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Charles Cochran

(1867–1925)

Charles MacDonald Cochran was born in Mendham, New Jersey on 30 June 1867, the son of Charles M. Cochran, Sr. and Eliza Halstead, his wife. Charles was a twin, but his brother, Clarence, died in infancy.


He was educated at the Ralston Academy in Morris County and graduated from the Barnes School of Embalming in Philadelphia. After graduation, he and his brother Whitfield, also a funeral director, started a business together.

Charles operated an undertaking business and a grocery business in Mendham before moving to Newark, New Jersey and then, in 1900, to Hackettstown. After arriving in Hackettstown, he opened a furniture and undertaking business on Main Street. Eventually, he sold the furniture business and moved the undertaking business to the former Plate Building, also on Main Street. His son Lloyd eventually joined him in business.

On 25 June 1895, Charles Cochran married Elizabeth Garrabrant Barker, the daughter of Charles E. Barker and Laura Garrabrant. They had three children, Lloyd, Laura and Eleanor. He died on 11 October 1925. He and his wife Elizabeth are buried in the family plot in the Union Cemetery, Hackettstown.

Read more about Charles M. Cochran in J. Harold Nunn's book, *The People of Hackettstown* available in the Hackettstown Museum.

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