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April 11, 1913.

My dear Robert:

FILED BY C. P. F.

I have your letter of April 6, telling me of your desire to go home the first of this month and help your father put in his wheat crop, and asking to have your transportation paid at this time instead of in June, as you are unable to pay the transportation yourself. It seems that although Mr. Friedman has consented to waive your enrollment and to allow you to go home, he did not feel he would be justified in allowing your transportation in addition.

I would suggest that you talk over this matter again with Mr. Friedman, as to the possibility of his advancing you sufficient funds to cover your transportation expenses, with the understanding that you reimburse this money at some time agreed upon between you and Mr. Friedman. I am glad to know that you are so interested in planning to help your father with his wheat crop, and hope that you may be able to make arrangements with Superintendent Friedman's aid which will enable you to carry out your desire.

FOR FILE

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CARLISLE

820

I assure you I enjoyed the band concert and  
all the other Commencement exercises. With best wishes  
for your future success, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*(Signed) F. H. Abbott.*

Mr. Robert Bruce, Acting Commissioner.  
Through Superintendent Friedman,  
Carlisle Indian School,  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

4-BSM-11



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

April 10, 1913.

My dear Mr. Abbott:-

FILED BY C. P. F.

I have your letter of April ninth together with the enclosure from Robert Bruce.

While Robert's plea may be a meritorious one, there are a hundred boys in the school who could put up the same request, and if Robert's request was made special and he was allowed transportation, I hardly see how we could consistently refuse the others. On account of our early commencement exercises, we have this to contend with each year, and I am informed by my clerk that he has had numerous similar requests each day which have been refused.

We made an exception in the case of Robert to the extent of waiving his period of enrollment and allowing him to go home nearly three months before the home-going party went about July first. To add to this special privilege free transportation would, in my judgment, establish a very dangerous precedent and would open the way for scores of letters to be written to your office by other students, who would demand similar consideration.


Robert is a good boy, and all of us, of course, are desirous of aiding him. The thought has occurred to me

that it may be well to advance Robert funds sufficient to cover his transportation home with the definite understanding that he would reimburse this at the end of say three or four months.

I feel sure that you will thoroughly grasp the situation from what I have said. We send home from two to three hundred students each year, and while special concessions must be made in case of sickness or other urgent causes, the plea put forth by Robert is one that could be put forth by every home-going student. The regulation providing for the return to their homes of students whose terms have expired, at the end of the school year in June, is wise and for the best interests and highest welfare of the students themselves.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

  
Superintendent.

Mr. F. H. Abbott,  
Acting Commissioner,  
Washington, D. C.

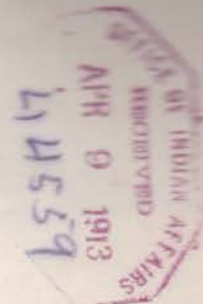
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

Carlisle Indian School,

Carlisle, Pa.,

April 6, 1913.



Hon. F. A. Abbott,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Some time ago my father wrote to Superintendent Friedman of this school and asked if I might be allowed to go home the first of April, for the reason that he intended to put in a large crop of wheat and that, being in bad health, he needed my assistance. He figured that if I were home this spring he could get the work all done. Mr. Friedman wrote back and said that if I would pay my own transportation it would be all right. I received a letter from my father a few days ago stating that this would be impossible, and asking me to see Mr. Friedman personally. This I did, receiving the same answer that my father got. The only excuse he gave for not allowing me to go was that it was against the regulations of the school to allow pupils to go home before their time expires. My time expires in June, and Mr. Friedman has consented to let me go to the country until June and then has consented to pay my transportation home at that time. The time to strike is when the iron is hot, and seeding time in Montana will soon be red hot, and if I am not allowed to give a helping hand now my presence there in June will not be of very much value. Indeed it will be of no use, because there is nothing to do in the summer time. What I want to know is why I cannot be allowed to go home in April instead of in June, when my assistance is so needed at home by my father?

I hope you enjoyed the Band Concert and the other Commencement exercises. We certainly enjoyed having you with us for these exercises at Carlisle, and I would be pleased to meet you personally whenever I get an opportunity.

I hope to receive an early reply, and anything which you can do for me in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

Robert Bruce

*Subj*  
10/50



April 9, 1913.

FILED BY C. P. F.

FOR FILE

My dear Mr. Friedman:

I have just received the inclosed letter from Robert Bruce. It would seem to me a proper thing to waive the rules in this case, and allow Robert to go home to assist his father, unless there is some special reason known to you for not doing so. Please advise me immediately in order that I may write him.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*(Signed) F. H. Abbott.*

Acting Commissioner.

Mr. Moses Friedman,  
Superintendent Carlisle School,  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania.