



## **Freese, Walter C., 1903-1968. Collection, 1920-1996.**

Special Collections Department/Long Island Studies Institute

Contact Information:  
Special Collections Department  
Axinn Library, Room 032  
123 Hofstra University  
Hempstead, NY 11549  
Phone: (516) 463-6411, or 463-6404  
Fax: (516) 463-6442  
E-mail: LISI@hofstra.edu  
<http://www.hofstra.edu/Libraries/SpecialCollections>

Compiled by:	[H. Friedman]
Date Completed:	[July 27, 2011 ]

Freese, Walter C., 1903-1968. Collection, 1920-1996.  
4.7 cubic ft.

Walter C. Freese was born on January 4, 1903, in Silver Creek, NY, a small farming community just outside of Buffalo. He knew from an early age that he wanted to be a doctor, and he went on to graduate from the University of Buffalo School of Medicine in 1926. Soon after, he moved to Baldwin, NY, and began both an internship and a residency program at Nassau Hospital in Mineola (now Winthrop University Hospital). During the 1920s and 30s he had a home office in Baldwin, and his reputation grew as he delivered newborns, made house-calls, and worked in the hospital. In the early 1940s he became a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS).

In July 1944, Freese married the one-time child beauty contestant Agnes Jensen in St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baldwin, NY. The following year, Agnes gave birth to a daughter, Melanie Louise. Family was very important to Walter and because of this he kept many photo albums chronicling the life of his daughter and the evolution of his family.

In 1949, Freese was named the head of the division of general surgery at Nassau Hospital. He was also attending surgeon at Meadowbrook Hospital (now Nassau County Medical Center) and Mercy Hospital. His reputation continued to grow as he won awards and honors for his service to the medical community. He became president of the Nassau County Medical Society, started a cancer fund drive, and created a 24-hour emergency plan for those in need of medical assistance. During the 1960s, he became one of nine police surgeons in Nassau County. He held this position until his death, and he was always very proud of the police badge that he carried.

Outside of his career in medicine, Freese was also a successful businessman. He was the vice chairman of the First National Bank of Freeport, NY, and also served as the president of the bank's Finance Committee. Freese enjoyed golf and participated in many competitions at the Wheatley Hills Golf Club, in East Williston, NY, where he was a member.

Freese died in 1968 in Baldwin, NY, and was given a police escort to his final resting place, the Greenfield Cemetery.

The collection, which spans the years 1920-1996, consists of certificates and diplomas, family photographs and photo albums, newspaper clippings, and scrapbooks. Also included in the collection is Freese's medical bag, medical and surgical supplies, and four medical books.

## **SUBJECTS**

### Names:

Freese, Walter C., 1903-1968.

Meadowbrook Hospital

Nassau County Medical Society.

Nassau Hospital.

### Subjects:

Police--New York (State)--Nassau County--History.

### Places:

Baldwin, (N.Y.)--History.

Nassau County (N.Y.)--History.

### Form and Genre Terms:

Books.

Certificates.

Newspaper clippings.

Photographs.

Photograph albums.

### Occupational Terms:

Physicians.

Surgeons.

Freese, Walter C., 1903-1968. Collection, 1920-1996.  
4.7 cubic ft.

Box listing

**Box 1**

Scrapbook, "Biographical Data. Dr. Walter C. Freese," c.1907-1961. Includes correspondence, news clippings, photographs, and programs,

**Box 2**

Scrapbook, "The Freese Family," c.1920s-1960s. Composed mainly of family photographs, including many of Melanie Freese during her childhood years. Also includes news clippings, printed materials and ephemera,

**Box 3**

Photo album, 1957-1967. Includes photographs from Silver Creek, Melanie's Confirmation in 1959, her high school graduation in 1963, and her graduation from Hofstra University in 1967.

**Box 4**

Photo album, "Southold," 1959-1996. Family photographs taken at Southold, N.Y.

**Box 5**

Photographs (42 – 8" x 10") from wedding of Walter C. and Agnes Freese, 1944

**Box 6**

Certificates and diplomas

- Child Photography Contest, 1915 (Agnes)
- High School Diploma, College Entrance Diploma, 1920
- Kappa Delta Psi Picture, 1921
- University of Buffalo Report Card, 1921
- Physicians Certificate, 1926
- Certificate ending internship, 1927
- Registered Physician Certificate, 1929
- Certificate as Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, 1942
- Presidential Certificate of Appreciation, 1945-50?
- Birth Certificate, 1949 (Melanie Freese)
- Certificate of Appreciation, 1957

## **Box 6**

### Certificates and diplomas

- Acceptance of Resignation as Chief of General Surgery, 1958
- Good Work Certificate, Meadowbrook Hospital, 1961
- Certificate as Fellow of the Nassau Academy of Medicine, 1964
- Presidential Certificate of Appreciation, 1964
- Diplomat of the American Board of Abdominal Surgery, 1967
- Membership to the Nassau Surgical Society

## **Box 7**

### Medical Books

- Collens System of Diet Writing*
- Elementary Human Anatomy*
- Surgical Anatomy*
- System of Diet Writing*

## **Box 8**

### Medical Instruments

- Clamps (6)
- Shears (4)
- Scissors (2)
- Scalpel (1)

## **Box 9**

Medical Instruments, clamps (7)

## **Box 10**

### Medical Instruments

- Baumanometer desk model sphygmomanometers (2)
- Hemoglobin scale (1)

## **Box 11**

Stethoscopes (2)

## **Box 12**

Medical Bag