

Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

65 4th Street, Garden City, NY 11530

Finding Aid for Bishop DeWolfe Subject File

Date range: 1942-1966

CREATOR

Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

EXTENT

Linear Feet: 3.5 linear feet

Number of Containers: 3 banker boxes & 1 small box

ABSTRACT

A collection of subject files pertaining to Bishop James P. DeWolfe (held office 1942-1966). Contains correspondences, lesson plans, reports, economic information, recreational activities, commentary on news events, and ephemera. Part of a larger collection of subject files relative to bishops who served episcopacy for the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island.

LANGUAGES

English

REFERENCE CODE

SF-4

PROCESSING ARCHIVIST

Caroline Zhu, Head Archivist

Processed in 2025

Collection Details

Historical Note

Born on April 7, 1895, in Kansas City, Missouri, James Pernette DeWolfe attended an episcopal own college called Kenyon College in Ohio and received his theological degree from Bexley Hall in 1919. He was ordained the same year by the Bishop of Kansas. He later earned his degree of Doctor of Divinity from his Alma Mater in 1932 and was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology from Columbia University in 1941. DeWolfe spent a large portion of his early ministry working in Kansas City, Missouri where he built his reputation. In 1934 he became rector of Christ Church, in Houston, Texas, and was known for bringing that parish back to life after a tragic fire. In 1940 he became Dean of St. John the Divine in New York City, one of the world's largest Cathedrals. Not long after he was elected the fourth Bishop of Long Island on February 10th, 1942, and he was consecrated a Bishop on May 1st, 1942. During his Episcopate as Bishop, he ordained 218 men as deacons and 216 priests. Some of his major achievements while Bishop are: the establishment of Camp DeWolfe, the reorganization of St. John's Hospital in Brooklyn, the organization of a second Diocesan Hospital known as St. John's Hospital in Smithtown, many renovations made to the Cathedral of Incarnation in Garden City, along with the construction of new buildings for the Cathedral Schools of St. Paul's and St. Mary's. He also helped establish George Mercer School of Theology in 1955, along with the construction of a new building in 1958 for the school located on the grounds of the Cathedral in Garden City. Bishop DeWolfe died in office on February 6th, 1966, after being very sick for some time.

Scope & Content

Bishop DeWolfe is the primary creator of the materials included in this collection. These materials come in the form of letters, reports, newsletters, newspaper clippings, press releases, billings, recreational documents, and ephemera. Many of the materials are relative to the Diocese of Long Island, thus the geographical provenance of many materials has connections to Long Island, Queens and/or Brooklyn. Examples of this may include church activities, personal interests and communications from the bishop, community involvement, and commentary on current events. However, some materials have been outsourced, particularly letters from various dioceses or institutions out-of-state or internationally.

Arrangement Description

This collection was processed at the collection-level; materials and individual items are categorized by folder. Each folder begins with letters "SF" for Subject Files. The initial number, 1-8, signaling which bishop the evidence pertains to. The numbers are attached to individual bishops in order of when they held their episcopacy. For example, 1 would be referring to Rt. Rev. Littlejohn and 8 would refer to Bishop Provenzano. The final number - separated by a period from the initial number - in two digits, referring to the collection or file itself. For example, a file titled '#SF-4.04' would be specific subject file 'number 4' referring to items related to Bishop James DeWolfe. The folders in the banker boxes are not categorized in any specific order; in terms of organization, these folders were left in the same order as they were when they were first received.

Related Materials

These subject files are part of a larger group of files pertaining to the bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, which can be accessed by contacting its archivist. Other archives may hold information on Bishop DeWolfe and his episcopacy, including (but not limited to) the Archives of the Episcopal Church at 107 Denson Drive, Austin, TX 78752.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection has been property of the Episcopal Diocese since its genesis.

Subject Headings

This record series is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms:

PERSONS:

DeWolfe, Elizabeth

DeWolfe, James P.

██████████

ORGANIZATIONS:

Bishop's Committee on Evangelism

Church Charities

Department of Christian Social Relations

Department of Missions

Diocesan Convention

Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

George Mercer School of Theology

Lenten Mission

St. John's Hospital

St. Mary's Cathedral school

St. Mary's Hospital for Children

St. Paul's Cathedral School

Tuller School

PLACES:

Camp DeWolfe, Wading River, N.Y. (USA)

England, (UK)

George Mercer School of Theology, Garden City, N.Y. (USA)

Kings County, N.Y. (USA)

Nassau County, N.Y. (USA)

Queens County, N.Y. (USA)

Suffolk County, N.Y. (USA)

SUBJECTS:

Art and religion

Diocesan history

Divorce—Episcopal Church

Economic councils—Episcopal Church

Episcopal Church—United States Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.

