

Holder Funeral Home

Founded: 1874

Location: 319 South Main Street, Owensville (1874– )

Furniture makers in the late nineteenth century created useful household items such as desks, chairs, and tables. They usually crafted caskets as well. John Short created the John L. Short Furniture & Undertaking Company in 1874. In 1891 the store burned to the ground and was rebuilt. Short teamed up with a Mr. Hudelson for a short time before the turn of the century. Porter F. Short gained control of the business in March 1901 upon the death of his father. Porter and his brother partnered around 1903, changing the name of the company to Short Brothers Furniture & Undertaking Company, a designation continued until just before America's entry in World War I.

Porter became sole owner of the venture in 1916, designating the business the Porter F. Short Furniture & Undertaking Company. Short joined with a Mr. Holder in 1943, again revising the name of the business to Short and Holder Furniture & Undertaking Company.

Holder took over control of the company in 1954, retaining the furniture division until 1974. After 1974 the business concentrated only on funeral services, becoming the Holder Funeral Home. In 1998 Randall K. Dike served as the company's president.