

INDIAN OFFICE.

FILES.

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By order of

E. B. MERITT,

Asst. Commissioner.

4-524

7017-1916.

CARLISLE

File No.

225-

Ed. - Ind.
7017-1916.
C H S

FEB -3 1916

Mr. Joseph A. Shooter,
c/o Carlisle Indian School,
Carlisle, Pa.

My Friend:

The Office has received your letter of January 21, 1916, saying that you have about \$9000. to your credit and would like to have \$2500. of it in order to have a house built for your use after graduation and when you are ready to go back to it.

The Office appreciates your desire for a home to go back to when you finish school and is willing to help you in any reasonable way, but it is thought that it will be much better for you in every way if you will put off building a house until you are actually ready to occupy it. In the first place you have a neat bank account of \$9000. on interest, and you are under little or no expense for support and education while at Carlisle. The Government is providing everything necessary and all these things are to your advantage. The very fact that you are in school at present is a good reason why you should not undertake to build a house or have one built for you. You could not use it now because you are in school and it would have to be

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rented to protect your investment. Furthermore, you could not very well attend to its construction at this time. You would not even have the privilege of locating the house to your satisfaction.

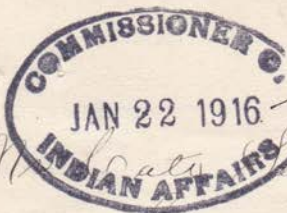
It is noted with pleasure that you propose to carry out your plan of making a man of yourself and become somebody. This is exactly right. Stay in school until you have a good education and are well equipped to support yourself after you leave school. When thus outfitted you may then take up with the Office your plan for the erection of a home, and every assistance practicable will be given.

Your Friend,

E-MFL-1

(Signed E. B. Meritt)

Assistant Commissioner.



Carlisle, Pa., Jan. 21, 1916.



Commissioner Indian Affairs
Washington, D.C.

Dear friend, Mr Sells.

I am writing to you to ask you a special favor.

First, let me ask you to pardon me for interrupting you, I know you are a busy man working for our benefit.

The favor that I want to ask you is this, I have some money at Washington or at White Earth, Minnesota, something like \$9,000 and I would like to know if I could have at least \$2,500 to have a home built for me.

And I am now twenty years old and will soon be twenty

one. I do not intend to
quit school yet, as I want
to graduate from here and be
some body and I am going
to carry my plan out and
graduate. No matter if I do
have four years to wait, I am
going to wait. But what I want
is home of my own to go to
after I finish. You may
write to my father or step father
as he has been my father
since I was small, and advise
the best that is for me to do.

His address is Trail City
S. D. and also write to my
mother her address is Agnes M
Armstrong, Trail City S. Dak.

I know you are willing

- to do what you can for those who try to make good, and I want to make good. Mr Sells.

So please write to me, and let me know what are the proper steps to take on this subject that I am asking of you. Wishing you good luck, and success in your great work.

I remain

Your friend
Joseph A. Shooter
U. S. Indian School
Carlisle
Pa.