

Bronzeville Historical Society



(312) 428-8033

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Institution: Bronzeville Historical Society

Collection Title: Carter Funeral Home Records

Date Span: circa 1980 - 2012

Extent: __ linear feet (TBD)

Provenance: Collected by Sherry Williams

Processors: Processed by Sherry Williams, October 2016

Restrictions: Public Inquiries for burial locations are answered upon written request

Abstract:

Carter Funeral Home was established in 1953 by Mr. Harry Joseph Carter, Jr. The business opened at 6110 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago, IL. In 1974, The Carter Funeral Home moved to 2100 East 75th Street, Chicago, IL. Mr. Carter followed in the footsteps of his father. His father, Harry Carter, Sr. was a Pullman Porter and part-time funeral director. Mr. Carter was an active member of Quinn Chapel AME Church. He served as President of the Board of Trustees at the time of his death.

The collection is organized into two series. The first series are burial record files generated by business office of the Carter Funeral Home. These records contain obituaries, death certificates, billing information, and burial locations of the deceased. The second series is newspaper clippings, census reports, advertisements, photographs, memorabilia, and phone directories that date from the 1950's to 2013. Most of the photographs added to this series in the collection were found online via newspaper resources that detailed the history of Carter Funeral Home, its founders and family members who actively managed the business until it closed.

Biographical/ Historical Note

Mr. Harry Joseph Carter, Jr. was born in Chicago in 1924. Carter grew up in the Woodlawn community and attended Englewood High School and Wilson Junior College. Carter entered the Navy and while serving he also worked as a welder from 1943 to 1947. Mr. Carter died on October 17, 2003 of colon cancer. His son Harry Joseph Carter III continued to operate the family business until it closed in 2012. An investigation in 2011 sparked by a grieving family led authorities to discover human remains improperly embalmed. Attorney Sara Meek, a representative of the Illinois Comptroller's Office facilitated the transfer of the funeral home records to the Bronzeville Historical Society to preserve Chicago's African American history and to protect the records from destruction. The Bronzeville Historical Society will create a surname index of the records with burial site references for public access.

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Access Headings:

File Cabinet List:

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| CARTER Collection | | Three File Cabinets: Folders filed by Surname | |
| | F o l d e r | Title: Surname Folders | Dates span from 1980's to 2011 |
| Series I : | | | |
| 1 | 1 | | various dates |
| 1 | 2 | | |
| | | | |
| Series II | | Memorabilia, Newspaper clippings, Web postings | |
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