Inventory of the
Mickey Funeral Home Papers, 1906 - 1934

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Mickey Funeral Home Papers, 1906 - 1934

Dates: 1906 - 1934

Creator: Mickey Funeral Home.

Abstract: The Mickey Funeral Home was established in Charleston, South Carolina in 1894 by Edward Mickey (1850-1899). At his death, Edwin G. Harleston (1854-1931), brother of Edward Mickey's wife, Hannah Harleston Mickey (1848-1928), took over the firm until the two Mickey sons, Richard Harleston Mickey (1889-1934) and Edward Crum Mickey (1883-1965), became of age. In 1901, Edward Crum Mickey learned the trade and worked with Edwin G. Harleston at the funeral home. The company split in 1913; the Mickey Funeral Home re-established itself as an individual entity, run by the two brothers and their mother Hannah, while Edwin G. Harleston founded the Harleston Funeral Home. In the early 1930s, E.C. Mickey decided to build an expensive funeral parlor at 50 Cannon Street. The business failed and the firm shut down in 1933.

The Mickey Funeral Home Papers consist of these series: Business and Financial Materials (1906-1934) pertaining to the firm and its operation, with correspondence, financial ledgers, and account books making up its the bulk; funeral materials (1914-1933) containing biographical data on the deceased, entered in three insurance books; and miscellaneous materials (1915-1929), consisting of visual materials, church-related materials, publications, and personal correspondence. Of note are occasional references of donations to the NAACP, and other organizations like the Humane Brotherhood Association, the YMCA and YWCA. With printed announcements of the Federation of Charleston regarding organizing the People's Federation Bank for African Americans, otherwise known as the "Black Bank." Also included are financial records (1915-1918) regarding the guardianship of a minor Isaiah Williams, son of deceased Henry Williams, with Edward Mickey serving as Bondsman.

Extent: 2 linear feet(4 archival boxes, 1 oversize box)

Repository: Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston

Call Number: AMN 1021

Language of Material: Material in English

Historical Note

The Mickey Funeral Home was established in Charleston, South Carolina in 1894 by Edward Mickey (1850-1899), who helped found the Humane Brotherhood Association in 1843 and who was a state legislator during Reconstruction. At his death in 1899, Edwin G. Harleston (1854-1931), brother of Edward Mickey's wife, Hannah Harleston Mickey (1848-1928), took over the firm until the two Mickey sons, Richard Harleston Mickey (1889-1934) and Edward Crum Mickey (1883-1965), became of age. Upon graduating from Avery
Normal Institute in 1901 Edward Crum Mickey (who also helped found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Charleston and was active in the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), learned the trade and worked with Edwin G. Harleston at the funeral home. The company split in 1913; the Mickey Funeral Home re-established itself as an individual entity, run by the two brothers and their mother Hannah, while Edwin G. Harleston founded the Harleston Funeral Home. In the early 1930s, E.C. Mickey decided to build an expensive funeral parlor at 50 Cannon Street. The business failed and the firm shut down in 1933.

Collection Overview

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Collection Arrangement

1. Business and Financial Material
2. Funeral Material
3. Miscellaneous Material

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

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Subject Headings

African American bankers -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

African American banks -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

African American businesspeople -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Funeral homes -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Funeral rites and ceremonies -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Harleston, Edwin Gaillard, 1854-1931.

Harleston Funeral Home (Charleston, S.C.)

Humane Brotherhood Association.

Mickey, Edward Crum.

Mickey family.

Mickey Funeral Home (Charleston, S.C.)

Mickey, Hannah Harleston, 1848-1928.

Mickey, Richard Harleston, 1889-1934.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Charleston Branch (Charleston, S.C.)

Peoples Federation Bank (Charleston, S.C.)

Undertakers and undertaking -- Equipment and supplies.

Undertakers and undertaking -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Williams, Henry, fl. 1918.

Williams, Isaiah, b. 1904.

**Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Mickey Funeral Home Papers, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

**Processing Information**

Processed by Jessica Lancia, May 2006

Encoded by Melissa Bronheim, July 2010

Funding from the **Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation** supported the processing of this collection.

Funding from the **Council on Library and Information Resources** supported the collection processing and encoding of this finding aid.
### Detailed Description of the Collection


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1   | 1      | Account Book, 1906-1916  
Regarding dissolution of Harleston and Mickey firm. Lists assets and liabilities up to May 1913 with miscellaneous entries for 1911, 1912, and 1914. Includes statement of personal property, inventory, mortgage, and drafts of sale. Also lists insurance policies of Mickey family and miscellaneous financial records. |
| 1   | 2      | Ledger, 1913-1930  
Organized by individual accounts, listing name and subject of account (livery, utilities, etc.) and noting dates when items were bought or sold and when debits or credits were incurred. Contains alphabetical index in back of volume and files attached to connected records. |
| 1   | 3      | Loose Ledger Materials, 1913-1930 |
| 1   | 4      | Journal, 1915-1917  
Chronologically documents income and expenses for items such as embalming materials, caskets, wages, doctor fees, rent, insurance, horse feed, and utilities. |
| 1   | 5      | Cashbook, 1915-1918  
Chronologically documents income and expenses such as charity and church donations (to Humane and Friendly Brotherhood Society, YWCA, YMCA, Salvation Army, Centenary Church, and Jenkins’ Orphanage), wages, lodge dues (Knights of Pythius), entertainment fees, home improvement, and advertising in Avery Pinnacle. |
| 1021/OSB-1 | Journal, 1916-1921 |
Chronologically documents income and expenses with pasted-in financial sheets on front and back cover such as statements of income, profit, and loss, lists of assets and liabilities, merchant’s stock statements, and running total receipts on adding machine tape. |
| 2   | 1      | Journal, 1918-1919  
Chronologically documents income and expenses such as cemetery fees, church and charity donations (includes NAACP), insurance, rail road fares for corpses, funeral notices, and wage allowances. |
| 2   | 2      | Loose Journal Financial Notations, 1918-1919  
Written on back of Federation of Charleston flyers regarding organizing a black bank. |
| 2   | 3      | Journal, 1918-1920  
Chronologically documents expenses such as livery and automobile charges, utilities, salaries, and casket purchases. |
<p>| 2   | 4      | Journal, 1919-1920 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3 Folder 1</th>
<th>Journal, 1919-1925</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Documents income and expenses such as livery and automobile expenses, utilities, salaries, and casket purchases.</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Box 3 Folder 2</th>
<th>Charleston Mutual Savings Bank Deposit Book, 1930-1933</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With financial entries of Edward Mickey.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>obox 1021/OSB-1</th>
<th>Journal, 1931-1932</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Records monthly check and cash payments listing name of party to whom payment was made, amount paid, and subject of payment (merchandise and material; delivery expenses; salaries, wages, and commissions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3 Folder 3</th>
<th>Checkbooks, 1932-1933</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With check stubs from an unknown bank regarding business expenses. Notations on front and back covers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Box 3 Folder 4</th>
<th>Checkbook, 1934</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With stubs and unused checks from the South Carolina National Bank.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Box 3 Folder 5</th>
<th>Checkbooks Loose Sheets, 1932-1934</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains receipts, blank checks with notations, and calendar entries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Box 3 Folder 6</th>
<th>Inventory Book, 1925-1932</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lists inventory and cost of caskets, burial clothing, name plates, and ornaments. Also lists payments received and made.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>obox 1021/OSB-1</th>
<th>Invoice Book, 1925-1932</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains miscellaneous invoices, many regarding undertaking supplies. Extremely brittle.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3 Folder 7</th>
<th>Invoice Book Loose Materials, 1925-1932</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains miscellaneous invoices regarding undertaker supplies, a grave vault guarantee, and casket shipment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Box 3 Folder 8</th>
<th>Invoices, 1924-1931</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regarding undertaking supplies, News &amp; Courier funeral notices.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3 Folder 9</th>
<th>Miscellaneous Financial Materials, 1918-1929</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes loose sheets with partial listing of assets and liabilities, running total receipts on machine adding tape removed from 1918-1919 Minute Book and 1919-1920 Cashbook, receipts for rent from Richard Mickey to Hannah and Edward Mickey, two business appointment cards from casket companies, loose materials removed from otherwise blank account book (1925-1926) listing staff wages and &quot;notes payable&quot; regarding W.M. Thorne</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
as well as other miscellaneous financial notations, some written on Richard Mickey letterhead.

