

Bergman-Glancy H. Brown & Son Funeral Home

Founded: 1874

Location: Originally in building near location of Ditzler store ca. 1950s, Warren (1874); First Street (1881); 203 North Matilda Street (1993)

In 1874 Hiram Brown established H. Brown & Son, a furniture and undertaking business in Warren. Brown's family had moved from New Jersey to Ohio when Hiram was only two years old. Hiram's father, Jason, purchased a flatboat at Pittsburgh, and the family and its possessions floated down the Ohio River to Cincinnati. The family moved to Indiana in 1831 and ten years later settled in Salamonie Township in Huntington County. Jason Brown was a community leader and helped establish the Methodist church in Warren. He was also a skilled cabinetmaker, often constructing coffins for the local population. Jason died around the time of the Civil War, but his two surviving sons, Hiram and Edmund, both became carpenters and fought with the Union army.

Hiram Brown started his furniture and undertaking business in partnership with his son Ira F. Brown. The original location of H. Brown & Son was near the location of the Ditzler store in the 1950s. H. Brown & Son later moved to First Street, but in 1881 it suffered heavy losses due to a fire that destroyed \$4,000 worth of property. Hiram Brown rebuilt and continued the firm until his death. Ira continued his father's business, and in 1903 was joined by his son-in-law, George A. Bergman, who had been working as a bookkeeper for the Larrimer & Hoffman store. After his father-in-law's death in 1913, Bergman continued to run the business, which was owned by Ira's widow and children, including Bergman's wife as well as Ira's two sons, Ned and Hiram J. Brown.

The first Hiram Brown had been the leading furniture dealer of Warren, but as embalming became an established profession H. Brown & Son gradually became a funeral home exclusively. Ira Brown attended an embalming school, as did George Bergman and Ned Brown. In 1992 the funeral home became the Bergman-Glancy H. Brown & Son Funeral Home. In the 1990s Jeffery W. Glancy served as president of the firm, while George A. Bergman was general manager.