

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.*

6-4345

61222-13

CARLISLE

File No.

225

6.31.89

C D M

May 24, 1913.

FOR FILE

FILED BY C. P. F.

61222/1913

CARLISLE

225

My dear Mr. Secretary:

With further reference to your note of May 10th, asking if there is any regulation by which the Superintendent is allowed to open mail and take out money belonging to the students, I have to advise you that the matter has been taken up with Superintendent Friedman of the Carlisle Indian School, who reports as follows:

All mail is handled by Mrs. Rosa B. LaFlesche, who is Outing Manager and Post Mistress, and distributes the mail belonging to the students in the boxes of the matron and the disciplinarians. These people, in turn, transmit the mail to the students.

The students' mail does not come into my hands. The only mail for students coming to me is from the Superintendents of their reservations, who send their money in my care. This mail never contains cash, but occasionally contains checks from their individual account on the reservation made in their name, or checks made to me personally as transfer funds under the regulations. These funds are immediately turned over to the school banker, where they are deposited to the individual credit of the student. These funds have been handled in this way for years, and no question has ever arisen with reference thereto. Occasionally, when a student's conduct is under suspicion, his mail is opened by either the matron or the disciplinarian.



So that there may be no possible question arising in this connection, and in order to thoroughly protect our employees, I am issuing instructions, a copy of which I enclose herewith, providing that under no circumstances is students' mail to be opened except by the student himself, and when necessary, that this be done in the presence of an employee.

I have made inquiry of both the matron and the disciplinarian, and they state that they have never opened any mail belonging to students and removed funds.

Mr. Friedman transmits a letter from Mrs. Rosa B. LaFlesche, Outing Manager and Post Mistress, in which she says:

Relative to the disposition of registered mail in this office will say that when such mail is received the same is recorded in a book for that purpose. A card is then sent to the boy or girl whose name is written on the registered letter and when the card is returned to me by the one whose name is on the card he or she signs his or her name on my book opposite the name I have recorded. The pupil then opens his letter and tells me that amount contained in the letter. This amount I place opposite the pupil's name in my book and is kept on file in this office. Large amounts of money are not handed to the pupils, but amounts less than \$5.00 the pupils are allowed to keep, providing the pupil is trustworthy and is not liable to use the money to run away on. When large amounts of money are received in registered letters I persuade the pupils to deposit same in bank principally for safe keeping, and from which they can draw on the regular money-drawing-day.

Mr. Friedman has directed that when it is necessary to examine a student's mail, the mail shall be opened

by the student in the presence of the matron, disciplinarian or assistant disciplinarian, and if funds are contained in the letter the employee in whose presence the letter is opened, shall accompany the student to the school bank and see that funds are properly deposited.

Sincerely yours,

*(Signed) F. H. Abbott.*

Acting Commissioner.

Hon. Franklin K. Lane,  
Secretary of the Interior.

5-VAR-24



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FILED BY C. P. F.

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

May 19, 1913

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
REGISTERED  
MAY 20 1913  
68189

To the Honorable  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have your letter of May 15, 1913, which arrived during my absence in Washington, with reference to handling pupils' mail, and in reply I have to say that all mail is handled by Mrs. Rosa B. LaFlesche, who is Outing Manager and Post Mistress, and distributes the mail belonging to the students in the boxes of the matron and the disciplinarians. These people, in turn, transmit the mail to the students. A letter is enclosed herewith showing how registered mail is handled by Mrs. LaFlesche.

FILED BY C. P. F.

The students' mail does not come into my hands. The only mail for students coming to me is from the Superintendents of their reservations, who send their money in my care. This mail never contains cash, but occasionally contains checks from their individual account on the reservation made in their name, or checks made to me personally as transfer funds under the Regulations. These funds are immediately turned over to the school banker, where they are deposited to the individual credit of the student. These funds have been handled in this way for years, and no question has ever arisen with reference

*Each*

thereto. Occasionally, when a student's conduct is under suspicion, his mail is opened by either the matron or the disciplinarian.

