

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.*

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1917.

CARLISLE

File No.

225

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MAY 12 1917

Mr. John Francis, Jr.,  
Supt., Carlisle School.

My dear Mr. Francis:

Referring to your letter of April 26, 1917, regarding the disposal of certain small individual Indian money accounts under your charge, you are advised that for the reasons stated in your letter you may transmit these small unexpended balances to the respective jurisdictions of the pupils to whom the money belongs.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) *E. B. Meritt*

Assistant Commissioner

5-BJM-8

INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PA.

April 26, 1917.



PAID BY C. P. R.

Sir:

There is considerable money on deposit here belonging to ex-students. In most cases the amounts to the individual credit of the Indians are small, ranging from a few cents to \$10.00. An earnest effort has been made to ascertain the location of the students, and where successful the amounts of the deposit here have been remitted to them. However, in some cases it has been impossible to locate the ex-students and in many cases it is believed that they are dead.

Section 16 of the regulations concerning the handling of Individual Indian Money appears to give me authority to sign and approve checks transferring funds to the Disbursing Officer nearest to whom the Indian resides. Would it be permissible for me to transfer all the funds here belonging to ex-students to the Disbursing Officer nearest to whom the Indian was known to reside? It is apparent that each year that these small amounts are retained on our books the likelihood of locating the owner becomes less; likewise the likelihood of the death of the ex-student becomes greater. Were these funds transferred to the Superintendent from whose

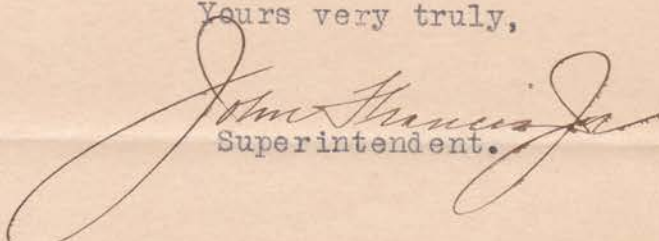
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jurisdiction the pupil come, in the case of death the determination of the heirs would have been made, and the amount deposited could therefore be divided among the heirs entitled to it. It would seem that the likelihood of locating the ex-student or his heirs would be much greater.

There is no desire on the part of this school to shift a lot of dead accounts to the Reservation Superintendents merely to clear our own books, but these accounts ought to be cleared up at the earliest date practicable, and it would seem that where we have failed in every way to locate the ex-student, the Superintendent of the Reservation from which the student enrolled because of other property interests would have better opportunity to locate and finally settle the matter than we would have here.

Yours very truly,

  
Superintendent.

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

JF/S