Wolcott, John; Papers apap294

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
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Summary Information

Repository: M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Title: John Wolcott Papers
ID: apap294
Date [inclusive]: 1954-1992
Physical Description: 0.7 cubic ft. processed to date
Physical Location: The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material: English.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, John Wolcott Papers, 1954-1992. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Wolcott Papers).

Biographical Sketch

John Wolcott was chairman of the Pinxter Committee of Albany, also called the People's Pinxter Festival Committee, which coordinated the annual Pinxter Festival. The festival is known as Pinxter, Pinxter Sunday or Pinkster, Dutch for Pentecost, and as Whitsuntide, the English term for Pentecost.

During the colonial period, Pinxter celebrations were held throughout eastern New York in communities of Dutch origins. Africans played a major role in organizing Pinxter, adding African music and dance to the festivities. In 1811 the Common Council of the City of Albany passed a Whitsuntide Holiday law which banned the essential elements of the festival and, as a result, the festival died out.

In 1971, Pinxter was revived in Albany and celebrated on Sundays during Tulip Fest in Washington Park with craft vendors and musicians. It was often advertised as an illegal festival. Wolcott wrote
several letters asking the 1811 law be repealed. The Whitsuntide Holiday Law was repealed in 2011, two hundred years after it was enacted.

Scope and Contents

The John Wolcott Papers contain materials related to the planning and advertising of Pinxter Festivals in Albany, New York. The collection includes festival posters, fliers, photographs, news clippings, handwritten notes, correspondence and programs of similar festivals, including an early souvenir Tulip Fest envelope. Craft vendors were a major part of the festivities and the contact information for many of them is included. Information about historic Pinxter festivals, Albany's relevant laws and policies, and a small collection of colonial Dutch recipes were used in the planning process.

Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is organized chronologically. There are no series.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Revision Description

Encoded in EAD by Kathleen Broeder 2012

Processing Information

Processed in 2012 by Kathleen Broeder.
Access

Access to this record group is unrestricted.

Copyright

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

Acquisition Information

John Wolcott donated his materials in 2007 to the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives. In 2013 Wolcott donated an additional 26 cubic feet of materials which will be processed at a later date.

Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tulip Fest, 1954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event/Nomination</td>
<td>Box (John Wolcott Papers)</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinxter Fest, 1972</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>KITE</em> News Clippings, 1972-1980</td>
<td>Oversized 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinxter Fest, 1973</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinxter Fest, 1976</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinxter Fest Posters, 1976-1982 Undated</td>
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<td>Niskayuna Folk Festival, 1977</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
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<td>Northeast Craft Fair, 1977</td>
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<td>Pinxter Fest, 1977</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinxter Fest, 1979</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>The Entertainer</em> News Clippings, 1979-1980</td>
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<td>Pinxter Fest, 1980</td>
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<td>Pinxter Fest, 1981</td>
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<td>Pinxter Fest, 1984</td>
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<td>Pinxter Fest, 1985</td>
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<td>Pinxter Fest, 1992</td>
<td>Box 1 (John Wolcott Papers )</td>
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<td>Albany City Special Event Policy Statement, Undated</td>
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<td>Craft Vendor Business Cards and Flyers, Undated</td>
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<td>Craft Vendor Notebook, Undated</td>
<td>Box 1 (John Wolcott Papers )</td>
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<td>Loose Leaf Notes, Undated</td>
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<td>Planning Notebook, Undated</td>
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<td>Recipes, Undated</td>
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