Title: Stearns, Gustav Papers

Call Number: Mss-1397

**Inclusive Dates:** 1906 – 1967

Bulk: 1.4 cu. ft.

Location: GV, Sh. 021 OS SM "S" (4 items) OS LG "S" (4 items)

**Historical Note:** Gustav Stearns, a Lutheran minister, is well remembered for his role as an Army Chaplain with the Red Arrow Division. He served on the Texas border during the Mexican crisis of 1916 and then went with the A.E.F. to France, where he was decorated for gallantry under fire. His Christian treatment of all soldiers, friend and foe alike, won him respect from both sides. He was awarded the Iron Cross by Hindenburg for his work with German POW's. Stearns wrote a book about his experiences, *From Army Camps and Battlefields*, which was very well received. After the war, Stearns served as pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Milwaukee and, later, as chaplain at the Wood V.A. Center. He was also active in civic affairs, taking an active role in the organization of Milwaukee's annual July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. He passed away in 1951.

**Scope and Content:** The records consist of Stearns' correspondence, including a copy of a 1931 letter from German president Paul von Hindenburg thanking Stearns for sending a copy of his book; newspaper clippings; pamphlets, sermons; Stearns' notes on grave sites in France; photographs; and some of his orders from the A.E.F.

Contents	Box #	Folder #
Biographical Information	1	1
Awards/Diplomas/Military Decorations	1	2
Burials in France	1	3
Church Pamphlets/Publications – General, 1915-1930	1	4
Correspondence, 1919-1954	1	5
English Lutheran Church of the Ascension/Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension, 1906-1942	1	6
Honorable Discharge Papers, 1919	1	7
Manuscript of Stearns' Weekly Letters from Texas & France, 1917-1919	1	8
Maps (Military Map of U.S., 1944 & Map of Mexico, 1916)	1	9
Material re: From Army Camps and Battlefields	1	10
Membership Cards	1	11
Mexican Border Service, 1916-1917	1	12

Administrative Note: The collection was reprocessed on April 2004 by Kevin Abing.

Pamphlets/Programs – Fraternal & Military, 1906-1950 (1 of 2)114Pamphlets/Programs – Fraternal & Military, 1906-1950 (2 of 2)115Pamphlets/Programs – Schools & Miscellaneous, 1931-1942116Periodicals – Military, 1931-1952117Periodicals – Religious, 1924-1954117Periodicals – Religious, 1924-1954117Personal travel record-France118Post cards120Sermons/Addresses120Sermons/Addresses120Sermons/Addresses120Sermons/Addresses120Sermons/Addresses120Veterans Administration Center Material122Newspaper clippings, 1916-1967123Bible presented by Stearns to George C. Nuesse, 19231Loose in boxNewspapers – Miscellaneous, 1924-1936225Memorial Resolutions re: Stearns' Death, 1951226Army/Air Force Registers, 1946-1951226Memorial Resolutions re: Stearns' Death, 1951226Verificate of appreciation from Mitchell Park Sane Fourth Association, July 4, 1939OS LG "S"Resolution from Mayor Frank Zeidler and Common Council to Stearns on his jubilee, Jan. 17, 1949OS LG "S"Roster, Veterans of Three Wars Who Served as Honorary Body Guard to the President of the United States, June 8, 1925 (2 copies)OS LG "S"Prayer for Wearers of the Purple Heart for Captain Gustav Stearns, chaplain 127th Infantry, 32nd Division, July 12, 1918<		1	10
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Photos: See M-33; Over-Oversize Military #56-58	Oversize Items Honorary degree from Luther Theological Seminary to Stearns, 1929 Certificate of appreciation from Mitchell Park Sane Fourth Association, July 4, 1939 Resolution from Mayor Frank Zeidler and Common Council to Stearns on his jubilee, Jan. 17, 1949 Roster, Veterans of Three Wars Who Served as Honorary Body Guard to the President of the United States, June 8, 1925 (2 copies) Prayer for Wearers of the Purple Heart for Captain Gustav Stearns, chaplain 127th Infantry, 32nd Division, July 12, 1918 Certificate presented to Reverend Stearns by friends in Lutheran parish in Richland, Minn. On 50th anniversary of his ordination, July 10, 1949 Bachelor of Arts diploma from St. Olaf College, June 16, 1896	Location OS LG "S OS LG "S OS LG "S OS SM "S OS SM "S OS SM "S	<b>1</b> 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57