



# The Coffin Works

The coffin works were owned by the **Newman Brothers- Alfred and Edwin-** and began producing coffin furniture- such as breastplates and coffin handles- in the Victorian era.

## The Newman Brothers

Alfred and Edwin co-owned the company until, for unknown reasons, in 1895 Edwin stepped down and Alfred became sole owner

- The company was originally produced **cabinet furniture** but entered the coffin works business in 1884
- Following Alfred's death in 1933 his sons George and Horace took over the company.



## The Alliance

The funerary business was very **lucrative** in the Victorian era and gave rise to **corrupt organizations** such as the Alliance.

What is the Alliance?

- a group of coffin furniture **manufacturers**
- formed to **regulate trade** and **prevent competition**

They used **threats, violence** and **manipulation** to fulfill their aims. The Alliance was involved in inducing workers at the Newman company to **strike**



## What is a Coffin Works?

The company produced coffin accessories

- Breastplates
- Coffin handles
- Decorative crosses

## Dangerous Work

- Coal fired engines
- Vats of acid
- Lead
- Sharp metal
- Die presses and heavy molds

## Joyce Green

- Final director of Newman Brothers Coffin Works
- She began her career in the Newman Brothers office and was offered a raise for updating the offices which she turned down instead asking for company shares
- She slowly acquired more shares, however not enough to take control following the deaths of the last Newman Brothers
- Two gentlemen named Floyd and Kellet took over the company however they both died in a relatively short span- perhaps suspiciously- and Joyce was able to take over the company