

Norman L. Foote Papers, 1937-1974

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Foote, Norman L. (Norman Landon), 1915-1974
Title	Norman L. Foote Papers
Dates	1937-1974 (inclusive) 1937 1974
Quantity	2.0 linear feet, (5 boxes)
Collection Number	MSS 055
Summary	Sermons (1940-1974), articles (1962- 1969), appointment books (1958-1973), letters, biographical material, photos, and other papers relating chiefly to Foote's career in the Episcopal Church, including Montana and Idaho.
Repository	Boise State University Library, Special Collections and Archives Special Collections and Archives 1910 University Drive Boise ID 83725 Telephone: 208-426-3958 archives@boisestate.edu
Access Restrictions	Collection is available for research.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided, in part, by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Historical Note

Norman Landon Foote was born on November 30, 1915, at Saratoga Springs, New York. The son of Leroy Herman Foote, a noted dental surgeon in Saratoga Springs, and Amy Verina (Close) Foote. Foote attended the Saratoga Public Schools and graduated from Saratoga High School in 1933. After graduating from high school Foote attended Hamilton College, located at Hamilton, New York, for one year (1933-1934). In the autumn of 1934 he transferred to Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, where he pursued studies in history. In 1937 he graduated from Princeton with an A.B. in history. Following graduation from Princeton, Foote studied for the ministry at the General Theological Seminary, New York City, New York, and received a Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree (S.T.B.) in 1940. Subsequently, Foote was awarded two honorary degrees; a Doctor of Sacred Theology (S.T.D.) from General Theological Seminary in 1957, and a Doctor of Divinity (D.D) from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, California, in the same year.

On June 1, 1940, Foote married Carolyn Hope Swayne, a native of Newton, Pennsylvania, at a ceremony conducted at Princeton, New Jersey. From this union four children were born: Margaret Elizabeth, Gerald H., Francis, and Ralph Norman.

Ordained as a deacon of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Albany, New York, in May 1940, Foote was assigned to the Episcopal Missionary district in Montana. In December 1940, he was ordained as a priest at Bozeman, Montana. From 1940 to 1943, Reverend Foote served as a missionary priest at Virginia City, Montana. In 1943 he was named Archdeacon for Episcopal Church in Montana and

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remained in that post until 1950. During his ministry in the rural areas of Montana, Foote became interested in the uniqueness of the rural ministry. In 1950 he accepted a call to serve as director of Roanridge, a post graduate training center for Episcopal seminarians called to the rural ministry. Located at Parkville, Missouri, Roanridge also known as the National Town and Country Church Institute was to remain as Foote's home until 1957. In 1956, Reverend Foote was named by the Episcopal House of Bishops as the sixth, and last, Bishop of the Missionary District of Idaho. On February 14, 1957, Norman Foote was consecrated as a Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in a solemn ceremony conducted at Saint Michael's Cathedral, in Boise, Idaho. In 1967 the Missionary District of Idaho was elevated to the status of a diocese and Bishop Foote became the first Bishop of the Diocese of Idaho.

During Bishop Foote's tenure the Diocese of Idaho gained strength in church membership and became well known as the "testing ground" of innovations for the Episcopal Church in the United States. Some of the programs established during Bishop Foote's years as head of the Episcopal Church in Idaho were: Ecumenicalism, Pastoral Care, Metropolitan Planning, and The Idaho Project - an experimental program for self supporting ministries. On February 14, 1972, after 15 years service as Bishop of Idaho, Bishop Foote retired due to ill health and moved to McCall, Idaho. Active even in retirement, Bishop Foote continued to serve the Episcopal Church in Idaho in various capacities. On May 12, 1974, Bishop Norman Landon Foote died at the age of 59, from complications of emphysema, in a hospital at Cascade, Idaho.

