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### Wiley Funeral Home records

Lisa Speer

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#### Recommended Citation

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**Finding Aid for the  
Wiley Funeral Home records  
OBU.2009.001  
March 2025**



**OUACHITA  
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

*Archives & Special Collections  
Riley-Hickingbotham Library  
Ouachita Baptist University  
410 Ouachita Street  
Arkadelphia, AR 71998*

**Repository:** Archives and Special Collections, Ouachita Baptist University

**Title:** Wiley Funeral Home records

**Creator:** Wiley Funeral Home, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, and State of Arkansas

**Inclusive Dates:** 1941-1968

**Quantity:** 4.25 c.f.

### **Abstract**

Records from the Wiley Funeral Home, Arkadelphia, established by Felix Wiley in the early 1940s. Wiley ran the funeral home until his retirement circa 1966, when George D. Mitchell, Jr., purchased the funeral home, which primarily served African American customers in and around Clark County. The records consist of copies of Arkansas death certificates, burial transit permits, burial insurance cards, and various other business records, such as receipts and invoices.

**Identification:** OBU.2009.001

**Languages:** English

**Acquisition Information:** On loan from Mitchell Funeral Home, 2009.

**Access Restrictions:** These records are open for research. Non-circulating, in-house use only. Digitized death certificates can be viewed on the OBU Scholarly Commons at: <https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/dc/>.

**Preferred Citation:** Wiley Funeral Home records, Archives and Special Collections, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR.

### **Biographical or Historical Summary**

Wiley Funeral Home was established in Arkadelphia in the early 1940s by Mr. Felix Wiley at 1625 Caddo Street. Wiley was born in 1898 in Arkansas. Prior to opening an undertaking business, he worked as a blacksmith and owned a grocery store. By 1942, he was established in the funeral home business.<sup>1</sup> In 1922, Wiley married Maude A. Gentry in Nevada County, Arkansas. The couple had no children. In 1966, Wiley sold the funeral home to George D. Mitchell, Jr. Mitchell relocated the business on Caddo Street and reopened as Mitchell Funeral Home, which is still in business today. Felix Wiley died in March 1970.

### **Scope and Contents and Arrangement**

Death certificates compose the bulk of the records, with certificates for 1,038 people whose burials were handled by Wiley. Most of the records pertain to people who lived in Clark County, although there are death certificates and burial transit permits for out-of-

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<sup>1</sup> "Felix Wiley," U. S. World War II Draft Card, 1942., accessed at [U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947 - Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), March 18, 2025.

area residents who were buried by the Wiley Funeral Home. Death certificates generally record the name of the deceased, name of spouse, dates of birth and death, cause of death, and burial information. The records are arranged by type of record, and then alphabetically within.

For additional information on the records and a complete list of names represented in the death certificates, see “The Wiley Funeral Home Records at Ouachita Baptist University,” *Clark County Historical Journal* (2019): 42-64.

### **Subject Terms**

African Americans – History

Arkadelphia (Ark.)

Burial Insurance

Clark County (Ark.)

Death Certificates

Funeral Homes – Arkansas

**Processed by: Dr. Lisa Speer, 2025**

## Contents Inventory

### Box/Folder

#### Box 2694

2694/001	Death certificates, A
2694/002	Death certificates, Ba-Be
2694/003	Death certificates, Bi-Bo
2694/004	Death certificates, Br
2694/005	Death certificates, Bu-By
2694/006	Death certificates, Ca
2694/007	Death certificates, Ch, Cl
2694/008	Death certificates, Co
2694/009	Death certificates, Cr, Cu
2694/010	Death certificates, Da
2694/011	Death certificates, De, Di
2694/012	Death certificates, Dr, Du
2694/013	Death certificates, E
2694/014	Death certificates, F
2694/015	Death certificates, Ga-Gi
2694/016	Death certificates, Gl-Go
2694/017	Death certificates, Gr-Gu
2694/018	Death certificates, Ha
2694/019	Death certificates, He
2694/020	Death certificates, Hi-Ho
2694/021	Death certificates, Hu
2694/022	Death certificates, I
2694/023	Death certificates, Ja-Ji
2694/024	Death certificates, Johnson
2694/025	Death certificates, Jon-Jor

#### Box 1471

1471/001	Death certificates, K
1471/002	Death certificates, L
1471/003	Death certificates, Ma-Me
1471/004	Death certificates, Mc
1471/005	Death certificates, Mi
1471/006	Death certificates, Mo-Mu
1471/007	Death certificates, N
1471/008	Death certificates, O
1471/009	Death certificates, Pa-Pe
1471/010	Death certificates, Ph-Pu
1471/011	Death certificates, Ra-Rh

1471/012	Death certificates, Ri-Ry
1471/013	Death certificates, Sa-Si
1471/014	Death certificates, Sm
1471/015	Death certificates, St- Sw
1471/016	Death certificates, Ta-Th
1471/017	Death certificates, To-Tu
1471/018	Death certificates, U-V
1471/019	Death certificates, Wa-Wh
1471/020	Death certificates, Wi
1471/021	Death certificates, Wo-Wr
1471/022	Death certificates, Y-Z
1471/023	Death certificates, illegible

**Box 3194**

3194/001	Burial Transit Permits, A
3194/002	Burial Transit Permits, B
3194/003	Burial Transit Permits, C
3194/004	Burial Transit Permits, D
3194/005	Burial Transit Permits, E-F
3194/006	Burial Transit Permits, G
3194/007	Burial Transit Permits, H
3194/008	Burial Transit Permits, J
3194/009	Burial Transit Permits, K
3194/010	Burial Transit Permits, L
3194/011	Burial Transit Permits, M
3194/012	Burial Transit Permits, P
3194/013	Burial Transit Permits, R
3194/014	Burial Transit Permits, S
3194/015	Burial Transit Permits, T
3194/016	Burial Transit Permits, U-V
3194/017	Burial Transit Permits, W
3194/018	Burial Transit Permits, Z
3194/019	Embalming reports, 1949-1959
	Knox, Oliver
	Lewis, Willie
	McClanahan, Jacob
	McClain, Joella
	Walker, Alpha
3194/020	Orders and invoices, 1958-1985
3194/021	Receipts, 1953-1968
3194/022	Receipt book, 1999-2000

3194/023 Tax documents, 1962-1963  
3194/024 Bank statement, 1955  
3194/025 Cancelled checks, 1955, 1958  
3194/026 Burial Association documents, 1952-1971  
3194/027 Miscellaneous notes re. funeral arrangements  
3194/028 Miscellaneous cards and envelopes  
3194/029 Blank cards and forms  
3194/030 Document fragments, not identified  
3194/031 Burial insurance payment cards, A  
3194/032 Burial insurance payment cards, B

**Box 3195**

3195/001 Burial Insurance payment cards, C  
3195/002 Burial Insurance payment cards, D  
3195/003 Burial Insurance payment cards, G  
3195/004 Burial Insurance payment cards, H  
3195/005 Burial Insurance payment cards, I-L  
3195/006 Burial Insurance payment cards, M  
3195/007 Burial Insurance payment cards, Mc  
3195/008 Burial Insurance payment cards, N-O  
3195/009 Burial Insurance payment cards, P  
3195/010 Burial Insurance payment cards, R

**Box 3196**

3196/001 Burial Insurance payment cards, S  
3196/002 Burial Insurance payment cards, T-V  
3196/003 Burial Insurance payment cards, W