



## Carper Casket Company History (S0027)

**Collection Number:** S0027

**Collection Title:** Carper Casket Company History

**Date:** 1975

**Creator:** Unknown

**Abstract:** This collection contains a handwritten history of the Carper Casket Company, an African American-owned casket firm founded by George A. Carper in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1932.

**Collection Size:** 0.01 cubic foot  
(1 folder)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [stlouis@shsmo.org](mailto:stlouis@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Carper Casket Company History* (S0027); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Ruth Burns in 1975 (Accession No. SA0727).

**Processed by:** Processed by Rachael Heriford, March 2023

### Historical Note:

George A. Carper established the Funeral Directors Casket Company in St. Louis City in 1932 as a distributor and manufacturer of caskets for funeral homes in the St. Louis area. Originally

located at 1039 North Vandeventer, Carper moved the business to 3615 Easton Street in 1936 before settling in their present location at 3204 Samuel Shepard Drive in 1940.

In 1948, Carper changed the company's name to the Carper Casket Company to reflect the business's transition from manufacturing to distributing caskets, embalming fluids, and burial garments for St. Louis-area funeral homes. After George A. Carper died on December 22, 1964, his son George H. Carper II, assumed company leadership. He semi-retired in 1989, handing over the company's reins to his son, George H. Carper III.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged in one folder and maintained in its original order.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The Carper Casket Company collection contains a handwritten history of the Carper Casket Company, written in 1975. The essay chronicles the founding and growth of the company from 1932-1975, including location changes, the company's evolving business models, and the passing of ownership from George A. Carper, the company's founder, to his son, George H. Carper II, in 1964. The materials in this collection have been arranged in one folder and maintained in their original order.

**Container List:**

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