10,000 persons, and administers Montefiore, United Hebrew, Mount Lebanon, Mount Zion, Geders Montefiore, Geders Mount Zion and United Hebrew, and Geders Mount Lebanon Cemeteries.

Headquarters of the community are at 201-3 East Broadway, where it also maintains a synagogue, with a large library of Hebrew books. Rabbi Gabriel Zev Margolis, noted rabbinical scholar and former chief rabbi of Boston, is the rabbi. The funeral will be conducted at the synagogue at noon today.

Fifteen years ago Mr. Shapiro was instrumental in founding the United Hebrew Protective Association to guard against certain abuses by cemetery corporations. Close to 5,000 synagogues, congregations, clubs, societies and other Jewish organizations are affiliated with this association.

Before the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society was founded Mr. Shapiro assisted hundreds of Jewish immigrants to the United States in making a start here. Many of them he quartered at his own home until they became oriented and found permanent places elsewhere.

Mr. Shapiro also was a member of the board of directors of the Home of the Daughters of Jacob, Findlay Avenue and 167th Street, the Bronx, and took an active part in supporting Beth Israel Hospital.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Anna Shapiro; three daughters, Mrs. Issachar Levin of Trenton, N. J.; Mrs. Louis Greenwald and Mrs. Eva Lewittes, and two sons, Archie M. and Abraham Shapiro.



ALTER BEN ZION SHAPIRO.