

Halsted N. Gray – Carew & English Funeral Home Records
1835-1931 (bulk 1850-1921)

Collection number: SFH 38



San Francisco Public Library

[San Francisco History Center](#)

2010

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INTRODUCTION

Provenance

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

Access

Collection is open for research.

Size

115 vols. (ca. 57.3 linear ft.)

Processed by

Wendy Kramer

Date Completed

March 2010

Languages Represented

Collection materials are primarily in English, with a small amount in French.

Preferred Citation

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Related Archival Materials

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

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.

[Researchcity](#) has continuing records for these funeral homes, plus records for Martin & Brown (A.W. Martin) spanning the years 1911-1985. (<http://www.researchcity.com>, accessed Jan. 28, 2010)

Halsted Mortuary Records for 1923-1974 are also available at [sfgenealogy.com](#).

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[Halsted N. Gray-Carew & English](#) retains current files going back approximately 20 years.
(<http://www.halstedngray.com/records.html>, accessed Jan. 28, 2010)

Existence and Location of Copies

The Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City has digitized the entire collection, which is available for browsing on the [FamilySearch website](#). (accessed Jan. 28, 2010).

ADMINISTRATIVE CHRONOLOGY AND HISTORY

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. Atkins Massey founded the oldest known undertaking business in San Francisco, which was acquired by J. S. Godeau & Co. in 1895. 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:** SF History Center Vertical and Card Files, [San Francisco: the Imperial City](#), <http://www.halstedngray.com>, Nancy Peterson of California Genealogical Society, and San Francisco City Directories)

1849: Atkins Massey founds mortuary, later acquired by J.S. Godeau.

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.

1887: Halsted & Co. (W. A. Halsted and J.L. Halsted) listed in City Directory at 946 Mission.

Suhr & Becker first listed in City Directory at 1171 Mission.

1889 : Valente & Godeau listed in City Directory at 1325 Dupont.

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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.

1893-94: H.F. Suhr & Co. listed in City Directory at 1209 Mission.

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.

1980: N. Gray Mortuary and Halsted & Co. merge.

1985: Halsted N. Gray & Co. and Carew & English merge.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

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

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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. Book 3 of N. Gray & Co. funeral home includes a burial register of Lone Mountain Cemetery, 1850-1862.

ARRANGEMENT NOTE

Volumes are arranged by funeral home, then chronologically.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series 1: N. Gray & Co., 1835-1921 (bulk 1850-1921)

Extent: 53 volumes

Record types: Funeral records, daybooks, death and burial registers. Some indexes. 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.

Books 1-37 consist of daybooks and death registers. Beginning with Book 10 (May 1855-Sept. 1857), pages have a pre-printed format.

Books 40-53 are all funeral records, with a name index at front.

Some spines are mislabeled. Check container list for correct holdings.

Book 1 includes a death register (1835-1850) that lists name, age, residence, disease, and birthplace of decedent; and cost of funeral.

Subseries A: Lone Mountain Cemetery Burial Register, 1850-1862

Lists date and burial plot location with name, age, nativity, and disease of decedent.

Series 2: Halsted & Co., 1883-1924

Extent: 3 volumes

Record types: Death registers. Arranged chronologically, with each volume organized alphabetically.

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Records include name, age, nativity, death date, and cause of death of decedent; together with location of interment, plot number, physician, remarks, and burial information.

Some spines are mislabeled. Check container list for correct holdings.

Series 3: Clark & Booth, 1894-Apr. 1906

Extent: 9 volumes

Record types: 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.

Handwritten numbering on spines is incorrect. Check container list for correct holdings.

Series 4: Petersen & Co., Apr. 1906-Dec. 1916

Extent: 1 volume

Record types: Funeral records, with sections on the decedent, physician's certificate cause of death, and funeral expenses. Name index at front of volume.

Spine reads "N. Gray & Co.," with "Petersen & Co." handwritten. Pages are labeled "Funeral Record Petersen & Co."

Series 5: J. S. Godeau & Co., 1894-1931

Extent: 28 volumes (26 volumes San Francisco, 2 volumes Stockton)

Record types: Mostly funeral records, with two daybooks (Books 67 and 68). All volumes except the first daybook (i.e. Book 67) include name index at front.

Records include funeral number, date; name, late residence, and birthplace of decedent; and financial information.

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

Extent: 11 volumes

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Record types: Funeral records, with name index at front of volumes, except for Books 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.

Book 95 binding is torn and missing parts. Book 98-99 contain overlapping dates and information; overall date range approximate.

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

Extent: 10 volumes

Record type: Funeral records, with name index at front of volumes.

Records include name, place of death, occupation, and religion of decedent; and financial information.