Content Description

The papers of Bishop Norman L. Foote consist of correspondence, sermons, class notes, term papers, church records, newspaper clippings, photographs, memorabilia, and date books. Includes course notes and writings from his studies at General Theological Seminary, New York, N. Y. and addresses and organizational material from his work (1950-1957) as director of the Episcopal Church's National Town and Country Church Institute and Roanridge Rural Training Center, Parkville, Mo. These items document the life of Norman L. Foote, his education, and his career in the Episcopal ministry, much of which took place in Montana and Idaho.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[item description], Norman L. Foote Papers, Box [number] Folder [number], Boise State University Special Collections and Archives.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in five series: 1. Biographical material and family papers; 2. Sermons and writings; 3. Episcopal Church papers; 4. Personal educational materials; and 5. Appointment/date books.

Acquisition Information

Norman L. Foote Papers, 1937-1974
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv99337>

Gift of Bishop Foote's daughter, Judith Wright, Boise, Idaho, 1984.

Related Materials

See also: [Carolyn Foote Papers](#) and [Episcopal Diocese of Idaho Records](#).

Detailed Description of the Collection

1: Biographical materials and personal papers

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
1	1	Certificates and Honors	1943-1966
1	2	Biographical materials	
1	3	Information sheets: <i>The National Cyclopedia of American Biography</i>	
1	4	Photographs	
1	5	Published articles	
1	6	Miscellaneous	
1	7	Memorials	

2: Sermons and writings

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
1	8	Communion services	1941-1953
1	9	Lenten services	1941-1963
1	10	Various subjects	1940-1960
1	11	Various subjects	1961-1973

Container(s)		Description	Dates
1	12	Montana ministry	undated
1	13	Town and Country Institute (Roanridge, Parkville, Missouri)	undated
1	14	Missionary District of Idaho	undated
1	15	Various subjects	undated
2	1	Episcopal Church sermons (reprints)	1970-1972
2	2	Writings: general	1957-1972

3: Episcopal Church papers

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
2	3	Diocese of Montana	1933-1950
2	4	Rural Ministry - General Synod Province of Ontario, Canada	1951
2	5	National Town and Country Institute	1949-1956
2	6	Report: Study of Episcopal Congregation in the United States	1954
2	7	Report: Revision to the Book of Common Prayer Diocese of Western Missouri	1955
2	8	Study: Diocese of Northern Michigan	1956
2	9	Missionary District of Idaho: Consecration of Bishop Norman L. Foote	1957
2	10	Consecrations and Ordinations: California, Idaho, Kansas and Oregon	1957-1973
2	11	Idaho: Diocesan and Parish histories	1956-1969

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2 12	Ministry: pastoral care	1949-1960
3 1	Conference on Metropolitan Planning	1964
3 2	The Idaho Project: Experimental Program for Self Supporting Ministries	1964-1971
3 3	Diocese of Idaho: Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church	1971
3 4	Episcopal Diocese of Idaho: Miscellaneous correspondence, Clerical directory, and report of meeting of House of Bishops	1957-1972
3 5	Church service programs	undated
3 6	<i>The Messenger</i> -- diocesan newsletter	1969-1974

4: Personal educational materials

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
4	Seminary papers	1937-1938
4	Book - Class Notes: Old Testament	1937-1938
4	Book - Class Notes: New Testament	1937-1938
4	Book - Term Paper: <i>Richard Bancroft and Puritanism</i>	undated
4	Book - Senior Thesis: <i>Richard Baxter's Theology in Relation to the thought of the 17th century</i>	1937

5: Appointment/date books

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5		1958-1973 (missing 1969-1970)

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Episcopal Church. National Town-Country Church Institute

Episcopal Church--Idaho

Episcopal church--Missouri

Episcopal church--Montana

General Theological Seminary (New York, N.Y.)

Roanridge Rural Center (Parkville, Mo.)

Rural clergy--Training of

Theology--Study and teaching--Episcopal

Finding aid prepared by Collection processed by Don Haacke and Thomas M. Ansbach
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