

# **Finding Aid for the Birdsall Funeral Home records Collection 097**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

May 1989

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Creator</b>	Birdsall Funeral Home.
<b>Title</b>	Birdsall Funeral Home records
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1912-1938
<b>Extent</b>	1.8 Linear feet Four boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The Birdsall Funeral Home was operated by Ira Birdsall in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This collection contains seven volumes of burial records for deaths handled by the funeral home. The volumes date from 1912-1938. They contain such data as the name of the deceased, address, occupation, death date, age at death, cause of death, parents' names and birthplaces, funeral costs, and place of internment. The volumes are in chronological order.</p>

## Biographical/Historical note

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Ira D. Birdsall (b. 3/22/1860, d. 12/31/1941) came to Grand Rapids from his native Orange County, New York in 1887 following graduation from a Quaker seminary. He worked for Peck's Drug Store as a bookkeeper and later for Musselman's Grocery Co. in the same capacity. In 1907 he bought the McCallum Undertaking Co. at 91 Pearl, N.W. (old number 43 Pearl). He ran that business until 1910 when he sold it to Berton A. Spring (see GRPL Coll. 055). He then worked for the Grand Rapids Cloth Casket Co. and the Belmont Gravel Co., and lived in Shelby, Michigan for a time. In 1913 he bought the Noah French Company (funeral home) at 63 Jefferson. He operated that business until his retirement in 1938 as the Birdsall Funeral Home, and it is those records which appear to be included in this collection. Upon his retirement he sold the business to Stewart O. Vanderpool.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The volumes provide data on the funerals handled by the home. Data categories included are:

Name

Address

Occupation

Age at death

Cause of death

Parents' names and birthplaces

Place of internment and details of burial arrangement

A name index, arranged alphabetically was prepared in 1989 by Evelyn Sawyer of the Western Michigan Genealogical Society.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department May 1989

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

William Bennett, accession number 1988.017

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials note**

Coll. 055: Spring Funeral Home Collection. May contain records for Ira Spring's first funeral home, 1907-1910, purchased by Breton Spring in 1910, and predating the records in Coll. 097.

Coll. 157: Latzek Funeral Home Collection.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Genre(s)**

- business records

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- Genealogy
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

### **Subject(s)**

- Registers of birth, etc. -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Undertakers and undertaking -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>
22 Aug 1912 - 14 Jan 1919	1	1
15 Jan 1919 - 14 Dec 1922	1	2
16 Dec 1922 - 30 Oct 1925	2	3
1 Nov 1925 - 4 Jan 1929	2	4
4 Jan 1929 - 19 Nov 1931	3	5
19 Nov 1931 - 10 Dec 1934	3	6
15 Dec 1934 - 22 Jul 1938	4	7
		<b>Box</b>
Index to Birdsall Funeral Home / compiled by Evelyn M. Sawyer, c. 1989.		4