So that there may be no possible question arising in this connection, and in order to thoroughly protect our employees, I am issuing instructions, a copy of which I enclose herewith, providing that under no circumstances is students' mail to be opened except by the student himself, and when necessary, that this be done in the presence of an employee.

I have made inquiry of both the matron and the disciplinarian, and they state that they have never opened any mail belonging to students and removed funds.

In this connection, I have been in the Government Service more than twelve years, five of which were spent at two of the other larger schools of the Service, and that I am fairly familiar with the method of handling students' mail and funds in other Indian schools, and I desire to state that this whole subject is probably handled with more regard for protecting students and employees and having the records absolutely clear at Carlisle than at any other Indian school.

Very respectfully,



Superintendent.



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PA.

May 19, 1913.

OUTING SYSTEM

MRS. ROSA B. LAFLESCHÉ, Manager.

MISS LIDA M. JOHNSTON, Girls' Agent.

MR. D. H. DICKEY, Boys' Agent.



Mr. M. Friedman,  
Supt. U. S. Indian School,  
Carlisle, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Relative to the disposition of registered mail in this office will say that when such mail is received the same is recorded in a book for that purpose. A card is then sent to the boy or girl whose name is written on the registered letter and when the card is returned to me by the one whose name is on the card he or she signs his or her name on my book opposite the name I have recorded. The pupil then opens his letter and tells me the amount contained in the letter. This amount I place opposite the pupil's name in my book and is kept on file in this office. Large amounts of money are not handed to the pupils, but amounts less than \$5.00 the pupils are allowed to keep, providing the pupil is trustworthy and is not liable to use the money to run away on. When large amounts of money are received in registered letters I persuade the pupils to deposit same in bank principally for safe keeping, and from which they can draw on the regular money-drawing-day.

Very respectfully,

*Rosa B. LaFlesche*

FILED BY C. P. F.



May 19, 1913

Miss Ridenour, Matron:

Mr. McKean, Disciplinarian:

Mr. Denny, Asst. Disciplinarian:



It is directed that hereafter when because of misconduct, it is necessary to examine a student's mail, that on the receipt of the letter the student be called into your office, where he or she is to open the mail personally. You may then examine the letter, and if funds are contained in the letter, you are to accompany the student to the office of Mr. Will H. Miller, the school banker, and see that it is properly deposited. Under no circumstances is mail to be opened in any other way.

This is done not only in the interests of the students, but for your protection.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. J. Denny".

Superintendent.

MF-BH

May 15, 1913.

Mr. Moses Friedman,  
Supt. Carlisle School.

Sir:

FILED BY C. P. F.

Please explain fully and in detail how letters to pupils of the Carlisle school are handled in your office, and especially those which contain money for pupils, stating whether letters are ever opened when the student is not present and, if so, under what circumstances and why, and whether you know any cases where letters containing money have been opened and the money removed before the letter reached the student. State also whether a receipt of any kind is given to the pupil or to the sender of the money, and if not, what sort of record is made to protect your office against a general charge that pupils' letters containing money have been opened and the money removed without their knowledge or consent, and without any record thereof having been made.

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. H. Abbott.

Acting Commissioner.

5-VAR-14



OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
RECEIVED  
MAY 19 1913  
62610

62610/1913

C D M

May 15, 1913.

FILED BY C. P. F.

FOR FILE!

CARLISLE

225

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In response to your note of the 10th, I have to advise you that Mr. Benton made an inspection of the method of handling pupils' money at Carlisle about the first of April. Immediately thereafter he submitted recommendations for certain changes in the system in use there. These recommendations have been approved and directions given to Mr. Friedman that a system be inaugurated in accordance therewith as soon as possible.

Benton advises me that he has taken this matter up with you personally and that it is deemed unnecessary for him to proceed to Carlisle at this time, inasmuch as action has already been taken along the lines suggested by him.