Box 3 Folder 10  Miscellaneous Invoices, 1932-1933
Regarding undertaking supplies and their shipment as well as other miscellaneous receipts.

Box 3 Folder 11  Financial Correspondence, 1922-1932
Mostly regarding firm-incurred debts. One letter mentions The Colored Embalmer's intention to publish an article on Edward Mickey, undertaker.

Box 3 Folder 12  Stockholder and Board of Directors' Meetings Minute Book, 1918-1919

Box 3 Folder 13  Undertaking Supplies Advertisements, 1927-1932 and undated

2. Funeral Material, 1909-1933

Box 3 Folder 14  Harleston and Mickey Account Book, 1909-1916
Consists of funeral records chronologically listing deceased's name and address (except if an infant or child), person responsible for paying for funeral and their address, if different from deceased's. Also notes date and cost of funeral. Sometimes includes place of burial and notes on payments made. Brittle.

Box 4 Folder 1  Insurance Book, 1914-1919
Chronologically lists deceased and their addresses, insurance information, and whether account was paid.

Box 4 Folder 2  Insurance Book, 1925-1932
Includes attached files, loosely chronological, listing deceased and their addresses, insurance information, and whether account was paid. Contains notations on covers with pasted-in funeral notices on front cover.

Box 4 Folder 3  Insurance Book, circa 1932-1933
Possibly chronological, listing deceased and insurance information with attached file.

Box 4 Folder 4  Miscellaneous Materials, 1917-1933
Regarding death of individuals. Consists of a receipt for the funeral of Wesley Green printed on Mickey Funeral Home letterhead and a filled-out Standard Certificate of Death form for Preston R. Lewis.

3. Miscellaneous Material, 1906-1929

Box 4 Folder 5  Non-business Correspondence, 1906 and undated
Consisting of a letter and a photocopy of a postcard.

Box 4 Folder 6  Publications, 1922 and 1926
The Colored Embalmer and Florida Memorial College Herald

Box 4 Folder 7  Journal, 1915 and 1918
Regarding the guardianship of Isaiah Williams, minor, upon death of his father to Mary Williams (stepmother), with Edward Mickey (undertaker) as bondsman. Also includes Isaiah William's own financial journal entries listing wage income and expenses.

Box 4 Folder 8  Financial Ledger, 1915 and 1918
Relating to Isaiah Williams. Lists expenses as clothing, shoes, spending money, board, sundry articles for Orangeburg school, as well as account notations on Isaiah Williams' capital account, Mary Williams' drawing account, and funeral expenses of father, Henry Williams. Index in front of ledger.

Box 4 Folder 9  Church Enrollment Notices, 1913 and undated
For Julius Fielding and Sarah Robinson into St. Mark's Church of New York and for James Rudolph into Memorial Church of Hampton, Virginia.

Box 4 Folder 10  Unidentified Account Book, circa 1915
Contains list of customers and addresses with notations for purchases of pastries, tickets, and donations with a mention of a grand charity musicale for the YWCA.

Box 4 Folder 11  Visual Materials of Mickey Funeral Home, 1922-1929 and undated
Includes of a photograph of its hearses, a newspaper clipping, a postcard, two calendars, and images of cars, staff and building.

Box 4 Folder 12  Miscellaneous Visual Materials, 1920 and undated
Consists of a postcard of women vegetable vendors, two postcard advertisements for Sumter Casket Company burial clothing, and a postcard of Small's Paradise restaurant in New York.