



Mittendorf Funeral Home Records,
1914 – 1945

COLLECTION 101

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Sherrie Bowser

Creator/Corporate name: Mittendorf Funeral Home

Inclusive Dates: 1914-1945

Physical Description: 3 boxes, (1.5 linear feet).

Provenance:

The Mittendorf Funeral Home Records were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

Access:

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Historical Note:

Mittendorf Funeral Home was founded by Louis Mittendorf (1860-1947), a life-long resident of Champaign, in 1889. At the age of 29, he went into the furniture and undertaker business with Tuell M. Bacon at 10 Main Street, Champaign. After five years at that location the business moved to 24-26 Main Street and A.T. Hall was added as a partner. In 1895, Mittendorf's nephew Charles A. Kiler joined with Mittendorf, and Bacon and Hall were bought out of the business. The Mittendorf and Kiler partnership lasted until 1913 when the furniture business was separated from the funeral home. Kiler took over the furniture store and Mittendorf continued with the funeral home moving his business to the northeast corner of Park and Randolph streets.

Louis Mittendorf brought the first motor hearse to Champaign-Urbana. It was a "Peerless engine fitted atop a high chassi[s] with high wheels. The engine had to be hand cranked" (*News-Gazette*, 23 November 1952, page F-12). Mittendorf also was credited with bringing the modern funeral home to Champaign. He removed his business from the central business district purchasing the Albert Eisner, Sr. house at the southwest corner of University Avenue and State Street., remodeling it into a modern mortuary and residence in 1925 (*New-Gazette*, 12 July 1925, page 14).

In 1945, Louis Mittendorf sold his interest in Mittendorf Funeral Home to his son John P. Mittendorf (1907-2008). John Mittendorf graduated from Champaign High School (1926), Western Military Academy, Alton, IL (1927), and Worsham College of Mortuary Science, Chicago (1928). He worked alongside his father until he entered the Army in September 1941, and took over upon his return in 1945.

In 1974, Mittendorf Funeral Home moved to 2400 Galen Drive. Steve Morgan began working at Mittendorf Funeral Home with John Mittendorf and Wayne Young in 1975. In 1981, he became part-partner with Young (John Mittendorf's son-in-law). Larry Calvert and Steve Morgan acquired Mittendorf Funeral Home in 1986 changing the name to Mittendorf-Calvert-Morgan. Two years later Calvert and Morgan bought Weaver-Henderson Funeral Home in Urbana and changed its name to Mittendorf-



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Calvert-Morgan giving the historic funeral home locations in both Champaign (2400 Galen Drive) and Urbana (302 W Green Street).

Morgan parted with Calvert and opened his own funeral home, Morgan Memorial Home, Savoy, IL in 1997. During the years 1997-1998, a Canadian based company Loewen Group, bought Mittendorf-Calvert along with four cemeteries – Mount Hope Cemetery and Mausoleum, Lincoln Memorial Gardens, Roselawn and Woodlawn cemeteries. By 2001, the Canadian company was in bankruptcy and Mittendorf-Calvert and the four cemeteries were purchased by Rago Brothers Funeral Homes, a family owned funeral business in Chicago, IL. In 2005, Mittendorf-Calvert Funeral Home relocated its headquarters to Mount Hope Cemetery (611 E Pennsylvania Ave, Champaign).

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains photocopies of certificates and records of death kept by Mittendorf Funeral Home from 1914-1945. The records are filled out to varying degrees but may include: name of the deceased, sex, race, marital status, birthplace, date of birth, age, date of death, occupation, name and birthplace of parents, place of death, place of burial, and date of burial. Each certificate has been given a number. There are 2682 certificates within this collection.

Arrangement:

Organized in alphabetical order by name of deceased.

Related Collections:

Bacon, Mittendorf and Hall (Champaign), Vertical file. Champaign County Historical Archives, Urbana, IL. Certificates and records of deaths [microform]. Mittendorf Funeral Home (Urbana, Ill.) Call number: A Microfilm ILLINOIS (Champ) MIT, Champaign County Historical Archives, Urbana, IL.

Mittendorf Funeral Home (Champaign), Photographs Envelope. Champaign County Historical Archives, Urbana, IL.

Mittendorf Funeral Home (Champaign), Vertical file. Champaign County Historical Archives, Urbana, IL.

Subjects Terms:

Funeral Home Records

Funeral Homes

Undertakers and Undertaking

Names:

Bacon, Tuell M.

Calvert, Larry

Hall, A.T.

Kiler, Charles A.

Mittendorf Funeral Home (Champaign, Ill.)

Mittendorf, John P.

Mittendorf, Louis

Mittendorf-Calvert Funeral Home (Champaign, Ill.)

Mittendorf-Calvert-Morgan Funeral Home (Champaign, Ill.)



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Morgan, Steve
Young, Wayne

Container List:

Box 1: A-G, Nos. 1-975

Box 2: H-M, Nos. 976-1747

Box 3: N-Z, Nos. 1748-2682