Finding Aid to the Halsted N. Gray-Carew & English Funeral Home Records, 1835-1931 (bulk 1850-1921)

Finding aid prepared by Wendy Kramer
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2010
Title: Halsted N. Gray–Carew & English Funeral Home Records

Date (inclusive): 1835-1931
Date (bulk): 1850-1921
Collection Identifier: SFH 38

Creator: Halsted N. Gray-Carew & English.

Physical Description: 115.0 volumes (ca. 57.3 cubic feet)

Contributing Institution: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-4567
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Abstract: Funeral records, daybooks, and death and burial registers for seven funeral homes, mostly based in San Francisco--with the exception of Clark and Booth in Sacramento, as well as a few records from Burlingame and Stockton--acquired over time by the present-day firm of Halsted N. Gray Carew & English.

Physical Location: The collection is open for research and stored offsite. A minimum of two working days' notice is required for use. Please call the San Francisco History Center for hours and information at 415-557-4567.

Language of Materials: Collection materials are chiefly in English, with some materials from J.S. Godeau & Co. in French.

Access
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Halsted N. Gray – Carew & English Funeral Home Records (SFH 38), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

Provenance
Gift from Carol Rae Giovannini, Vice President and General Manager of Halsted N. Gray–Carew & English, May 27, 2006.

Existence and Location of Copies note
The Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City has digitized the entire collection, which is available for browsing on the FamilySearch website at www.familysearch.org.

Related Materials
Around 1920, N. Gray ledgers from 1850-1862 were abstracted into a manuscript, which was subsequently converted into a card file called "Book of the Dead," available on Family History Library (FHL) microfilm and cards at the Sutro Library and the California Genealogical Society.
Researchity (www.researchity.com) has continuing records for these funeral homes, plus records for Martin & Brown (A.W. Martin) spanning the years 1911-1985.
Halsted Mortuary Records for 1923-1974 are also available at sfgenealogy.com.
Halsted N. Gray-Carew & English (www.halstedngray.com/records.html) retains current files going back approximately 20 years.

At the San Francisco History Center, researchers are encouraged to see also the San Francisco Office of the Chief Medical Examiner's Records (SFH 30).

Biographical/Historical note
Halsted N. Gray – Carew & English began as several predecessor funeral homes, mortuaries, and undertakers in San Francisco, Sacramento, and Stockton, which by 1985 had become merged into one firm, from which this collection has been received. The corporate history is characterized by frequently shifting business partnerships and locations. N. Gray was established in 1850 by Nathaniel Gray, who also served as the second Coroner of San Francisco from 1851-1852. Halsted & Co. began in 1883 as Halsted & Kremple and became a family business by 1887. This chronology documents the seven firms represented in this collection. (Sources: San Francisco History Center Ephemera Collection and Card Files, San Francisco: the Imperial City, http://www.halstedngray.com, Nancy Peterson of the California Genealogical Society, and San Francisco City Directories)
1850: Nathaniel Gray founds N. Gray & Co. (originally known as N. Gray Undertakers).
1883: Kremple & Halsted founded.
1884-1885: Kremple & Halsted listed in City Directory at 946 Mission.
1885-1886: Halsted & Evers listed in City Directory at 946 Mission.
1886: Suhr & Heins listed in City Directory at 1171 Mission.
1889: Valente & Godeau listed in City Directory at 1325 Dupont.
1890: San Francisco Undertaking Co. T.R. Carew, Manager, listed in City Directory at 1021 Market St. and 2429 Mission St. Valente, Godeau & Co. listed in City Directory at 1524 Stockton.
1891: Carew & English (Thomas R. Carew and James English) listed in City Directory at 19 Van Ness Av.
1894: Hallowell & Petersen listed in City Directory at 8-10 City Hall Av.
1894-1906: Clark & Booth based in Sacramento, first as George H. Clark, then as Clark & Booth.
1895: Godeau & Co. listed in City Directory at 326 Montgomery, Godeau & Lipman, 326 Sutter. Peterson [sic] & Gantner listed in City Directory at 8 and 10 City Hall Square.
1899: George H. Clark name changes to Clark & Booth.
1906: Halsted & Co. burns in earthquake & fire. Moves temporarily to the Western Addition.
1907: Clark & Booth moves to San Francisco.