On June 13, 1896, the Postmaster General, Hon. William W. Nelson, directed a letter to the Secretary of the Interior in reference to delivery of letters addressed to minors. Mr. Nelson, says in part:

I think that this matter can be readily adjusted if an order be issued from your Department directing that mail matter addressed to the minor children attending Indian schools, shall be delivered to and inspected by the Superintendent of the school. If an order to that effect is made, I will, upon receipt of a copy thereof, advise the postmasters at the offices named by you to make the delivery of mail in accordance therewith.

This was intended primarily to enable superintendents to intercept obscene and improper mail. It has been the policy since that time, however, for superintendents to open mail containing remittances from parents of minor children and to exercise some supervision over the expenditure of the funds. It is not known in this Office whether or not the Superintendent at Carlisle issues receipts for money coming into his hands in this manner. The matter has been taken up with Mr. Friedman and a system of receipts will be inaugurated if none is in use at the present time.

Very truly yours,

*(Signed) F. H. Abbott.*

Hon. Franklin K. Lane,  
Secretary of the Interior, Acting Commissioner.



C D M

May 15, 1913.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

FILED BY C. P. F.

In response to your note of the 10th, I have to advise you that Mr. Benton made an inspection of the method of handling pupils' money at Carlisle about the first of April. Immediately thereafter he submitted recommendations for certain changes in the system in use there. These recommendations have been approved and directions given to Mr. Friedman that a system be inaugurated in accordance therewith as soon as possible.

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On June 13, 1896, the Postmaster General, Hon. William N. Nelson, directed a letter to the Secretary of the Interior in reference to delivery of letters addressed to minors. Mr. Nelson, says in part:

*Extra copy filed here.  
C.P.F. 5/22/13*

I think that this matter can be readily adjusted if an order be issued from your Department directing that mail matter addressed to the minor children attending Indian schools, shall be delivered to and inspected by the Superintendent of the school. If an order to that effect is made, I will, upon receipt of a copy thereof, advise the postmasters at the offices named by you to make the delivery of mail in accordance therewith.

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Very truly yours,

Hon. Franklin K. Lane,  
Secretary of the Interior.

5-VAR-15



Education-  
Industries  
Schools.  
45139-1913  
J H C  
R H H

Individual  
pass books.

MAY 15 1913

Mr. Moses Friedman,  
Supt. Carlisle School.

FILED BY C. P. F.

Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Supervisor Benton, dated April 9, 1913, and also to your letter of the same date, both of which pertain to the administration governing the disbursement of individual funds on deposit under your jurisdiction to the credit of pupils attending Carlisle Indian School.

The Office has given careful consideration to the recommendations made, and desires that pass-books should be prepared and printed for the use of each pupil having money on deposit. Please have this done in conformity with the arrangement which was fully discussed at Carlisle between Mr. Benton and Mr. Miller.

Please explain just what you mean by the quarterly report referred to by you in your letter of April 9th, which you recommended shall be abolished, when the plan for

E-45139

-2-

the pass-books shall have been adopted. It is not now seen how it will be practicable to modify the present system of accounting.

Respectfully,

*(Signed) F. H. Abbott.*  
Acting Commissioner.

5-VAR-14





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

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
REGISTERED  
APR 10 1913  
45139

April 9th, 1913.

To the Honorable,  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D.C.

FILED BY C. P. F.

Sir,

I understand the Office has been considering for some time the feasibility of doing away with the quarterly report of individual Indian money as rendered on form 5-129.

Supervisor Benton when here last week brought this matter up and is in favor of such procedure suggesting that the labor required to render this report could be utilized to greater good in keeping individual bank books for the pupils in order that they may be in touch with their bank accounts.

I desire to add my support toward this movement. There is no question but that the educational value of individual pass books for the pupils would work to their advantage. You or I, upon making a deposit in bank receive a book showing such deposit. The Indian should have the same thing. It would show him not only the balance to his credit in bank at all times, but it would be a means of educating him to the banking system or at least book-keeping.