(See next page for Container List)

CONTAINER LIST

Halsted N. Gray Carew & English funeral home records

Series 1: N. Gray & Co.

Book 1: 1835 - 1851 (bulk July 1, 1850-June 30, 1851) Combined death register (beginning 1835), and daybook. Spine mislabeled as July 1850-July 1852.

Book 2: Nov. 29, 1850 - Dec. 30, 1851. Daybook.

Book 3: July 1850 - Aug. 1854. Death register. Includes Lone Mountain register, 1850-1862.

Book 4: July 1850 - Jan. 1855, with some listings for 1856. Death register. Spine mislabeled as 1850-1854.

Book 5: July 1, 1851 - Jan. 11, 1854. Daybook.

Book 6: Jan. 1, 1852 - Jan. 31, 1853. Daybook.

Book 7: Jan. 1, 1854 - March 9, 1857. Daybook. Spine mislabeled as 1854-1856.

Book 8: July 22, 1854 - Aug. 6, 1855 (bulk July 22, 1854 to May 30, 1855). Death register.

Book 9: 1855 - 1857. Death register. Spine mislabeled as 1855-1856.

Book 10: May 26, 1855-Sept. 23, 1857. Death register.

Book 11: Nov. 1, 1856 - Jan. 1, 1859. Daybook.

Book 12: June 16, 1857 - Dec. 1868. Financial register. Spine mislabeled as Oct. 14, 1857-Dec. 13, 1863.

Book 13: ca. late 1857 - late 1863. Financial register. Spine mislabeled as Oct. 14, 1857-Dec. 13, 1868.

Book 14: Jan. 1, 1861 to Jan. 3, 1864. Daybook.

Book 15: Jan. 1, 1863 - Dec. 31, 1878. Register.

Book 16: Jan. 1863 - Dec. 1878. Death and burial register.

Book 17: Jan. 1, 1866 - Dec. 31, 1867. Daybook.

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Book 18: Jan. 1, 1868 - Aug. 31, 1869. Daybook.

Book 19: Jan. 1, 1869 - Dec. 31, 1873. Register.

Book 20: Sept. 1, 1869 - Mar. 7, 1872. Daybook.

Book 21: Mar. 1, 1872 - Dec. 31, 1873. Daybook.

Book 22: Jan. 1, 1874 - June 30, 1876. Daybook.

Book 23: Jan. 1, 1874 - Nov. 29, 1876. Financial register.

Book 24: July 1, 1876 - Aug. 30, 1878. Daybook.

Book 25: Oct. 2, 1876 to Dec. 31, 1883. Financial register.

Book 26: Sept. 1, 1878 – Dec. 31, 1880. Daybook.

Book 27: Jan. 1, 1879 - June 29, 1887. Burial register. Spine mislabeled as Jan. 1, 1879-July 1, 1887.

Book 28: Jan. 1879 - mid-1887. Index to Book 27.

Book 29: Jan. 1, 1880 - June 29, 1881. Daybook.

Book 30: Jan. 3, 1881 - Sept. 29, 1884. Daybook.

Book 31: Jan. 1, 1884 - Dec. 31, 1895. Register. Spine mislabeled as 1883-1895.

Book 32: Oct. 1, 1884 - Sept. 29, 1887. Daybook.

Book 33: Oct. 1, 1887 - March 31, 1891. Daybook.

Book 34: 1888. Unbound funeral register.

Book 35: April 1, 1891 - Nov. 28, 1895. Daybook.

Book 36: Dec. 3, 1895-July 30, 1901. Daybook. Includes index in pocket.

Book 37: Aug. 2, 1901-May 31, 1905. Daybook.

Book 38: 1901 - 1905. Index to Book 37.

Book 39: 1901 - 1905. Index to Book 37, with similar information as Book 38. Spine:
"Decedents only."

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Book 40: June 1, 1906 - Sept. 30, 1907.

Book 41: Oct. 1, 1907 - Feb. 28, 1909.

Book 42: Mar. 2, 1909 - June. 30, 1910.

Book 43: July 1, 1910 - July 25, 1911.

Book 44: July 26, 1911 - Sept. 14, 1912.

Book 45: Sept. 15, 1912 - Nov. 30, 1913.

Book 46: Dec. 3, 1913 - Apr. 30, 1915.

Book 47: Dec 1, 1914 - July 25, 1917.

Book 48: May 1, 1915 - Aug. 8, 1916.

Book 49: Aug. 9, 1916 - Oct. 11, 1917.

Book 50: Oct. 12, 1917 - Nov. 21, 1918.

Book 51: Nov. 22, 1918 - Nov. 15, 1919.

Book 52: Nov. 17, 1919 - Nov. 30, 1920.

Book 53: Dec. 1, 1920 - Dec. 20, 1921.

