



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives

John E. Justice & Son
Funeral Ledgers,
1931-1947

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:

John E. Justice & Son Furniture Company and Funeral Directors (Wartrace, Tenn.)

Inclusive Dates:

1931-1947

Scope & Content:

Consists of two ledger volumes containing printed "Record of Funeral" forms which include such information as name of deceased, name of person paying for funeral and their address, date of funeral, location of funeral, clergyman and his address, certifying physician and his address, cause and date of death, occupation of the deceased, marital status, religion, date of birth, names and places of birth for deceased's parents, cemetery location, and specific charges for funeral services such as casket, vault, clothing, hearse, limousines, and flowers. Not all spaces provided for information have been used. Most of the second volume is unused.

Physical Description/Extent:

2 volumes

Accession/Record Group Number:

Mf. 1998

Language:

English

Permanent Location:

Mf. 1998 (available only on microfilm)

Repository:

Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0312

Administrative/Biographical History

James S. Justice Jr., the owner of the original records, provides the following information: "The funeral business was not a funeral home as we know it today but was a funeral director business. The funerals were conducted in the homes or churches, or at the location requested by the families. There was no chapel but only a body preparation area that is where the present Wartrace Town Hall is located. The caskets and vaults were stored in the upstairs area over the store building which sits immediately to the north of Town Hall. The business ceased in 1948 after my father Jim Justice had a heart attack and most of the funeral equipment was sold to Caleb Thompson of Thompson Funeral Home in Shelbyville. Being born in 1941, my memories are pretty sketchy of the earlier years of the business. The name of the business was John E. Justice & Son Furniture Co. and Funeral Directors. In addition to handling funerals, the business also served as the local ambulance service.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

The volumes are designated as Volume 1 and Volume 2, arranged chronologically. A photocopied photograph and business announcement with information compiled by Carolyn Smotherman and provided by the owner are included at the end of this finding aid.

Conditions of Access and Use**Restrictions on Access:**

None

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:

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permissions and paying associated fees that may be necessary for the intended use.

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Justice, John Ellis, 1858-1948
Justice, James Stephen, 1886-
Thompson, Caleb

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:

John E. Justice & Son Furniture Company and Funeral Directors
(Wartrace, Tenn.) -- Records and correspondence

Subjects:

Ambulance service -- Tennessee -- Bedford County -- Records and
correspondence
Undertakers and undertaking -- Tennessee -- Bedford County -- Records
and correspondence

Geographic Names:

Bedford County (Tenn.) -- Social life and customs

Document Types:

Ledgers (account books)

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:

The volumes were loaned for microfilming by Mary Ann Wright Price of Lynchburg, Tennessee, and are to be donated to the Bedford County History Museum in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

John E. Justice & Son Funeral Ledgers, 1890-1948, Tennessee State
Library and Archives

Processing Information:

Prepared for microfilming by Cathi Carmack, completed on March 8, 2012.

Existence and Location of Originals:

Bedford County History Museum, The Fly Arts Center, 204 South Main Street, Shelbyville, Tenn.

Electronic Location and Access:

<http://www.tn.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/mf1998.pdf>

DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

CONTAINER LIST

Contents/Item Title	Date	Volume
Funeral Home Register	August 1931- April 1941	1
Funeral Home Register	April 1941- April 1947	2