

REV. G. W. MARGOLIS, NOTED RABBI, DIES

Author and Scholar, 87, Known
as Dean of the Orthodox
Preachers of America.

HEBREW ASSEMBLY HEAD

Ordained at 20, He Won Fame in
Many Lands as Teacher and
in the Zionist Movement.

Rabbi Gabriel Wolf Margolis, known affectionately by his colleagues as the dean of the orthodox rabbinate in America, and famed for his authoritative writings on the Hebrew scriptures and other theological tracts, died early yesterday afternoon at his home, 203 East Broadway. Rabbi Margolis, who was perhaps the oldest active rabbi in the country, died in his eighty-eighth year after an illness of nearly two years.

His fame as a writer and teacher in his native Russia brought recognition in many lands, and he first came to this country at the turn of the century, taking a synagogue in Boston, whence he was called to accept the post of chief rabbi at the Temple Adath Israel, or United Hebrew Community of New York, located at 201 East Broadway.

For twenty-four years Rabbi Margolis had been the chief and guiding influence of the Adath Israel congregation, which has a membership in excess of 10,000 persons.

At the rabbi's bedside when he was stricken was the eldest of his eight surviving children, Rabbi Menasche Margolis of Brooklyn, who is also noted in rabbinical circles here, and his widow, Sheima Esther.

He is also survived by his sons, Leizer of Brooklyn, Nehemia of Boston and Dr. Jacob Margolis, a physician practicing in New York, and four daughters, Mrs. Rachel Saland, who lives in Palestine; Anna Margolis of Boston, Mrs. Neche Levine and Jean Margolis, both of New York.

Funeral services will be held at the Temple Adath Israel at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Burial will be at the United Hebrew Community Grounds in the Montefiore Cemetery, Queens.

Founder of the Assembly.

Rabbi Margolis, as president of the Assembly of Hebrew Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, held the highest Orthodox office in the country. He was a founder of the Assembly, and as its life president, served in that capacity for twenty-five successive years.

He was born at Vilna, Russia, and was educated at the Yeshiva of Volohzin, becoming ordained rabbi when he was only twenty years of age. His first rabbinical assignment was at Dubrova, and he served subsequently at Yasinovka, in Russia, and Horodno, in Poland.

He participated in the Zionist Congress at Basle, Switzerland, in 1899 and four years later was a delegate to the Zionist Congress held at Cracow, where he was singularly honored by being the Sabbath preacher. It was soon after that that he came to this country, and the Baldwin Place Synagogue in Boston, becoming Chief Rabbi of the Jewish community of that city.

In 1910 he came to the Adath Israel congregation in New York, succeeding Chief Rabbi Jacob Joseph.

Scholar and an Author.

Among Orthodox Jewry, rabbis and theological students, Rabbi Margolis was equally prominent as a scholar and author. He is the direct descendant of a Hebrew family which made important contributions to the scholarly foundations and traditions of their race.

His lineal inheritance and aptitude for religious and ethical studies often has been traced to the influence of his great-great-grandfather, Zehiel Halterem, who wrote what has been regarded ever since as the first authentic Jewish history, upon which all modern factual material has been largely based. This work is called the "Seder Hadorot."

A revealing incident, which attests the repute in which the rabbi's prominent ancestor was held has been contributed by Rabbi Simon Glazer, rabbi of the Maimonides Synagogue, 312 West Eighty-ninth Street, who is president of the Central Council of Rabbis of Greater New York, and long has been a friend and co-worker with Rabbi Margolis, who was a former president of the council.

Many Graves Destroyed.

Rabbi Glazer visited the city of Minsk in Russia in 1929, where a few years previously the Soviet Government had outraged the Jews of White Russia by destroying many of the famous Jewish burying grounds and converting them into public parks. In the middle of one of these parks, Rabbi Glazer said, he came upon one grave which, alone of thousands, had been left intact and protectively fenced off.

It was the resting place of the remains of the author of the "Seder Hadorot," and a monument which Soviet officials had found it fitting to except from the wholesale renovation.

Rabbi Margolis's published works include the "Hagadah Isaiah," a commentary on the Hagadah, 1902; "Seim Olom," 1905; and perhaps his most important work, the "Torath Gabriel," a commentary on the entire Pentateuch, 1910; also the "Haruzey Margolis," Vol. 1, 1912, Vol. 2, 1919.

Equally prominent from a literary and historical view were a series of his essays on religious and ethical problems published at Poltova, Russia, in the Hebrew journal Hapeles.

Rabbi Glazer described Rabbi Margolis as "the greatest rabbinical scholar that ever came to this country, barring none."