

File

INDIAN OFFICE.

FILES.

CARLISLE SCHOOL.

Elopement of Joe Twin & Lystia Wahoo.

81268709
Bartlett
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

Subject:-

Elopement of Joe
Twin and Lystia
Wahoo.

Carlisle, Pa., December 9, 1908.



The Commissioner
of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

In answer to your Office letter marked "Education 81268-1908, J.H.D." dated December 5, 1908, in which a dispatch printed in the St. Louis Republic, under date of December 3, is quoted, I respectfully inform your Office that in the main this newspaper item is correct.

Joseph Twin, the young man mentioned is a full blood Winnebago Indian who was a student at this school for eight years, having been discharged because of his age June 27, 1908. He was rather slow in his school work, but had a good outing record.

Lystia Wahoo, the young lady, is a three-fourth Cherokee from North Carolina. She entered the school in June 1901 at the age of thirteen years, for a term of five years; she was discharged, and re-admitted in August, 1906. At the time she left, she was in the 9th grade. She is given a very good record by her teacher in school, and her outing record has been considered very good, and her conduct generally excellent.

It seems that Joseph Twin had formed quite an attachment

True

for the girl, and had corresponded with her during his absence from the school. After having been employed in the West, he returned to the school Saturday night, November 28th, and came over to the house to see me. He informed me that he was here on a visit and that he desired to marry Lystia Wahoo. I informed him that I would look into the matter and asked him to see me in the office, the first of the week. After making inquiries, I ascertained the record of both students. I then had another interview with Twin, and asked him what he intended to do, whether he had work ahead, and was confident of a steady income if he should take such a step. He told me that he did not have any regular work planned, but stated that he intended to take up a permanent residence in Nebraska.

I informed him that I could not permit the marriage to take place for two reasons; in the first place, I did not consider that it was advisable to allow him to take away from the school a girl without any definite prospects for supporting her, that he should first get definitely settled somewhere, obtain work which promised a regular income, and have a little money ahead with which to furnish a little home, even if it were only a small flat.

He was further told that the marriage could not be permitted without the consent of the parents of the young lady. I then had the young lady and the young man together in the office and informed them of my conclusions, giving them the reasons, and they seemed to be satisfied; Lystia going back to her regular duties.

The same evening (Tuesday) Lystia disappeared about 7 o'clock. Careful investigation disclosed the fact that Twin had gone to Harrisburg in the afternoon, having hired an automobile and then coming to the gate of the school, he picked up the young lady and spirited her away. Her disappearance was brought to light an hour after she left and the various towns in the community were phoned to in an effort to intercept them. I also learned that, besides other ready money, Twin had two checks for \$500 each which he had obtained in return for certain land which he had sold, and that he had cashed one of the \$500 checks Tuesday afternoon.

As a matter of discipline, every effort was made to bring these two people back, and telegrams were sent to the chiefs of police of a number of cities, asking them to be on the lookout for the couple on the incoming trains. All trace of these people was lost, until last night, when I received a phone message from a hotel man in Carlisle who had just received a postal card from Twin with the postmark "Savannah, Georgia" on it. In this postal, Twin informed the gentleman that he wanted all his mail sent to Cherokee, North Carolina, which is the home of the young lady. I presume they intend to make a visit there in the near future.

As requested in your letter, hereafter any occurrence of such a nature will be promptly reported to your Office.

Yours respectfully,

M. G. Guedeman

Superintendent.

REFER IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

1-9172

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Education
81268-1908
J.H.D.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

WASHINGTON. December 5, 1908.

SUBJECT:

Newspaper report of
the elopement of two
Indians, one of whom was
a pupil at Carlisle.

The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt by your reference of a clipping from the St. Louis Republic of December 3, 1908, referring to the elopement of Joseph Twin and Lystia Wahoo Winnebago.

This Office has not received any report from the Carlisle School concerning the statements made in this newspaper clipping, but the Superintendent will be asked for a report, on the receipt of which I will make an additional answer.

The clipping is returned, as requested.

Very respectfully,

J. H. D.
Commissioner.

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J. H. D.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

WASHINGTON, December 5, 1908.

Education
81268-1908
J.H.D.

SUBJECT:

Newspaper report of the elopement of two Indians, one of whom was a pupil at Carlisle.

Supt. Indian School,
Carlisle, Pa.

Sir:

The St. Louis Republic of December 3 prints a telegram from Carlisle, Pa., of December 2, as follows:

Superintendent Friedman, of the Carlisle Indian School, has sent out telegrams to police in several cities asking for the arrest of an Indian couple who eloped from the school yesterday. The girl was a pupil at the institution, but her sweetheart came here from the West Sunday.

The superintendent declined to permit the wedding without the consent of the parents of the girl. Instead of awaiting the approval from their Western home the couple eloped. Their names are Joseph Twin and Lystia Wahoo Winnebago.

The Office desires to know whether there was any foundation for this dispatch. Any occurrence of such nature should always be promptly reported to this Office.

Very respectfully,

J. H. D.
Commissioner.