



Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the West about Native Americans
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Diocese of Cheyenne
WYOMING, ST STEPHENS

new 2006

St. Stephen's Mission

W-532

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Access: Some restrictions apply

History:

- 1851 Reverend Pierre Jean de Smet, S.J. visited the Arapaho Indians at the Fort Laramie Treaty Council and promised to return
- 1884-present Reverend John B. Jutz, S.J. visited the Arapaho Indians in fulfillment of De Smet's promise; with approval from Chief Black Coal (Arapaho, d. 1893) and financial support from Saint Katharine Drexel (1858-1955), Reverend Jutz, S.J. and the Jesuits (formerly Buffalo, Turin, California, and Missouri; now Wisconsin Province, Milwaukee, Wisconsin) established St. Stephen's Mission among the Arapaho Indians first on the west side of the Wind River Reservation and then the eastside in 1887
- 1888-1890 Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (Leavenworth, Kansas) staffed the school, which was established in 1888 for grades 1-8
- 1891-1892 Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia (Concordia, Kansas) staffed the school
- 1892-1981 Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) staffed the school
- 1957-1968 (closed) St. Stephen's added and then gradually discontinued a high school
- 1974-present Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Monroe, Michigan) established a community and have assisted in staffing the school
- 1974-present Sister Monica Suhayda, C.S.J. (St. Joseph Convent, Baden, Pennsylvania) has served in pastoral ministry
- 1975-present The St. Stephen's Indian School Educational Association (Arapaho and Shoshoni) was established and began administering the school (now renamed St. Stephen's Indian School)

1975-1979, 1989-present Sister Florence Petsch, O.S.F. (Arapaho; Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia), has served in pastoral ministry

1989-present Other Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia have continued to serve in pastoral ministry at St. Stephen's

Jesuits from St. Stephen's have attended the following Indian missions and stations on the Wind River Reservation:

1884-1885 Fort Washakie station (Shoshoni)
 1900-1929 Shoshone School (also diocesan priests, 1909-1929)
 1932-present St. Joseph/ St. James Mission (Arapaho and Shoshoni), Ethete/ Arapaho
 1939-present Blessed Sacrament Chapel (Shoshoni), Fort Washakie
 1906-1937 (to Cheyenne Diocese) St. Margaret Church, Riverton

History of Blessed Sacrament Mission

1884-1885 Jesuits (formerly Buffalo, Turin, California, and Missouri; now Wisconsin Province, Milwaukee, Wisconsin) attended Fort Washakie station (Shoshoni) from St. Stephen's Mission

1939-present Jesuits established and have attended Blessed Sacrament Mission (Shoshoni) from St. Stephen's Mission

1997-present Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia have served Blessed Sacrament with religious education and parish ministry

History of St. Joseph Mission

1932-present Jesuits (formerly Missouri; now Wisconsin Province, Milwaukee, Wisconsin) established and have attended St. Joseph/ St. James Mission (Arapaho and Shoshoni), Ethete/ Arapaho, from St. Stephen's Mission

1974-1988 Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Monroe, Michigan) served St. Joseph's with religious education and parish ministry

1988-present Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia have served St. Joseph's with religious education and parish ministry

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1887-present

Volume: Approximately 2 cubic feet (16 volumes)

Description: Sacramental Records (baptism, marriage, first communion, confirmation, and deaths) for St. Stephen's Mission and its attended Indian missions and stations.

Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, serves as the archives for St.
Stephen's Mission:
<http://www.marquette.edu/library/collections/archives/Mss/SSM/SSMmain.html>.