



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

J. M. Connelley Funeral Home Photograph Collection, 1894-1951 SCHS# VM 0667.00

Description: 2 linear ft. (2 boxes)

Biographical/historical note: In 1886, Jesse Mercer Connelley (1849-1913), a native of Edgefield, South Carolina, purchased an undertaking business from Frederick (or Friedrich) Ansel which was located at 127 Calhoun Street (now 143 Calhoun Street) in Charleston, S.C. In 1894, Connelley moved his business to a new building at 309 Meeting Street in Charleston, and he resided in a nearby residence at 313 Meeting Street. J. M. Connelley's son Alexander C. Connelley succeeded him and became president of the J. M. Connelley Company, which closed its doors in 1979.

Scope and content: Collection chiefly consists of photographs of the J. M. Connelley Funeral Home and its facilities. Included are exterior and interior views of the funeral home building at 309 Meeting Street; photographs of the J. M. Connelley Memorial Chapel; portrait photographs of Jesse M. Connelley and his son Alexander Chambliss Connelley; and photographs of hearses, coffins, an embalming room, a carriage house and stable, and a warehouse. One photograph (1899) shows the funeral home arrayed in bunting, Confederate and U.S. flags, and a banner portraying generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. This 1899 photograph also shows the Connelley residence at 313 Meeting Street and buildings in the background.

Some early photographs may depict the interior of J. M. Connelley's original undertaking business at 143 Calhoun Street. Another photograph (ca. 1900?) depicts a large room filled with cages holding various species of poultry. The collection also includes two undated monochrome watercolor paintings of the funeral home at 309 Meeting Street; and a brochure (1931) for the dedication of the J. M. Connelley Memorial Chapel.

Preferred citation: J. M. Connelley funeral home photograph collection, 1894-1951. (VM 0667.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

BOX 1

- 1 Foyer of funeral home (at 143 Calhoun Street?).
- 2 Casket factory?

- 3 Horse drawn hearse, ca. 1895.
- 4 Portraits of Jesse M. Connelley and Alexander C. Connelley.
- 5 Photographs of the interior and exterior of 309 Meeting Street.
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- 7 Photographs of hearses parked at the Battery (1951), caskets, and an embalming room.
- 8 Cover of *The Southern Funeral Director* journal, 1941, featuring a portrait of A. C. Connelley; with a related letter.
- 9 Printed material: an illustrated brochure, 1931, relating to the dedication of the J. M. Connelley Memorial Chapel; and an undated poem, "An Appeal for Help for the Sick & Wounded." The poem (2 copies) appears to be an appeal for help for English soldiers during World War I.

BOX 2

Oversize photographs:

- 1 Exterior view, 1919, of 309 Meeting Street; a photograph (ca. 1910?) of a group of men including J. M. Connelley (seated in chair) and George W. Barnette; and a photograph (ca. 1900?) of a large hall filled with cages holding various species of poultry.
- 2 Photograph (1899) of 309 Meeting Street arrayed in bunting, Confederate and U.S. flags, and a banner portraying generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. It also shows the Connelley residence at 313 Meeting Street and buildings in the background.
- 3 Mounted photograph of a stable and hearses; photograph of a basement room with tables and pallets; and a photograph of a line of caparisoned horses, men in uniform, and a horse drawn vehicle draped with bunting (1899?).
- 4 Interior of a foyer, reception room, and stairway (at 143 Calhoun Street?); a gallery of caskets on display (at 143 Calhoun Street?); and an office area (at 143 Calhoun Street?).
- 5 Photograph of an alley leading to a building surmounted by a sign reading "The J. M. Connelley Company 1903"; exterior view of the same building from rooftops; brick building (coffin warehouse at 133 Calhoun Street?).
- 6 Monochrome watercolor painting of 309 Meeting Street.
- 7 Mounted watercolor painting of 309 Meeting Street.