As with many life events, death too generates records that although not created for family history research, are rich in information that does just that. As one of the final event participants, funeral homes created documents, as did families and other businesses who participated in the event.

Ledgers, funeral cards, copies of government documents, letters, bills of sale, transportation records are just a sample of records that can be found within funeral home records. A relatively modern developed business, the funeral home as we know it and the education of interested individuals, regulation and licensing developed in the late 19th century. From the beginning of time to the U.S. Civil War, death was a family, community, or individual affair. Traditions and ceremonies vary between cultures and religions which are still honored today. The time period and other social or cultural traditions all impact sources to discover information about the final event.

Funeral records when considered as a group of various types of records, can be found in manuscript collections, within special collections at public and university libraries, at historical societies, online, in books, periodicals, microfilm. Records associated with funerals can be found at county courthouses in land records and other common sources we think of surrounding death. Being creative in your searching using keywords, reading citations, understanding and knowing about history all can help in discovering records, information and sources.

Following are suggestions for further reading and links to information.


AND

*Internet Archive*, [Kalamazoo, Mich., Crane & Allen], 1 Jan. 1888, [https://archive.org/details/profehcranesmanu00cran/page/n7 mode/2up](https://archive.org/details/profehcranesmanu00cran/page/n7 mode/2up)


FamilySearch


Search Library Catalog and FamilySearch Digital Library (Books) from the drop down menu “search”


Genealogy Today Funeral Card Collection


“Home Funeral History.”  NATIONAL HOME FUNERAL ALLIANCE, [https://www.homefuneralalliance.org/home-funeral-history.html](https://www.homefuneralalliance.org/home-funeral-history.html)


National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), https://nfda.org/.


Rogak, Lisa. *Death warmed over: Funeral food, rituals, and customs from around the world.* Berkeley, CA. Ten Speed Press. 2004


Google Searchers
Funeral home records state memory project
Funeral card collections genealogy