

Riesinger Funeral Home Records (MS-75) Guide

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on October 25, 2021.
English
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Wright State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives

Special Collections and Archives

3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy

Dayton, OH 45435-0001

Business Number: 937-775-2092

library-archives@wright.edu

URL: <http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Related Materials	7
Controlled Access Headings	7
Other Finding Aids	7
Collection Inventory	8
SERIES I: Photographs	8
SERIES II: Funeral Record And Ledger Books	8
SERIES III: Financial Records	12

Summary Information

Repository:	Wright State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives
Creator:	Riesinger Funeral Home
Title:	Riesinger Funeral Home Records
ID:	MS-75
Date [inclusive]:	1902-1958
Date [bulk]:	1902-1947
Physical Description:	12 linear feet
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Records of a prominent Dayton, Ohio funeral home which serviced many from the Hungarian and other ethnic groups of the early 20th century. Funeral record and ledger books give a daily account of funerals, and contain information and vital statistics about people buried by the Riesinger Funeral Home in Dayton, Ohio. Also included are financial record books for 1931-1956, and a few photographs.

Preferred Citation

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-75, Riesinger Funeral Home Records, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Frank Riesinger (1871-1937) operated funeral homes in Dayton, Ohio from 1901 until his death in 1937. The Frank Riesinger Funeral Home was located at 1334 W. Third Street. The funeral home also operated a mausoleum. Riesinger was a prominent businessman in the community, and was known for being giving and kind. During the 1913 Flood, he distributed food and clothing to those in need. He ordered 110 coffins from Richmond, Indiana and

offered them to the poor. Riesinger was also known for throwing community Christmas parties, which included a big parade down West Third Street, and Santa Clause distributing gifts to the children. Photographs from Christmas parties in 1919 and 1927 are included in the collection. The Frank Riesinger Funeral Home later became the Frank Riesinger-Shank Funeral Home, which is no longer listed in the Dayton City Directories after 1947.

Funeral directing ran in the Riesinger family. Frank's sons, Grant E. (1907-1947) and Frank Dayton (1892-1978) were also funeral directors in Dayton, Ohio. Frank Dayton Riesinger worked for his father until 1933 when he established a funeral home at 718 Wayne Avenue. Frank Dayton and his wife, Iva Pearl, had a son named Robert Harry Riesinger in 1924. Robert would become a third generation funeral director and active in East Dayton community affairs, He was also president of the East Dayton Businessmen's Association. Robert died in 2000.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

The collection contains a few photographs, financial ledgers, and substantially, the funeral record and ledger books documenting individual funerals. The collection covers the years 1902-1958, however, the records for individual funerals date from 1902-1948 and 1951-1952. The funeral record and ledger books document the impact of local and world events on an individual level. For example, the 1913 ledger documents the after effects of the Dayton Flood. The 1918 and 1919 ledgers reflect the world-wide influenza epidemic. Car crashes and automobile-related fatalities become a major cause of death, especially among younger people, from the mid-1920s on. In addition, the records are a wealth of information for genealogists. Riesingers was known for providing service to the Hungarian population and other ethnic groups in Dayton. The collection is arranged into three series as follows.

Series I, Photographs, 1905-1929, 1942, is a small series containing four folders of photographs. The photographs are from a 1919 Christmas event hosted by Frank Riesinger to entertain children, and also shows the chapel and outside of the Frank Riesinger Funeral Home at 1334 West Third Street in 1919. Photographs of children and crowds gathered outside the Robert Riesinger building in 1927, show a Santa Clause and elf, along with the Dayton Drum Corps and Frank Riesinger. In addition is a folder of 10 photographs removed from inside the funeral record books in Series II. The photos are unlabeled, but likely of individuals whose funerals were arranged by Riesinger. On the back of each photos is a reference to the ledger and page number from which the photograph was removed.

Series II, Funeral Record and Ledger Books, 1902-1952, is the heart of the collection, consisting of the funeral and ledger books maintained by the funeral home on individual funerals. These books were generated by year. Please note that many loose documents within individual log books were removed and foldered. These folders are listed first in the inventory, and are in order by year. The pages of each record log book includes a place to enter the name of the deceased, place of birth, date of birth, if a war veteran, place of death, death date, age at

death, cause of death, sex, color, if married, occupation, name of father and mother, time and place of funeral service, interment place and date, and casket details. Please note that all the information was not always filled in. Sometimes a clipping of the obituary is included.

