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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
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Indian School, Carlisle, Pa.,
Aug. 10, 1905.

Major W.A. Mercer,
Supt.

Incloses statement of E.H.
Colegrove relative to his bringing
pupils from the Cherokee reserva-
tion.

1 incl.

E.H. Colegrove
File.
D.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PENNA.

August 10, 1905.

To the Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication "Education 60375--1905", dated August 4, 1905, in which you direct that I may retain all the pupils taken to Carlisle by Mr. Colegrove from the Cherokee reservation except John Seay, whom I am directed to return to the Cherokee school, and I desire to inform you that your instructions will be carried out at the earliest practicable moment and the boy returned.

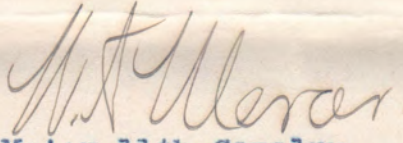
However, to comply with the desire of Mr. Colegrove to place himself in as favorable a light as possible and have his side of the question a matter of record, I inclose herewith his statement and also information as to the degree of Indian blood as evidenced by the annexed statement. The degree of blood was obtained from the young man himself, who doubtless got it from his relatives and from general talk among the Indians, which is the usual and common source of information for mixed blood children as to the degree of Indian blood in their parentage. While I am of the opinion that the eligibility of Seay can be satisfactorily established, I think it better for the service, for the interest of this school, and for the maintenance of the authority of Superintendent Harris, that the controversy be decided ^{by} the return of the student which

will tend to maintain the authority of Mr. Harris, to permit him to be friendly toward Carlisle if he so desires, and for the general interests of peace, so far as this controversy would affect the two schools. I can appreciate Mr. Harris's position and know that it is almost necessary to support him in a controversy of this kind. I am sure I want to advance the interests of his school and reservation far more than to establish the fact that my employee is right and Mr. Harris wrong.

I note that you say you consider the incident closed and I trust you will pardon me for seemingly opening it up, but such is not my intention at all, but merely to place the copy of Mr. Colegrove's statement on file.

I have had a personal letter from Superintendent Harris and will answer it in a manner that will undoubtedly re-establish pleasant relations between Carlisle and Cherokee.

Very respectfully,


Major 11th Cavalry,

Superintendent.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PENNA.

Aug. 9, 1905.

Major W.A. Mercer, Superintendent,

Sir:

In regard to my work at Cherokee, N.C. and the attitude of Superintendent Harris I would respectfully state that he gave me no assistance in collecting a party for Carlisle. He refused me a team or a horse though I often saw idle ones standing in the stable. It is true he directed me to children but in nearly every case I found ~~them~~^{it} to be impossible to get them into any school or else that they were undesirable. I was informed that no child in the Cherokee school has signed for any length of time and that the signatures of guardians are not required for entrance there. Knowing this I felt that I should be given the right ^{to get} as many as possible at Carlisle. I mentioned this to Mr. Harris, but he did not answer me but assured me they could not go without his consent.

On my arrival Mr. Harris consented to let me speak to the ~~pupi~~ pupils of his school assembled, about Carlisle. Before opportunity offered, however, he forbade me mentioning the subject to any of them. I of course obeyed his order. Last Fall when Samuel Saunook from this School was gathering a party at Cherokee the Superintendent told him that he would not let children go from his school to Carlisle then but in June when school was out all might go who wished. I went to Cherokee with this in mind and the promise was not kept.

On looking over the population and the number of children in school at Cherokee it is evident that the Superintendent lacks authority —not energy—to either get children in school or to hold them when there.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE
INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL
CARLISLE, PENNA.

It would seem that an agent from a non-reservation school is helping along the work at Cherokee to get as many as possible to leave for school at any point.

In regard to John Seay's recommendations, it was Mr. Wolfe, school carpenter and Mr. Carter, industrial teacher who were most anxious that he come with me. Regarding his Indian ancestry, I found that his Indian ancestry was also that of James Maney, whose transfer was approved by Mr. Harris.

I wish to direct your attention to page 3 of Mr. Harris' letter wherein he acknowledges that all but one of the cases of which he made complaint to the Washington office, were perfectly within the spirit of the rules in his own judgment. It would seem then that he took the liberty of annoying the Commissioner's Office about several cases which he believed to be perfectly right, in order to make retaliation for one in which he felt an exception had been made to his opinion. I wish to state that in my opinion this gives you a key to the whole situation and the annoyance which Mr. Harris has caused since my visit at Cherokee.

Very respectfully,

E. H. Colegrove
Disciplinarian.

John Seay, 3/32

Father, Coleman Seay
Mother, Maggie Seay, 3/16
G. Father, Taylor Brule
G. Mother, Mary Brule, 3/8