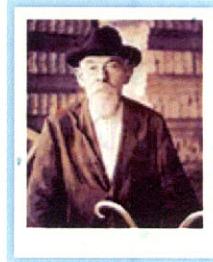


Cozean Funeral Home

History

With a history stretching back 141 years, Cozean Funeral Home is one of the oldest mortuary establishments in Missouri. Their commitment of service to the community is deeply rooted in

Missouri history, and remains plainly evident



in everything they do today. Organized in 1864 by Thomas Lang, one of Farmington's outstanding leaders during the 19th century, the firm was a sideline of Lang's wagon manufacturing business. There is no doubt the business was born of need as the Civil War

Battle of Fort Davidson brought heavy Confederate casualties to the area. It is estimated that 1,500 Confederate soldiers died in this ill-fated campaign, which ultimately resulted in the destruction of Fort Davidson by the Union forces that held the Fort. Thomas Lang transported some of the soldiers killed in what is often called the Battle of Pilot Knob, to Farmington for funeral services and proper burial.

During the firm's early post-war history, Lang provided embalming services at the home of the deceased, as was the practice of the day. Caskets were manufactured at his wagon plant,



and his horse-drawn hearse led the procession to the cemetery.

It was some twenty years later, in 1889, that Lang decided to inaugurate the region's first full-service *funeral home*, as we now use the term. After his death in 1912, the family moved the facilities from the wagon works to the new Tetley Building on Columbia Street that same year.



The Lang family continued their founder's commitment to excellence in funeral service for another four years. Selling the firm to Henry Rinke, a pioneer embalmer who operated Rinke

Undertaking Co at nearby Flat River. Rinke was highly respected in the community, where he was elected the city's first mayor the first time Flat River was incorporated. His daughter and son-in-law, Elva and Rolla Cozean in 1916, the new owners brought renewed energy and vitality to the business. This fact was demonstrated by the new name given to the firm, the Cozean Funeral Home. The ties to the past were not completely severed however, as the corporate name; the *Farmington Undertaking Company* has been retained to this day.

More significant changes came in 1930, when the firm expanded its operation by moving to a large, graceful dwelling on North Washington Street. During the next two decades, a mainstay of



the firm was Elva Cozean, who often coordinated the many aspects of the firm's operations.

Continued excellence in service meant more growth, and the need for additional space prompted the business to move in 1940 to its present location on West Columbia Street.

In 1943 ownership of the firm passed to the Cozean's son, Charles Hugo, who continued to expand the business and its facility over the next 40 years. During his years with the firm Hugo also served as president of the Southeast Missouri Funeral Directors Association and later as chairman of the State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers.