



**Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the West about Native Americans**  
*[See User Guide for help on interpreting entries](#)*

*Diocese of Cheyenne*  
WYOMING, CHEYENNE

*new 2006*

**Diocese of Cheyenne Archives**

**W-525**

2121 Capitol Avenue  
P.O. Box 1468  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003  
Phone 307-638-1530  
<http://www.dioceseofcheyenne.org>

Hours: By appointment only, Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00  
Access: Some restrictions apply  
Copying facilities: Yes

History: Wyoming was included in the Vicariate Apostolate of the Indian Territory East of the Rocky Mountains, 1851-1857, the Vicariate Apostolate of Nebraska, 1857-1885, and the Diocese of Omaha, 1885-1887. In 1887, the Diocese of Cheyenne was erected for the entire state. In 1900 the Cheyenne Diocese reported fewer than 1,000 baptized Native American Catholics and in 1999 it reported 5,000. The Cheyenne Diocese and its predecessors administered the following Indian missions, parishes, and schools on the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming:

1884-present (Cheyenne, 1887-present)	St. Stephen's Mission (Arapaho and Shoshoni), St. Stephens
1884-1975 (transferred to a community corporation) (Cheyenne, 1887-1975)	St. Stephen's School (Arapaho and Shoshoni), St. Stephens
1906-present	St. Margaret Mary Church (Arapaho and Shoshoni), Riverton
1939-present	Blessed Sacrament Mission (Arapaho and Shoshoni), Fort Washakie
1963-present	St. Joseph Mission (Arapaho and Shoshoni), Ethete

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1886-present

Volume: Less than 1 cubic foot

Description: The Diocese of Cheyenne Archives is not organized according to a classification scheme. Consequently, description is general and by record type.

#### A. Bishops' Papers

Inclusive dates: Between 1887-present

Volume: Few items believed

Description: Believed to include correspondence with pastors, superiors of St. Stephen's Mission, and directors of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions and the Commissions for Black and Indian Missions.

1. Bishop Maurice Francis Burke (1845-1923), 1887-1893
2. Bishop Thomas Mathias Lenihan (1843-1901), 1896-1901
3. Bishop James John Keane (1857-1929), 1902-1911
4. Bishop Patrick Aloysius Alphonsus McGovern (1872-1951), 1912-1951
5. Bishop Hubert Michael Newell (1904-1987), Coadjutor Bishop, 1947-1951; Bishop, 1951-1978
6. Bishop Joseph Hubert Hart (1931- ), Auxiliary Bishop, 1976-1978; Bishop, 1978-2001
7. Bishop David Laurin Ricken (1952), Coadjutor Bishop, 1999-2001; Bishop, 2001-present

#### B. Sacramental Records

Inclusive dates: 1886-1994

Volume: Few reels of microfilm

Description: Includes the following Indian parish and mission with attended Indian missions:

1. Riverton, St. Margaret Church, 1924?-present
2. St. Stephens, St. Stephen's Mission, 1886-present; includes baptisms, 1886-1994, confirmations, 1934-1957, and marriages, 1957-1960 for St. Stephen's Mission plus St. Joseph/ St. James Mission, Ethete/ Arapaho, and Blessed Sacrament Mission, Fort Washakie

#### C. Parish Files

Inclusive dates: ca. 1900-present

Volume: Unknown; few folders believed

Description: Believed to include correspondence, clippings, notes, histories, annual reports, and photographs for the following Indian mission and parishes; attended Indian missions also included.

1. Riverton, St. Margaret Mary Church, 1924?-present; 1-2 folders believed
2. St. Stephens, St. Stephen's Mission, ca. 1900-present; 1-5 folders believed; includes plus St. Joseph/ St. James Mission, Ethete/ Arapaho, and Blessed Sacrament Mission, Fort Washakie

#### D. Religious Community Files

Inclusive dates: 1887?-present

Volume: Unknown; few folders believed

Description: Believed to include correspondence with superiors of St. Stephen's Mission and mother superiors of the sisters' communities at St. Stephen's:

1. Jesuits, 1887?-1890?; 1-2 folders believed
2. Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, 1880?-1890?; 1-2 folders believed
3. Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, 1892?-1938?; 1-2 folders believed

E. Diocesan Newspaper

Inclusive dates: 1900s?-present

Volume: Few articles

Description: The *Wyoming Catholic Register*,

<http://www.dioceseofcheyenne.org/wyocathreg/index.html>, includes occasional articles on American Indians and Catholic evangelization within the diocese and is archived online, 2003-present.