



OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Item name or title. Collection title, MSS number, box number, file number, item number (if available). Lyle H. West Archives, Ohio Genealogical Society, Bellville, Ohio.

MSS 462 Items 1-3

Title: Emil C. Haag Funeral Home and Chapel/Davis Home for Funerals records, Berea, Cuyahoga County, 1937-1949

Location: Ohio Genealogical Society, Lyle H. West Archives, 611 SR 97 W, Bellville, Ohio, 44813

Preferred Citation: Emil C Haag Co. Funeral Home Ledger, Cuyahoga County, 1937-1941. MSS 462, Item #, page #. Lyle H. West Archives, Ohio Genealogical Society, Bellville, Ohio.

Dates: 1937-1949

Creator(s): Emil C. Haag Co. Funeral Home and Chapel; successor, Davis Home for Funerals (also called the Davis Funeral Chapel)

Biography of Creator and Administrative History: Emil C. Haag (1878-1954) was a banker and an undertaker. His family immigrated from Germany to Middleburg Township, Cuyahoga County in 1848. In 1903 Haag began working for a funeral home; ten years later, he purchased the funeral home from his employer and changed its name to the Emil C. Haag Funeral Home and Chapel. It was located at 50 East Bridge Street, Berea, Cuyahoga County. Simultaneously, Haag worked as the director of Berea Savings and Loan. Haag retired from the funeral home in 1938, but continued to work at the bank and was active in various local civic organizations.¹

The funeral home continued to operate after Emil's retirement. Around 1942, Haag was succeeded by H. J. Davis, who renamed the funeral home to the Davis Funeral Chapel. When the funeral home moved to 242 Front Street, Berea, in late 1943, they renamed the funeral home again to the Davis Home for Funerals. The 50 East Bridge Street property was transferred to Emil's son Alfred in 1955, after Emil died in 1954; Alfred and his wife Winifred then sold the property to Ella B. Toedtman of Berea, Ohio in 1967.² Toedtman then transferred the property to the City of Berea in 1969.³

¹ "Emil Haag Dies; Berea Banker," *The Plain Dealer* (Cleveland, OH), Mar. 21, 1954.

² Cuyahoga county Fiscal Office. Document number 00081114, --/12120/27, Quick Claim Deed, 05/22/1967. Retrieved from <https://cuyahoga.oh.publicsearch.us/doc/139662744>.

³ Cuyahoga county Fiscal Office. Document number 00291046, --/12549/729, Quick Claim Deed, 08/25/1969. Retrieved from <https://cuyahoga.oh.publicsearch.us/doc/139830363>.

The Davis Home for Funerals operated in Berea until about 1950, judging by city directories. By 1951, the funeral home is no longer listed in the business section of the Berea City Directory.

Scope and Content: The records contain the burial and death information of Cleveland-area residents whose services were conducted by the Emil C. Haag Funeral Home and Chapel, and later by the Davis Home for Funerals, of Berea, Cuyahoga County between 1937 and 1949. Most entries include the original obituary clipping glued into the ledger; obituaries would have ran in either the *Plain Dealer*, the *Cleveland Press*, or the *Cleveland News*, the three major newspapers in the county at the time. A typical entry includes cause of death; date of death; birthplace and date; parents; internment; attending physician; occupation; and social state. Not all entries are completely filled in.

Donor(s): Mary Jane Henney, of Mansfield, Ohio.

Arrangement Note: No changes have been made to the records' arrangement.

Extent: 3 ledgers; 11in x 14in x 1.75in.

Access: No restrictions.

Language: English.

Provenance: Donated by Mary Jane Henney, date unknown.

Processing Information: Loose pages and enclosures were removed and placed in separate envelopes marked with original placement in ledger. See File 1.

Additional notes: Each volume as an index in front. Married women are indexed by their married surname; maiden names are not given in the record, unless the individual's obituary is included. Obituaries from Cleveland newspapers can be requested through the Cleveland Public Library's Necrology File and News Index, available at: <https://cpl.org/newsindex/>.

Description of items:

Item 1: Funeral record and ledger. Contains deaths from November 20, 1937 to March 23, 1941, services held and/or coordinated by Emil C. Haag Funeral Home and Chapel.

Item 2: Funeral record and ledger. Contains deaths from March 28, 1941 to September 13, 1946, services held and/or coordinated by Emil C. Haag Funeral Home and Chapel, then after 1942, Davis Funeral Chapel.

Item 3: Funeral record and ledger. Contains deaths from September 13, 1946 to December 6, 1949, services held and/or coordinated by Davis Home for Funerals.

Box 1:

File 0: Finding aid, context, and provenance

File 1: Loose pages and enclosures, from all ledgers. Includes:

- Cancelled check from the Davis Home for Funerals and envelope
- Receipt from Emil C. Haag Funeral Home to Floyd Hawke, 1943
- Letter from Calvary Cemetery Association, Cleveland, to Davis Home for Funerals informing them of the Association's name change (Catholic Cemeteries Association) and the name changes of the major Catholic cemeteries in the greater Cleveland area, 1947
- Receipt from George Geiger, for digging the grave of Miss Lucretia Emerson, 1939
- List of year to date (Nov. 1, 1947) of payments; includes the abbreviated address of the payers
- Record of burial of twin infant girls (stillborn), 1941; born to Bernard Doerenger and Dorothy Wegfehrt Doerenger
- Handwritten obituary of Hattie F. Wojtalewicz (Winters), wife of Michael

Key Words: Cuyahoga County.

Processed by: Jenna Kish, OGS Archivist, November 2022.

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