

INDIAN OFFICE.

FILES.

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By order of

E. B. MERITT,
Asst. Commissioner.

6-4344

88312

, 1917.

CARRIAGE

File No.

127

88312-17

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE
VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL
MOUNT PLEASANT, MICHIGAN

June 19, 1919

RECEIVED
JUN 24 1919
EDUCATION-SCHOOLS.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
RECEIVED
JUN 21 1919
53828

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington.

Dear Sir:

Acknowledging receipt of your letter of June 13th regarding Mr. Isaac Willis I have to say that I shall take particular pains to see that this young man gets your letter and certificate. I do not know just where this man is just now but will find out in a day or two.

He should be particularly please with this letter and certificate and they should be an incentive and of much encouragement. Most of these Michigan boys are industrious and willing, and I am sure Mr. Willis will "make good".

I shall do everything in my power to assist him, and shall keep you advised as to his progress as instructed in your letter.

Yours respectfully,

R A Cochran
Superintendent.

BC/EC

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Carroll

Ed-Emp
88312-17
C B M

JUN 13 1919

Mr. Isaac Willis,
Through Supt., Mt. Pleasant School.

FILED BY C. P. F.

My dear Mr. Willis:

Now that you are of eligible age, I have pleasure in presenting to you the accompanying certificate of educational competency. Hereafter education in the Indian schools will not be provided for you at the expense of the Government. I feel that you should now be well prepared to succeed in some honorable vocation, and I trust you will make no delay in deciding upon a definite line of work and in giving to it your best efforts and noblest purposes.

If you hold, or later acquire, unrestricted title to land, you should highly prize such possession as one which supplies nearly all physical needs, and should keep it free from debt and try to develop its most productive value. In so doing, aside from your own gain, you can be very helpful to the activities of the surrounding community. If you have money invested in Liberty Bonds, I advise you to hold these bonds, if possible, until they mature, and to pay no attention to anyone who would persuade you to exchange them for other stocks or securities, as there is nothing safer than the Government's promise to pay. I urge also that you adopt the sound business principle of regularly saving some part of your earnings and investing it in war savings stamps, while their sale continues. Out of the great war in which the Indians took so noble a part has come to all the valuable lesson of thrift and the opportunity to unite with patriotic duty the splendid practice of individual savings that cannot fail to prepare all who follow it for independent and successful living.

Through the privileges of education you are a favored representative of the original American and it should be your chief resolve to become a pattern and a leader in all that will bring industrial, intellectual, and moral advancement to your race. It is within your power and should be the greatest triumph of your future to aid in guiding your people to all that is best in our American life and progress. I am going to believe that this will be uppermost in your ideals and ambition. The home, the field, the shop, the business office, the vocation of whatever character, affords more than the self-support which should be your first aim, it is the opportunity for fine example and high service to all who see how well you do.

The enclosed certificate is not issued under the provision of law authorizing a certificate of competency to Indians for the purpose of removing restrictions against the sale or transfer of land held under a patent in fee, but is intended as a testimonial that you are educationally qualified to manage your own affairs and it will be duly considered by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in determining whether you should have full control of land or other property belonging to you.

I extend my best wishes for your future health and success, and shall be glad to have you write me later as to your plans and prospects. I shall expect also to receive, a year hence, favorable reports from your School Superintendent concerning your progress in self-support.

Sincerely yours,



CATO SELLS
Commissioner.

6-OB-31

Copy to Mt. Pleasant.

Ed-Schools
88312-17
C B M

JUN 13 1919

Mr. Isaac Willis,

(Through Supt. Mt. Pleasant School).

My dear Mr. Willis:

FILED BY G. P. P.

Since you are now 21 years of age and upon graduation at Carlisle in 1917 had received the benefits of instruction there for several years, you are regarded as fully qualified for self-support and the management of your own affairs. You had a good knowledge of carpentry which is a trade that should always command excellent wages.

I wish to commend your action in entering the Naval Service at a time when our country had need of the vigor and patriotism and courage of young men who appreciate the opportunities and benefits of our democratic form of government and are willing to defend its institutions. I expect great advantages to come through observation and experience to the many brave Indian boys who are doing war service.

I am advised that you are not now a land owner, but should you inherit or otherwise acquire land, I trust you will give very careful consideration to its management and firmly resolve to hold such real property free from debt and to make it successfully productive. I shall expect your future work and example to be worthy of the imitation of many other young men. This letter may be delayed in reaching you, but when received, I hope you will write me about your naval duties and your plans for the future. I shall be glad to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,



Commissioner.

9-EWB-20

Initialing Copy - For File.

Ed.-Schools
88312-17
C B M

Mr. R. A. Cochran,
Supt. Mt. Pleasant School.

JUN 13 1919

FILED BY G. P. F.