Scope and Contents
The collection consists of funeral records, daybooks, and death and burial registers for seven funeral homes, mostly based in San Francisco—with the exception of Clark and Booth in Sacramento, as well as a few records from Burlingame and Stockton—acquired over time by the present-day firm of Halsted N. Gray Carew & English. Formats and types of information differ somewhat across time and between firms, but typically include: name, death date, age, and other information about the decedent; and financial transactions concerning the deaths, funeral arrangements, and burials. Some volumes are indexed; however, not all records are referenced in the indexes.
The term “funeral records” is used here to mean page entries containing information about a deceased person’s funeral, which can include personal information about the deceased, along with financial, medical, and/or burial information. Registers list deceased persons, with some additional information included in the line entries. Daybooks record daily financial transactions of the mortuary, and they often include names of family members conducting these transactions. Some volumes include small amounts of additional types of records, such as price lists, unpaid bills, death announcement clippings, and other information. Volume 3 of N. Gray & Co. funeral home includes a burial register of Lone Mountain Cemetery, 1850-1862.

Arrangement

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Clark & Booth (San Francisco, Calif.). -- Archives
H. F. Suhr & Co. -- Archives
Halsted & Co. -- Archives
Halsted N. Gray-Carew & English. -- Archives
J. S. Godeau & Co. -- Archives
N. Gray & Co. -- Archives
Petersen & Co. -- Archives
Account books
Burial registers
Daybooks
## Death registers
### Funeral homes--California
### San Francisco (Calif.)--Registers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series 1</th>
<th>N. Gray &amp; Co., 1835-1921 (bulk 1850-1921)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description:</td>
<td>53.0 volumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General note</td>
<td>Some spines are mislabeled. Check container list for correct holdings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scope and Contents</th>
<th>Record types include funeral records, daybooks, death and burial registers. Some are indexed. Some entries include receipts, letters, and obituary clippings. Early volumes often combine several record types (i.e. death register, daybook, burial register) within a single volume.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volumes 1-37 consist of daybooks and death registers. Beginning with Volume 10 (May 1855-Sept. 1857), pages have a pre-printed format. Volumes 40-53 are all funeral records, with a name index at front.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 1</td>
<td>Combined death register (beginning 1835) and daybook, 1835-1851 (bulk 1850-1851)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General note</td>
<td>Spine mislabeled as July 1850-July 1852.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 2</td>
<td>Daybook, November 29, 1850-December 30, 1851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 3</td>
<td>Death register, July 1850-August 1854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General note</td>
<td>Includes Lone Mountain register, 1850-1862.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 3</td>
<td>Lone Mountain register, 1850-1862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
<td>Lists date and burial plot location with name, age, nativity, and disease of decedent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 4</td>
<td>Death register, July 1850-January 1855, with some listings for 1856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General note</td>
<td>Spine mislabeled as 1850-1854.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 5</td>
<td>Daybook, July 1, 1851-January 11, 1854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 6</td>
<td>Daybook, January 1, 1852-January 31, 1853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daybook, January 1, 1854-March 9, 1857</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General note</td>
<td>Spine mislabeled as 1854-1856.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 8</td>
<td>Death register, July 22, 1854-August 6, 1855 (bulk 1854-1855)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 9</td>
<td>Death register, 1855-1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General note</td>
<td>Spine mislabeled as 1855-1856.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 10</td>
<td>Death register, May 26, 1855-September 23, 1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 11</td>
<td>Daybook, November 1, 1856-January 1, 1859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 12</td>
<td>Financial register, June 16, 1857-December 1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General note</strong></td>
<td>Spine mislabeled as October 14, 1857-December 13, 1863.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General note</strong></td>
<td>Spine mislabeled as October 14, 1857-December 13, 1868.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume 14</th>
<th>Daybook, January 1, 1861-January 3, 1864</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volume 15</td>
<td>Register, January 1, 1863-December 31, 1878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 16</td>
<td>Death and burial register, January 1863-December 1878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 17</td>
<td>Daybook, January 1, 1866-December 31, 1867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 18</td>
<td>Daybook, January 1, 1868-August 31, 1869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 19</td>
<td>Register, January 1, 1869-December 31, 1873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 20</td>
<td>Daybook, September 1, 1869-March 7, 1872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 21</td>
<td>Daybook, March 1, 1872 - December 31, 1873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 22</td>
<td>Daybook, January 1, 1874-June 30, 1876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 23</td>
<td>Financial register, January 1, 1874-November 29, 1876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 24</td>
<td>Daybook, July 1, 1876-August 30, 1878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 25</td>
<td>Financial register, October 2, 1876-December 31, 1883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 26</td>
<td>Daybook, September 1, 1878-December 31, 1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 27</td>
<td>Burial register, January 1, 1879-June 29, 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General note</strong></td>
<td>Spine mislabeled as January 1, 1879-July 1, 1887.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume 28</th>
<th>Index to Volume 27, January 1879-mid-1887</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volume 29</td>
<td>Daybook, January 1, 1880-June 29, 1881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 30</td>
<td>Daybook, January 3, 1881-September 29, 1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 31</td>
<td>Register, January 1, 1884-December 31, 1895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General note</strong></td>
<td>Spine mislabeled as 1883-1895.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume 32</th>
<th>Daybook, October 1, 1884-September 29, 1887</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volume 33</td>
<td>Daybook, October 1, 1887-March 31, 1891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 34</td>
<td>Unbound funeral register, 1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 35</td>
<td>Daybook, April 1, 1891-November 28, 1895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 36</td>
<td>Daybook, December 3, 1895-July 30, 1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td>Includes index in pocket.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume 37</th>
<th>Daybook, August 2, 1901-May 31, 1905</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volume 38</td>
<td>Index to Volume 37, 1901-1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 39</td>
<td>Index to Volume 37, with similar information as Volume 38, 1901 - 1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General note</strong></td>
<td>Spine: &quot;Decedents only.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume 40</th>
<th>June 1, 1906-September 30, 1907</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volume 41</td>
<td>October 1, 1907-February 28, 1909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 42</td>
<td>March 2, 1909-June 30, 1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 43</td>
<td>July 1, 1910-July 25, 1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 44</td>
<td>July 26, 1911-September 14, 1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 45</td>
<td>September 15, 1912-November 30, 1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 46</td>
<td>December 3, 1913-April 30, 1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 47</td>
<td>December 1, 1914-July 25, 1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 48</td>
<td>May 1, 1915-August 8, 1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume 49</td>
<td>August 9, 1916-October 11, 1917</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| SFH 38 | 5 |
Series 1N. Gray & Co., 1835-1921 (bulk 1850-1921)

