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## African American Funeral Home Records - Bowling Green, Kentucky (MSS 626)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
 Department of Library Special Collections  
 Western Kentucky University  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 626 AFRICAN American Funeral Home Records –  
 Bowling Green, Kentucky**

4 boxes. 28 folders. 28 items. 1900-1970. Photocopies.

1983.127.1

**ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY**

In February 1900, James E. Kuykendall (1874-1960), an African-American native of Butler County, Kentucky opened a funeral home at 819 State Street in Bowling Green, Kentucky. In 1905, he moved the business to Seventh and College Streets. Kuykendall entered into partnership with James A. Boyd, and after his retirement in 1954 the business became known as the James A. Boyd Funeral Chapel. Abel Brothers Funeral Home was established in the 1930s by brothers Richard C. Abel (1904-1970) and Francis S. Abel, originally at 312 E. Seventh Street in Bowling Green.

**COLLECTION NOTE**

This collection consists of records of the Kuykendall, Abel and Boyd funeral home businesses, photocopied in July 1983 from originals belonging to Gatewood and Sons Funeral Chapel, Bowling Green, Kentucky. The records in Box 1 (1900-1935) generally note only the deceased's name along with the funeral date and expenses. Records in Boxes 2-4 (1935-1970) are more detailed, with additions in many (but not all) cases of data such as birthdate, occupation, date and cause of death, parents' names, and place of interment. Also included (Box 4, Folder 3) is a listing (with index) of interments by section number in Mt. Moriah Cemetery, Bowling Green's African-American cemetery.

**SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Kuykendall-Abel-Boyd (KAB) Records</b>	<b>1900-1935</b>	<b>11 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Funeral records (with index)	1900-1902	1 item

Folder 3	Index to funeral records in Folders 4-11	1911-1935	1 item
Folder 4	KAB funeral records #435-600	1911-1913	1 item
Folder 5	KAB funeral records #601-656	1913-1914	1 item
Folder 6	List of KAB funeral records #9-503	1917-1923	1 item
Folder 7	KAB funeral records #1-158	1923-1925	1 item
Folder 8	KAB funeral records #159-329	1925-1928	1 item
Folder 9	KAB funeral records #330-434	1929-1930	1 item
Folder 10	KAB funeral records #657-837	1930-1932	1 item
Folder 11	KAB funeral records #838-1044	1932-1935	1 item
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>Kuykendall-Abel-Boyd (KAB) Records</b>	<b>1935-1960</b>	<b>7 items</b>
Folder 1	KAB funeral records (with index to Folders 1-4)	1935-1937	1 item
Folder 2	KAB funeral records	1937-1940	1 item
Folder 3	KAB funeral records	1940-1943	1 item
Folder 4	KAB funeral records	1943-1945	1 item
Folder 5	KAB funeral records (with index to Folders 5-7)	1945-1948	1 item
Folder 6	KAB funeral records	1948-1953	1 item
Folder 7	KAB funeral records	1953-1960	1 item
<b>BOX 3</b>	<b>Abel Brothers (AB) Records</b>	<b>1945-1961</b>	<b>6 items</b>
Folder 1	AB funeral records, Book A (Part 1, with index to Books A, B and C)	1945-1947	1 item
Folder 2	AB funeral records, Book A (Part 2)	1947-1951	1 item
Folder 3	AB funeral records, Book A (Part 3)	1952	1 item
Folder 4	AB funeral records, Book B (Part 1)	1953-1955	1 item

Folder 5	AB funeral records, Book B (Part 2)	1956-1959	1 item
Folder 6	AB funeral records, Book B (Part 3)	1960-1961	1 item
<b>BOX 4</b>	<b>Abel Brothers (AB) Records; Kuykendall-Abel-Boyd (KAB) Records</b>	<b>1932-1970</b>	<b>4 items</b>
Folder 1	AB funeral records, Book C (Part 1)	1962-1965	1 item
Folder 2	AB funeral records, Book C (Part 2)	1966-1970	1 item
Folder 3	KAB records – List of burials in Mt. Moriah Cemetery (with index)	n.d.	1 item
Folder 4	KAB records – Funeral purchase records	1932-1945	1 item

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS AFRICAN American Funeral Home 1900-1970  
626 Records – Bowling Green, Kentucky

Records of the Kuykendall-Abel-Boyd and Abel Brothers funeral home businesses, operated by African Americans in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Records include names of deceased, funeral dates and expenses, and in some cases family information, cause of death and place of interment. The records were photocopied from originals in the possession of Gatewood and Sons Funeral Chapel, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

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### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

African Americans – Bowling Green  
Businesses – African American – Bowling Green  
Cemeteries – Mt. Moriah Cemetery – Bowling Green  
Funeral homes – Abel Brothers Funeral Home – Bowling Green  
Funeral homes – J. E. Kuykendall Funeral Home – Bowling Green  
Funeral homes – James A. Boyd Funeral Chapel – Bowling Green  
Funeral rites and ceremonies – Bowling Green, 1900-1970  
Funerals – Expenses, 1900-1970

## Undertakers and undertaking – Bowling Green, 1900-1970

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 12/06/2017