

Guide to the Walther Collection

1864-1980

2.0 linear feet

1998.072



Abstract

Financial and legal papers, publications, ephemera, photographs, and ledgers documenting the furniture and undertaking business established by August Walther in Cape Girardeau in 1864, and owned by three generations of Walthers before its sale in 1979 to Tom Boudinot.

Updated by Robyn Mainor, 2002

Special Collections and Archives
Kent Library
One University Plaza, MS 4600
Southeast Missouri State University
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Phone: (573) 651-2245; Fax: (573) 651-2666; Email: semoarchives@semo.edu

Descriptive Overview

Provenance: Unknown

Citation: The Walther Collection, Special Collections and Archives, Southeast Missouri State University.

Restrictions: None

Biographical Note

August Walther began the "A. Walther" firm in 1864. By trade he was a cabinet maker who was also skilled in furniture and casket building. In 1896, August retired and gave ownership of the family business to his sons, Rudolph and Albright. August died February 18, 1898 and Rudolph renamed the company "Rudolph Walther's" and in 1910, Albright sold his furniture interest to Rudolph. Rudolph died in 1912 and his sons, B.A. and G.C. took over the business renaming it, yet again, "Walther Furniture and Undertaking Company." In 1917, the two companies split with B.A. as president of the furniture company and G.C. as president of the funeral home and secretary-treasurer of the furniture company. In 1979, B.A. Walther passed away and the furniture company was sold to Tom Boudinot.

Scope and Content

This collection contains several journals reflecting the Walther's business transactions, and numerous photographs of the original furniture building from the 1890's to the mid 1900's. There are several articles that relate the Walther family and business history and also numerous legal documents, including contracts of land sales, additions and improvements to the furniture building, and court cases involving the Walthers. There are also Cape Girardeau city directories from 1932, 1945, and a souvenir business directory. Most of the collection is related to the furniture enterprise, but there is a journal and newspaper articles documenting the growth of the funeral home and the director's duties.

Rules or Conventions: Finding Aid prepared using DACS

Container List

Box 1055

Folder 1	Biographical Information	1962-1976
Folder 2	Bond Certificates	1899-1932
Folder 3	Contracts, with parties Walther, Ballard, Maurer, and McLain.	1921-1924
Folder 4	Financial documents	1913-1928
Folder 5	Legal Documents	1884-1913
Folder 6	Tax Bills	1914-1923
Folder 7	Vogelsang Contracting Documents	1916
Folder 8	Publications, Miscellaneous, Includes Cape Girardeau business directory.	1896-1913.
Folder 9	Ephemera	various dates.
Folder 10	4 photographs, black and white, Walther Business Buildings	1891, undated
Folder 11	6 photographs, black and white, Walther Furniture window display	undated
Folder 12	1 photograph, black and white, view east on Broadway in Cape Girardeau, Shows trolley, Marquette hotel and other local businesses.	undated
Folder 13	2 photographs, black and white, Walther's Furniture truck and a wooden chair.	undated
Folder 14	Funeral business records	1885-1927

Box 1056

Item 1	Journal (12"x6"), "Cash Systems," Brown with black and red marble effect on cover; includes customer names, payments received, dates, and items purchased both personal and business, mainly furniture sales.	1877-1884
Item 2	Journal (14"x8 ½"), "Coffins Sold," Brown cover; business records with customer name, date, price, and coffin selected.	1878-1906
Item 3	Journal (15"x6"), "Furniture Sales," December Brown variegated covers (no binding); business records with customer name, date, item purchased, and cost.	1879- 1881 Dec
Item 4	Journal (14"x8 ½"), "Cash Book," Black leather cover, red leather corners with gold embossed letters; business and personal records, account balances, date, item description, expenses.	1912-1915

Box 1057 Oversized

Item 1	Photograph, black and white, crowd outside Walther Building, Copy of photograph from Box 1055/15.	undated
Item 2	Photograph, black and white, Walther window display, Copy of photograph from Box 1055/16.	undated
Item 3	Photograph, black and white, aerial shot of Broadway street	undated
Item 4	<i>Southeast Missourian</i> Newspaper clipping; pertaining to 75 th anniversary of Walther family business, includes photographs.	1939
Item 5	Cape Girardeau City Directory	1945
Item 6	Journal (15"x 6 ¾"), "The Handy Day Book," Gray cover with black lettering and red corners; business account (furniture), customer name, item purchased, amount paid, and date.	1914 Nov- 1917 Jul

Box 1057 Oversized

- Item 7 Journal (15"x 6 ¾"), "The Handy Day Book," Gray cover with black lettering and red corners; business account, furniture sales, customer name, item purchased, amount paid, and the date. 1911 May-1918 Jan
- Item 8 Journal (15"x 6 ¾"), "The Everyday Book," Gray cover with black lettering and red corners; business account, name of client, item, amount paid and the date. 1917 Aug-1918 Aug
- Item 9 Journal (16"x 10 ½"), "Raymond's Trial Balance and Recapitulations," Black leather with red leather binding and corners and gold letters; funeral business records, item or service rendered, description, cost, and dates. 1928 Dec-1932 Dec