The researcher should be aware of the following when using the collection:

- In front of every ledger is an index listing each funeral alphabetically by surname, with a page number for the funeral record. A "Ready Reference" section lists all the funerals by month. Unfortunately the Ready Reference is not always filled out, especially for the later years.
- Some of the individual records are very incomplete.
- The years 1902-1905 are in one ledger.
- The years 1905-1907 are also in one ledger.
- There are no ledgers for the years 1908, 1909, and 1920.
- The ledger dated 1919 contains: o 1918 November – 1919 November o 1922 December 30 – 1924 June o 1930 May 22 – 1932 April 3
- Part of January 1924 is in the 1923 ledger.
- Part of 1925 is in the 1926 ledger.
- The 1935 ledger also lists funerals dated from Jan. 4-17, 1936
- The 1942 ledger also lists funerals dated from Jan. 1-5, 1943
- The 1945 ledger also lists funerals dated from Jan. 3-4, 1946

Series III, Financial Records, 1917, 1931-1956, contains 13 financial log books. The bulk of the books are a record of expenses and income. In the back of several of the books is an inventory for the business.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 3 series:

Series I:

Photographs, 1905-1929, 1942

Series II:

Funeral Record and Ledger Books, 1902-1952

Series III:

Financial Records, 1917, 1931-1956

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Wright State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives

Special Collections and Archives
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy
Dayton, OH 45435-0001
Business Number: 937-775-2092
library-archives@wright.edu
URL: <http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special>

Revision Description

Finding aid revised to DACS with a brief historical note, and more detailed inventory by Toni Vanden Bos Order of listing revised to reflect chronological order of funeral records, rather than physical arrangement, during ArchivesSpace inventory import, by Lisa Rickey. 2018 September 2021 Oct

Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The records were donated to the Wright State University Archives on 8 November 1978 by Mrs. Pearl Riesinger Baker, widow of Frank Riesinger.

Processing Information

Processed by: Judith McCune, 1981 June 1. At this time, loose items within funeral record and ledger books were removed and placed in folders with cross references to the book and page from which the document was removed.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

MS-458 Dayton Daily News Archive includes clippings and photographs of Riesinger family members.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Dayton (Ohio) -- History -- 20th century
- Funeral homes -- Ohio -- Dayton
- Undertakers and undertaking
- Hungarian Americans -- Ohio -- Dayton -- Funeral customs and rites
- Ledgers (account books)
- Correspondence
- Burial records -- Ohio -- Dayton
- Financial records
- Photographs
- Riesinger, Frank, 1871-1937
- Riesinger Funeral Home -- Archives
- Baker, Pearl

Other Finding Aids

The finding aid is available on the Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collection_guides/guide_files/ms75.pdf. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

SERIES I: Photographs, 1905-1929, 1942

Title/Description	Instances	
Frank Riesinger Funeral Home at 1334 West Main and Christmas for Children, 1919	Box 1	Folder 1
Photographs of deceased (removed from funeral record books with book and page numbers referenced on back, 10 total), 1905-1929, 1942	Box 1	Folder 2
Christmas Event: Dayton Drum Corps, Frank Riesinger, Santa Clause, elf, and crowd with children outside Riesinger building (2 - 10 ½" x 14" photographs), 1927	Box 1	Folder 3
Christmas Event: Dayton Drum Corps, Frank Riesinger, Santa Clause, elf, and crowd with children outside Riesinger building (4 mounted and 2 unmounted 8"x10" photographs), 1927	Box 1	Folder 4

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

SERIES II: Funeral Record And Ledger Books, 1902-1952

Title/Description	Instances	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 1, "1902-1905", 1902 Sept 13 - 1905 Sept 13	Box 3	Volume 1
Documents found loose inside Volume 1, 1902-1905	Box 2	Folder 1
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 2, "1905-1907", 1905 Sept 14 - 1907 June 4	Box 3	Volume 2
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 3, "1910", 1909 Dec 31 - 1911 Jan 15	Box 3	Volume 3
Documents found loose inside Volume 3, 1910	Box 2	Folder 3
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 4, "1911", 1911 Jan 2 - 1911 Dec 30	Box 3	Volume 4
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 5, "1912", 1912 Jan 2 - 1912 Nov 20	Box 3	Volume 5
Documents found loose inside Volume 5, 1912	Box 2	Folder 4
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 6, "1913", 1913 Jan - 1913 Dec	Box 3	Volume 6
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 7, "1914", 1914 Jan 2 - 1915 Jan 2	Box 3	Volume 7