End

The bank, the depository of the individual Indian accounts renders quarterly reports on form 5-133. These reports are verified in this office. May I ask, why the necessity of another report giving the same information? I respectfully recommend and urge that our quarterly report be abolished and in its place the pass books be adopted for the pupils.

Very respectfully,



W.H.M.

Superintendent,





THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

May 10, 1913.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
RECEIVED  
MAY 19 1913  
62610  
2

Dear Mr. Abbott:

Please direct Mr. Benton to go to the Carlisle School at once and institute some sort of banking system by which the Superintendent will be held responsible for the moneys coming into his hands belonging to the Indians.

I would like to know if there is any regulation by which the Superintendent is allowed to open mail and take out the money belonging to the students. My notion is that no money should be taken out of any letter except in the presence of the Indian and some form of receipt should be given at that time.

Very truly yours,

Hon. F. H. Abbott,  
Acting Commissioner  
of Indian Affairs.

File

FILED BY C. P. E.

Special  
attention  
today

FILED BY C. P. F.

J. H. K.

10422 a.

10422 b.

10422 c.

10422 d.

Recd  
5-18-19  
986



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1913.

Hon. F. H. Abbott,  
Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In my recent examination of the Carlisle Indian school, I desire to make the following recommendation: I find that there is in the neighborhood of \$35,000 belonging to the students of the Carlisle School on deposit in the Farmers Trust Company of Carlisle, which business is handled by the Superintendent of the Carlisle School. The various students have no account book or evidence of their deposits. Therefore, it seems to me, as one of the prime objects in conducting this school is to teach the young men and women the practical duties of life, that one of the very profitable things to be attained would be to teach them the proper manner in which to handle their money.

In the first place, they should not leave money with any financial institution or agency without a receipt for it. Instead of issuing a bank book, which would be a direct liability



FILED BY C. P. F.

*File*

of the bank, I suggest that an account book similar to a bank book be gotten up, printed on the top similar to a bank book, using the words, as follows: "The Carlisle Indian School, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, In Account With (name of student.)"

The first few pages of this blank book should be left for deposits; the last few pages should be so arranged as to keep a memorandum of checks issued against the deposits. In this manner each student would keep track of his financial relations with the school; should be encouraged to figure interest at the rate agreed upon with the bank on daily balances; and should be taught how to do this so that when they get out into life they will have some practical knowledge of banking business. They should be encouraged to reconcile their bank account, and should be taught how to keep track of their bank balances, and have an intelligent idea of the relation of a bank to its customers, as well as the duties and obligations of one to the other.



There is no more important branch of business than this relation of bank to customer, and vice versa. There is no better place in which to do this than through the agency to which I refer. One objection to my suggestion is that it will require more time of the clerk in charge of the Banking Department of the school.

Upon a further investigation of the books of the school I find that much work is being duplicated. For instance, the financial statement rendered by the bank monthly to the school, listing each check in detail, is very complete and quite satisfactory. It enables the Financial Clerk to reconcile his accounts with the bank, and if a manifold copy could be made by the bank the clerk at the school could check it over, retain one, approve of one, and sign his name, forwarding this one to Washington for audit, thereby saving in the neighborhood of twenty days' work per month, which is now entirely a duplication of the work desired. The economy in work in the office suggested herein will give the clerk in

Hon. F.B.A.

- 4 -

charge the time to devote to the individual Indian students, in assisting them and explaining to them how to keep a bank account, and how to keep track of their money as deposited and drawn out of the bank, through the Superintendent at Carlisle.

I have discussed this matter very fully with both Superintendent Friedman and his financial clerk, Mr. Miller, and both agree with me that these suggestions might be carried out to great benefit to both the student body as well as to the school itself.

I recommend the adoption of the suggestions herein contained at once.

APPROVED:

March 27, 1913

*M. L. Lane*  
Secretary.

Respectfully,

*W. L. Burton*  
Supervisor of Indian Funds.

Approved;

*J. M. A. A. A. A.*

acting Commissioner

4/11/13

4-LK-9

Take steps to have necessary blanks printed & plan installed.