My dear Mr. Cochran:

Referring to the inclosed copy of my letter of this date to Mr. Isaac Willis, I shall be pleased to receive from you one year hence any information you then have, or can conveniently obtain, as to the progress of this graduate in the way of self-support and successful occupation.

I feel that, whenever practicable, we should extend our personal encouragement to these students who have been worthily ambitious to complete a full course of industrial training.

Sincerely yours,



Commissioner.

9-EWB-20



Initialing Copy - For File.

JOHN FRANCIS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT

88312-17



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL
CARLISLE, PA.



July 19, 1918

FILED BY C. P. F.

Hon. Cato Sells,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your inquiry regarding Isaac
Willis, class 1917 Carlisle, I have to advise
that Isaac enlisted in the Navy June 6, 1917, and
is now on the U. S. S. Kentucky. He has visited
Carlisle frequently and has always looked well
and has given a good report regarding himself.

Very truly yours,

Trav. Aud. in Charge

D-E

200

Ed-Schools.
88312-17

C B M.

JUL 17 1918

Mr. Claud V. Peel,
Traveling Auditor in Charge,
Carlisle School.

My dear Mr. Peel:

In the list of graduates of the 1917 class at Carlisle the name of Isaac Willis, age 20, was reported as qualified to receive a certificate of competency upon becoming 21 years old, as provided in the Declaration of Policy. (Superintendent's letter of Sept. 17, 1917).

Please advise me of the present whereabouts and occupation of this graduate with any information you can obtain regarding his progress in self-support.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Cato Sells

Commissioner.

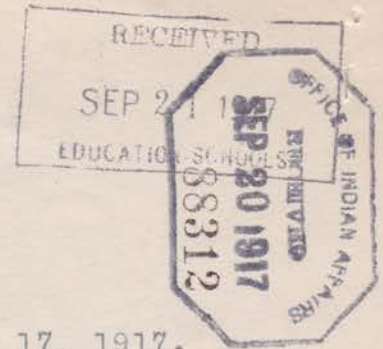
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INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE

JOHN FRANCIS, JR.,
SUPERINTENDENT



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL
CARLISLE, PA.



September 17, 1917.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of April, 28, 1917, in which you direct attention to that paragraph of the Declaration of Policy in the Administration of Indian Affairs which refers to Indian students who have completed the course of instruction in the Government schools, being declared competent.

In accordance with these directions I have the honor to report that Isaac Willis, a full blood Ottawa Indian, 20 years of age, passed his examinations and on May 24, 1917 was graduated from this school in Carpentry, in accordance with the tentative course of study.

Isaac is the son of Lazarus Reuben and Lucy Rena Scott Willis of Charlevoix, Michigan. His father is a farmer and both parents have a fair education. He has 40 acres of land. Since coming to Carlisle he worked in the tailor shop two years, and nearly three years in the carpenter shop.

Principal Blair and Director of Mechanic Arts Bradley reports that Isaac Willis is handicapped by a hazy understanding of things in general. He doesn't love knowledge for its own sake but he studies occasionally and commits many useful things to memory. He belongs to the well-meaning class, who often make decisions without in the least knowing why. He is not a bad boy but is not the type that one instinctively trusts. He has settled much this year and has tried to get a long and deserves much commendation for it. He is a good carpenter and should be able to manage his own affairs.

Issac is in good health, and spends money freely.



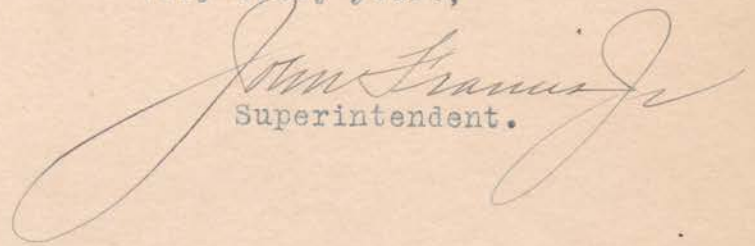
his father's

Isch

Superintendent R. A. Cochran advises me that Issac has no land , and also has no money.

In view of the facts presented Isaac Willis appears to have no land under the direction of the Government, it would seem that he receive a certificate of competency.

Very truly yours,


Superintendent.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE



June 27, 1917

COMPETANCY STATEMENT

Isaac Willis is handicapped by a hazy understanding of things in general. He doesn't love knowledge for its own sake but he studies occasionally and commits many useful things to memory. He belongs to the well-meaning class, who often make decisions without in the least knowing why. He is not a bad boy but is not the type that one instinctively trusts. He has settled much this year and has tried to get along and deserves much commendation for it. He came to Carlisle October 10, 1913. He is a good carpenter and should be able to manage his own affairs.

Roy H. Bradley
Director of Mechanic Arts

Am. Blair
Principal