Riesinger Funeral Home Records (MS-75) Guide

Documents found loose inside Volume 7, 1914	Box 2	Folder 5	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 8, "1915", 1915 Jan 1 - 1915 Dec 31	Box 4	Volume 8	
Documents found loose inside Volume 8, 1915	Box 2	Folder 6	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 9, "1916", 1916 Jan 2 - 1917 Jan 2	Box 4	Volume 9	
Documents found loose inside Volume 9, 1916	Box 2	Folder 7	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 10, "1917", 1917 Jan 4 - 1918 Jan 1	Box 4	Volume 10	
Documents found loose inside Volume 10, 1917	Box 2	Folder 8	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 11, "1918", 1918 Jan 4 - 1918 Oct 11	Box 4	Volume 11	
Documents found loose inside Volume 11, 1918	Box 2	Folder 9	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 12, "1919", 1918 Oct 13 - 1918 Dec 31	Box 4	Volume 12	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 13, "1918-1932", 1918 Nov 13 - 1919 Nov 10	Box 5	Volume 13	Page 1-92
Documents found loose inside Volume 12, 1919	Box 2	Folder 10	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 14, "1919/1922", 1919 Jan 2 - 1920 Jan 2	Box 5	Volume 14	Page 1-556
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 15, "1921", 1921 Jan - 1921 Dec	Box 5	Volume 15	
Documents found loose inside Volume 15, 1921	Box 2	Folder 11	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 16, "1922", 1922 Jan 19 - 1923 Jan 3	Box 5	Volume 16	
Documents found loose inside Volume 16, 1922	Box 2	Folder 12	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 14, "1919/1922", 1922 Mar 13 - 1922 Apr 3	Box 5	Volume 14	Page 557-600
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 13, "1918-1932", 1922 Dec 30-31	Box 5	Volume 13	Page 101-102
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 17, "1923", 1923 Jan 1 - 1924 Jan 6	Box 5	Volume 17	
Documents found loose inside Volume 17, 1923	Box 2	Folder 13	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 18, "1924", 1924 Jan 1 - 1924 Dec 31	Box 5	Volume 18	
Documents found loose inside Volume 18, 1924	Box 2	Folder 14	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 13, "1918-1932", 1924 Jan 6-June 8, 1924 June 28	Box 5	Volume 13	Page 165-193

Riesinger Funeral Home Records (MS-75) Guide

Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 19, "1925", 1925 Jan 2 - 1925 Dec 31	Box 6	Volume 19	
Documents found loose inside Volume 19, 1925	Box 2	Folder 15	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 20, "1925-1926", 1925 Jan 1 - 1925 Dec 31	Box 6	Volume 20	Page 1-286
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 20, "1925-1926", 1926 Jan 1 - 1926 Sept 26	Box 6	Volume 20	Page 287-618
Documents found loose inside Volume 20, 1925-1926	Box 2	Folder 16	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 21, "1927", 1927 Jan - 1927 Dec	Box 6	Volume 21	
Documents found loose inside Volume 21, 1927	Box 2	Folder 17	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 22, "1928", 1928 Jan - 1928 Dec	Box 6	Volume 22	
Documents found loose inside Volume 22, 1928	Box 2	Folder 18	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 23, "1929", 1929 Jan - 1929 Dec	Box 7	Volume 23	
Documents found loose inside Volume 23, 1929	Box 2	Folder 19	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 24, "1930", 1930 Jan - 1930 Dec	Box 7	Volume 24	
Documents found loose inside Volume 24, 1930	Box 2	Folder 20	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 13, "1918-1932", 1930 May 22-Dec 31	Box 5	Volume 13	Page 200-211
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 25, "1931", 1931 Jan - 1931 Dec	Box 7	Volume 25	
Documents found loose inside Volume 25, 1931	Box 2	Folder 21	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 13, "1918-1932", 1931 Feb 11-Dec 30	Box 5	Volume 13	Page 212-229
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 26, "1932", 1932 Jan - 1932 Dec	Box 7	Volume 26	
Documents found loose inside Volume 26 or 30, 1932	Box 2	Folder 22	
Documents found loose inside Volume 26 or 30, 1932	Box 2	Folder 23	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 13, "1918-1932", 1932 Feb 20 - Oct 6	Box 5	Volume 13	Page 230-252
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 30, "1932-1937", 1932 Oct 17-Dec 31	Box 8	Volume 30	Page 51-56
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 27, "1933", 1933 Jan - 1933 Dec	Box 8	Volume 27	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 30, "1932-1937", 1933 Jan 3-Dec 27	Box 8	Volume 30	Page 57-88

