

Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

65 4th Street, Garden City, NY 11530

Finding Aid for Bishop Stires Subject File

Date range: 1925-1969

CREATOR

Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

EXTENT

Linear Feet: .5 linear foot

Number of Containers: 1 small box

ABSTRACT

A collection of subject files pertaining to Bishop Ernest M. Stires (held office 1925-1942). Contains correspondences, sermons, recreational activities, commentary on news events, photographs, consecration records, and ephemera. Part of a larger collection of subject files relative to bishops who served episcopacy for the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island.

LANGUAGES

English

REFERENCE CODE

SF-3

PROCESSING ARCHIVIST

Caroline Zhu, Head Archivist

Processed in 2025

Collection Details

Historical Note

Born on May 20th, 1866, in Norfolk, Virginia, Ernest Milmore Stires was the son of Van Rensselaer West Stires and Lettie M. Milmore. Stires attended the University of Virginia where he graduated in 1888 with a Bachelor of Letters. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1891 and to the priest hood in 1892. Stires married his wife Sarah McKinne Hardwick in 1894, and they continued to have four children. From 1891-1901 Stires served and led in 4 different parish located in various places such as Virginia, Georgia, and Illinois. Stires came to New York in 1901 to lead as Rector of St. Thomas in New York City and did so until 1925. During his time in New York, he was awarded many different doctorate degrees: Doctor of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary in 1901, Doctor of Humane Letters from Kenyon College in 1903, Doctor of Laws from New York University, Doctor of Civil Law from University of King's College, and Doctor of Sacred Theology from Columbia University all in 1926. In May of 1925 Stires was elected Bishop Coadjutor of Long Island, but when the time came for his Consecration the incumbent bishop, Frederick Burgess had already died in office. This led to Stires being consecrated as the third Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island on November 24th, 1925. He was consecrated by the Presiding Bishop Ethelbert Talbot at St. Thomas in New York City. He stayed in Office until he retired in 1942. He died at the age of 84 in Palm Beach, Florida on February 12th, 1951. He was laid to rest in Kensico Cemetery located in Valhalla, Westchester County, NY.

Scope & Content

Bishop Stires is the primary creator of the materials included in this collection. These materials come in the form of letters, newsletters, newspaper clippings, press releases, consecration records, recreational documents, photographs, and ephemera. Many of the materials are relative to the Diocese of Long Island, thus the geographical provenance of many materials has connections to Long Island, Queens and/or Brooklyn. Examples of this may include church activities, personal interests and communications from the bishop, community involvement, and commentary on current events. However, some materials have been outsourced, particularly letters from various dioceses or institutions out-of-state or internationally.

Arrangement Description

This collection was processed at the collection-level; materials and individual items are categorized by folder. Each folder begins with letters "SF" for Subject Files. The initial number, 1-8, signaling which bishop the evidence pertains to. The numbers are attached to individual bishops in order of when they held their episcopacy. For example, 1 would be referring to Rt. Rev. Littlejohn and 8 would refer to Bishop Provenzano. The final number - separated by a period from the initial number - in two digits, referring to the collection or file itself. For example, a file titled '#SF-3.04' would be specific subject file 'number 4' referring to items related to Bishop Ernest Stires. The folders in the banker boxes are not categorized in any specific order; in terms of organization, these folders were left in the same order as they were when they were first received.

Related Materials

These subject files are part of a larger group of files pertaining to the bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, which can be accessed by contacting its archivist. Other archives may hold information on Bishop Stires and his episcopacy, including (but not limited to) the Archives of the Episcopal Church at 107 Denson Drive, Austin, TX 78752.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection has been property of the Episcopal Diocese since its genesis.

Subject Headings

This record series is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms:

PERSONS:

Stires, Ernest M.

ORGANIZATIONS:

Diocesan Convention

Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

Sons of the Revolution in NY

PLACES:

Kings County, N.Y. (USA)

Nassau County, N.Y. (USA)

Queens County, N.Y. (USA)

Suffolk County, N.Y. (USA)

SUBJECTS:

Art and religion

Diocesan history

Economic councils—Episcopal Church

Episcopal Church—United States Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.

Episcopal Church—Education—Episcopal chanceries

Episcopal Church--Episcopalian theological seminaries

Faith

Libraries—Special collections—Religion

Religious articles

Religious life

Religious thought

Religious tolerance—Episcopal Church

Worship

Using the Collection

ACCESS STATEMENT

Collection access is available upon request.

RIGHTS STATEMENT

Copyright has not been assigned to the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island; see the archivist for more information. Copyright restrictions apply.

PREFERRED CITATION

[ITEM DESCRIPTION], Bishop Stires Subject Files 1925-1942,
Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, Garden City, New York

Collection Inventory

FILE	ID	BOX
History	#SF-3.01	Box 1
Misc. Clippings	#SF-3.02	Box 1
Clippings (1925-1955)	#SF-3.03	Box 1
Publications	#SF-3.04	Box 1
Sermon at the 45 th Annual Service of the Sons of the Revolution in NY (1935)	#SF-3.05	Box 1
Bishop's Address to Diocesan Convention (1929)	#SF-3.06	Box 1
The Helping Hand	#SF-3.07	Box 1
The Helping Hand Vol. LVIII no. 12	#SF-3.08	Box 1
The Consecration of Bp. Stires (1925)	#SF-3.09	Box 1
Correspondence & Manuscripts (1934-1969)	#SF-3.10	Box 1
10 th Anniversary Materials (1935)	#SF-3.11	Box 1
Election Materials	#SF-3.12	Box 1
Photographs	#SF-3.13	Box 1
Book: Diary/Calendar (1928)	#SF-3.14	Box 2

Book: Diary/Calendar (1929)	#SF-3.15	Box 2
Book: Diary/Calendar (1930)	#SF-3.16	Box 2
Book: Diary/Calendar (1931)	#SF-3.17	Box 2
Book: Diary/Calendar (1932)	#SF-3.18	Box 2
Book: Diary/Calendar (1933)	#SF-3.19	Box 2
Book: Diary/Calendar (1934)	#SF-3.20	Box 2
Book: Diary/Calendar (1935)	#SF-3.21	Box 2
Book: Diary/Calendar (1936)	#SF-3.22	Box 2
Book: Diary/Calendar (1937)	#SF-3.23	Box 2