Volume 50  October 12, 1917-November 21, 1918
Volume 51  November 22, 1918-December 15, 1919
Volume 52  December 17, 1919-November 30, 1920
Volume 53  December 1, 1920-December 20, 1921

Series 2 Halsted & Co., 1883-1924

Physical Description: 3.0 volumes
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically, with each volume organized alphabetically.
General note
Some spines are mislabeled. Check container list for correct holdings.
Scope and Contents
Death registers that list name, age, nativity, death date, and cause of death of decedent; together with location of interment, plot number, physician, remarks, and burial information.

Volume 54  mid-1883-1897
General note
Spine mislabeled as June 1, 1883 - Mar. 1898.

Volume 55  circa January 29, 1898-April 13, 1913
General note
Spine mislabeled as Jan. 29, 1898-Apr. 13, 1913.

Volume 56  circa April 24, 1913-March 28, 1924
Series 3 Clark & Booth, 1894-April 1906
Physical Description: 9.0 volumes
General note
Handwritten numbering on spines is incorrect. Check container list for correct holdings.
Scope and Contents
Funeral records with name indexes at front of each volume. Records include funeral number, date; name, late residence, and place of birth of decedent; with "items of bill" financial information.

Volume 57  December 30, 1894-January 27, 1896
Volume 58  January 28, 1896-February 25, 1897
Volume 59  February 25, 1897-March 24, 1898
Volume 60  March 23, 1898-March 25, 1899
Volume 61  March 26, 1899-May 22, 1900
Volume 62  May 23, 1900- July 30, 1901
Volume 63  August 4, 1901-September 30, 1902
Volume 64  October 1, 1902-June 3, 1903
Volume 65  June 26, 1904-April 16, 1906

Series 4 Petersen & Co., April 1906-December 1916
Physical Description: 1.0 volume
General note
Spine reads "N. Gray & Co.," with "Petersen & Co." handwritten. Pages are labeled "Funeral Record Petersen & Co."
Scope and Contents
Funeral records, with sections on the decedent, physician's certificate cause of death, and funeral expenses. Includes name index at front of volume.