Riesinger Funeral Home Records (MS-75) Guide

Documents found loose inside Volume 27 or 30, 1933	Box 2	Folder 24	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 28, "1934", 1934 Jan - 1934 Dec	Box 8	Volume 28	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 30, "1932-1937", 1934 Jan 20-Dec 30	Box 8	Volume 30	Page 89-110
Documents found loose inside Volume 28 or 30, 1934	Box 2	Folder 25	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 29, "1935", 1935 Jan - 1935 Dec	Box 8	Volume 29	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 30, "1932-1937", 1935 Jan 1-Feb 24	Box 8	Volume 30	Page 111-118
Documents found loose inside Volume 29 or 30, 1935	Box 2	Folder 26	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 31, "1936", 1936 Jan - 1936 Dec	Box 9	Volume 31	
Documents found loose inside Volume 31 or 30, 1936	Box 2	Folder 27	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 32, "1937", 1937 Jan - 1937 Dec	Box 9	Volume 32	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 30, "1932-1937", 1937 Mar 10	Box 8	Volume 30	Page 121
Documents found loose inside 32 or 30, 1937	Box 2	Folder 28	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 33, "1938", 1938 Jan - 1938 Dec	Box 9	Volume 33	
Documents found loose inside Volume 33, 1938	Box 2	Folder 29	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 34, "1939", 1939 Jan - 1939 Dec	Box 9	Volume 34	
Documents found loose inside 34, 1939	Box 2	Folder 30	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 35, "1940", 1940 Jan - 1940 Dec	Box 9	Volume 35	
Documents found loose inside Volume 35, 1940	Box 2	Folder 31	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 36, "1941", 1941 Jan - 1941 Dec	Box 10	Volume 36	
Documents found loose inside Volume 36, 1941	Box 2	Folder 32	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 37, "1942", 1942 Jan - 1942 Dec	Box 10	Volume 37	
Documents found loose inside Volume 37, 1942	Box 2	Folder 33	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 38, "1943", 1943 Jan - 1943 Dec	Box 10	Volume 38	
Documents found loose inside Volume 38, 1943	Box 2	Folder 34	

Riesinger Funeral Home Records (MS-75) Guide

Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 39, "1944", 1944 Jan - 1944 Dec	Box 10	Volume 39	
Documents found loose inside Volume 39, 1944	Box 2	Folder 35	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 40, "1945", 1945 Jan - 1945 Dec	Box 10	Volume 40	
Documents found loose inside Volume 40, 1945	Box 2	Folder 36	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 41, "1946", 1946 Jan - 1946 Dec	Box 10	Volume 41	
Documents found loose inside Volume 41, 1946	Box 2	Folder 37	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 42, "1947-48/1951-52", 1947 Jan - 1948 Aug	Box 11	Volume 42	Page 1-170
Documents found loose inside Volume 42, 1947	Box 2	Folder 38	
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 42, "1947-48/1951-52", 1951 Apr-Oct	Box 11	Volume 42	Page 171-176, 249-252
Funeral Record and Ledger, Volume 42, "1947-48/1951-52", 1952 Nov-Dec	Box 11	Volume 42	Page 177-179

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

SERIES III: Financial Records, 1917, 1931-1956

Title/Description	Instances	
Record of Invoices Book (only 4 pages with entries), 1917	Box 12	Volume 43
Financial Log Book, 1931-1932	Box 12	Volume 44
Financial Log Book, 1932	Box 12	Volume 45
Financial Log Book, 1933	Box 12	Volume 46
Financial Log Book, 1934	Box 12	Volume 47
Financial Log Book, 1935	Box 12	Volume 48
Financial Log Book, 1936	Box 12	Volume 49
Financial Log Book, 1937-1942	Box 12	Volume 50
Financial Log Book, 1942-1946	Box 12	Volume 51
Financial Log Book, 1947-1948	Box 12	Volume 52
Petty Cash Book, 1940-1952	Box 12	Volume 53
Pearl Riesinger's Rental Account Book, 1942-1954	Box 12	Volume 54
Cash Receipts and Daily Financial Statement, 1945-1956	Box 12	Volume 55

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)