Series 2: Halsted & Co.

Book 54: mid-1883 - 1897. Spine mislabeled as June 1, 1883-Mar. 1898.

Book 55: ca. Jan. 29, 1898 – Apr. 13, 1913 Spine mislabeled as Jan. 29, 1898-Apr. 13, 1913.

Book 56: ca. Apr. 24, 1913 - Mar. 28, 1924.

Series 3: Clark & Booth

Book 57: Dec. 30, 1894 - Jan. 27, 1896.

Book 58: Jan. 28, 1896 - Feb. 25, 1897.

Book 59: Feb. 25, 1897 - Mar. 24, 1898.

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Book 60: March 23, 1898 - March 25, 1899.

Book 61: March 26, 1899 - May 22, 1900.

Book 62: May 23, 1900 - July 30, 1901.

Book 63: Aug. 4, 1901 - Sept. 30, 1902.

Book 64: Oct. 1, 1902 - June 3, 1903.

Book 65: June 26, 1904 - April 16, 1906.

Series 4: Petersen & Co.

Book 66: April 1906 - Dec. 1916.

Series 5: J. S. Godeau

Subseries A: San Francisco

Book 67: Dec. 1, 1894 - Jan. 3, 1898. Daybook.

Book 68: Jan. 3, 1898 - mid-1901. Daybook with index at front.

Book 69: July 1901 - Aug. 1902.

Book 70: Aug. 1902 - Sept. 1903.

Book 71: Sept. 1903 - Nov. 1904.

Book 72: Nov. 1904 - Jan. 1906.

Book 73: Jan. 6, 1906 - Mar. 31, 1907.

Book 74: Mar. 30, 1907 - May 27, 1908.

Book 75: May 27, 1908 - June 5, 1909.

Book 76: June 5, 1909 - June 18, 1910.

Book 77: June 16, 1910 - July 21 1911.

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Book 78: July 19, 1911 - May 22, 1912.

Book 79: May 21, 1912 - Feb. 7, 1913.

Book 80: Feb. 7, 1913 - Oct. 8, 1913.

Book 81: Oct. 8, 1913 - May 10, 1914.

Book 82: May 7, 1914 - Jan. 7, 1915.

Book 83: Jan. 7, 1915 - Aug. 20, 1915.

Book 84: Aug. 21, 1915 - Mar. 6, 1916.

Book 85: March 5, 1916 - Oct. 18, 1916.

Book 86: Oct. 15, 1916 - May 23, 1917.

Book 87: May 22, 1917 - Feb. 15, 1918.

Book 88: Feb. 14, 1918 - Oct. 23, 1918.

Book 89: Oct. 19, 1918 - Jan. 19, 1919.

Book 90: Jan. 17, 1919 - Sep. 3, 1919.

Book 91: Sept. 2, 1919 - Mar. 29, 1920.

Book 92: Mar. 27, 1920 - Dec. 31, 1920.

Subseries B: Stockton

Book 93: Dec. 27, 1916 - Jan. 31, 1920.

Book 94: Jan. 28, 1920 - Oct. 12, 1931.

Series 6: H.F. Suhr & Co.

Book 95: July 1, 1901 - April 28, 1904. Binding torn, missing parts; empty index at front.

Book 96: May 2, 1904 - March 17, 1906. Spine mislabeled as May 2, 1904-March 16, 1906.

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Book 97: March 13, 1906 - Dec. 31, 1907.

Book 98: ca. Jan. 1908 - March 1909. Death register.

Book 99: ca. Jan. 1908 - March 1909. Death register.

Book 100: March 17, 1909 - June 5, 1911.

Book 101: June 7, 1911 - Oct. 31, 1913.

Book 102: Nov. 2, 1913 - Mar. 30, 1916.

Book 103: Apr. 1, 1916 - Dec. 31, 1917.

Book 104: Jan. 2, 1918 - June 30, 1919.

Book 105: July 1, 1919 - Oct. 31, 1921. Spine mislabeled as July 1, 1919-Nov. 1, 1921.

Series 7: Gantner Bros.

Book 106: May 19, 1906 - May 30, 1907.

Book 107: May 31, 1907 - June 13, 1908.

Book 108: June 13, 1908 - Oct. 14, 1909.

Book 109: Oct. 16, 1909 - Dec. 30, 1910.

Book 110: Jan. 1, 1911 - Apr. 26, 1912.

Book 111: Apr. 28, 1912 - Oct. 21, 1913.

Book 112: Oct. 21, 1913 - Apr. 8, 1915.

Book 113: Apr. 8, 1915 - Oct. 31, 1916.

Book 114: Nov. 1, 1916 – Jan. 5, 1919.

Book 115: Jan. 1, 1919 – July 30, 1921.