Volume 66  April 1906-December 1916
Series 5 J. S. Godeau & Co., 1894-1931

Physical Description: 28.0 volumes

General note
26 volumes of San Francisco records, 2 volumes from Stockton.

Scope and Contents
Mostly funeral records, with two daybooks (Volumes 67 and 68). All volumes except the first daybook (i.e. Volume 67) include name index at front. Records include funeral number, date; name, late residence, and birthplace of decedent; and financial information.

Subseries A San Francisco

Volume 67
Daybook, December 1, 1894-January 3, 1898

Volume 68
Daybook, January 3, 1898-mid-1901

General note
Index in front.

Volume 69
July 1901-August 1902

Volume 70
August 1902-September 1903

Volume 71
September 1903-November 1904

Volume 72
November 1904-January 1906

Volume 73
January 6, 1906-March 31, 1907

Volume 74
March 30, 1907-May 27, 1908

Volume 75
May 27, 1908-June 5, 1909

Volume 76
June 5, 1909-June 18, 1910

Volume 77
June 16, 1910-July 21, 1911

Volume 78
July 19, 1911-May 22, 1912

Volume 79
May 21, 1912-February 7, 1913

Volume 80
February 7, 1913-October 8, 1913

Volume 81
October 8, 1913-May 10, 1914

Volume 82
May 7, 1914-January 7, 1915

Volume 83
January 7, 1915-August 20, 1915

Volume 84
August 21, 1915-March 6, 1916

Volume 85
March 5, 1916-October 18, 1916

Volume 86
October 15, 1916-May 23, 1917

Volume 87
May 22, 1917-February 15, 1918

Volume 88
February 14, 1918-October 23, 1918

Volume 89
October 19, 1918-January 19, 1919

Volume 90
January 17, 1919-September 3, 1919

Volume 91
September 2, 1919-March 29, 1920

Volume 92
March 27, 1920-December 31, 1920

Subseries B Stockton

Volume 93
December 27, 1916-January 31, 1920

Volume 94
January 28, 1920-October 12, 1931

Series 6 H. F. Suhr & Co., July 1901-October 31, 1921

Physical Description: 11.0 volumes

General note
Volume 95 binding is torn and missing parts. Volumes 98 and 99 contain overlapping dates and information; overall date range is approximate.

Scope and Contents
Funeral records with name index at front of volumes, except for Volumes 98-99, which are entered alphabetically instead of by date. Records include funeral number, date; name, late residence, and birthplace of decedent; and financial information.
Volume 95

July 1, 1901-April 28, 1904

General note
Empty index at front. Binding torn, missing parts.

Volume 96

May 2, 1904-March 17, 1906

General note
Spine mislabeled as May 2, 1904 - March 16, 1906.

Volume 97

March 13, 1906-December 31, 1907

Volume 98

Death register, circa January 1908-March 1909

Volume 99

Death register, circa January 1908-Death register, 1908-March 1909

Volume 100

March 17, 1909-June 5, 1911

Volume 101

June 7, 1911-October 31, 1913

Volume 102

November 2, 1913-March 30, 1916

Volume 103

April 1, 1916-December 31, 1917

Volume 104

January 2, 1918-June 30, 1919

Volume 105

July 1, 1919-October 31, 1921

General note
Spine mislabeled as July 1, 1919-Nov. 1, 1921.

Series 7: Gantner Bros., May 19, 1906-July 30, 1921

Physical Description: 10.0 volumes
Scope and Contents
Funeral records with name index at front of volumes. Records include name, place of death, occupation, and religion of decedent; and financial information.

Volume 106

May 19, 1906-May 30, 1907

Volume 107

May 31, 190 -June 13, 1908

Volume 108

June 13, 1908-October 14, 1909

Volume 109

October 16, 1909-December 30, 1910

Volume 110

January 1, 1911-April 26, 1912

Volume 111

April 28, 1912-October 21, 1913

Volume 112

October 21, 1913-April 8, 1915

Volume 113

April 8, 1915-October 31, 1916

Volume 114

November 1, 1916-January 5, 1919

Volume 115

January 1, 1919-July 30, 1921