Episcopal Church—Education—Episcopal chanceries

Episcopal Church—Episcopalian women

Episcopal Church—Episcopalian theological seminaries

Faith

Libraries—Special collections—Religion

Marriage—Episcopal Church

Racism in religion

Religious articles

Religious education of people with disabilities—Episcopal Church

Religious life

Religious thought

Religious tolerance—Episcopal Church

Sexism in religion

Socialism in religion

Spiritual thought

Word (Theology)

Worship

Using the Collection

ACCESS STATEMENT

Collection access is available upon request.

RIGHTS STATEMENT

Copyright has not been assigned to the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island; see the archivist for more information. Copyright restrictions apply.

PREFERRED CITATION

[ITEM DESCRIPTION], Bishop DeWolfe Subject Files 1942-1966,
Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, Garden City, New York

Collection Inventory

FILE	ID	BOX
Consecration (1942)	#SF-4.01	Box 1
Election to the Episcopate	#SF-4.02	Box 1
Consent to Elect	#SF-4.03	Box 1
Testimonials of Election	#SF-4.04	Box 1
England Trip	#SF-4.05	Box 1
The Bishop's Letter to His Laymen (1945-1951)	#SF-4.06	Box 1
Lenten Mission (1956)	#SF-4.07	Box 1
6 th Annual Autumn Ball (1951)	#SF-4.08	Box 1
"Come & See" Report of the Bishop's Committee on Evangelism (1948)	#SF-4.09	Box 1
St. Mary's Hospital for Children Dedication of New Building (1951)	#SF-4.10	Box 1
Bishop's Address to Convention (1942, 1948, & 1961)	#SF-4.11	Box 1
Historical Publications	#SF-4.12	Box 1
"The Historical Heritage of the Diocese of Long Island"	#SF-4.13	Box 1
Pre Release	#SF-4.14	Box 1
Young Adults	#SF-4.15	Box 1
The Function of the Cathedral (1952)	#SF-4.16	Box 1
Memorial Objects	#SF-4.17	Box 1
Ritual Services Protest (1952)	#SF-4.18	Box 1
Election of Suffragan (1961)	#SF-4.19	Box 1
George Mercer Memorial Building (Printed Matter and Specifications)	#SF-4.20	Box 1
George Mercer, Jr. Memorial Building	#SF-4.21	Box 1
Diocesan House	#SF-4.22	Box 1
Dean	#SF-4.23	Box 1
Dean Installation	#SF-4.24	Box 1
Death of DeWolfe	#SF-4.25	Box 1
Biographical- B.P. DeWolfe	#SF-4.26	Box 1
Biographical Sketch	#SF-4.27	Box 1
Publications by DeWolfe	#SF-4.28	Box 1
Bishop's Charge	#SF-4.29	Box 1
Tuller School-Maycraft	#SF-4.30	Box 1
DeWolfe Memorial	#SF-4.31	Box 1
Intinction	#SF-4.32	Box 1
Statement re. Call for Resignation (1962)	#SF-4.33	Box 1
Miscellaneous	#SF-4.34	Box 1
"Tidings" Publication (1942 & 1954)	#SF-4.35	Box 1

Vinyl- "The Voice of the Church", Our Holy Mother the Church By: DeWolfe	#SF-6.75	Box 3
Vinyl- "The Voice of the Church", (Instructions on the) Seven Sacraments of the Church, By: DeWolfe	#SF-6.76	Box 3
Book: Diary/Calendar (1944)	#SF-6.77	Box 4
Book: Diary/Calendar (1948)	#SF-6.78	Box 4
Book: Diary/Calendar (1949)	#SF-6.79	Box 4
Book: Diary/Calendar (1951)	#SF-6.80	Box 4
Book: Diary/Calendar (1952)	#SF-6.81	Box 4
Book: Diary/Calendar (1956)	#SF-6.82	Box 4
Book: Diary/Calendar (1957)	#SF-6.83	Box 4
Book: Diary/Calendar (1958)	#SF-6.84	Box 4
Book: Diary/Calendar (1959)	#SF-6.85	Box 4
Book: Diary/Calendar (1960)	#SF-6.86	Box 4
Book: Diary/Calendar (1961)	#SF-6.87	Box 4
Book: Diary/Calendar (1962)	#SF-6.88	Box 4
Book: Diary/Calendar (1963)	#SF-6.89	Box 4
Book: Diary/Calendar (1964)	#SF-6.90	Box 4
Testimonial Consent to Elect as Bishop (1942)	#SF-6.91	Box 5