

INDIAN OFFICE.

FILES.

# CAUTION!

Positively no papers to be added to or taken from this file, except by an employee of the Mails and Files Division.

By order of

**E. B. MERITT,**

*Asst. Commissioner.*

0-1044

85502

1918.

CARLISLE

File No.

125

85502-18

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MAY 14 1920

FILED BY G. P. T

Mrs. Frank J. Mitchell,  
55 Midland Ave.,  
Highland Park,  
Detroit, Mich.

My dear Mrs. Mitchell:

I have your letter of April 30th, relative to your marriage to an Indian, your unsuitability to each other and your desire to be free.

In answer I would say that it is difficult for me to advise definitely as to what action you should take as I am not personally acquainted with either of you and do not know whether your differences are such that they can be overcome. It is exceedingly unfortunate that girls will not listen to their mother's advice about marrying strangers. Your letter indicates that your mother was right in opposing the marriage. However if the young man was nice enough then to attract you and induce you to marry him surely he can be as good now.

In order for you to be free from each other so that you can marry again if you so desire it would be necessary for you to obtain a legal divorce. If you contemplate such action it would be well for you to write your mother fully and seek her advice and help. I would suggest that you do this before consulting a lawyer. Before taking action relative to obtaining a divorce allow me to suggest that you both make a further attempt to live together in an honorable way. His vulgar talk and actions can be corrected and after getting you to marry him against your mother's wishes he should think enough of you to respect your desire for his moral and mental improvement. If you can get him to go with you to church and Sunday school and would associate with people who would have beneficial influence upon him, it might be that you could overcome his objectionable qualities and develop him into an honorable man and good husband. Talk over with your husband

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the matter of trying to improve himself and co-operate with each other to build a life and home together that shall be a credit to you both as well as to the nation. May I express the hope that you will be able to accomplish this end. If you find that impossible and your life in danger of being wrecked write your mother fully and ask her advice and help.

Very truly yours,

*(Signed) C. F. Hauke*

5-EPR-6

Acting Assistant Commissioner.

Ed-L & O  
35502-18  
J R V  
10-FLW-29

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Corporal Frank J. Mitchell,  
Co. "I", 74th Inf.,  
Camp Devens,  
Massachusetts.

OCT 31 1918

My Friend:

FILED BY G. P. F.

I have your letter of October 21 reporting that you are another Carlisle ex-student in the service, and I am glad to hear of that.

In regard to your marriage and the attempts of the mother of the girl to prevent the marriage, you are advised that while I do not have complete information in regard to the case, I assume that you have not known the young woman very long, and as marriage is a very serious obligation which means so much for the life happiness of the two persons involved as well as others, you must realize that a true mother should be very anxious that her daughter should not make a hasty mistake in the matter of marriage, whether the young man involved is an Indian or a white man. Many people, you know, are not suited to each other, and the mother undoubtedly feared that you and her daughter were not suited, or probably that you had not known each other long enough to enter into the life contract of marriage.

As it appears from your letter that you went to Canada and married the girl, I trust that you will never give her any cause to regret marrying you, and that you will prove to her that you can not only be absolutely loyal and true, but also a kind and considerate husband, and one having the best of habits. If you will do that I have no doubt but that in time the mother of the girl will also see that you are worthy and will overcome her first fears.

Your friend,

(Signed) E. B. Meritt

Assistant Commissioner.

INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE



ARMY AND NAVY  
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

"WITH THE COLORS"



Co. I. 74th. Inf.  
Camp Deven  
Oct. 21, 1918



FILED BY C. P. F.

Dear Sir,

Just letting you know that another Carlisle Indian exstudent is making good in the Army and is ready to go over to fight with the rest of the boys that are over there.

I also want to ask you for an information on my experine last week, I went to Subec Me. to be married and the girls Mother went to the Lawyer, Town Clerk and stoped the licenses, I could not get one the girls ~~was~~ age is nearly 19 years and I am 23 years Just because I am an Indian her people were against me the only thing that made me angry was, I am wearing U.S. Uniform and I was forced to get married in Canada where I could get



ARMY AND NAVY  
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION  
"WITH THE COLORS"



Married in my own country if  
my pass was a few days longer I  
<sup>would get married in my own country</sup>  
that goes to show how they try  
to hold the American Indian down  
I do not think that's right the girl  
is a white girl and she was willing to  
marry me and I can take care  
of her after the war is over I  
was working with the rest of the  
Carlisle boys at Ford Motor Co, Detroit  
Mich. and my job is good when I come  
back.

Please answer and let me know  
why the lawyer did that.

Yours truly  
Corporal Frank J. Mitchell  
Co, I, 74th. Inf.  
Camp Stevens  
Mass.

55 Midland Ave.

Highland Park

Detroit, Mich.

April 30, 1920.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In October 1918 I

was married to an Indian,  
then a corporal in the army.

He wrote to you about Oct 16.  
The reference for a reply was  
number 85502-18 dated Oct 31.

We were married without  
knowing each other, and



for the first seven months we got along fine. since that time we can not agree on any one thing. We are entirely unsuited to each other. Mr Mitchell is vulgar in talk and actions, and I do not love him. We can not have children it seems, and it is my belief that were we each free to go our own way, it would be best. How can I obtain that

freedom. It is all I want just to be free. Mr. Mitchell says I can go free if I can get it. Please advise me as I know nothing about such things.

Respectfully,  
Mrs. Frank J. Mitchell.

FILED BY G. P. F.