

Transcript of Xeroxed and scanned obit for Jacob Seider (early 1930's). Illegible characters and words are underlined.

THE WORLD: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1924

East Side's "Shamus" Joins Those He Saved From Paupers' Graves

Jacob Seider Dies Praying at Altar After Thirty Years of Serving the Dead – Crowd Gathers in His Poor Slum, Moaning with Sorrow.

When the very poor of the of the east side died, there were two things that could happen to their bodies. They might be impersonally shuffled under the ground in the Potter's field or prepared for burial by the charitable _____ and prayed over by the warm _____ of Jacob Seider, "Shamus" of the poor, who yesterday morning joined the dead to whom he had given his life.

Before dawn yesterday Jacob's body was found sprawled over the altar of the Agudas Achim Chesed Shel Emeth, The Hebrew Free Burial Society, at number 245 Grand Street. The old man had died at the prayers in which each sunrise found him. Slowly the word spread through the east side, along Grand Street with a crowd whose sorrow was not ashamed to express itself in low moans. Jacob had earned the love of the east side. For thirty years he was always found where death and poverty joined hopeless hands, and his charity was enough to soften that combination by the assurance of his _____ that the body would not go _____ by his preparation of the dead for burial and by his praying.

Seider was Russian born. For ten years he was an east side peddler until something told him to give his time to the Free Burial Society. From early morning until past midnight, he _____ it, a familiar figure at the hospital and the morgue in the city. _____ to death rooms, omnipresent, death, but gentler. At first he was a volunteer, but in his last years I note he had become a prosperous _____ the "Shamus" (sexton) for their poorer days and he was given a small salary.

Jacob was an unobtrusive but active figure in some of the city's worst tragedies. In 1907 he prepared for burial the bodies of a fire at No. 107 Allen Street. In 1911 the nineteen women and three men burned to death in the Triangle Shirtwaist fire were buried by him. He prepared the bodies of the Roth family of five burned to death Nov. _____ in the tenement at No. 115 Willet Street. These bodies otherwise consigned to Potter's field, were buried in the society's plot in the Richmond Cemetery. *[Bronx Hirsch] here in Queens Clove Park*

Jacob was buried yesterday afternoon in the Acacia Cemetery. He _____ it.

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Rest of the story! Grandfather Jacob came to the US 1868 age 18 with wife Dora age 20. Returned to Russia 1872 to fight the Turks leaving several children. Because he was an American citizen he was placed in Graves Registration where he learned undertaking instead of being given a rifle. When I was three he would walk me across the Williamsburg bridge and seat me in a movie house next to his funeral home in 1875